



# Antisemitism overview - Belgium

Overview of antisemitic incidents recorded in Belgium in 2014-2024

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# 1. Belgium

The country overview provides a descriptive analysis of the available official and unofficial data. ‘Official data’ refers to those collected by law enforcement agencies, authorities that are part of criminal justice systems and relevant state ministries. ‘Unofficial data’ refers to those collected by civil society organisations, including Jewish community organisations. All data presented are based on the countries and organisations’ own definitions and categorisations of antisemitism. Some of these draw on the IHRA Working definition of antisemitism, which was endorsed by all EU member states, except Malta. Albania, North Macedonia and Serbia also adopted the IHRA Working definition on antisemitism. <sup>(i)</sup> Where available, the country overview provides a breakdown of the data by month following 7 October 2023, showing stark increases in recorded antisemitic incidents following the Hamas attacks and the ensuing military intervention in Gaza.

This publication is part of a larger series of overviews of antisemitic incidents. FRA and its predecessor (the EU Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia) have monitored antisemitism since 2004.

## 1.1. Official data

The Federal Police records and publishes data on Holocaust denial and revisionism, which are reproduced in Table 1 <sup>(ii)</sup>. In 2021, the Federal Police recorded, in total, 14 incidents in this category. This follows the 28 incidents recorded in 2020, which is the highest number of incidents recorded in 2012–2022. Ten incidents that occurred in 2022, thirteen incidents in 2023, eleven incidents in 2024 have been registered when this report was drafted in July 2025.

**Table 1: Cases of Holocaust denial and revisionism recorded by the Belgian Federal Police, 2014–2024**

Year	Holocaust denial or trivialisation	Approving of or justifying the Holocaust	Not specified	Total
2014	1	4	0	5
2015	4	4	0	8

Year	Holocaust denial or trivialisation	Approving of or justifying the Holocaust	Not specified	Total
2016	1	3	1	5
2017	3	9	0	12
2018	4	6	0	10
2019	2	11	1	14
2020	8	20	1	29
2021 <sup>(a)</sup>	7	8	-	15
2022	5	5	-	10
2023	3	10	-	13
2024 <sup>(b)</sup>	12	2	-	14

*Source: Federal Police, 2014–2023 and Quarter 1-3 2024*

The national equality body in Belgium (Unia) is mandated to receive and handle complaints from members of the public pertaining to discrimination. In 2022, it recorded 57 complaints of antisemitism <sup>(iii)</sup>, a decrease from 81 in 2021 <sup>(iv)</sup> and 115 in 2020 (out of which 56 incidents took place online) (Table 2). <sup>(v)</sup> Although the number of complaints Unia receives has fluctuated from year to year, the overall trendline points to a slight upward trend in recorded complaints between 2013–2021, and a spike of trend in 2023 and 2024 (Figure 3). The number of incidents in 2022 was 57 with 31 cases investigated. In 2023, the number of incidents rose to 121 with 59 cases opened. In 2024, UNIA received a total of 277 reports concerning alleged antisemitism and Holocaust denial. 79 of them resulted in the opening of a file. This striking increase in the number of reports in 2023 and 2024 is almost entirely due to the numerous reports received by Unia in the context of “the highly controversial column by Flemish writer Herman Brusselmans, whose violent images were considered by many to be hateful towards the Jewish community”, and in the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.” <sup>(vi)</sup> The case was later brought before a correctional court, which acquitted Brusselmans—finding no punishable violation—after Unia withdrew from the proceedings. <sup>(vii)</sup>

The more detailed Incident categories changed in Unia’s 2022 report, and therefore the current FRA report does not include an analysis of incident categories.

Furthermore, Unia changed its investigative approach: it now investigates and counts antisemitism cases rather than incidents. To implement this gradual change, future

reports will cover both concepts. As a reminder, incidents represent all the reports Unia receives from which multiple reports of the same incident are deducted.

