



ANNUAL REPORT

ANTISEMITISM IN
FRENCH-SPEAKING
SWITZERLAND
2023

2023

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Are you the **victim** or **witness** of an antisemitic incident?

Have you noticed any **antisemitic content** on the media or on the Internet?

Contact us by phone on: **+41 22 321 48 78**
at the following address: **cicad@cicad.ch**
or fill out the form at: **www.cicad.ch**

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CICAD

Since 2003, CICAD has been responsible for collecting, recording and analysing reports of victims, witnesses as well as antisemitic documents and texts.

CICAD provides advice and support to victims of antisemitism in their efforts. Each situation deserves special attention and an adequate response.

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Key points

68% increase
compared to 2022

22 major incidents

39%
traditional
antisemitism

24%
Israel-related
antisemitism

**944 acts
in 2023**

two thirds
on social
media

78 serious incidents

01 The situation in French-speaking Switzerland

The year 2023 was punctuated by **local and international news** that triggered more or less severe waves of antisemitic incidents. Dieudonné's presence in Geneva for a show, then for the trial of Tariq Ramadan, the memorial projects for the victims of the Holocaust and Nazism in Switzerland, the federal elections and finally, the conflict in the Middle East, were all **pretexts for antisemitic expression**.

As well as with the news, antisemitism is evolving through **new technology**. The advent of **artificial intelligence (AI)** has been much appreciated by antisemites, and who have not hesitated to generate **racist artificial images** or train **chatbots**, such as ChatGPT, to make them antisemitic.

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While 2022 was marked by so-called 'traditional' antisemitism and antisemitism related to Jewish conspiracy theories, throughout 2023 we observed **a constant increase in traditional antisemitism**. Indeed, in 2023, this represented **39% of the cases** recorded, while conspiracy antisemitism accounted for only 13% of cases.

Moreover, **anti-Zionism as a form of contemporary antisemitism** increased significantly, reaching **24% of recorded cases**. This increase is due to the Israel-Hamas war, which began on 7 October 2023. The conflict is also at the heart of the **explosion of antisemitic incidents in French-speaking Switzerland and around the world**.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, antisemitism has not diminished; on the contrary, it continues to be fuelled by current national and international events. After the year 2022, which saw a peak in antisemitic incidents recorded throughout Switzerland, we can only observe **the perduration of this trend**.

Thus, in **French-speaking Switzerland**, antisemitism persists and continues to grow. In 2023, CICAD recorded **944 incidents**, almost double the number of incidents recorded in 2022 (562). This increase is directly correlated to the Hamas-Israel war. In fact, since 7 October, we have recorded **over 150 antisemitic incidents per month**. Until September, the monthly average of incidents recorded in French-speaking Switzerland was about 42.

This increase also concerns serious incidents and major incidents. In 2023, **78 serious incidents were reported**, compared to 23 the previous year. These incidents take the form of tags, posters, speeches or antisemitic messages/emails.

- **Thirty-five serious antisemitic tags, posters and stickers** were reported during the year 2023. Stars of David being crossed out, copies of the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion* plastered on walls, ***Hamas Merci*** inscriptions appearing in the city, or the wall of the Freiburg synagogue sprayed with a **Celtic cross**, are all examples that illustrate this phenomenon. Such vandalism incidents conveying a **violent message** have intensified from the very beginning of the war in the Middle East.
- **Twelve antisemitic and/or Holocaust denial emails** were received by members of Swiss universities, politicians and private individuals during the year. In particular, while promoting his website, Geneva denier Alexandre Bender commented to several elected representatives from French-speaking Switzerland as follows:

Email from Alexandre Bender

Dear Sir or Madam,

*A **Stop Germanophobia** initiative*

*We are proud of bringing to your attention the two recent petitions of the Swiss National Front "No to a Holocaust memorial in front of the Red Cross headquarters" and "**For Switzerland to ask the UN to investigate the existence of the Holocaust!**".*

First published in L'Ouest

Please also find below a link to an overview of our blog articles, some of which are breaking censorship in Western Europe for the first time [address of the Swiss National Front].

- On the street, **several antisemitic speeches or acts have been reported**. For example, at the General Assembly of an association, a man made the **Nazi salute**. During a pro-Palestinian demonstration, the chant ***Khaybar Khaybar Ya Yahoud*** was heard. This antisemitic song evokes a historical episode from the 7th century when Muslims massacred and enslaved Jews in the city of Khaybar. Or, without being invited, a **taxi driver** made discriminatory and insulting remarks towards the Israelis, before concluding with **"Hitler should have finished his job."**

- Jewish **victims of antisemitic remarks.**

Some examples

A 12-year-old Jewish student is harassed by classmates who regularly say to her, **"Hi Jewess, ça gaze?"**

In the courtyard of a school, Jewish students are attacked by other students who shout to them: **"ISRAEL SHOULD DIE"** and **"FREE PALESTINE"**

A woman of Jewish origin is the frequent target of antisemitic comments from her colleagues, where she volunteers: **"Jews are stingy"**, **"There is an oven in the kitchen if you want"** or **"Oh yes Auschwitz, was that a bakery with ovens?"**

Regarding **major incidents, 22 cases were reported**, i.e., a seven-fold increase compared to last year.

- The stained glass windows of **the synagogue in La Chaux-de-Fonds** were broken using large lumps of icy snow.
- Several **Jewish institutions** have received antisemitic letters.
- An **11th grade Jewish student** was assaulted in the gym changing room. A classmate sprayed him with his deodorant, threatening: **"I'll gas you like all Jews"**.
- A Jewish woman's front door was **forced and sprayed with a Star of David**.
- Several people identified as Jewish or known to be Jewish have been **subjected to antisemitic insults**.

Quelques exemples

During the year, several primary and secondary school students were insulted with the words **"Dirty Jew"**.

Visibly Jewish people going to the synagogue or a kosher restaurant were insulted and threatened: **"Dirty Jews, dirty Zionists, coward Jews"** and **"Dirty settlers, if we were not in Switzerland, I would burn you!"**

- At the entrance to a Jewish family's apartment, their **mezuzah was forcibly ripped off**.

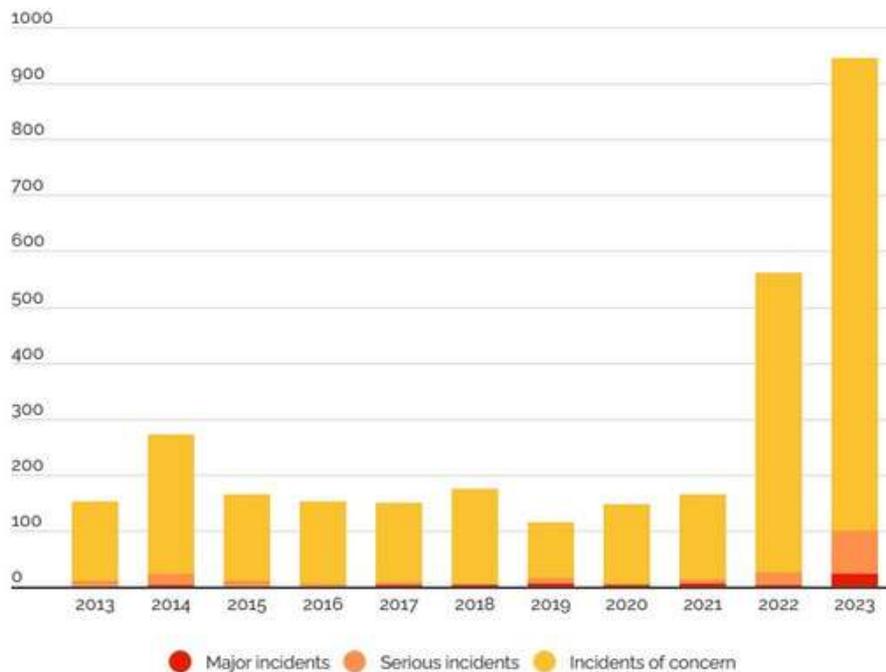
Although anti-Zionism as a contemporary form of antisemitism accounts for a large proportion of antisemitic incidents, **so-called 'traditional' antisemitism remains predominant**. Thus, it appears that the **Israeli-Palestinian conflict** is just a **trigger, a pretext** for this antisemitism still deeply rooted in mentalities.

Statistics

1. Evolution of antisemitic incidents 2013-2023

In 2023, we recorded a total of **944 incidents**, including **22 serious incidents** and **78 major incidents**. In 2022, we recorded 562 incidents.

This increase is a consequence of events related to the 7 October 2023 Hamas attack and subsequent war. Indeed, we observe that the **Israeli-Palestinian conflict is systematically a marker of antisemitism peaks**.



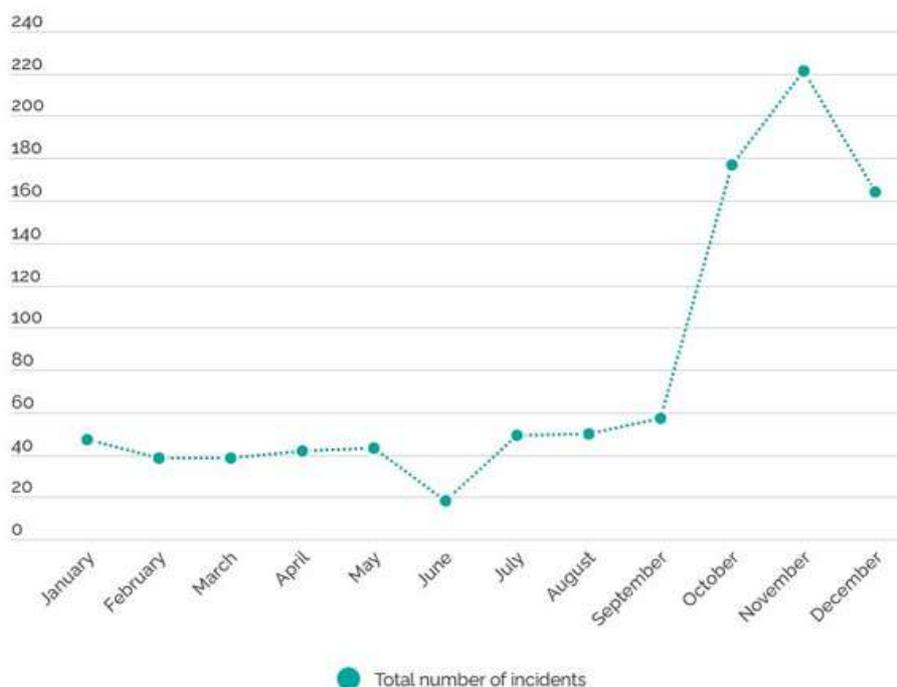
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The illustration above shows **the development of antisemitic incidents over the last ten years**. The increase between 2021 and 2022 was due to a significant increase in antisemitic incidents, but also to the development of CICAD's methodology, with the expansion of its fields of investigation.

Between 2022 and 2023, we can see an **increase of almost 68%**.

Apart from the year 2022, we observe **two peaks**: the first in 2014 and the second in 2023. The first peak is related to the Gaza War in 2014, while the second is directly correlated to the Israel-Hamas War. Both these wars are characterised by **their duration**. The longer the duration of the conflict, the higher the level of antisemitism remains over a long period of time.

