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FRA presents its survey of Jewish people's experiences and perceptions of hate crime, discrimination and antisemitism

On 8 November, the eve of the anniversary of the anti-Jewish pogroms that took place 75 years ago, FRA will present the full findings of its survey of Jewish people's experiences and perceptions of hate crime, discrimination and antisemitism in eight EU countries. The results will be published alongside FRA's annual overview of antisemitism in the EU, thus helping decision-makers develop effective measures to counter the enduring problem of antisemitism.

Indicative findings

Preliminary survey findings already show that three-quarters of respondents feel that antisemitism has increased over the past five years, particularly with regard to antisemitic comments and hate speech online. Other issues included in the survey concern antisemitic violence experienced by respondents, their families or friends; avoidance of wearing or displaying Jewish symbols in public; and the impact of events in the Middle East on the safety of Jews living in Europe. Exposure to stereotypes

such as Jewish responsibility for the economic crisis or that Jews are not integrated into the societies of the countries in which they live is also addressed in the survey.

The results are based on the responses from 5,847 self-identified Jewish respondents (aged 16 or over) living in one of eight EU Member States – Belgium, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. The countries covered account for some 90% of the estimated Jewish population in the European Union.

Representatives of the European Jewish Congress will be present at the event to comment on the survey findings. The briefing will also be web-streamed.

Background

Antisemitism in the EU

FRA publishes an annual report on antisemitism in the EU, based on existing governmental and non-governmental data and information. These reports have shown that Jewish people in the EU continue to be affected by manifestations of antisemitism, such as discrimination or harassment. They may also become victims of hate crime. This affects not only victims, but also their families and communities in the form of anxiety, insecurity and fear. Antisemitic hate speech can also play a role in this.

As FRA has highlighted on numerous occasions, existing data in the EU Member States on the nature, extent and, in particular, the effects of antisemitism on Jewish people,

The results, together with FRA research into the situation of other vulnerable groups (such as LGBT and ethnic minorities), indicate the EU still faces serious challenges in the form of ongoing racism, discrimination and antisemitism. For this reason, FRA's annual Fundamental Rights Conference will focus this year on combating hate crime across the EU. The findings of the survey of Jewish people's experiences and perceptions will be discussed at the conference by more than 300 decision-makers and experts from throughout the EU.

This survey is the first to collect the experiences and perceptions of Jews on fundamental rights issues such as antisemitic discrimination and hate crime across the EU. It will be complemented by FRA's annual antisemitism overview, which brings together statistical data on antisemitic incidents collected by governmental and non-governmental sources.

Accredited journalists who would like to attend the press briefing on 8 November in Vienna, where the survey results will be presented, should email media@fra.europa.eu

are patchy and often not comparable.

European institutions and EU Member States therefore need to gather more comprehensive data in order to better understand the situation and formulate informed policy and legal responses to combat antisemitism.

To address this need, in 2012 FRA carried out a survey among Jewish populations in selected EU Member States. The survey focused on Jewish people's experiences and perceptions of antisemitism.

The survey aims to provide:
 ■ robust, reliable and comparable data on the experiences and perceptions of antisemitism in a number of EU Member States;

■ evidence-based advice to EU and national level policy makers in order to assist them when they develop policies and measures to combat antisemitism, to improve rights awareness and to address the under-reporting of incidents.

Further information:

Please visit the FRA website: <http://fra.europa.eu>

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