

Experiences and perceptions of antisemitism

Second survey on discrimination and hate crime against Jews in the EU

Summary



Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union recognises the right to be free from discrimination, including on the basis of race, ethnic or social origin, religion or belief, political or any other opinion.

When you last walked by one of Europe’s many beautiful synagogues, were heavily-armed police officers standing guard at its gates? It is a jarring sight. But, over 70 years after the Holocaust, it is also all too familiar. It is not just synagogues that require protection – at countless Jewish community centres and schools, too, special security measures are in place. Jewish people also encounter vicious commentary online, in the media and in politics; endure hostile stares and gestures in their neighbourhoods; come across graffiti and other forms of vandalism; and face discrimination in social settings, at school and at work.

“Antisemitism in Germany today is just like it was 30 years ago. For the past 12 years, antisemitism has no longer been a taboo in Germany, and so it occurs more often – verbally and physically, on German streets and in social media.”
(Woman, 60–69 years old, Germany)

The European Union (EU) and its Member States are required by law to do everything in their power to combat antisemitism effectively and to safeguard the dignity of Jewish people. Yet, Jews across the EU continue to experience antisemitism in the form of vandalism, insults, threats, attacks and even murder.

The persistence and prevalence of antisemitism hinders people’s ability to live openly Jewish lives, free from fears for their security and well-being, as

the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights’ (FRA) 2012 and 2018 large-scale surveys on discrimination and hate crime against Jews in the EU show.

“The way things are now, I experience, for example, that ‘Jew’ is a widespread cuss word in Copenhagen. As a Jew who has grown up in Denmark, I have always avoided showing/telling people I am a Jew.” (Woman, 20–24 years old, Denmark)

It is impossible to put a number on how corrosive such everyday realities can be. But a shocking statistic sends a clear message: in the past five years, across 12 EU Member States where Jews have been living for centuries, more than one third say that they consider emigrating because they no longer feel safe as Jews.

The fight against antisemitism needs to be underpinned by robust and reliable data that can show to which extent EU Member States meet their obligations under EU law in that regard, mainly the Framework Decision on Racism and Xenophobia, the Racial Equality Directive and the Employment Equality Directive. Such data are, however, seldom available, as evidence collected annually by FRA shows.¹ As a result, the EU and its Member States can often only make decisions to counter antisemitism on the basis of patchy evidence. FRA’s survey data and findings address this shortcoming by presenting information about experiences with antisemitism made by people in the EU who identify themselves as Jewish.

¹ FRA (2018), *Antisemitism: Overview of data available in the European Union 2007-2017*, Luxembourg, Publications Office of the European Union (Publications Office).

On 6 December 2018, the EU Member States' governments sent a clear message by adopting a Council Declaration on the fight against antisemitism and the development of a common security approach to better protect Jewish communities and institutions in Europe. The Council notes that antisemitic hatred remains widespread, as confirmed by FRA's 2018 survey findings, and invites EU Member States to take measures to tackle antisemitism and improve the security of Jewish communities.

This summary outlines the main findings of FRA's second survey on Jewish people's experiences with

hate crime, discrimination and antisemitism in the European Union – the biggest survey of Jewish people ever conducted worldwide. Covering 12 EU Member States, the survey reached almost 16,500 individuals who identify as being Jewish. They make for a sobering read and underscore that antisemitism remains pervasive across the EU – and has, in many ways, become disturbingly normalised.

“At work and in the media and social media, antisemitism is a daily and unrepressed occurrence.” (Woman, 40–44 years old, France)



Key findings and FRA opinions

Drawing on the survey findings, FRA formulated the following opinions to support EU and national policymakers in developing and implementing measures to prevent and counter antisemitism. These opinions supplement those formulated by FRA in

its report on the first survey on discrimination and hate crime against Jews in the EU, published in 2013. Due to the continued prevalence of antisemitism on the ground, the opinions formulated in 2013 remain valid in 2018.

Antisemitism pervades everyday life

KEY FINDINGS

- A large majority of respondents (85 %) consider antisemitism and racism to be the most pressing problems across the EU Member States surveyed.
- A large majority of respondents (89 %) believe that antisemitism has increased over the past five years in the country they live in.
- A majority of respondents (72 %) express concern about increasing intolerance towards Muslims.
- A large majority of respondents (89 %) consider antisemitism expressed online as a problem in the country they live in.
- A large majority of respondents (88 %) believe that antisemitism online has increased over the past five years; most say it has increased 'a lot'.
- Most survey respondents say they are regularly exposed to negative statements about Jews. A large majority of respondents across all survey countries (80 %) identify the internet as the most common forum for negative statements.

The survey findings suggest that antisemitism pervades the public sphere, reproducing and engraving negative stereotypes about Jews. Simply being Jewish increases people's likelihood of being faced with a sustained stream of abuse expressed in different forms, wherever they go, whatever they read and with whomever they engage. A comparison of the 2012 and 2018 surveys shows that the perception among respondents that antisemitism is a worsening problem in the country where they live is growing.