2. Evolution of antisemitism during the year 2023



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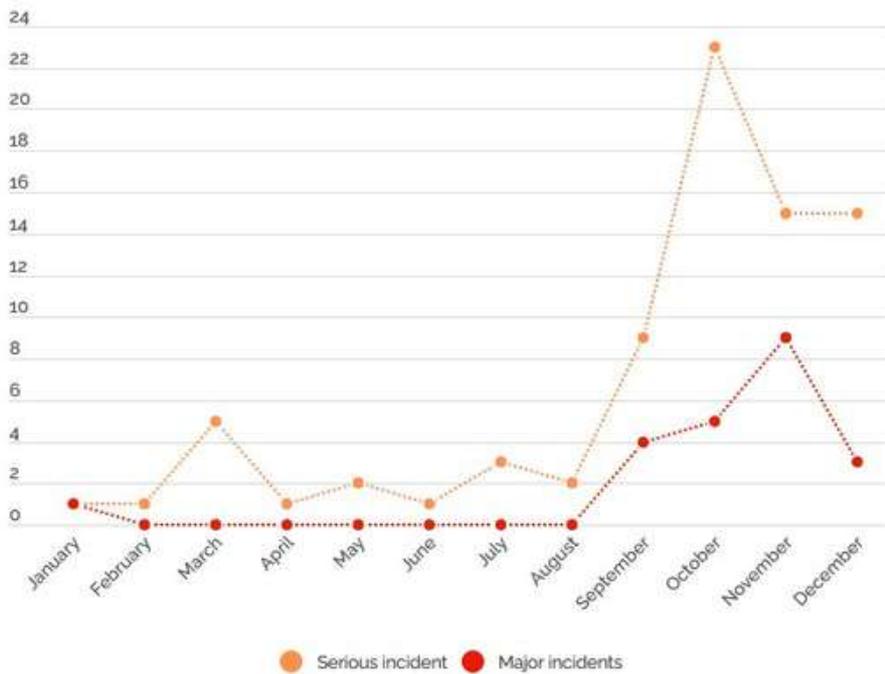
From this graph, we observe that before the Israel-Hamas war, the number of incidents per month was stable, with a monthly average of 42.5 incidents. From October, this stability is disrupted and the threshold **of over 150 antisemitic incidents per month is exceeded for the months of October, November and December.**

A slight decrease was recorded in December. This was mainly due to the holiday break at the end of the year. In fact, due to schools and offices being closed, CICAD received only half as many reports as in the first months of the war.

The evolution of the curve highlights the correlation between the increase in antisemitic incidents and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Thus, we note that the situation in the Middle East remains **a trigger** for the antisemitism that is still so deeply ingrained in our societies.

Finally, we can observe increases across all levels of incident. From the beginning of October to the end of December, CICAD received **131 reports** of assaults, tags or school cases. In general, CICAD receives fewer than ten reports per month.

Major and serious cases also increased from October:



Incidents of concern and indicators

These are **various non-targeted antisemitic remarks**, in particular those on the Internet.

Serious incidents

This is an attack on the **sensitivity** of people and property identified as Jewish (letters, graffiti, antisemitic remarks in public speeches, etc.)

Major incidents

This is an attack on the **integrity** of persons and property identified as Jewish (aggression, harassment, insult, targeted threat, desacralisation, fire or destruction of buildings, etc.)

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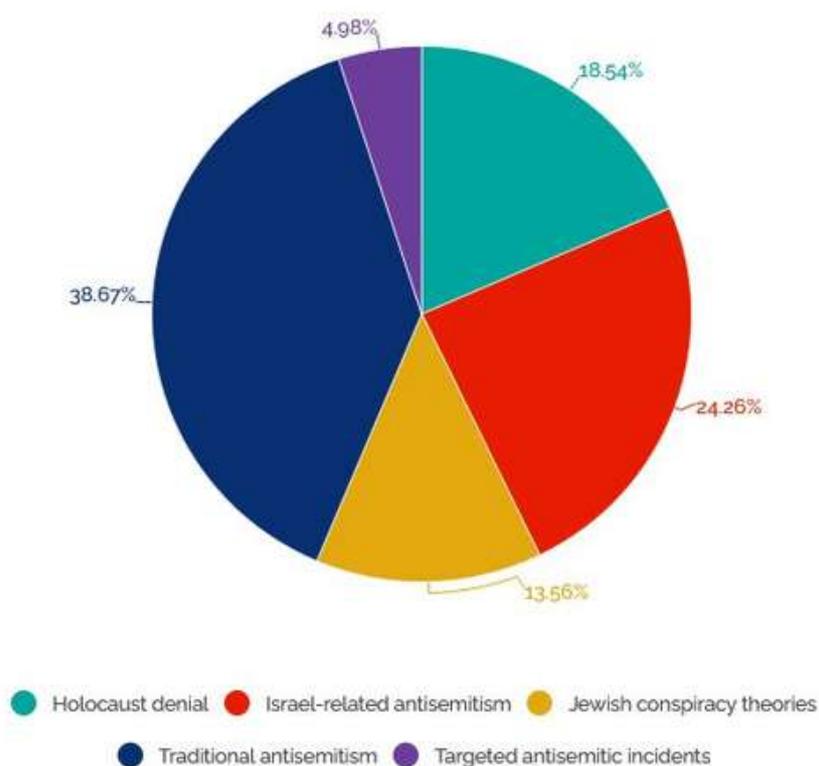
Students in French-speaking Switzerland are particularly affected by the antisemitic phenomenon. In some institutions, the word 'Jew' has become an insult and memes relating to Hitler and the Third Reich are very popular on class WhatsApp groups.

Jewish students, for their part, are a particular target of antisemitism from their classmates and sometimes even from their teachers. **Of the sixteen school cases reported in 2023, twelve were reported after October 7.**

3. Antisemitic incidents broken down by category

We divide antisemitic incidents into a number of categories:

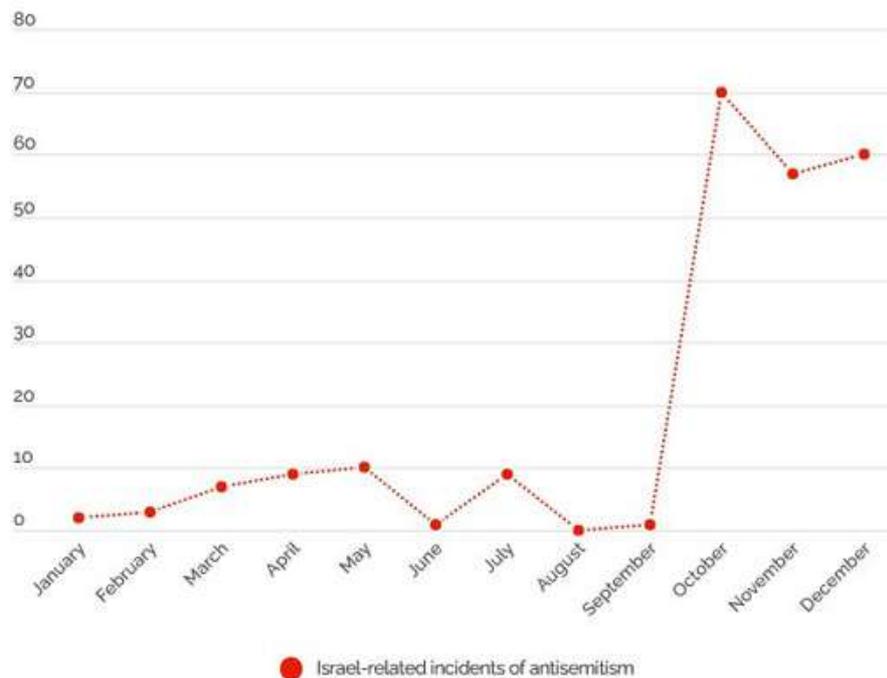
- **'Traditional' antisemitism:** refers to traditional antisemitic allegations, ranging from physical criticism and degrading insults to accusations of dual allegiance
- **Israel-related antisemitism:** anti-Zionism in the sense that one denies the right to self-determination of the Jews and denies their links with Israel, but also the Nazification of Israel
- **Targeted incidents:** when persons and/or institutions are targeted and attacked due to them being Jewish
- **Jewish conspiracy theory:** anything related to theories accusing Jews of 'pulling the strings' (controlling money, diseases, etc.)
- **Holocaust denial:** denial and/or minimisation of the Holocaust



While in 2022 so-called 'traditional' antisemitism and Jewish conspiracy theories were the two most represented categories, in 2023, **traditional antisemitism** is the category in which the greatest number of antisemitic incidents were recorded. This **trend** appeared as early as January and was confirmed throughout the year.

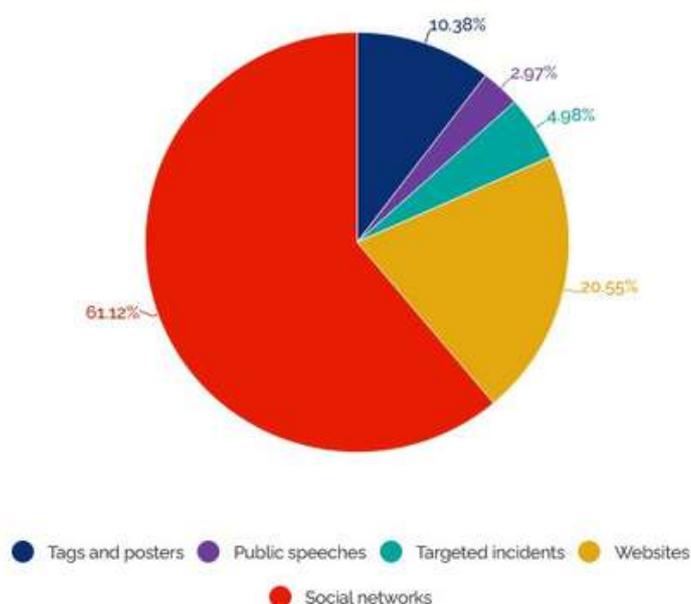
The decline in antisemitism linked to conspiracy theorism is mainly due to the end of the health crisis and the fact that the war in Ukraine is dragging on. In fact, these two events are important sources of Jewish conspiracy theories.

Israel-related antisemitism accounts for a significant share of reported cases. This is explained by the Israel-Hamas war. Its duration, violence and access to images are all factors that explain the rise of this trend. In fact, after 7 October, we observe an explosion of antisemitic cases related to Israel:



However, although anti-Zionism and the Nazification of Israel accounted for a large share of antisemitic incidents during the last quarter of 2023, **traditional antisemitism remained predominant**. Thus, the **Israeli-Palestinian conflict** is just a **trigger, a pretext** for this antisemitism still deeply rooted in mentalities.

4. Antisemitic incidents broken down by source



Social media is the biggest source of antisemitism. This year, its share is nearly two-thirds. **Websites**, meanwhile, remain an important source of antisemitism. This category includes sites offering forums conducive to antisemitic speech, such as the sites of **French-speaking Swiss newspapers**, and **specialist websites**.

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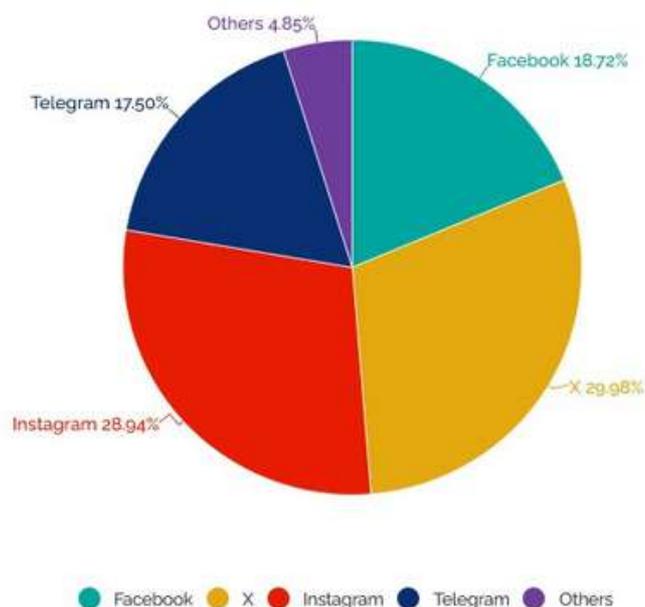
In Switzerland, it is very difficult to demand the closure of specialist websites promoting hatred. Indeed, the owners of these websites base their servers outside the country. Thus, even though the hateful content is posted from Switzerland, the law cannot act to force the closure of the website.