In 2023, UNIA received a total of 121 reports of alleged antisemitism and Holocaust denial. <sup>(viii)</sup> Of these, UNIA opened 59 cases. In 2024, UNIA received a total of 277 reports of alleged antisemitism and Holocaust denial. Of these UNIA opened 79 cases. <sup>(ix)</sup>

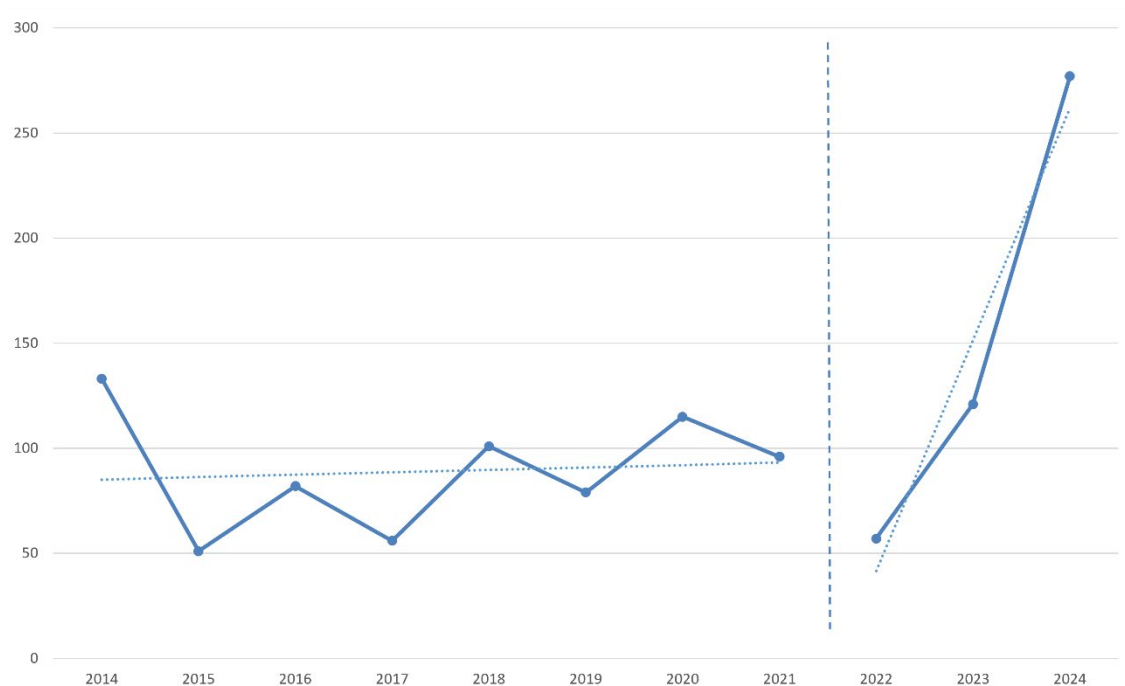
**Table 2: Complaints of antisemitism received by the national equality body (Unia), 2014–2024**

Year	Complaints on antisemitism
2014	133
2015	51
2016	82
2017	56
2018	101
2019	79
2020	115
2021	96
2022	57 <sup>(a)</sup>
2023	121 <sup>(a)</sup>
2024	277

(a) Due to changes in the methodology, 2022-2023 should be compared with the previous years with caution.

Source: Inter-federal Centre for Equal Opportunities and Unia, annual reports; Unia (2022), [Rapport chiffres 2021](#), Unia (2024), [Rapport chiffres 2023](#), Brussels; and data NLO provided to FRA upon request, Unia (2025) [Rapport-chiffres-2024\\_FR\\_final.pdf](#), Brussels.

**Figure 1 – Complaints of antisemitism received by the national equality body (Unia), 2014–2024**



*Alternative text: A line chart shows the evolution of complaints received by Unia between 2013 and 2021. The trendline across the number of complaints shows a margin increase over the observed time period. The data point for 2022 and 2023 are presented separately due to methodological changes. The dotted line represents a trend line. See Box B1 below for details.*

Source: Interfederal Centre for Equal Opportunities and Unia, annual reports; Unia (2022), [Rapport chiffres 2021](#), Unia (2024), [Rapport chiffres 2023](#), Brussels; and data NLO provided to FRA upon request, Unia (2025) [Rapport-chiffres-2024 FR final.pdf](#), Brussels.