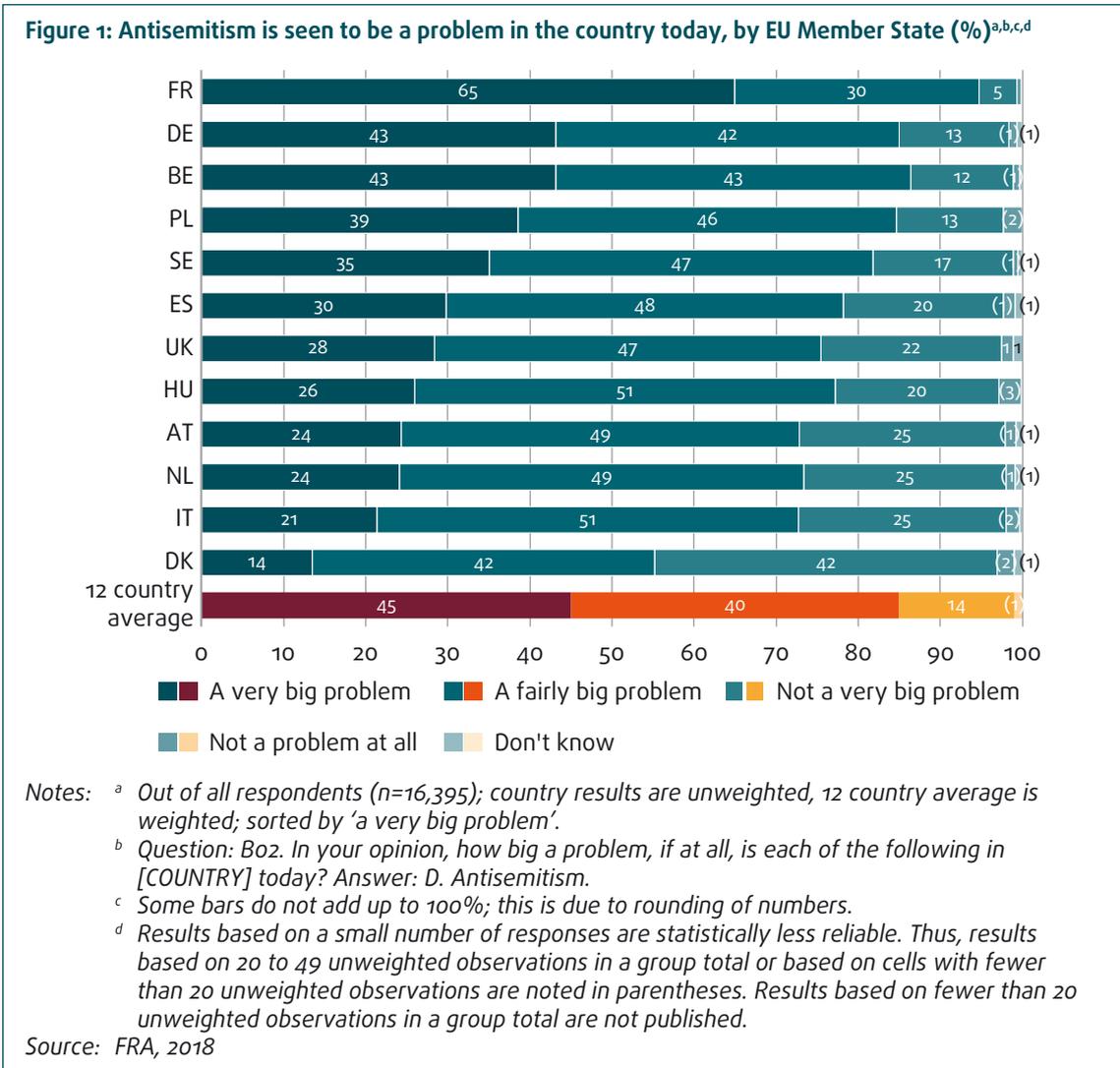
"Antisemitism and racism are like the Wiener Schnitzel. They are part of the Austrian cultural heritage, just as xenophobia and 'we are different'. There is nothing to fight against, just suppressing the consequences has to suffice." (Man, 50–54 years old, Austria)

Overall, nine in 10 (89 %) respondents in the 2018 survey feel that antisemitism increased in their country in the five years before the survey; more than eight in 10 (85 %) consider it to be a serious problem. Respondents tend to rate antisemitism as the biggest social or political problem where they live. They assess antisemitism as being most problematic

on the internet and on social media (89 %), followed by public spaces (73 %), media (71 %) and in political life (70 %). The most common antisemitic statements they come across – and on a regular basis – include that "Israelis behave like Nazis toward Palestinians" (51 %), that "Jews have too much power" (43 %) and that "Jews exploit Holocaust victimhood for their own purposes" (35 %). Respondents most commonly come across such statements online (80 %), followed by media other than the internet (56 %) and at political events (48 %).