It is to be noted that this year, a real estate website was hacked by the far right French forum, **Démocratie Participative**. For several hours, Internet users who wished to visit the site were redirected to a page that addressed 'compatriots of the white race'.

In 2023, **98 antisemitic tags and posters** were reported across French-speaking Switzerland. That's three times more than last year. This increase is explained by the antisemitic campaign launched by Alexandre Bender during the summer in Geneva and by the situation in the Middle East.

Eventually, **28 antisemitic 'public speeches'** were recorded. These take the form of chants during demonstrations, exhibitions or even antisemitic remarks made publicly.

5. Antisemitic incidents on social media



In total, **577 antisemitic** incidents were detected on social networks. As shown by the previous graph, these represent the predominant source in terms of antisemitism.

X is the most used platform today in French-speaking Switzerland to publish content of an antisemitic nature. This is a direct consequence of Elon Musk's acquisition of the platform. In fact, since the entrepreneur took over Twitter (renamed X), hate speech and violent and conspiracy content have exploded.

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At the level of French-speaking Switzerland and in terms of antisemitism, this finding is irrefutable. **While in 2022, only 14 incidents were recorded on Twitter, 173 incidents were recorded on X in 2023.**

Instagram is also a social network favoured by people spreading racist and antisemitic speech. In particular, hatred spreads through the **stories** published. These ephemeral posts remain online for twenty-four hours and are therefore a good way to avoid censorship.

General analysis

In French-speaking Switzerland, **four vectors** contribute to antisemitism: right-wing extremism, Israel-related antisemitism and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, conspiracy theorists and Holocaust deniers. The influence of these vectors varies depending on the period. **Local and international current events** especially determine these waves of antisemitism.

1. Right-wing extremism

In Switzerland, far right circles remain very active, albeit not very visibly. We observe that the **identitarian movement** is gaining popularity, especially among the younger generation. In fact, the new groups claiming to be identitarians such as **Junge Tat**, **Résistance Helvétique** and **Némésis** mainly consist of young members. Particularly comfortable with social media and digital technologies, **these groups use effective and professional advertising on the networks**, which 'reinforces the attraction to these environments and promotes recruitment'¹.

However, older right-wing extremist groups are still active, such as the **Swiss Nationalist Party** and its president **Philippe Brennenstuhl**, and the **Cercle Georges Oltramare**.

Moreover, isolated players persist in harmful activities on networks, but also on the street, as with Geneva Holocaust denier **Alexandre Bender**. Finally, the presence of the French-Swiss far right ideologue **Alain Soral** in the Canton of Vaud is becoming apparent. Indeed, the polemicist, who has been repeatedly convicted for incitement to hatred, is enjoying growing popularity in French-speaking Switzerland.

Today, far right circles conduct their activities mainly on the **Internet**, in the form of sporting events, conferences or discussions on topics of interest to them, as well as **placarding actions**.

¹ Service de renseignement de la Confédération (SRC), "La Sécurité de la Suisse – Rapport de la situation du Service de renseignement de la Confédération 2023", p. 49

Activism on social media

Social media remains the most conducive place to develop **hate speech**. The alternative platform Telegram is well-established as the preferred messaging service for far right groups due to the virtual non-existence of monitoring. However, **X (ex-Twitter) and Instagram** are now widely used by Internet users to disseminate antisemitic content. As these networks enjoy greater visibility, posting racist and antisemitic images, texts, videos on X and Instagram represents a greater chance of reaching a **wider audience**.

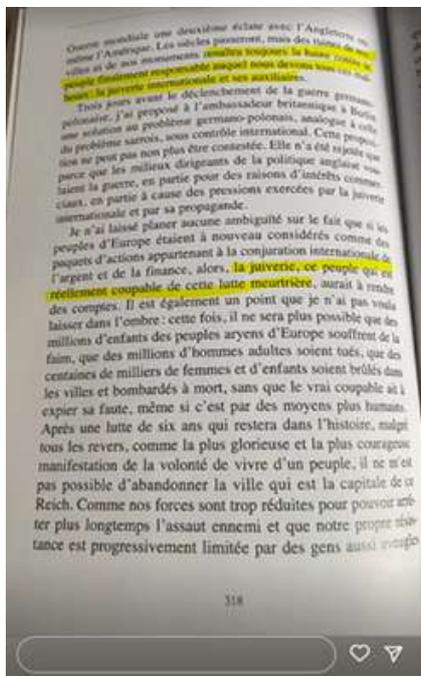
Since Elon Musk's takeover of Twitter, the platform has changed significantly. Indeed, the arrival of Musk has allowed the return of **extremist and conspiratorial speech**, mainly due to an extraordinarily lax policy in terms of hate speech monitoring. Under the pretext of absolute freedom of expression, Musk essentially promotes the **conservative right, right-wing extremism and disinformation**. Highly active himself on his own medium, Musk regularly engages in conversation with personalities convicted of incitement to hatred. This was particularly the case with **Alain Soral**. Indeed, after it was announced that **the agitator had been convicted in Switzerland of homophobia**, the South African entrepreneur came to his defence. This statement gave Soral the impetus to create a new X account, on which **he took the liberty** of making extremely violent comments for several months.

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*Posts on X by a Geneva Internet user. On the left is an antisemitic mechanism regularly used by right-wing extremists involving **the listing/marketing of Jewish personalities**. The one on the right is an image illustrating the **far right theory of the great replacement** supposedly organised by the Jews.*

Instagram is also an attractive platform for people to spread their hate. This is due in particular to the **stories** option. These are ephemeral posts which remain online for only twenty-four hours, allowing Internet users to avoid the blocking of their accounts relatively easily.



16 *Hitler's apology remains readily visible on the networks, as illustrated here, in two Instagram stories by an Internet user from the Canton of Vaud. On the left, the user shares a passage from **Adolf Hitler's Testament**. On the right, Hitler's face is accompanied by the statement 'I tried to save you'.*

Use of new technologies

From an historical perspective, the presence of the far right on the web has developed since the beginning of the Internet. Deprived of access to public spaces, right-wing extremists and neo-Nazis quickly took over **virtual space** to make their voices heard. This tactic continues to be adapted and developed in line with new technologies.

This year, we observed **considerable use of artificial intelligence (AI)**. AI is not only used to create antisemitic speech, but also to generate antisemitic images.

For example, a Swiss user had fun training **ChatGPT** in order to make it become a Holocaust denier. He then shared his experience on a Telegram channel and invited everyone in the group to do the same.

As for the **images generated by AI**, these have become ever more visible on the networks since 7 October 2023 and the beginning of the Israel-Hamas war.



These images published on Instagram illustrate the antisemitic theory that **Jews were at the origin of the slave trade.**

Influence of Alain Soral in French-speaking Switzerland

For a few years now, **the far right ideologue, Alain Bonnet, known as Soral**, has been living in Lausanne. As a holder of dual French and Swiss citizenship, Soral moved to the Canton of Vaud in order to avoid prison in France. However, despite his numerous convictions for hate speech, incitement to hatred and Holocaust denial, Soral continues to spread his antisemitic ideas from Switzerland.

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Always highly active within the **Equality & Reconciliation (ER)** movement he chairs, Soral organises meetings around combat sports, especially savate kickboxing, in French-speaking Switzerland. Members of the various ER branches travel to Switzerland to meet him and share some time with him. Moreover, Soral still writes texts for ER and makes podcasts and videos in which he spreads his hatred of Jews among others. Finally, **since October, he has been particularly outspoken on X.** After creating a new account, @Soralcensured, he was able to share violently antisemitic tweets for several weeks. Examples from his speeches:

*“This incredibly daring Palestinian offensive also marks the paradigm shift that is taking place, and that makes Israel and its American protectors, because there is no Israel without its American protectors, **even if it's Israel that dominates America [...] through their power over Congress by means of the financing of policies by the American Zionist Jewish lobby [...] It's Israel that gives orders to America**”*

Excerpt from the broadcast 'Soral is (almost) always right', episode 'End of times: biblical arrogance and Palestinian martyrdom'.



Tweet by Alain Soral on X

Soral is present on Telegram, Odysee (an alternative video host, which boasts less moderation), VK, the ER website and, until the beginning of January, on X. Thus, the ideologue can rely on a real **digital presence**, which gives him very wide visibility. Its content is accessible to any French-speaker.

During the final months of 2023, we observed increased influence by Alain Soral in French-speaking Switzerland. In early November, Soral wrote a text entitled 'Antisemitism, anti-Judaism, anti-Zionism... What is forbidden, what is allowed.', in which **he excused and justified antisemitism**. This text was shared on X by many users, including from Switzerland. We were able to observe the influence that this text had on French-speaking Internet users:

18 *"[...] The term 'Semitic' is all the more inappropriate to speak of Israelis, since most of the Jews of Israel are from Central Europe and are thus Ashkenazi [...] And thus, why continue to talk about antisemitism, an inappropriate term, when it is specifically about anti-Zionism and anti-Judaism? Especially since Zionism and Judaism are both deeply linked [...]"*

Comment under an article in the Tribune de Genève concerning the Hamas-Israel war and reproducing almost word for word Soral's theory

In addition, one of his **admirers**, from Geneva, has been **the most active antisemitic player** since 7 October. In just twenty days, this man posted **72 antisemitic tweets**. Sharing Alain Soral's publications, he also publishes AI-generated images in line with the ideologue's antisemitic theories, such as that of the '**American-Zionist conspiracy**':



Image from X

The mechanisms of communication favoured by Soral and ER also inspire extremist groups in French-speaking Switzerland, including **Résistance Helvétique (RH)**. In the same style as ER's 'chronicle', *A week on Twitter – The weekly review by Arthur Sapaudia*, RH published at the beginning of 2024, its *Compilation of the best answers on X*, with the 2023 batch.

Finally, the **slogan 'Soral is right!'** is gaining popularity on social media, but it has also been noticed at the University of Geneva. In fact, a student wrote these words on the flipchart provided at an exhibition on Palestine at UNI Mail:



Uni Mail, 15 December 2023

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Placarding

Placarding actions are still a strategy adopted by right-wing extremists. This summer, the City of Geneva faced a **wave of antisemitic and racist tags and displays**, on which one could read: **“The Holocaust is a false scar”** and **“STOP GERMANOPHOBIA! STOP JUDAISM!”**.

This wave was then transformed with the arrival of the federal elections. While some Jewish politicians had their election posters vandalised, new slogans appeared: **“Neither left-wing zyklon, nor right-wing kosher”** and **“PLR Kosher (((All Jewish!)))”**². This was followed by an epidemic of swastikas, again in Geneva. From July to October, more than 40 cases were reported.

These actions were claimed by **Alexandre Bender**, on his *Front National Suisse* website and by one of the members of the **Cercle Georges Oltramare**, on his personal blog.

² See *Glossary*, p. 57

Summary

The **far right** is still present in French-speaking Switzerland. Its hatred of Jews and various minorities finds expression daily on mainstream and alternative social media, as well as on the street.

Far right groups master digital technologies and adapt to their development. In French-speaking Switzerland, the presence of the ideologue Alain Soral is becoming ever-more influential. The latter enjoys growing popularity.

Finally, placarding actions remain a widespread tactic in far-right circles.

2. Israel-related antisemitism

Current affairs in the Middle East is a **permanent source** for antisemites, who post their ideas on the street and on the Internet. The resumption of operations related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is accompanied by comparisons by these people of Israel to the Nazi regime or by calls for its eradication.

2023 was marked by the **Hamas attacks of 7 October and the war that followed**; and which continues to this day. This has led to an unprecedented increase in antisemitic incidents worldwide. And French-speaking Switzerland is no exception.

