

# FRA survey of Jewish people's experiences and perceptions of antisemitism

*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.*

## Policy context

The principle of equal treatment constitutes a fundamental value of the European Union (EU) and is anchored in a number of its core documents, such as the Charter of Fundamental Rights. Article 19 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) grants the Union powers to combat discrimination on grounds including racial or ethnic origin and religion or belief.

The Racial Equality Directive 2000/43/EC provides comprehensive protection against direct and indirect discrimination, as well as harassment, on the grounds of race or ethnicity in several areas such as: employment and training, education and social protection.

The Council Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law, requires that EU Member States ensure that criminal penalties are in place for acts including: committing or assisting in public incitement to violence or hatred against groups, such as those defined by religion, descent or ethnic origin, and for publicly condoning, denying or grossly trivialising crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

## Key issues

### Antisemitism in the EU

The FRA reports annually on antisemitism 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. When it occurs, individuals may find themselves discriminated against or harassed – for example at work, school or when using various services. 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. Jewish people may also be affected by antisemitic hate speech.

The existing data in EU Member States on the nature, extent and, in particular, the effects of antisemitism on Jewish people are patchy and not comparable, as the FRA has highlighted over the years in its annual reports on antisemitism.

### The survey

European institutions and EU Member States need more data to draw a more comprehensive picture of the situation in order to formulate informed policy and legal responses to combat antisemitism.

To address this need, in 2012 the FRA will carry out a survey among Jewish populations in selected EU Member States. The survey will focus 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 by Jewish people in selected 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.

## Lack of comparable data across the EU

Surveys on antisemitism have been conducted in few EU Member States and their results are not comparable, mainly because data collection practices vary. EU-wide population surveys, such as Eurobarometer, sample the general population and Jewish respondents form too small a part of their samples to be analysed in a robust way.

The FRA has therefore decided to develop its own survey tool based on its experience in surveying 'hard-to-reach' population groups, such as migrants and ethnic minorities, or lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people (LGBT). In 2008, the FRA carried out an extensive survey across all EU Member States on the experiences of discrimination and criminal victimisation of immigrants and ethnic minorities – the European Union Minorities and Discrimination Survey (EU-MIDIS). In 2011, the FRA also surveyed Roma minorities in 11 EU Member States.

This survey will examine the experiences and views of those who self-identify as Jewish in selected EU Member States, focusing on their experiences of antisemitism, discrimination in key areas of social life, hate crime and hate speech, awareness of rights and legal remedies, and feelings of safety.

## Methodology

The project will consist of a standardised online questionnaire and will sample 350 to 1,500 respondents, women and men, in nine selected EU Member States. The countries will be selected based on the estimated size of their Jewish populations and/or to ensure coverage of various regions of the EU, to reflect historical developments and their effects on the communities surveyed.

One of the challenges of this project is the difficulty in reaching the respondents. The survey is therefore designed to proceed in two stages: As a first step, respondent-driven sampling will be used to

reach potential survey respondents. This technique relies on networks of eligible respondents who will identify other eligible respondents. It is designed for use specifically in surveys dealing with hard-to-reach populations, with the aim of producing representative results for the population in question. In a second stage, the project will invite all eligible respondents in nine Member States to complete the questionnaire in order to ensure a broader coverage.

## Stakeholder engagement

Since 2011, the FRA conducted a number of consultations with stakeholders and survey experts to identify the issues that the survey should cover. Furthermore, these consultations helped to determine the types of data and outputs most needed by various stakeholders.

The stakeholders consulted include European Jewish community organisations, national Jewish communities, European institutions, international organisations, national-level policy makers, and other civil society organisations of the EU Member States where the survey will be carried out.

## Outputs

The survey results are expected in 2013.

### Further information:

Please visit the FRA website:  
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