"It seems as if the Netherlands is tired of antisemitism. It seems like it's a subject that gets trivialised and also on social media, it's seen as very normal. [...] Very worrisome!" (Woman, 35–39 years old, the Netherlands)

"I think that Sweden was not antisemitic at all before, that has changed, it's that which feels so difficult. Before, I wasn't at all afraid to say that I was Jewish; my children even thought it was interesting when they were teenagers and they wanted to be special. Nowadays, I'm more reluctant to talk about my background. I am concerned about the future." (Woman, 70–79 years old, Sweden)



In this context, it is encouraging that the European Parliament adopted a resolution on combating antisemitism in June 2017, which calls for increased efforts on local, national and European levels. This follows a number of initiatives by the European Commission at EU level, as well as globally.² These include appointing a coordinator on combating antisemitism in December 2015; establishing in 2016 an EU High Level Group on combating racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance, which produced policy guidance for improving responses to hate crime and hate speech including antisemitic crime and speech; and agreeing with IT companies on a code of conduct for countering illegal hate speech online in May 2016.

“There is no antisemitism in Hungary, no matter how they try to paint this picture about this country. There are historical wounds, but these are healing beautifully.”
 (Man, 20–24 years old, Hungary)

Some Member States responded by appointing coordinators on combating antisemitism, while others adopted or endorsed a non-legally binding, working definition of antisemitism³ agreed on in May 2016 by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) and welcomed by the Commission as a useful initiative aiming to prevent and combat antisemitism. A link to the IHRA definition is available on the Commission’s website.⁴

2 In 2016, the EU together with Canada, the US and Israel organised the first UN High Level Forum on Global Antisemitism to further promote the EU’s efforts to tackle antisemitism globally.

3 See the website of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

4 See the Commission’s webpage on combating antisemitism.

However, several Member States have yet to fully and correctly transpose the Framework Decision on Racism and Xenophobia (2008/913/JHA) into national law. This Framework Decision defines a common EU-wide criminal law approach to countering severe manifestations of racism or xenophobia, and therefore also antisemitism, including in “cases where the conduct is committed through an information system” (Article 9). Eradicating antisemitism from the public sphere calls for sustained and decisive action to break down the persistent negative stereotyping of Jews, including online.

FRA opinion 1

Member States should facilitate the integration of measures dedicated to preventing antisemitism into relevant national strategies and action plans. Measures developed to prevent antisemitism should include a specific focus on awareness raising, including an emphasis on Holocaust education. Member States should also ensure that the effectiveness of the measures developed is systematically evaluated. National coordinators on combating antisemitism, as well as a broad range of social partners, civil society organisations and community groups – including non-Jewish ones – should be closely involved in developing prevention measures, as well as in the evaluation of their effectiveness.

Pervasive antisemitism undermines Jews’ feelings of safety and security

KEY FINDINGS

- Nearly half (47 %) of all respondents worry about becoming a victim of an antisemitic verbal insult or harassment in the next 12 months, while over one third (40 %) worry about being physically attacked in that same period.
- One third (34 %) of all respondents said that they at least occasionally avoid visiting Jewish events or sites because they would not feel safe there, or on the way there, as a Jew. Over one third of all respondents (38 %) avoid certain places in their local area or neighbourhood at least occasionally because they do not feel safe there as a Jew.
- Across the 12 EU Member States surveyed, half of respondents (49 %) at least sometimes wear, carry or display items that could identify them as Jewish. Of those respondents who at least sometimes carry or display such items, over two thirds (71 %) at least occasionally avoid doing so.
- More than one third of all respondents have considered emigrating (38 %) in the past five years because they did not feel safe as a Jew in the country where they live.
- A majority of respondents (70 %) believe that their national governments’ efforts to combat antisemitism are not effective. Meanwhile, half of the respondents (54 %) positively assess their national governments’ efforts to ensure the security needs of the Jewish communities – but the level of satisfaction with such efforts varies widely between countries.

“I am not scared when I leave onto the street, as my mezuzah is next to the inside of my house and cannot be seen. So, only those that come into my flat can see it. I am scared to put the mezuzah in the outside part.” (Woman, 30–34 years old, Spain)

The survey findings show that many Jews across the EU cannot live a life free of worry for their own safety and that of their family members and other individuals to whom they are close. This is due to a risk of becoming targets of antisemitic harassment and attacks. Feelings of insecurity among Jews have also prompted some to consider emigrating.

A comparison of findings from the 2012 and 2018 surveys shows similar levels of experiences of antisemitic harassment and violence among Jews in the EU. The findings also show similar levels of worry among respondents about becoming, or their family members and other persons to whom they are close becoming, targets of antisemitic harassment or violence.