The events in Israel and Gaza served, throughout the last quarter, as a pretext to unleash a primal anti-Israelism, and, through the traditional generalisation, hatred of Jews.

From 7 October to 31 December 2023, **557 antisemitic incidents** were reported, more than half of all cases recorded during the year. Of these 557 incidents, CICAD received **131 reports** of verbal abuse, depredation or situations involving young students.

Since the beginning of the war, the most common forms of antisemitism have been of a traditional and anti-Zionist kind. **Anti-Zionism is understood as a form of contemporary antisemitism**,³ such as, for example, the refusal to recognise the right of Jewish people to self-determination.

This dramatic multiplication shows that the Israel-Hamas war was a real **pretext** to pour out antisemitism, which is expressed through **targeted incidents** on the **Internet** and on the **street**.

³ We use the IHRA operational definition, see pp. 48-49

Targeted incidents

Of this year's 47 targeted incidents, **35 were recorded between 7 October and 31 December**. Therefore, we see a real correlation between events in the Middle East and the increase in these cases. These incidents are in the form of insults, letters/messages, harassment or vandalism.

Verbal insults such as '**dirty Jew**' are the most common. Victims included both adults and children. These comments are also sent by post or through messages on social media. Often, the accounts used to prey on Jewish people are ephemeral accounts, which disappear as soon as the act is carried out.



Anonymous message received by a Jewish man on Facebook

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Verbal attacks **around Jewish places and/or events related to the Jewish community and/or Israel** have also multiplied:

At **Uni Mail**, at an event in favour of Israeli hostages, a man approached a Jewish teacher and told her: *"Israel is a state that does not exist [...] **When the Jews want to return to Morocco, Ethiopia, etc. they will not be accepted [...] Jews are only good at taking interest on loans.**"*

In **Route de Malagnou**, the same man threatened several times various visibly Jewish families going to the synagogue or to a kosher restaurant: *'**Dirty Jews, dirty Zionists, cowards of Jews', 'Dirty settlers, if we were not in Switzerland, I would burn you.'***

In addition, targeted antisemitic **vandalism incidents** have increased significantly. In Geneva, the **mezuzah** at the entrance to a Jewish family's apartment was ripped off, while in Lausanne, **a Jewish woman's door** was tagged with a Star of David.

In addition, **Jewish institutions**, such as synagogues, were targeted with anonymous antisemitic letters, emails, and phone calls.

On the Internet

Anti-Zionist activism is very common on the Internet. We can observe it on social media, in the discussion forums of the French-speaking media, as well as on websites. In addition to speeches denying the right to self-determination of the Jewish people, we also observe **the Nazification of Israel** and **the glorification of terrorism**, especially the actions of Hamas.

The **articles and publications by media in French-speaking Switzerland** on the Israel-Hamas conflict are among the preferred places for Internet users who wish to spread their antisemitic hatred. In order to avoid excesses, some newspapers have decided to close their comment sections. This is particularly the case for RTS on its Instagram page, which systematically has to block comments under its posts reporting on the situation in the Middle East.

In 2023, antisemitic comments under **newspaper posts** accounted for 16.3% of recorded incidents. These have increased significantly since 7 October. Of the 65 antisemitic comments appeared under the articles of the Tribune de Genève during the year, **48 comments have been recorded since 7 October**. The same is true for the Léman Bleu Facebook page where, of the 37 comments recorded, **30 were recorded after the Hamas attacks**.

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22.12.2023
Le parlement coupe dans l'aide au pauvres palestiniens de Gaza et discrètement
augmente l'aide aux riches juifs de Suisse, ouf, là tradition humanitaire de la
Suisse est sauvé
👍 1 | 🗨️ 1 | Répondre | Signaler un abus

Comment under an article in the Tribune de Genève regarding the funding of the UNRWA



J'aime Répondre 4j
Les juifs doivent se trouver une terre à eux bandes d arrivistes!!!! Parasites!!!!
J'aime Répondre 4j

*Facebook comment under a post by Léman Bleu
about a pro-Palestinian demonstration in Geneva*

Comparisons between the Nazi regime and Israel flourish on social media. Through this process, Internet users compare the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, to Adolf Hitler and post satirical illustrations of Israeli politicians and soldiers wearing Nazi uniforms. Thus, the Israeli army becomes the **Waffen tSSahal**, the Israelis are called **Nazionists** and the Star of David on the Israeli flag is replaced by the **swastika**.

Moreover, Gaza is portrayed as the Warsaw Ghetto. These speeches, in addition to being deeply offensive to the Jewish community because of its history, contribute to the **trivialisation of the Holocaust.**



Instagram stories

In addition, since the attacks of 7 October, **the apology of Hamas and its terrorist attacks** has acquired a considerable space on social media. In fact, some users justify or excuse the actions of Hamas and don't hesitate to speak of 7 October as a revolutionary day:

“Today, the Palestinian resistance is carrying out an offensive that no one had seen coming, nor even imagined. [...] Our position is clear: those who don't live under military occupation and don't suffer the violence of colonisation have no right to judge how the resistance chooses to confront the Zionist colonist. [...] Western media convey a discourse constantly talking about terrorism and a war that would pit Hamas against Israel: this is nothing but a lie.”

Excerpt from the text '7 October 2023 is now a historic date!', published on the Renversé website on 11 October

“In recent days, the Palestinian people have united behind their armed resistance. [...] There is no room for ambiguity and vague statements with no content. What the Palestinian people expect from their allies and solidarity movements around the world is unconditional and full support for the actions of the Palestinian resistance and an end to the illusion of the so-called 'two-state solution'. The October battle is not only a Palestinian battle against Israel's crimes and genocide, it's the birth of a Palestinian, Arab and international revolution [...]. “

Excerpt from the text 'The October Battle: Stop the Genocide in Gaza - Support for the Resistance of the Palestinian People', published on Renversé on 15 October

The Hamas apology can also be seen in the choice of some pro-Palestinian users to share the emoji ▼ on their profiles. This inverted red triangle was first **used by Hamas in their propaganda videos to indicate Israeli targets**⁴ Now, it has been taken over by activists to show their support for the terrorist group.

Finally, directly after the attacks of 7 October, we saw the development of a new form of Holocaust denial. Indeed, within the various 'anti-Zionist' movements there is a 'negationist' component. Mimicking **the tropes denying the Holocaust**, some are quickly spreading, both on the web and in the demonstrations, theories denying the veracity of the 7 October attacks and/or accusing Israel itself of being guilty for these attacks. Following this trend is paramount. In fact, thanks to social media, this theory quickly spread and became a new springboard for accusing Jews of spreading *fake news*.

On the street

Since the beginning of the war, the public space has been particularly invaded by groups and movements that position themselves as 'pro-Palestinian'. Unfortunately, this solidarity is tainted by some people who take advantage of these pro-Palestinian rallies and actions to express their antisemitism. We have observed it in **demonstrations** related to Palestine and in **vandalism** incidents. Similarly to what happens on the Internet, the Nazification of Israel and support for Hamas are very common.

On 12 October, the first pro-Palestinian demonstration was held in Geneva and was joined by **Hani Ramadan**. The latter notably denied Hamas' criminal acts, while supporting their actions. Moreover, the ***Khaybar Khaybar ya Yahud*** chant was heard at the gathering. This antisemitic song evokes a historical episode from the 7th century when Muslims massacred and enslaved Jews in the city of Khaybar.

Since then, more or less large demonstrations have been organised almost daily throughout Switzerland. During these demonstrations, the antisemitic slogan **'From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free'** has remained very popular, as do 'Viva viva Intifada' and 'Zionists, fascists, you are the terrorists'.

In relation to the situation in Palestine, an **exhibition** was organised by three student associations in the middle of UNI Mail, in Geneva. Held over two weeks, this exhibition propagated **instances of disinformation** and held a speech praising the actions of Hamas.

⁴ What's the red triangle being used by pro-Palestinian activists?:

<https://www.aljazeera.com/program/newsfeed/2023/11/13/whats-the-red-triangle-being-used-by-pro-palestinian-activists>

Indeed, Hamas was described as a '**resistance movement**', which had committed its actions with the aim of liberation. On the issue of Israeli hostages, the three associations justified this crime by referring to a 'hostage exchange' and explaining: '**It was according to this perspective that Hamas kidnapped hostages. In other words, it was to free hostages who had been kidnapped in total indifference that Hamas kidnapped hostages.**'

Vandalism incidents multiplied after 7 October. Whether in the form of tags or posters, calls for hatred and violence invaded the streets of French-speaking Switzerland. Again, the Nazification of Jewish symbols and the glorification of Hamas were among the many reports received during the last quarter of the year.



Tag reported in the Servette district of Geneva



Posters pasted in UNIL and UNIGE buildings



Tag near Uni Mail in Geneva

Summary

Israel-related antisemitism is evolving and increasing along with the **tensions** in the **Middle East**. Currently, **the violence and length of the Hamas-Israel war** is leading to a dramatic rise in antisemitism. Israel-related antisemitism takes several forms:

1. Anti-Zionism, in the sense that it **denies the right of Jews to self-determination** and their ties to the Land of Israel
2. The **Nazification** of Israel
3. **The accusation of all Jews** designated as responsible for the actions of the Israeli government.
4. **Apology for the actions of Hamas**

However, although anti-Zionism and the Nazification of Israel have accounted for a large proportion of antisemitic incidents since October 2023, traditional antisemitism remains predominant. Thus, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is just a **trigger, a pretext** for this antisemitism still deeply rooted in mentalities.

3. Conspiracy theories

Jewish conspiracy theories remain a source of antisemitism, **13%**. Nevertheless, they no longer contribute as much to the rise of antisemitism as they did during the COVID years.

A conspiracy theory is a narrative interpreting real facts as the result of the actions by a **secret group**, suspected of acting in a hidden way to influence the course of events in its favour and to the detriment of the rest of the population. Based solely on one-sided explanations, conspiracy theorists see the signs of the influence of such a secret group everywhere, while the lack of evidence is used as proof of the power of these supposed plotters. Conspiracy theories contribute to confusion, **misinformation** and **hatred** against the individuals and groups of individuals they stigmatise.

Antisemitism has been a fundamental and structural element of conspiracy theories since the actual origins of conspiracy theory. Its climax can be identified in the '**Protocols of the Elders of Zion**',⁵ a forgery that Adolf Hitler used as one of his main sources for writing Mein Kampf. In French-speaking Switzerland, conspiracy theorists, in addition to **misinforming** the population, also spread antisemitism.

Moreover, conspiracy theories quickly adapt to **major economic and social crises**. Statements denying Hamas attacks and accusing Israel of being behind them are an example of current conspiracy theory.

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12.11.2023

ISRAËL SERAIT EN TRAIN DE DÉVELOPPER UNE ARME BIOLOGIQUE QUI POURRAIT NUIRE AUX ARABES SANS AFFECTER LES JUIFS, SELON UN ARTICLE DU SUNDAY TIMES DE LONDRES. Le rapport, citant des sources militaires israéliennes et occidentales, indique que les scientifiques tentent d'identifier des gènes distinctifs portés par les Arabes pour créer une bactérie ou un virus génétiquement modifié.

Conspiratorial comment under an article in the Tribune de Genève, accusing Israel of creating an 'ethno-bomb'

With the new policies of X and Elon Musk's inclination towards conspiracy theory, the familiar faces of conspiracy theories have returned to the platform. However, the networks favoured by the members of the complosphere remain **alternative networks**, such as Telegram, Odysee and VK.