The dashed vertical line indicates a break in the time series due to a change in data collection methodology. The dotted linear regression line indicates the trend based on data for 2013–2021. Owing to changes in the methodology, 2022 and 2023 are not fully comparable with the previous years.

## 1.2. Unofficial data

[Antisemitisme.be](#) is the main civil society organisation that records data on antisemitism in Belgium. It records acts of antisemitism through a dedicated telephone line, online contact form and email address, and through regular contact with the national equality body. Antisemitisme.be is run by volunteers and works in close association with the Executive Office of Community Surveillance (Bureau exécutif de surveillance communautaire) and the Coordination Committee of the Jewish

Municipalities of Antwerp (Coördinatie Comité van de Joodse Gemeenten van Antwerpen), with the support of the Israelite Central Consistory of Belgium (Consistoire Central Israélite de Belgique). Antisemitism.be also closely collaborates with Unia.

Data collected by Antisemitisme.be (x) show that, in 2021, the organisation recorded 119 antisemitic incidents, compared with 101 incidents in 2020 (Table 11). According to Antisemitisme.be, 83 of the 119 antisemitic incidents registered in 2021 were committed online. Data for 2023 show a total of 117 incidents, of which 37 took place online. The number of incidents in 2022 was 34.

**Table 3: Antisemitic incidents reported to Antisemitisme.be, 2014–2024**

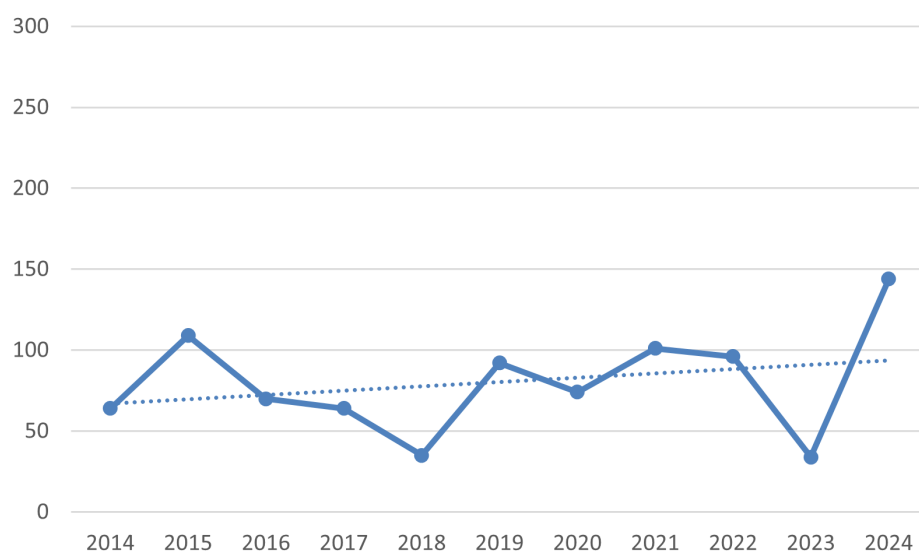
Year	Reported antisemitic incidents
2014	109
2015	70
2016	64
2017	35
2018	92
2019	74
2020	101
2021	119
2022	34
2023	117
2024	129

NB: n.a., not available.

Source: Antisemitisme.be, annual reports on antisemitism in Belgium.

The number of incidents reported to Antisemitisme.be has increased each year since 2017, with the exception of 2019 (Figure 2). With 144 recorded in 2023 is the year with the highest number of antisemitic incidents in 2014-2024, followed by 2024 with 129 recorded incidents.

**Figure 2 – Antisemitic incidents reported to Antisemitisme.be, 2014–2024**



*Alternative text: A line chart shows the evolution of antisemitic incidents reported to Antisemitisme.be between 2014 and 2024. The number of incidents recorded per year rose from 80 in 2014 to just below 129 in 2024. The dotted line represents a trend line. See Box B1 below for details.*

*Source:* Antisemitisme.be, annual reports on antisemitism in Belgium.

