

# Experiences and perceptions of antisemitism

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

### Factsheet – The Netherlands

*“It seems as if the Netherlands is tired of antisemitism. It seems as if it’s a subject that gets trivialised and also by social media, it’s seen as very normal. <...>Very worrisome!” (Woman, 35–39 years old, the Netherlands)*

*“Certainly on social media, antisemitism runs wild.” (Woman, 30–34 years old, the Netherlands)*

*There are still a lot of prejudices. People often make jokes and after I call them out on it they say, But that doesn’t apply to you. (Man, 50–54 years old, the Netherlands)*

*“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)*

*“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)*

*“We are emigrating out of the Netherlands in 2 years, after our child completes the school. We already bought an apartment outside the Netherlands. Sadly?” (Woman, 50–54 years old, the Netherlands)*

*“The government is much too lenient in fighting antisemitism, they call an attack vandalism instead of antisemitic terrorism and that’s really frightening; it again gives the feeling we are outlawed and the only solution is going on Aliyah, but I’m too old for that (59 years).” (Woman, 55–59 years old, the Netherlands)*

*“My experience with antisemitism is being spat on and being addressed being I’m wearing a Star of David.” (Man, 70–79 years old, the Netherlands)*

*“Luckily, I have never been the victim of antisemitic expressions, but that’s because I’m very careful about telling people I’m Jewish. I think us Jews are keeping a low profile here, we censor ourselves for our own safety. I think the number of antisemitic incidents would rise if we wouldn’t do that.” (Woman, 45–49 years old, the Netherlands)*

*“I am now eighteen years old. When I was fifteen I was chased and discriminated against. I did not go to the police then, because I was afraid and I didn’t know how. I think more explanation should be given about that.” (Woman, 16–19 years old, the Netherlands)*

*“I am confronted with antisemitic comments from colleagues at work. And I actually work at the police department.” (Woman, 50–54 years old, the Netherlands)*

#### **The survey in a nutshell**

The report 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 in 12 EU Member States – Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. These Member States are home to over 96 % of the EU’s estimated Jewish population.

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 (3,869 respondents) and the United Kingdom (4,731 respondents). 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.

In the Netherlands, 1,202 respondents filled in the online survey.

## Selected results for the Netherlands

### *Manifestations of antisemitism*

- According to the survey findings, 73 % of the respondents in the Netherlands consider antisemitism to be a very big or a fairly big problem in their country (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 85 %)
- 90 % of the respondents in the Netherlands consider antisemitism has increased over the past 5 years (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 89 %)
- 68 % of the respondents in the Netherlands consider racism to be a very big or a fairly big problem in their country (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 84 %)
- 53 % of the respondents in the Netherlands consider intolerance towards Muslims to be a very big or a fairly big problem in their country (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 57 %), and 71 % of the respondents in the Netherlands consider intolerance towards Muslims has increased over the past 5 years (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 72 %)
- A large majority of respondents in the Netherlands (80 %) consider antisemitism expressed online as a problem in the country (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 89 %)
- A large majority of respondents in the Netherlands (82 %) believe that antisemitism online has increased over the past five years (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 88 %)
- Most survey respondents in the Netherlands say they are regularly exposed to negative statements about Jews. A large majority of respondents in the Netherlands (74 %) identify the internet as the most common forum for negative statements (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 80 %). The most frequent comment made by non-Jewish people in the Netherlands is according to the respondents the statement: *'Israelis behave "like Nazis" towards the Palestinians'* (51 %)

### *Safety and security – in the Netherlands*

- Over one third of the respondents (39 %) worry about becoming a victim of an antisemitic verbal insult or harassment in the next 12 months, while one fourth (20 %) worry about being physically attacked in that same period (averages in the 12 surveyed countries: 47 % and 40 %, respectively)
- More than half respondents (57 %) 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, the majority (70 %) at least occasionally avoid doing so (averages in the 12 surveyed countries: 49 % and 71 %, respectively)
- Nearly one third of the respondents have considered emigrating (30 %) in the past five years because they did not feel safe as a Jew in the Netherlands (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 38 %)
- A majority of respondents (79 %) believe that the Dutch government's efforts to combat antisemitism are not effective. Meanwhile, a minority of the respondents (36 %) positively assess the Dutch government's efforts to ensure the security needs of the Jewish communities (averages in the 12 surveyed countries: 70 % and 54 %, respectively)
- 64 % of the respondents said that the Arab-Israeli conflict impacts their feeling of safety in the Netherlands (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 69 %)

### *Violence against Jews: experiences of harassment*

- Almost half of the respondents in the Netherlands (47 %) experienced some form of antisemitic harassment in the five years before the survey. More than a third (35 %) encountered such harassment in the 12 months before the survey (averages in the 12 surveyed countries: 39 % and 28 %, respectively).
- Comments made in person, and offensive gestures or inappropriate staring, are the most common forms of antisemitic harassment personally experienced by respondents – 26 % and 17 %, respectively, of the respondents in the Netherlands said they were faced with these forms of harassment in the 12 months before the survey. 15 % said that antisemitic offensive comments were posted on the internet (averages in the 12 surveyed countries: 18 %, 16 % and 10 %, respectively).
- 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 – in the Netherlands, respondents in 35 % of the cases identified the perpetrator as someone with Muslim extremist views, 20 % – someone who they could not describe, and 19 % – someone from work or a school/college colleague (averages in the 12 surveyed countries: 30 %, 31 % and 16 %, respectively).

#### *Reporting*

- The majority of respondents in the Netherlands (74 %) 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 (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 79 %)
- In 12 surveyed countries, 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.

#### *Rights awareness*

- The majority of respondents in the Netherlands are aware of legislation that forbids discrimination based on ethnic origin or religion – 83 % of the respondents indicated knowing about antidiscrimination law when applying for a job (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 87 %)
- In the Netherlands, the minority of respondents (44 %) are aware of legislation that forbids denial or trivialisation of the Holocaust (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 65 %).