⁵ See *Glossary*, pp. 59-60

Excerpts from a user's comment, in **Chloé Frammery's Telegram channel** under a post about Vincent McDoom:

“The Jews.....

burned Rome and blamed the Christians (False flags)

killed the Son of God First World War planned (17 years before) [...]

own all Hollywood studios

own the magazines

own the newspapers

own the social media platforms

own the porn industry and use it to weaken the population, especially young people

print all school textbooks

control Wall Street

control the school system, control the FBI, control the CIA, control the NSA, control the UN, control the WEF, control and own the fed Federal Reserve (and all central banks), control the KGB

They led the transatlantic slave trade, and now they blame it on white Christians. [...]

They instigated the French Revolution [...]

They triggered the American opioid crisis: millions of Americans were killed (Sackler Jewish family celebrated by Netflix 🇺🇸🇮🇸)

They started World War II [...]

They lied about being gassed [...]

They invented a climate catastrophe 3 times (global cooling, global warming, climate change),

They invent fake news,

They invented fake viruses,

They invented fake and deadly vaccines [...] “

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Although the conspiracy movement has not been as popular with the French-speaking population since the end of the pandemic and the war in Ukraine lasting (two major sources for Jewish conspiracy theories), conspiracy environments remain **active**. Conspiracy theorists we face today are the **most convinced**.

The issue of the management of the pandemic remains a privileged subject in these circles. For example, in January 2024, a documentary film on the 'Swiss dictatorship' during the COVID-19 pandemic was premiered in Geneva. This event attracted 600 people.

Summary

Conspiracy theories and the people spreading them are still present in French-speaking Switzerland. Conspiracy theorists adapt quickly to current events and the Internet promotes their development.

The vehicle of disinformation actions is not only the web anymore, but also demonstrations and conferences.

Finally, **antisemitism** remains very present in both old and new conspiracy theories.

4. Holocaust denial

Holocaust denial is the **denial of the existence of the genocide of the Jews by the Nazis**. According to this doctrine, during the Second World War there was no intention to exterminate the Jews and/or the means to carry out this extermination, such as the gas chambers, did not exist.

For many years, French-speaking Switzerland has been the host for a low-profile but highly active fringe of Holocaust deniers. Social media, websites, magazines sent by mail; **Holocaust deniers** use all the means at their disposal to spread their beliefs.

In Geneva, **Alexandre Bender**, despite his multiple convictions and his prison terms, is still the most active among Holocaust deniers. In the last year, not only was he present online, but he also took to the streets of Geneva.

In addition to the most visible Holocaust denier personalities of French-speaking Switzerland, Holocaust denial remains a consistent presence in antisemitic tendencies.

Alexandre Bender

Alexandre Bender's website, **Front National Suisse**, is still in operation. On it, Bender publishes almost daily antisemitic, negationist and racist articles throughout the year. In addition, as in 2022, Bender does not hesitate to write directly to politicians to promote his website.

Regarding social media, although accustomed to having to turn to alternative networks such as Gab or WorldTruthM in order to convey his hatred in peace, Bender was able,

upon his release from prison in early 2023, to create an **X account**. Benefiting from Elon Musk's lax and permissive rules, Bender maintained a supremacist, negationist and antisemitic account for several months, before being suspended in September. The pseudonym he had chosen, **Mr. Bond**, was not a reference to the famous secret agent, but a tribute to an Austrian neo-Nazi rapper sentenced in 2022 to ten years in prison for incitement to hatred.

Since Bender first made his appearance on the French-speaking Holocaust denial scene, he was active on the web. This strategy changed this year, when Bender decided **to bring his ideas into the City of Geneva**.

This summer, posters, tags and stickers directly featuring Bender's 'slogans' or even entire pages taken from his site were reported to CICAD:



Posters and tags posted in the Plainpalais district of Geneva

Online Holocaust denial

On **X** and **Instagram**, we regularly identify Holocaust denying posts or comments. The hashtag **#robertfaurisson** is particularly popular with supporters of this doctrine. Faurisson, who died in 2018, was a denialist activist, who came to the attention of the public thanks to his friendship with Dieudonné.

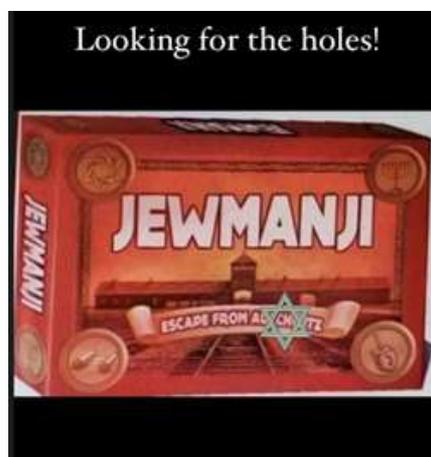
*“For those who have not yet taken the step... **you should absolutely start by reading the work of Professor #RobertFaurisson RIP**”*

Posted on X by a user from Geneva

*“**#robertfaurisson**”*

Instagram comment under a post by RTS about Auschwitz

In order to display their denial, without risking having their accounts deleted, Internet users use plays on words and subjective images. Such as the English expression '**no holes, no holo**', which is a negationist formula that circumvents online censorship. Images are also created to deny the Holocaust or denigrate its memory:



Instagram story of an Internet user from the Canton of Vaud

Summary

Denialism in French-speaking Switzerland remains **marginal**. However, individuals completely embrace this conspiracy theory, are highly active and use numerous means to spread their ideas.

To avoid censorship, Holocaust deniers use **play on words** and misused images on social media to spread their ideas.

04 International context

Following the 7 October Hamas attacks, all countries in the world are facing the same: **an unprecedented rise in antisemitic incidents**. The terrorist attacks triggered a wave of antisemitism around the globe, from the day after the massacres committed by Hamas. Indeed, on 8 October 2023, a mass of people chanted “**Gas the Jews**” in front of the Opera House in Sydney.

A trend that continued throughout the last quarter of the year. Whether online, on the street or within the private sphere, antisemitism is expressed at all levels.

In the United States, the Anti-Defamation League recorded a 337% increase in the two months following the Hamas attack.⁶ From 7 October to 7 December, 2,031 antisemitic incidents were recorded, compared to 465 incidents for the same period in 2022. These figures include 40 physical assaults and 749 cases of verbal or written assaults.

32 American campuses are particularly prolific in terms of antisemitism. Institutions, such as Hillel, and Jewish students are targeted by other university members who spread their antisemitism. Moreover, in the face of this phenomenon, the directors of major universities such as Harvard, UPenn and MIT were **unable to condemn the call for the genocide of Jews** within their respective institutions.⁷

Britain has been particularly affected by this global wave of antisemitism. For three days following the Hamas attacks, from 7 to 10 October, the **Community Security Trust (CST) recorded 89 antisemitic incidents**.⁸ The latest available CST figures show an unprecedented rise in antisemitic incidents in Britain. From Saturday, 7 October to Wednesday, 13 December included, **2093 antisemitic incidents were recorded**. This represents an increase of 534% compared to the same period in 2022. In mid-December,

⁶ ADL press release, 'ADL Reports Unprecedented Rise in Antisemitic Incidents Post-Oct. 7', Dec. 11 2023, <https://www.adl.org/resources/press-release/adl-reports-unprecedented-rise-antisemitic-incidents-post-oct-7>

⁷ PETITE Simon (6 Dec. 2023), 'Antisémitisme: la pression monte sur les universités américaines après une audition désastreuse' (Antisemitism: the pressure rises on American universities after a disastrous hearing), Le Temps, accessed 5 Feb. 2024, <https://www.letemps.ch/monde/ameriques/antisemitisme-la-pression-monte-sur-les-universites-americaines-apres-une-audition-desastreuse>

⁸ MCGARVEY Emily (Oct. 12 2023), "Antisemitic incidents 'quadruple in UK' since Hamas attack in Israel", BBC, accessed 5 Feb 2024, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-67085625>

similarly to CICAD, the CST had already recorded more antisemitic incidents since October 7 than in the period from January to before the Hamas attacks.⁹

With regard to **France**, both the **Service de Protection de la Communauté Juive (SPCJ, Jewish Community Protection Service)** and the **Ministry of the Interior** also noted an alarming increase in antisemitic incidents. In 2023, **1167 antisemitic incidents that were the subject of a complaint or report to the police** were recorded.¹⁰ As with other countries, 7 October marks the beginning of the explosion of antisemitic incidents. The SPCJ points out that this violent reaction had already been observed during antisemitic attacks in France. In fact, the Toulouse attack on the Jewish school was followed by an increase of nearly 200%, while after the Hypercacher attack in 2015, an increase of nearly 300% had been observed. Thus, the SPCJ notes that in view of these two events and the 7 October Hamas attacks *“a surprising and worrying phenomenon emerges: the media coverage of the massacre of Jews leads to an increase in antisemitic actions”*.¹¹ Notably, this observation is based on the fact that the surge in attacks began on the days the massacre was committed by Hamas and not following the response of the Israeli army.

The upsurge in antisemitic acts also affects **Germany**, which recorded a 320% increase in antisemitic cases for the period from 7 October to 9 November,¹² as well as **South Africa**, where antisemitic incidents were nine times higher for the month of October than in previous years.¹³ In **Russia**, a mob of pro-Palestinian militants stormed Makhachkala Airport in Dagestan after a plane from Tel Aviv landed. In **China**, although there are no official figures, Chinese social networks are flooded with antisemitic content, including speeches glorifying the Holocaust and comparing Jews to parasites and vampires.¹⁴

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⁹ CST Blog, 'Antisemitic incidents – 13 December update', 13 Dec. 2023, https://cst.org.uk/news/blog/2023/12/13/antisemitic-incidents-13-december-update_

¹⁰ SPCJ, 'Les chiffres de l'antisémitisme en France en 2023' (The figures of antisemitism in France in 2023), 24 Jan 2024, <https://www.spcj.org/antis%C3%A9mitisme/chiffres-antis%C3%A9mitisme-france-2023-b>

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² GRIESHABER Kristen (28 Nov. 2023), "Antisemitic incidents in Germany rose by 320% after Hamas attacked Israel, a monitoring group says" AP News, accessed 5 Feb 2024 <https://apnews.com/article/germany-antisemitism-attacks-jews-israel-hamas-berlin-1000dd76d3a4c4fcc75ea28e4bae0b89>

¹³ Reuters (31 Oct. 2023), "How the surge in antisemitism is affecting countries around the world", Reuters, accessed 5 Feb. 2024 <https://www.reuters.com/world/how-surge-antisemitism-is-affecting-countries-around-world-2023-10-31/>

¹⁴ Ibid.

Finally, pro-Palestinian demonstrations organised around the world are also places conducive to antisemitic expression. Antisemitic slogans and signs cross borders and rapidly become viral trends. One example of the foregoing, the **“Keep the world clean”** poster featuring a drawing of a star of David thrown in the trash became popular after it was spotted with a Norwegian student in a demonstration in Warsaw:



21 October in Warsaw ¹⁵

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25 October in New York ¹⁶ and 3 November in London ¹⁷

¹⁵LBC, <https://www.lbc.co.uk/news/keep-world-clean-anti-semitic-poster-palestine-israel-warsaw-outrage/>

¹⁶New York Post, <https://nypost.com/2023/10/25/metro/nyc-public-school-students-brandish-antisemitic-signs/>

¹⁷LBC, <https://www.lbc.co.uk/news/met-police-investigate-anti-semitic-poster-cenotaph/>

Denial of October 7

On October 7, Hamas terrorists attacked, killed, raped and kidnapped Israeli people. These **acts were filmed** by surveillance cameras, but also **by the terrorists themselves**, who then shared their crimes on the Internet. Recording and publishing these images is a terrorist strategy aimed, among other things, **at implanting lasting fear**.

Despite this evidence and despite Hamas' very clear desire to show the world their 'exploits', **conspiracy theories** very quickly emerged and spread throughout the world.

For example, some denounce a **false flag operation** carried out by Israel, accused of killing its own citizens, while others believe that **no woman has been raped**. Finally, from Yverdon-les-Bains to Los Angeles, people are tearing up the posters of the Israelis kidnapped and held in Gaza. Why? Because allegedly no Israeli would be held against their will by Hamas.