The dotted linear regression line indicates the trend based on data for 2012–2021. Data for 2022 were not available in October 2024, when this report was compiled.

As Table 4 shows, there is a great degree of variance in the types of antisemitic incidents reported to Antisemitisme.be. After the shooting on 24 May 2014 at the Jewish Museum of Belgium, where four people were killed, the category ‘attack’ was added to the classification of antisemitic incidents in the 2014 Antisemitisme.be report. According to Antisemitisme.be, ideological antisemitism often translates into the expression of sentiments against Israel and also includes other written or verbal expressions of antisemitism, as well as the use of antisemitic symbols. Ideological antisemitism and antisemitic incidents on the internet have accounted for the largest proportions of reported incidents in most years.



**Table 4: Types of antisemitic incidents reported to Antisemitisme.be, 2014–2024**

Year	Violence	Threats	Desecration/ property damage	Ideological	Internet	Attack	Total
2014	6	11	11	33	47	1	109
2015	3	11	3	24	29	0	70
2016	7	7	25	2	23	0	64
2017	1	8	13	6	7	0	35
2018	6	7	16	33	30	0	92
2019	1	1	5	28	33	0	68
2020	3	1	3	45	51	0	103
2021	3	1	7	18	83	n.a.	112
2022	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	34	34
2023	21	n.a.	21	38	37	n.a.	117
2024	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	129

NB: n.a., not available. The sum of incidents across categories sometimes exceeds the total number of incidents Table 3 indicates. This can be because a small number of incidents are recorded under more than one category.

Source: Antisemitisme.be, annual reports on antisemitism in Belgium.

### Box B 1 – Identifying trends in antisemitic incidents

To identify trends that underlie annual changes in the number of recorded incidents, linear regression lines (trend lines) were fitted to the data. This country overview presents trend lines where the following two conditions are fulfilled:

- the data were collected using the same methodology for at least three years in a row.
- the mid-point of the trend line for the series was not below 20 cases.

If the number of recorded incidents is low, the direction and magnitude of the trend is likely to be highly susceptible to change from one year to the next, making reliable trend analysis difficult. The number of recorded incidents is considered to be low if there were under 20 cases per year in all or most of the years between 2014 and 2024, resulting in the mid-point of the trend line falling under 20 cases.

It should also be emphasised that ascending or descending trend lines should not be interpreted as growing or declining antisemitism. The increase or decrease in recorded incidents may mean, for example, that more people are reporting incidents in a given year or that the police are becoming more efficient in recording incidents as antisemitic.

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- (<sup>i</sup>) See an overview of EU Member States and accession countries that adopted the [working definition of antisemitism](#) by the 2016 International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.
- (<sup>ii</sup>) Belgium, Federal Police (2022), [Statistiques policières de criminalité – Belgique 2000–2022 \(French\)](#) / [Politiele Criminaliteitsstatistieken – België 2000–2022 \(Dutch\)](#), Brussels.
- (<sup>iii</sup>) Unia (2023), [Annual Report 2022](#), Brussels.
- (<sup>iv</sup>) Unia (2022), [Rapport chiffres 2021](#), Brussels.
- (<sup>v</sup>) Unia (2020), [Rapport chiffres 2020](#), Brussels.
- (<sup>vi</sup>) Unia (2024). [Rapport-chiffres-2024\\_FR\\_final.pdf](#), pp. 77-79.
- (<sup>vii</sup>) The Brussels Times (2025). [Judge recuses himself from the Herman Brusselmans case](#), Brussels.
- (<sup>viii</sup>) Unia (2024). [Rapport chiffres 2023, Brussels, pp. 77.79.](#)
- (<sup>ix</sup>) Unia (2024). [Rapport-chiffres-2024\\_FR\\_final.pdf](#), pp. 77.79.
- (<sup>x</sup>) For the latest available report, see Antisemitisme.be (2024), [Report annuel 2023 – Antisemitisme en Belgique](#).