“I am really scared about the safety of my child who goes to a Jewish school. Every day I ask myself if I should send him to school somewhere else.” (Woman, 30–34 years old, Belgium)

“I am very scared about my children’s future, since ‘Jew’ is an invective in my district, and people hate Jews so much that life means nothing. We are scared that our children will be attacked one way or another.” (Man, 45-49 years old, Denmark)

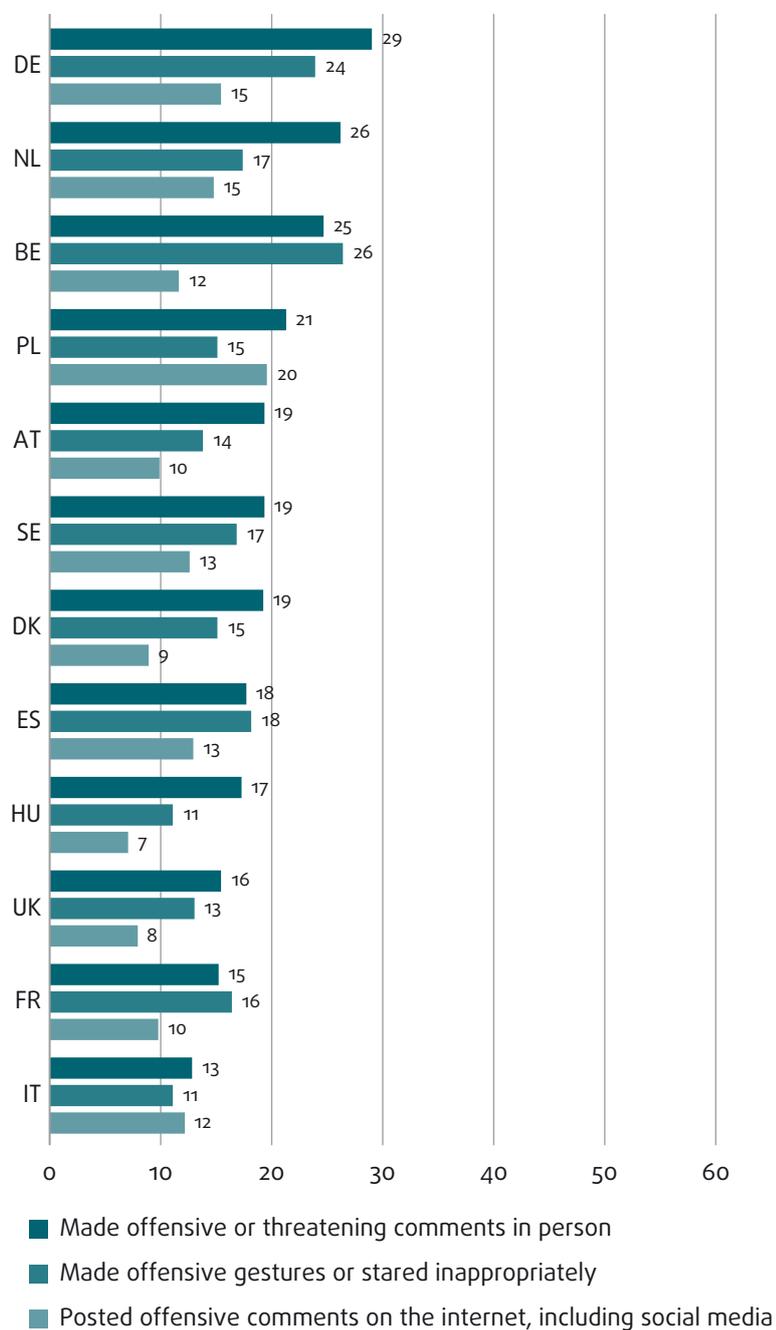
Findings from the 2018 survey show that hundreds of respondents personally experienced an antisemitic physical attack in the 12 months preceding the survey. More than one in four (28 %) of all respondents experienced antisemitic harassment at least once during that period. Those who wear, carry or display items in public that could identify them as Jewish are subject to more antisemitic harassment (37 %) than those who do not (21 %).

“I hear about many incidents and have concerns about myself and family. We are often on edge at synagogue or other Jewish events worrying about what might happen. However my personal experience as a kippa-wearer has been very good. At the same time I still do not feel comfortable in less Jewish areas (ie nearly everywhere else).” (Man, 55-59 years old, the United Kingdom)

“I noticed that my Jewish people from my generation (including myself) experience a strong increase in the sensation of insecurity and not being welcome/accepted as a Jew in the Netherlands.” (Woman, 30-34 years old, the Netherlands)



Figure 2: Experience of antisemitic harassment (three of the most widespread forms experienced one or more times), in the past 12 months, by EU Member State (%)^{a,b}



Notes: ^a Out of all respondents (n=16,395); country results are unweighted.
^b Questions: Co3. In the PAST 12 MONTHS in [COUNTRY, has somebody:
 - made offensive or threatening comments to you in person;
 - made offensive gestures to you or stared at you inappropriately
 - posted offensive comments about you on the internet, including social media?
 Co4a. Did this happen BECAUSE you are Jewish?