While Hamas terrorists' cameras and GoPros made October 7 one of the most-documented terrorist attacks in history,¹⁸ the denial of these crimes is becoming an alarming phenomenon, reminiscent of Holocaust denial.

Summary

All over the world, **antisemitism has increased**. This increase began on October 7, following the massacres committed by Hamas in Israel. Physical assaults, insults, vandalism and antisemitic public speech are reported daily.

¹⁸DWOSKIN Elizabeth (Jan. 21 2024), "Growing Oct. 7 'truther' groups say Hamas massacre was a false flag", *The Washington Post*, accessed Feb. 5 2024 <https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2024/01/21/hamas-attack-october-7-conspiracy-israel/>

The security of Jewish communities in Switzerland

Threats

In Switzerland, **violent extremism** and **terrorism** are the main threats to national security.¹⁹

With respect to **right-wing extremism**, the classic themes of the glorification of Nazism, hatred of minorities and antisemitism persist. Moreover, the cult of the body, especially through combat sports and sports shooting are very popular among the younger generations of the far right. The SRC also highlights how right-wing extremist ideas are “**embedded in propaganda that particularly prompts violence**”²⁰ on social media. In addition, it has been observed that Swiss far-right groups are regularly in contact with groups from abroad.

On the other hand, **left-wing extremists** stand out for their violent acts during demonstrations. These groups are more likely to resort to **vandalism** by committing targeted property damage or fires. In November, an incident of this type took place in Lausanne. A McDonald's was covered in red paint by a pro-Palestinian group, which accused the fast-food chain of supporting Israel.²¹ With the current situation in the Middle East, we can assume that violent left-wing extremist circles will continue to strongly engage in support of the Palestinian cause.

The **terrorist threat**, primarily characterised by the jihadist movement, is still considered high by the SRC. As Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State are the main representatives of the jihadist movement in Europe, these two groups are decisive in terms of terrorist threat on Swiss territory.²²

¹⁹Swiss Federal Intelligence Service (SRC), 'La Sécurité de la Suisse – Rapport de la situation du Service de renseignement de la Confédération 2023 (The Security of Switzerland – Status Report of the Swiss Federal Intelligence Service 2023)', p. 11

²⁰Ibid, p.46

²¹HABERT Margaux (Nov. 11 2023), 'Un McDo lausannois vandalisé par des pro-palestiniens (A Lausanne McDonald vandalised by Pro-Palestinians)', *watson*, accessed Feb. 1 2024, <https://www.watson.ch/fr/suisse/lausanne/643462729-un-mcdonald-s-lausannois-vandalise-par-des-pro-palestiniens>

²² SRC, 'La Sécurité de la Suisse – Rapport de la situation du Service de renseignement de la Confédération 2023 (The Security of Switzerland – Status Report of the Swiss Federal Intelligence Service 2023)', p. 37

However, the SRC points out that the terrorist threat is increasingly originating from individuals acting alone. As a result, the terrorist threat has become **more dispersed**. Today, the most significant threat comes from **isolated actors** inspired by jihadism and spontaneously committing attacks involving little logistical effort.²³ Thus, violent extremism and terrorism remain significant threats to Jewish communities in Switzerland.

Security means

At the end of 2022, the National Security Network (NSR) unveiled its **Plan d'action national de lutte contre la radicalisation et l'extrémisme violent 2023-2027 (PAN, 2023-2027 National Action Plan to Combat Radicalization and Violent Extremism)**. As the growing division and polarisation of society has the potential to lead to new forms of extremism, such as COVID-19-related extremism, targeted preventive measures need to be established. The PAN 2023-2027 is based on three principles: cross-agency and cross-disciplinary cooperation and coordination, media skills and the promotion of critical thinking, in addition to gender sensitivity and gender mainstreaming.²⁴

Moreover, since 2019, the Confederation has been able to provide financial means for the protection of groups particularly threatened by terrorist acts or violent extremism. **Fedpol has approved a total of 34 applications for the year 2024**, eleven of which are in the cantons of Geneva, Vaud and Fribourg. **Many of them involve the Jewish community**.²⁵

In addition, in **Geneva**, the Grand Council voted in November in favour of **financial support for communities** fearing acts of violence, particularly Jewish violence. Since 2019 and the drafting by the Federal Council of the ordinance on measures to promote the safety of minorities in need of special protection, the cantons have been “invited to provide 50% of the Confederation's financial contribution”.²⁶ Until very recently, Geneva and the other cantonal authorities of the French-speaking region had shown little engagement.

²³ SRC, 'La Sécurité de la Suisse – Rapport de la situation du Service de renseignement de la Confédération 2023 (The Security of Switzerland – Status Report of the Swiss Federal Intelligence Service 2023)', p. 41

²⁴ Réseau national de sécurité (RNS), 'Plan d'action national de lutte contre la radicalisation et l'extrémisme violent 2023-2027 (National Action Plan to Combat Radicalization and Violent Extremism)', pp. 15-16

²⁵ <https://www.fedpol.admin.ch/fedpol/fr/home/sicherheit/schutz-von-minderheiten.html>

²⁶ DETHURENS Chloé (2023, 11 nov.), 'Genève aidera les minorités menacées à se protéger' (Geneva will help threatened minorities to protect themselves), Tribune de Genève, accessed 2 Feb 2024, <https://www.tdg.ch/dispositifs-de-securite-geneve-aidera-les-minorites-menacees-a-se-protoger-108371796024>

Summary

Violent extremism and terrorism remain **national threats and threats to the Jewish community in Switzerland.**

The RNS has published its **PAN 2023-2027**. This provides for better collaboration between authorities and civil society, the promotion of critical thinking and the analysis of the dynamics of radicalisation.

In Geneva, the law on measures aimed at promoting the safety of minorities in need of special protection entered into force on **20 January 2024**. Thus, the canton will contribute to the financing of the protection of minorities considered at risk by the SRC. This mainly involves Jewish and Muslim communities.

Legal protection for victims of antisemitism

1. Swiss law

The protection of victims of antisemitism, especially in legal terms, is one of CICAD's most important activities. However, this task is made difficult by a gap in the Code of Criminal Procedure. Indeed, since 2011, **associations can no longer constitute themselves as complainants or civil parties** in proceedings relating to the criminal law against discrimination and incitement to hatred (art. 261bis of the Criminal Code). Therefore, associations fighting against discrimination, whether racist, religious or related to sexual orientation, face a serious legislative obstacle preventing them from being able to ensure the optimal defence of victims of discrimination.

Moreover, Article 261bis of the Criminal Code **does not provide for cases of racist and antisemitic symbols**. The exhibition of these is punishable by law only if the author intends to publicly propagate an ideology related to these symbols. Thus, despite the anti-racist regulations, Swiss law allows:

- The existence of openly racist parties
- The dissemination and sale of Nazi objects
- The organisation of gatherings such as 'private' neo-Nazi live gigs
- The display of signs reminiscent of fascism and Nazism

Since 2009, CICAD has been regularly expressing its views on the importance for the Federal Council of raising awareness on this subject. In particular, it provides support to political parties that wish to see these symbols prohibited in the development of initiatives or motions. In recent years, we have seen a real commitment on this subject, whether at the cantonal or federal level.

CICAD particularly welcomes the acceptance by the Grand Council of the Canton of Vaud of the motion of Yannick Maury, an elected representative of the Green party, on 21 November 2023. This motion asked the Council of State to prohibit the exhibition of Nazi symbols on the territory of Vaud. It was eventually extended to all hateful symbols.

In Geneva, the Grand Council, on the initiative of deputy Thomas Bläsi, overwhelmingly voted in June a constitutional law for the prohibition of the use of Nazi symbols. An encouraging decision, on which the people will soon have to express their vote.

Canton of Fribourg is also studying the issue, following the motion of Alexandre Berset, deputy for the Green party, and Hubert Dafflon, deputy for the Centre, called 'Ending Nazi symbols in Canton of Fribourg'. In December, the Council of States voted in favour of this ban. On the other hand, the Council of State recommended its rejection in January 2024.

In the Canton of Neuchâtel, on the initiative of deputy Brigitte Leitenberg, the subject is being discussed and at the federal level, the prohibition of Nazi symbols is still being examined.

2. Current legal proceedings

Despite the difficulties posed by Swiss legislation, CICAD continues to defend victims of antisemitism by offering them legal support and denouncing antisemitic acts. During the past year, **27 legal proceedings were launched on behalf of CICAD.**

In 2023, CICAD launched several proceedings:

Criminal complaints filed for the publication and distribution of works of a negationist and antisemitic nature and action commenced as the injured party for defamation and insults against CICAD - Geneva

A criminal complaint was filed on 13 September 2021 for acts constituting racial discrimination (art. 261 bis al. 1 CP) against a publishing company, based in Geneva, and its sole director because of the publication of a book also involving Holocaust denial and antisemitic content.

In addition, a new criminal complaint was filed on 20 December 2022 for acts constituting racial discrimination (art. 261bis CP), since the company concerned and its sole director had, again, published a book by the same author, some passages of which involve Holocaust denial and antisemitic content.

At this stage, we know that all the published works have been confiscated from the publisher concerned and a criminal order declaring the individual guilty of racial discrimination (art. 261bis CP) was delivered on 23 March 2023.

This order sentenced her to a heavy fine and ordered the destruction of the works concerned.

However, the publisher submitted an appeal and we are still waiting for the outcome of the proceedings.

On 26 July 2023, a new criminal complaint and an action commenced as the injured party had to be filed against the above person for acts constituting racial discrimination (art. 261bis CP) due to the publication of a new work of the same kind as the previous ones and to insult, slander, respectively, defamation (art. 173, 174 and 177 CP) against CICAD.

We are also awaiting the outcome of these proceedings.

Criminal complaints against Alexandre Bender – Geneva

Alexandre Bender was already the subject of no less than three complaints between 2021 and 2022, which resulted in a heavy conviction for racial discrimination (art. 261bis CP) in 2022.

This individual publishes and shares, through various channels, a significant amount of caricatures and articles of a fundamentally antisemitic nature, acknowledging his responsibility for such content.

On 31 March 2023, a new criminal complaint was filed against Alexandre Bender for sending emails of a denialist nature on 10 March 2023. This complaint also referred to his comments on his website '*Front National Suisse*' website, as well as on Twitter/X through his pseudonym '*Mr. Bond*'.

On 28 September 2023, a criminal complaint was again filed against Alexandre Bender for publishing on Twitter/X antisemitic and denialist statements in the form of tweets and memes.

This complaint also referred to graffiti discovered on the Geneva public domain, insofar as these reproduce the wording that Alexandre Bender published on Twitter/X or on his '*Front National Suisse*' website.

Finally, on 29 November 2023, a further criminal complaint on the grounds of art.261bis CP (racial discrimination) and 259 CP (public incitement to commit a crime) was filed against Alexandre Bender.

This complaint relates, once again, to the spread of antisemitic comments by Alexandre Bender on his '*Front National Suisse*' website.

Action commenced as the injured party against Alexandre Bender and a co-author - Geneva

CICAD commenced an action on the grounds of racial discrimination (art. 261bis CP), slander (art. 174 CP), defamation (art. 173 CP) and insult (art. 177 CP) against Alexandre Bender and a co-author in relation to an article entitled 'Swastikas in Geneva' published on 5 September 2023 by the latter.

The article concerned indicated that the draft Geneva constitutional law aimed at a ban on the exhibition of objects, respectively symbols of hatred, including Nazis, would be contrary to freedom of expression.

Furthermore, the article concerned argued that the draft law was the work of the 'Jewish lobby' and targeted CICAD in particular.

We are awaiting the outcome of these proceedings.

