

# Jewish people's experiences and perceptions of antisemitism

## EU SURVEY OF JEWISH PEOPLE

### Country data – Belgium



Almost 8,000 Jews aged 16 or over from 13 EU countries responded to the online survey from January to June 2023. In Belgium, 688 Jews completed the survey. The estimated Jewish population in the country is 34,500.

See the [press pack](#) for full findings and the survey methodology.

#### Daily life

- 84% of Jewish respondents in Belgium consider antisemitism is a big problem in their lives. The survey average is 84%.
- 83% think that antisemitism in Belgium has increased in the last five years. The survey average is 80%.
- 97% have encountered antisemitism in their daily life in the year before the survey. The survey average is 96%.

#### Antisemitism online

- 68% encountered online antisemitism all the time in the year before the survey. The survey average is 61%.
- 26% encounter online antisemitism on Facebook, 23% in online news, 11% on Instagram and 12% on X. Across the survey, most encountered antisemitism on Facebook (25%), then online media (20%), X (19%) and Instagram (12%).
- Due to online antisemitism, 26% avoid posting content online that would identify them as Jews, 24% worry about their physical safety and 22% limited their participation in discussions online. Across the survey, 24% avoid posting content online, 24% worry about their safety and 23% limited participation.

#### Safety and security

- 59% are very worried about harassment and 50% about being attacked (the highest rates in the survey). They worry even more about their family and

friends. The survey average for worry about harassment is 53%, about attacks it is 44%.

- 70% avoid wearing Jewish symbols in public at least occasionally. The survey average is 76%. In Belgium, 51% never wear Jewish symbols because of safety concerns, compared to 48% across the survey.
- 40% avoid Jewish events and 54% certain places because they do not feel safe as Jewish (the highest rate in the survey). The survey averages are 34% and 40%.
- 78% think that Arab-Israeli conflict has an impact on their feeling of safety. The survey average is 62%.
- 83% feel they are blamed at least occasionally for the Israeli government's actions because they are Jewish (the highest rate in the survey). The survey average is 75%.

### **Harassment and violence**

- 49% experienced antisemitic harassment in the year before the survey (the highest rate in the survey). The survey average is 37%.
- 9% were attacked in the five years before the survey because they are Jewish (one of the highest rates in the survey). The survey average is 5%. 5% faced violence in the year before the survey.

### **Discrimination**

- 33% felt discriminated against because of being Jewish in the year before the survey (the highest rate in the survey). The survey average is 20%.
- 63% are open about being Jewish at work. The survey average is 57%.
- 29% hide or disguise being Jewish at school or university. The survey average is 41%.

### **Reporting**

- 42% reported the last incident of antisemitic violence, 25% reported harassment and 25% an incident of online antisemitism. But only 13% reported discrimination. The survey averages for reporting are for violence 49%, for harassment 28%, for online antisemitism 26%, and for discrimination only 11%.

### **Satisfaction with governments**

- 47% in Belgium have considered emigrating in the past 5 years for reasons related to being Jewish. The survey average is 45%.
- 10% think that the government combats antisemitism effectively (the lowest rate in the survey). The survey average is 18%.