Source: FRA, 2018

“You rather experience antisemitism in Germany when you are out/openly visible.” (Woman, 30–34 years old, Germany)

One in five (20 %) respondents know family members or other people close to them who were verbally insulted, harassed or physically attacked. Nearly half of the respondents worried about being subjected to antisemitic verbal insults or harassment (47 %), and four in 10 worried about an antisemitic physical attack (40 %).

“None of my friends where I live or who I work with know that I’m a Jew. Our children don’t know about my Jewish background, because I am terrified that they would get comments on that in school. I no longer visit the synagogue, because it’s not worth it if we’d be targeted for something. The best thing was when I got married, because now my last name is ‘Svensson’.” (Woman, 40–44 years old, Sweden)

One in three (34 %) respondents avoid visiting Jewish events or sites because they do not feel safe as Jews when there or on their way there. More than one third considered emigrating (38 %) in the five years preceding the survey because they did not feel safe as Jews in the country where they live.

“When going to a Jewish event, no matter how small, you always need to register and only then do you get to know the location. That you don’t feel safe at all any more to go somewhere where many Jews come together.” (Woman, 55–59 years old, the Netherlands)

“I never wear any Jewish symbols publicly and I always look over my shoulder when I attend a Jewish event. [...] I only want to be left in peace and be able to practice my religion.” (Woman, 40–44 years old, Sweden)

More than half of the respondents (54 %) positively assess their national governments’ efforts to ensure the security needs of the Jewish communities. But

seven in 10 (70 %) believe that the government in their country does not combat antisemitism effectively.

Sustained encounters with antisemitism severely limit people’s enjoyment of their fundamental rights, including the protection of their human dignity, the right to respect for their private and family life, or their freedom of thought, conscience and religion. It is encouraging that many Jews believe that their government does enough to meet the protection needs of their communities. However, the very fact that special security measures – for example, around synagogues, Jewish community centres and schools – are required on a more or less permanent basis to ensure the safety of Jewish communities points to a persisting and deeper societal malaise. Member States need to be steadfast in their commitment to meet the protection needs of Jewish communities.

“I believe that the fear of antisemitism is greater than the reality.” (Man, 40–44 years old, the United Kingdom)

“I wear a chain with a Star of David, but I don’t wear it consciously in public, because I try to avoid antisemitic reactions that way.” (Woman, 16–19 years old, Belgium)

FRA opinion 2

Member States should systematically cooperate with Jewish communities in the area of security and protection of Jewish sites. Member States should continue implementing security measures and ensure that Jewish community security organisations are appropriately funded. The EU and its Member States should closely and regularly monitor changes in hate crime prevalence and feelings of safety and security among Jews – including through conducting victimisation surveys – to help assess the effectiveness of the security measures that are taken.

Antisemitic harassment is so common that it becomes normalised

KEY FINDINGS

- On average, over one third of all respondents (39 %) experienced some form of antisemitic harassment in the five years before the survey. More than one quarter (28 %) encountered such harassment in the 12 months before the survey.
- Survey respondents identify antisemitic content on the internet as the most acute form of antisemitism. However, comments made in person, and offensive gestures or inappropriate staring, are the most common forms of antisemitic harassment personally experienced by respondents – for example, 18 % and 16 %, respectively, said they were faced with these forms of harassment in the 12 months before the survey.
- In terms of the most serious incident of antisemitic harassment experienced in the five years before the survey, during most of these incidents, antisemitic language was used. In addition, the harassment occurred in situations where it was possible to identify the respondents as being Jewish. (On average, two in three respondents noticed these two aspects during the respective incidents).
- When asked to describe the perpetrator of the most serious incident of antisemitic harassment experienced in the five years before the survey – to the extent possible and based on their perceptions – respondents in 31 % of the cases identified the perpetrator as someone they do not know, in 30 % as someone with Muslim extremist views, and in 21 % of cases as someone with left-wing political views.
- The majority of respondents (79 %) who experienced antisemitic harassment in the five years before the survey did not report the most serious incident to the police or to any other organisation.
- Almost half (48 %) of the respondents who did not report the most serious incident to the police said that nothing would have changed had they done so. A similar proportion (43 %) of respondents did not consider the incident to be serious enough.
- Across the 12 countries surveyed, 3 % of all respondents personally experienced a physical attack because they are Jewish in the five years before the survey. In the 12 months before the survey, 2 % of all respondents experienced a physical attack because they are Jewish.
- Across the 12 countries surveyed, 4 % of all respondents say that their property was deliberately vandalised because they are Jewish in the five years before the survey; 2 % experienced this in the 12 months before the survey.

The survey findings suggest that people face so much antisemitic abuse that some of the incidents they experience appear trivial to them. But any antisemitic incident is at its core an attack on a person's dignity and cannot be brushed away as a mere inconvenience. Both the 2012 and 2018 surveys show that respondents report very few experienced incidents of antisemitism to the police or other institution. A comparison of the two surveys' results shows that the categories of perpetrators of antisemitic harassment remain consistent, with certain categories of individuals consistently over-represented as perpetrators.