Action commenced by Johanne Gurfinkiel – Geneva and Neuchâtel

On 20 November 2023, Johanne Gurfinkiel filed an action as the injured party for insult (Art. 177 CC), threat (Art. 180 CC), racial discrimination (Art. 261bis al. 4, 1st part CP) and a criminal complaint for racial discrimination (art. 261bis al. 4, 2nd part CP).

The facts behind this action are phone calls received by Johanne Gurfinkiel in November 2023, while CICAD was in Auschwitz in the context of the actions it is taking to support the Memory work.

The individual in question made highly antisemitic comments and worrying threats against Johanne Gurfinkiel and CICAD.

He also referred to the Auschwitz camps as 'Disneyland'.

The police were able to identify and hear the individual and the investigation is ongoing.

Several criminal complaints – French-speaking Switzerland

During the final months of 2023, CICAD filed numerous criminal complaints against various antisemitic players who have been particularly prolific since 7 October 2023.

As these complaints were filed recently, CICAD cannot disclose any information about them, at the risk of disrupting ongoing investigations.

Summary

The Swiss legislature in the fight against racism and antisemitism is **not optimal**:

- Associations fighting against discrimination may constitute themselves as complainants and civil parties in respect of acts falling within the scope of art. 261bis of the Criminal Code only if they are not personally the subject of an infringement, otherwise, they must limit themselves to denouncing the facts covered by this provision and may not participate in any proceedings opened following their denunciation
- The law allows Nazi and fascist symbols to be displayed with impunity

In 2023, several cantons studied the subject of a ban of Nazi symbols, including the Cantons of Fribourg, Vaud and Geneva. At the federal level, this issue is still under review.

CICAD initiated **several proceedings** during the year and 27 legal actions were carried out on its behalf. In addition, there **have been more than a hundred direct interventions** by CICAD.

Recommendations

Prevention and education

The fight against racism and antisemitism must be approached from an **educational and preventive perspective**.

- Implementation of a study in schools to **highlight the presence of racist and antisemitic prejudices**. Such a survey will make it possible to study opinions, racist attitudes, acts of violence experienced, discrimination, training needs in this area and the current state of awareness.
- **Training for teachers**, the objective of which will be to help them react to racist and antisemitic acts in the school environment on the one hand, and on the other hand to have a more detailed knowledge of these phenomena.
- **Training for students**. CICAD's educational programmes aim to make young people aware of prejudices and the behaviours that can result from them. Adapted to students as well as teachers through targeted training modules, these are carried out with the help of experts.
- **The practice of verifying information** is more necessary than ever in the face of the amplification of fake news. Why are these conspiracy theories gaining such momentum? How to verify information in the face of the rise of disinformation? It is essential to ask these questions. The search for information, the quality and the sources of this information must be the subject of an in-depth educational strategy, fully integrated into the school curriculum.
- **Sports clubs** must be made aware of the themes of racism, antisemitism and discrimination. The authorities should become more involved in order to promote the fight against discrimination in sport.

Legal protection

- Introduction of **recognition of the status of civil party for associations** so that they can act against offenders of the criminal standard against discrimination and incitement to hatred (Art. 261bis CC).
- **Introduction of cantonal laws punishing the use and public dissemination, manufacture, import and export of racist symbols.**
- **Amendment of the Criminal Code by introducing new provisions punishing the use and public dissemination, manufacture, import and export of racist symbols.**

Awareness and vigilance

- **Victims and witnesses of antisemitic acts should be encouraged to report these acts** to the police and to antisemitic organisations. Silence contributes to the trivialisation of this type of situation.
- **Raising the awareness of police officers**, particularly in advising and supporting victims of racist and antisemitic acts. In addition, the systematic recording of cases by the police and collaboration with associations such as CICAD will help to refine knowledge on antisemitism.
- **Each elected official should demonstrate vigilance and commitment.** Every antisemitic act is a blow to the values we all stand for. We expect our elected officials to take the necessary initiatives and firmly denounce any attack on the integrity of persons or property and any propagation of racism.

Media and social networks

- **The media must remain vigilant about the content of the publications on their sites and the blogs they host.** Freedom of expression does not allow racist and antisemitic opinions and allusions. The editors in French-speaking Switzerland have, it seems, fully understood the problem posed by the dissemination of antisemitic remarks via readers' comments and have taken a certain number of measures to remedy it. We welcome this initiative. Nevertheless, too many antisemitic comments continue to slip “through the cracks” of moderation.
- Those in charge of the various newsrooms **must be attentive to certain titles of articles, texts or blogs which could convey antisemitic prejudices.** In particular, the religious affiliation of persons involved in criminal cases should not be mentioned when this information is unrelated to the case reported.
- **Social networks**, where antisemitic statements are the most numerous, must continue to be subject to rigorous monitoring. Antisemitic posts, pages or groups must be systematically removed.

1. Methodology

Since 2003, CICAD has been **collecting, recording and analysing**:

- **Testimonies of victims and witnesses of antisemitic acts:** by telephone, email or through an online form, victims and witnesses of antisemitism can contact CICAD by several means and report antisemitic incidents. These reports are analysed and discussed in order to define whether they can be classed as antisemitism.
- **Antisemitic documents and texts:** these can take the form of books, letters, magazines, videos, songs or even graffiti.
- **Social media monitoring:** Social media is the biggest source of antisemitism. CICAD carries out monitoring work in order to systematically identify antisemitic incidents online. This research makes it possible in particular to better understand antisemitic tendencies.

46 **All acts listed must have occurred in French-speaking Switzerland.** With regard to acts on the Internet, these are listed in the case where the author or the recipient of a post is domiciled in French-speaking Switzerland. Regarding sites whose servers are not domiciled in Switzerland, only those whose operator is proven to be in French-speaking Switzerland are of interest for the work of CICAD.

This census methodology makes it possible to produce a **qualitative analysis** and to produce the annual report on antisemitism. However, **not all antisemitic acts are brought to the attention of CICAD.** Indeed, the nature of the internet makes it impossible to record everything. In addition, some victims of antisemitism do not wish to testify.

2. Definitions

About the term “antisemitism”

The term *antisemitism* is confusing and does not suffice to account for all anti-Jewish hatred. The phenomenon is old and protean; it has evolved over the centuries and societies. Ancient Judeophobia, Christian anti-Judaism, and Enlightenment anti-religious Judeophobia came together and merged to ultimately produce the most **racialist and nationalist** form of anti-Jewish hatred: antisemitism²⁷

The term *antisemitism* was first used in 1879 by the German antisemitic journalist Wilhelm Marr, to designate the hatred of Jews and Judaism advocated within the political association he founded: The Antisemitic League.

Antisemitism of the time therefore focused on supposedly permanent traits among Jews as an ethnic group, in order to delegitimize their equal status. Very quickly, the distinction between “Aryan” and “Semite” replaced the oldest opposition between “Christian” and “Jew”²⁸. Racial anthropology theorists would later legitimise these theories, giving them a pseudo-scientific foundation, which would directly influence the political thinking of future Nazi leaders²⁹

The lack of precision covered by the use of this word should not hide an undeniable fact: **the term *antisemitism* has always been applied to Jews to designate hatred towards them.**

The term *antisemitism* has never referred to “Semites” as such. The term “Semite” de facto designates a group of languages of the same family such as Hebrew, Arabic, Aramaic, Babylonian, Assyrian or Ethiopian **and not an ethnic group**. Therefore, any argument aimed at demonstrating that a “Semite” individual cannot be antisemitic is not intellectually acceptable.

²⁷TAGUIEFF Pierre-André, “Chapitre premier. Questions de mots : ‘racisme antijuif’ et ‘antisémitisme’” (“Chapter 1. Questions of words: ‘anti-Jewish racism’ and ‘antisemitism’”), in *L’antisémitisme*. Paris, *Presses Universitaires de France*, “Que sais-je ?”, 2015, p. 7-11.

²⁸Text taken from “From anti-Judaism to antisemitism” on the Herodote.net website: <http://www.herodote.net/histoire/synthese.php?ID=24>

²⁹United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Antisemitism

In order to carry out its work in the best possible way, CICAD uses **the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) operational definition of antisemitism**. The IHRA was created in 1998 by former Swedish President Göran Persson and today has 33 member states, including Switzerland. The IHRA promotes international political coordination in order to strengthen **the moral commitment of societies and to fight against Holocaust denial and antisemitism**.

The operational definition of the IHRA, non-binding, was adopted by the Member States on 26 May 2016. It is a working definition which is unanimously adopted by associations fighting against antisemitism and for the preservation of the memory of the Holocaust. In 2021, the **Federal Council** confirmed the adoption of the IHRA definition of antisemitism, so recognising its value and relevance.

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IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”

Examples to guide the work of the IHRA

Antisemitism can manifest itself in attacks on the State of Israel when it is perceived as a Jewish community. However, criticising Israel as one would criticise any other state cannot be considered antisemitism. Antisemitism often consists of accusing Jews of conspiring against humanity and, in doing so, holding them responsible for “all the problems of the world”. Antisemitism is expressed orally, in writing, graphically or through actions, and uses disturbing stereotypes and pejorative character traits.

Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace and the religious sphere include, depending on the context and not exhaustively:

- Calling for the murder or aggression of Jews, participation in these actions or their justification in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist vision of religion;
- Making misleading, dehumanising, demonising or stereotypical claims about Jews or Jewish power as a collective such as including, but not limited to, the myth of a Jewish conspiracy or media control, economy, government or other institutions by Jews;
- The reproach made to the Jewish people as a whole of being responsible for acts, real or imagined, committed by a single Jewish individual or a group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews;
- The denial of the facts, the extent, the methods (such as the gas chambers) or the intentional character of the genocide of the Jewish people perpetrated by National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during the Second World War (the Holocaust);
- Blaming the Jewish people or the State of Israel for having invented or exaggerated the Holocaust;
- The reproach that Jewish citizens serve Israel or the supposed priorities of Jews on a world scale more than the interests of their own country;
- The refusal of the right to self-determination of the Jews, by affirming for example that the existence of the State of Israel is the fruit of a racist enterprise;
- The unequal treatment of the State of Israel, which is asked to adopt behaviours that are neither expected nor required of any other democratic state;
- The use of symbols and images associated with traditional antisemitism (such as the claim that Jews killed Jesus or practiced human sacrifice) to characterise Jews and Israelis;
- Drawing comparisons between contemporary Israeli policy and that of the Nazis;
- The idea that Jews are collectively responsible for the actions of the State of Israel.

Offenses considered by the IHRA

An antisemitic act is an offense when it is qualified as such by law (this is the case, for example, of the denial of the existence of the Holocaust or the dissemination of antisemitic content in certain countries).

An offense is said to be antisemitic when the victims or the property affected (such as buildings, schools, places of worship and cemeteries) are targeted because they are Jewish or related to Jews, or perceived as such.

Antisemitic discrimination is the denial of opportunities or services available to Jews. It is illegal in many countries.

Anti-Zionism

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Zionism is a national movement of the Jewish people aiming at self-determination and statehood for the Jewish people in their ancestral homeland, the land of Israel.

Anti-Zionism means opposition to Zionism. Anti-Zionism can express itself explicitly or implicitly in the **rejection** of the Jewish nation and the right to self-determination, in the **defamation** of individuals and groups associated with Zionism, and in **the minimisation or denial of the historical connection** of Jews with the land of Israel.³⁰

Anti-Zionism is distinct from criticism of the policies or actions of the Israeli government, in that **it attacks the fundamental legitimacy of the Jewish state.**

Criticism of Israel

Criticism of Israel, its government and its policies is **not antisemitism**. In this context, the IHRA specifies in its definition that criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any nation cannot in itself be regarded as antisemitic.