"I never identify myself in public in order to avoid discrimination. Spanish society is not exposed to many religions and does not understand Judaism and I am afraid to be seen as 'strange'. I prefer to integrate in society in my day-to-day." (Woman, 30–34 years old, Spain)

Findings from the 2018 survey show that eight in 10 respondents (79 %) who experienced antisemitic harassment in the five years before the survey did not report the most serious incident to the police or other organisation. The main reasons given for not reporting incidents are the feeling that nothing would change as a result (48 %); not considering

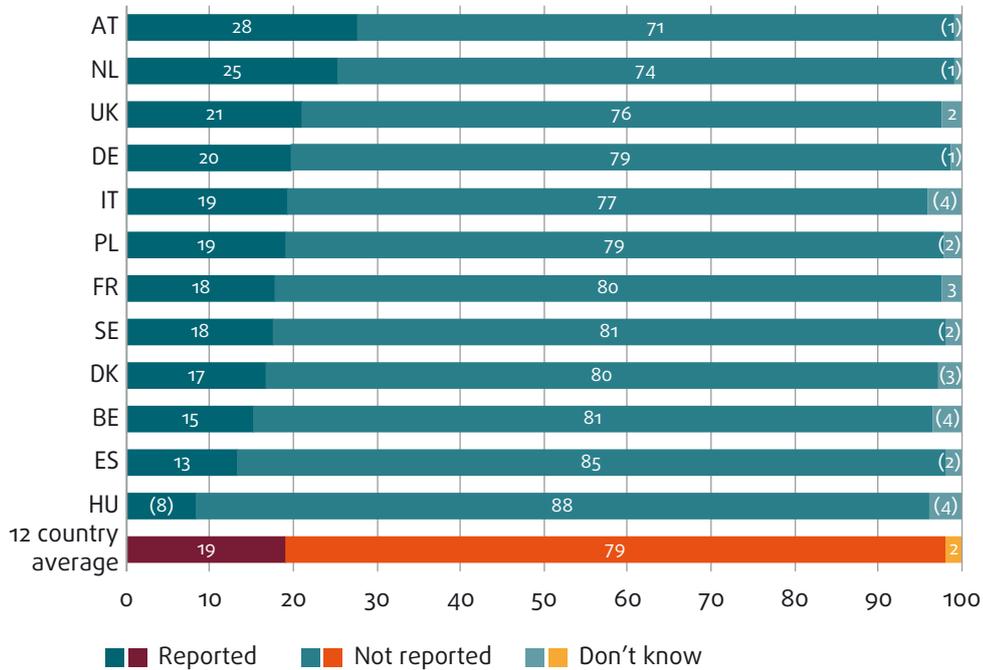
the incident to be serious enough to be reported (43 %); or because reporting would be too inconvenient or cause too much trouble (22 %).

The normalisation of antisemitism is also evidenced by the wide range of perpetrators, which spans the entire social and political spectrum. The most frequently mentioned categories of perpetrators of the most serious incident of antisemitic harassment experienced by the respondents include someone they did not know (31 %); someone with

an extremist Muslim view (30 %); someone with a left-wing political view (21 %); a colleague from work or school/college (16 %); an acquaintance or friend (15 %); and someone with a right-wing political view (13 %).

“I never admit that I am a Jewish; out of fear. Only 2 people know about my background. [...] I can’t be discriminated against if no one knows that I am a Jewish. I answer a direct question about my nationality with a lie.” (Woman, 50–54 years old, Poland)

Figure 3: Reporting of the most serious incident of antisemitic harassment in the past 5 years, by EU Member State (%)^{a,b,c,d}



Notes: ^a Out of respondents who experienced some form of antisemitic harassment in the past five years (n=6,486); 12 country averages are weighted.
^b Question: Co8. Did you or anyone else report this incident to the police or to any other organisation?
^c Some bars do not add up to 100 %; this is due to rounding of numbers.
^d Results based on a small number of responses are statistically less reliable. Thus, results based on 20 to 49 unweighted observations in a group total or based on cells with fewer than 20 unweighted observations are noted in parentheses. Results based on fewer than 20 unweighted observations in a group total are not published.

Source: FRA, 2018

The Victims' Rights Directive provides that victims are to be treated in a respectful and sensitive manner without discrimination based on any ground, including religion (Recital 9). According to Article 22 of the directive, all victims are entitled

to an assessment of whether measures are necessary to protect them against further victimisation. This assessment must take personal characteristics of the victim into account, including their religion where it is relevant for assessing a victim's

protection needs. The directive particularly highlights cases where a crime was committed with a discriminatory motive that relates to a victim's personal characteristics, including their religion. In such cases, Member State authorities are under a special duty to assess the risks of further victimisation motivated by this characteristic. The Framework Decision on Racism and Xenophobia requires that the bias motivation is considered an aggravating circumstance or taken into consideration by the courts in the determination of the penalties handed down to offenders (Article 4). The full implementation of EU law entails encouraging victims to report antisemitic offences to the police, as well as ensuring that the police properly record the bias motivation at the time of reporting.

FRA opinion 3

Member States should fully and correctly transpose the Victims' Rights Directive (2012/29/EU) into national law to ensure that victims of antisemitism get the support they need when they report incidents to the relevant authorities. Member States should also fully and correctly transpose the Framework Decision on Racism and Xenophobia (2008/913/JHA) into national law to ensure that effective, proportionate and dissuasive criminal penalties are consistently handed down to offenders. Criminal justice systems in Member States should also report regularly on the penalties handed down to offenders and on the reasoning of courts in relevant judgments.

Antisemitic discrimination in key areas of life remains invisible

KEY FINDINGS

- Overall, 11 % of all respondents say they felt discriminated against for being Jewish in the 12 months before the survey in one or more of the five areas listed in the survey – employment (at work or when looking for work), education, health or housing.
- More than three in four (77 %) of those who say they felt discriminated against in the 12 months before the survey because they are Jewish did not report the most serious incident to any authority or organisation.
- A majority of respondents (52 %) who felt discriminated against in the 12 months before the survey and who did not report the most serious incident anywhere say that they were not confident that reporting the incident would improve their situation. One third of respondents who felt discriminated against and did not report the most serious incident say that they did not report it because it was not serious enough (34 %) or they lacked proof (33 %).
- The majority of respondents are aware of legislation that forbids discrimination based on ethnic origin or religion – some 64 %–87 %, depending on the area, indicated knowing about it. Respondents are most aware of anti-discrimination legislation in employment and least aware of protection related to housing.
- Most respondents (71 %) say they are aware of an organisation in the country that offers advice or support for people who are discriminated against. Respondents most often referred to Jewish organisations specialising in the safety and security of the Jewish community and/or antisemitism, and national equality or human rights bodies.

“The lack of antisemitic incidents in the public space is due mainly to the fact that a lot of Jews, we decide not to use the Kipá or to talk much about the topic, in order not to be discriminated. We are not discriminated, because we are ‘hiding’.” (Man, 35–39 years old, Spain)

The survey findings suggest that antisemitism translates not only into hate crime, but also into unequal treatment in key areas of life. But the very low reporting rate for antisemitic discrimination,

combined with the apparent normalisation of incidents, prevent the true extent of antisemitic discrimination from coming to the attention of relevant authorities, equality bodies or community organisations. A comparison of findings from the 2012 and 2018 surveys shows that levels of perceived antisemitic discrimination in employment, education, health and housing and education remained the same. No changes can be observed in the reporting rate, which remains low.

“The antisemitism I experienced is more subtle than can be described in a form like this. Like the bizarre silence after I spoke about being Jewish at work once.”

(Man, 25-29 years old, Sweden)

Findings from the 2018 survey show that, in the 12 months preceding the survey, one in 10 (11 %) respondents felt discriminated against in employment, education, health or housing because they are Jewish. Nearly eight in 10 (77 %) of those who say they experienced such discrimination did not report the most serious incident to any authority or organisation. The main reasons given for not reporting are the perception that nothing would change as a result (52 %); the incident is not serious enough (34 %); and not having any proof of discrimination (33 %). Meanwhile, the vast majority of respondents are aware of anti-discrimination legislation (85 % in the area of employment, for example), as well as of organisations that can offer advice or support in cases of discrimination (71 %), including Jewish community organisations and national equality bodies.

The Racial Equality Directive (2000/43/EC) prohibits ethnic discrimination in key areas of life, including employment, education, health or housing. The Employment Equality Directive (2000/78/EC)

prohibits discrimination on the ground of religion or belief in employment. The directives require Member States to ensure that their provisions are communicated to those concerned through all appropriate means and throughout the territory of each country. The directives foresee effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions for offenders in cases of discrimination.

FRA opinion 4

The EU and its Member States should ensure that victims of antisemitic discrimination are encouraged and facilitated to report incidents to relevant authorities, equality bodies or third-party organisations. This could be achieved through the EU and its Member States funding dedicated awareness-raising and information campaigns. These campaigns could be organised by relevant ministries, in close cooperation with national equality bodies and Jewish community organisations, to ensure that their messages are better targeted. Such campaigns could highlight how antisemitic discrimination constitutes a serious violation of people’s fundamental and human rights and why it is worthwhile for them to seek redress. Any such campaign should also highlight that effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions are imposed on offenders.



THE SURVEY IN A NUTSHELL

This summary presents the main findings of FRA's second survey on Jewish people's experiences and perceptions of hate crime, discrimination and antisemitism. It analyses data from the responses of 16,395 self-identified Jewish people (aged 16 or over) in 12 EU Member States – Austria (AT), Belgium (BE), Denmark (DK), France (FR), Germany (DE), Hungary (HU), Italy (IT), the Netherlands (NL), Poland (PL), Spain (ES), Sweden (SE) and the United Kingdom (UK). These Member States are home to over 96 % of the EU's estimated Jewish population.⁵

How was the survey carried out?

The survey was carried out online during May and June 2018. In the absence of reliable sampling frames, and based on experiences with the 2012 survey,⁶ FRA opted to use online surveying as it allowed respondents to complete the survey when and where it was most convenient for them, at their own pace, and in their national languages. The online survey mode also made it possible to offer respondents details about FRA, the organisations managing the data collection and how the collected data would be used. This method had the potential to allow all interested self-identified Jewish people in the 12 EU Member States to take part and share their experiences. It was also the method which could most easily be used to survey respondents from all the selected Member States under equal conditions. This method does not deliver a random probability sample fulfilling the statistical criteria for representativeness. However, the survey findings are reliable and robust, and represent the most comprehensive data available on experiences of antisemitism in the EU.

Who took part in the survey?

The survey was open to individuals aged 16 years and over who consider themselves Jewish – based on religion, culture, upbringing, ethnicity, parentage or any other reason – and who, at the time of the survey, were living in one of the survey countries. The largest samples were obtained from the two countries which, according to estimates, have the largest Jewish populations in the EU – France and the United Kingdom. Samples over 1,000 respondents were obtained in Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden. For the remaining seven countries, the sample sizes ranged from 400 to 800 respondents.

Sample sizes across Member States surveyed

Country	N
Austria	526
Belgium	785
Denmark	592
Germany	1,233
France	3,869
Hungary	590
The Netherlands	1,202
Italy	682
Poland	422
Spain	570
Sweden	1,193
United Kingdom	4,731

⁵ DellaPergola, S. (2016), *World Jewish Population, 2016*, Berman Jewish DataBank.

⁶ FRA (2013), *Discrimination and hate crime against Jews in EU Member States: experiences and perceptions of antisemitism*, Luxembourg, Publications Office.

What did the survey ask?

The survey asked respondents about their opinions on trends in antisemitism, antisemitism as a problem in everyday life, personal experiences of antisemitic incidents, witnessing antisemitic incidents and worries about becoming a victim of an antisemitic attack. The survey also provides data on the extent to which respondents consider antisemitic acts against the Jewish community – such as vandalism of Jewish sites or antisemitic messages in the broadcast media or on the internet – to be a problem in the countries.

The survey collected data on the effects of antisemitism on respondents' daily behaviour and their feelings of safety, and about any actions they take due to security fears. The questions about personal experiences of specific forms of harassment or physical violence were followed up with questions concerning the details of such incidents, including their frequency, the number and characteristics of perpetrators, and the reporting of the incident to any organisation or institution. The survey collected data about personal experiences of feeling discriminated against on different grounds and in various areas of everyday life – for example, at work, school, or when using specific services. The survey followed up on respondents' discrimination experiences with questions concerning the reporting of incidents and the reasons for non-reporting. The survey also explored the level of rights awareness regarding anti-discrimination legislation, victim support organisations and knowledge of any legislation concerning the trivialisation or denial of the Holocaust.

Presentation of survey results

When survey results are presented for the 12 EU Member States, the average of all countries is adjusted by a weight that takes into account the differences in the size of the Jewish population in the different countries. The calculations are based on the mid-point of the core and extended Jewish population estimates in the selected countries (for estimates, see DellaPergola, S., *World Jewish Population*, Berman Jewish DataBank, 2016). This is done in order to adjust the achieved samples proportionately, in such a way that the correct relationships are kept between different countries' contributions to the findings on the EU level.





This report outlines the main findings of FRA's second survey on Jewish people's experiences with hate crime, discrimination and antisemitism in the European Union – the biggest survey of Jewish people ever conducted worldwide. Covering 12 EU Member States, the survey reached almost 16,500 individuals who identify as being Jewish. It follows up on the agency's first survey, conducted in seven countries in 2012.

The findings make for a sobering read. They underscore that antisemitism remains pervasive across the EU – and has, in many ways, become disturbingly normalised. The important information provided herein can support policymakers across the EU in stepping up their efforts to ensure the safety and dignity of all Jewish people living in the EU.

Further information

For the full FRA report on the survey findings – *Experiences and perceptions of antisemitism – Second survey on discrimination and hate crime against Jews in the EU*, see: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2018/2nd-survey-discrimination-hate-crime-against-jews>

For information on FRA's data collection on antisemitic incidents and hate crime, see:

- FRA (2018), *Antisemitism: Summary overview of the situation in the European Union 2007–2017*, Luxembourg, Publications Office.
- FRA (2018), 'Racism, xenophobia and related intolerances', Chapter 4 in: *Fundamental Rights Report 2018*, Luxembourg, Publications Office.
- FRA (2013), *Discrimination and hate crime against Jews in EU Member States: experiences and perceptions of antisemitism, First Survey*, Luxembourg, Publications Office.

For information on FRA work on Holocaust and human rights education, see: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/project/2006/holocaust-and-human-rights-education>



Hate crime



Hate speech



Equality



Non-discrimination



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