³⁰Glossary ADL, "Anti-Zionism", <https://www.adl.org/resources/glossary-term/anti-zionism>

Distinction between Zionism and criticism of Israel

It is important to distinguish between legitimate criticism of Israel's actions and anti-Zionism. **Anti-Zionism has nothing to do with any criticism of Israeli policy.** This ideology rejects the Jewish right to self-determination and is therefore antisemitic.

Jewish conspiracy theories

The Jewish conspiracy myth is perhaps the oldest conspiracy theory. Jews were viewed with suspicion throughout the Middle Ages in Europe and regularly blamed for the scourges of the time.

At the turn of the 20th century, *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* detailed an alleged plan for the Jewish conquest of the world. This document was quickly identified as a forgery, which did not prevent its distribution throughout the 20th century. Charges of domination are central to Jewish conspiracy theories. According to Pierre-André Taguieff,³¹ the Jewish conspiracy has presented itself in four successive forms throughout history:

1. Antiquity and the Middle Ages: conviction that the Jews are in solidarity exclusively with each other and that they hate Jesus and therefore God. These certainties are the basis of the conspiracy theory of **ritual murders** by Jews.
2. From the 19th century: period of **intra-national conspiracy** theories. Jews are judged as unassimilable and described as parasites. They are “foreign bodies” and play the role of a “State within a State”.
3. End of the 19th century, beginning of the 20th century: the Jewish plot turns into an **international plot**.
4. Since 1948 (year of independence of the State of Israel): appearance of the **world Zionist conspiracy**. From the 1990s, this also became the “American-Zionist plot”.

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³¹TAGUIEFF Pierre-André, “Le mythe du complot juif, un survol historique” (“The myth of the Jewish conspiracy, a historical overview”), *Revue des deux mondes*, July 2016

3. Swiss legislation

Art. 8 of the Federal Constitution – Equality before the law

1 Every person is equal before the law.

2 No person may be discriminated against, in particular on grounds of origin, race, gender, age, language, social position, way of life, religious, ideological, or political convictions, or because of a physical, mental or psychological disability.

3 Men and women have equal rights. The law shall ensure their equality, both in law and in practice, most particularly in the family, in education, and in the workplace. Men and women have the right to equal pay for work of equal value.

4 The law shall provide for the elimination of inequalities that affect persons with disabilities.

Art. 15 of the Federal Constitution – Freedom of religion and conscience

1 Freedom of religion and conscience is guaranteed.

2 Every person has the right to choose freely their religion or their philosophical convictions, and to profess them alone or in community with others.

3 Every person has the right to join or to belong to a religious community, and to follow religious teachings.

4 No person may be forced to join or belong to a religious community, to participate in a religious act, or to follow religious teachings.

Art. 261^{bis} of the Criminal Code – Attack on the freedom of faith and the freedom to worship

Any person who publicly incites hatred or discrimination against a person or a group of persons on the grounds of their race, ethnic origin, religion or sexual orientation,

any person who publicly disseminates ideologies that have as their object the systematic denigration or defamation of that person or group of persons,

any person who with the same objective organises, encourages or participates in propaganda campaigns,

any person who publicly denigrates or discriminates against another or a group of persons on the grounds of their race, ethnic origin, religion or sexual orientation in a manner that violates human dignity, whether verbally, in writing or pictorially, by using gestures, through acts of aggression or by other means, or any person who on any of these grounds denies, trivialises or seeks justification for genocide or other crimes against humanity,

any person who refuses to provide a service to another on the grounds of that person's race, ethnic origin, religion or sexual orientation when that service is intended to be provided to the general public,

shall be liable to a custodial sentence not exceeding three years or to a monetary penalty.

Glossary of antisemitic terms

C	Cabala / Kabbalah Celestial dragons
E	(((echo)))
H	Holofoax / Holofaux / Lolocaust
I	Illuminati
J	Judeo-Bolshevism Judeo-Masonic conspiracy
K	Khazar
N	NazioZionist / Nazionism
P	Protocols of the Elders of Zion
Q	Qui ? (Who?)
R	Rothschild
S	Sayan Soros
T	tSSahal
Z	Zionist ZOG

“Antisemitism” means, in its common meaning: “an attitude of hostility towards Jewish minorities, whatever the reason for this hostility”. This hostility can range from individual aversion to ideological and institutionalised forms of persecution.

A **protean racism** that adapts and evolves according to current events, socio-economic unrest or the orientations of our societies when it comes to determining a scapegoat responsible for evils. Antisemitic language is vast and the terms used to spread hatred of Jews are not always understandable or identifiable to the untrained.

In recent years, we have seen in particular an increase in the technique of **dog whistle**. This process allows racist currents to communicate in socially constraining spaces in a coded way that only insiders can understand. The Dieudonné **quenelle** – an inverted Nazi salute – as well as the **88**, which makes a double reference to the eighth letter of the alphabet (H) to declare **Heil Hitler**, are typical examples of this method. *Dog whistle* is used in particular on social networks, because it makes it possible to escape monitoring and the rules of the various online “communities”.

In order to better understand the wide range of antisemitic terms, it appeared necessary to propose a glossary, still not exhaustive, which will make it possible to understand the main concepts.

Cabala / Kabbalah

Cabala and **Kabbalah** are two distinct terms. However, far right and conspiratorial circles use it in the same way, in order to express their antisemitism. The term “Kabbalah” from the Hebrew Qabbalah is today commonly used to define Jewish mysticism and the esoteric traditions of Judaism. However, it should be noted that in the Talmudic language Qabbalah simply means “reception” and designates the transmission of the prophetic and hagiographical texts of the Bible without any mystical or esoteric connotation.

The word “**cabala**”, introduced into the French language as early as the 17th century, means “*a form of conspiracy hatched by a group of people united around a secret project aimed at conspiring for the success of their opinions and their interests within a given state or community*”.

The **Jewish conspiracy theory** is one of the sources of antisemitism in which allusions to “Kabbala” in the sense of “cabala” are the most frequent.

de la foutaise. La Kabbale s'en est servie pour tenter de modifier la chronologie de l'évolution humaine et d'arrêter notre bond en avant imminent, qui comprendra l'activation de notre ADN actuellement inutilisé (que les scientifiques de la Kabbale appellent "ADN poubelle"). Les efforts pour stopper notre évolution se poursuivent depuis l'époque sumérienne, lorsque des entités extraterrestres ont modifié l'ADN et l'ont essentiellement déconnecté à 90%. Mais même si le CERN a "reboostée", la Kabbale ne pourra pas nous diriger vers la ligne de temps négative.

Excerpt from a conspiratorial text from a Swiss **QAnon** branch –
(5 July 2022, Telegram)

Celestial dragons

The “celestial dragons” are characters from Eiichiro Oda's manga, **One Piece**. In the society invented by Oda, the celestial dragons occupy the highest place of nobility and are untouchable. Descendants and heirs of the founders of the “world government”, the celestial dragons are extremely rich and enjoy all possible privileges. These characteristics seem to align with the **stereotypes** about Jews conveyed by antisemitic discourses. Therefore, the expression “**celestial dragons**” is used by internet users to designate the Jews and their alleged privileges without naming them.

(((Echo)))

Les “dragons célestes” sont des personnages du manga d’Eiichiro Oda, *One Piece*. Dans la société inventée par Oda, les dragons célestes occupent la place la plus haute de la noblesse et sont intouchables. Descendants et héritiers des fondateurs du “gouvernement mondial”, les dragons célestes sont extrêmement riches et jouissent de tous les privilèges possibles. Ces caractéristiques semblent s’aligner aux **stéréotypes** sur les Juifs véhiculés par les discours antisémites. Ainsi, l’expression “**dragons célestes**” est utilisée par des internautes afin de désigner les Juifs et leurs prétendus privilèges sans les nommer.

(((Écho)))

The **triple parentheses**, also called **(((echo)))** is part of coded antisemitism online. Mainly used by far right movements, it is used **to mark, identify and stigmatise** Jewish people and institutions.

Holohoax / Holofaux / Lolocaust

Holocaust denial is a denial of the historical facts of the Jewish Holocaust during World War II. In order to express their opinion and question the veracity of the genocide perpetrated by the Nazi regime, antisemites and Holocaust deniers use portmanteau words: **Holo - Hoax**, **Holo - Faux** (Fake in French) or even **LOL (laughing out loud) – Holocaust**, which gives Lolocaust.

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Image from a Geneva-based Holocaust denial website

Illuminati

Illuminati refers to both a group that actually existed over two centuries ago and a fictional society believed to have infinite power. Historically, the **Order of the Illuminati** is a secret society founded in Bavaria by Adam Weishaupt in 1776. Inspired by the ideals of the **Enlightenment**, the group wanted to promote the education of reason and philanthropy, and opposed religious influence in the society. The Order of the Illuminati was banned in **1785** by an edict from the Bavarian government before disappearing completely.

Despite the Order's very short lifespan, the Illuminati has always had a shadowy image in popular history and quickly became the main source of conspiracy fantasy. During **the interwar period**, fascist propaganda proclaimed the Illuminati to be a subversive element, which **served the Jewish elites**, themselves behind global capitalism and Soviet communism. The ultimate goal of the Illuminati? Create a **New World Order**.

This conspiratorial attitude towards the Illuminati and their ties to the Jews is built on **classic antisemitic themes**: control over the world, interference in politics and the ultimate plot which is to achieve total power over global governance.

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The Illuminati remained confidential for a long time, until the explosion of the internet, which gave them a place of choice among conspiracy ideas. Today, “the work of the Illuminati” remains the simplest explanation for conspiracy theorists, for whom everything can be attributed to this Bavarian group of the 18th century.

Judeo-Bolshevism

The term **Judeo-Bolshevism** exists in several variants, including **Judeo-Marxism** and **Judeo-Communism**. This expression is used in discourses combining antisemitism and anti-communism and aims to affirm that the Jews are the masters at work of the Bolshevik Revolution and of communism in general. This myth, initially disseminated by White Russians as early as 1917, was taken over by the Nazi regime, then by far right nationalist ideologies.

Judeo-Masonic conspiracy

Judeo-Masonic conspiracy or **Judeo-Masonry** is a conspiracy theory denoting a supposed alliance between Jews and Freemasons in order to achieve domination of society. Its origin comes from the counter-revolutionary movements which accused the Freemasons and the Jews of being behind the French Revolution.

Khazar

Within conspiratorial circles, the terms **Khazar** or **Khazarian Mafia** are used to refer to the Jewish people. The Khazars were a Turkic, semi-nomadic people from the late 6th century AD who settled in south-eastern European Russia, southern Ukraine, Crimea and Kazakhstan. At the end of the 19th century, the theory emerged that the core of today's Ashkenazi Jews descended from a hypothetical Khazarian Jewish diaspora that migrated west. Despite the fact that studies have not confirmed the **theory** of a connection between the Khazars and the Ashkenazi Jews, this denomination is used frequently and serves two purposes.

Firstly, the term Khazars is used as a **dog whistle** and allows to talk about Jews without specifically naming them. Secondly, and more insidiously, referring to Jews as Khazars is a way of saying that Ashkenazim are not descended from Israelites and therefore have no connection to the land of Israel.

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NazioZionist / Nazionism

The various **contractions between Zionism and Nazism** are directly related to the Nazification of Israel and the Zionist Jews. These terms appear during upsurges in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Protocols of the Elders of Zion

In **1903**, in pre-revolutionary Russia, the **Protocols of the Elders of Zion** appeared. Initially, the origin of this text is mysterious, but it is presented as the report of a secret meeting between representatives of the Jewish community which would announce a plan to dominate the world. The most famous **forgery** in Western history, it is actually a text created by the **secret police of Tsar Nicolas II** of Russia for political purposes. Indeed, faced with the rise of Bolshevism, the tsarist power decided to designate a **scapegoat** and therefore to demonise the revolutionary movements by passing them off as a plot led by the Jews.

In **August 1921**, a London journalist from the Times, Philip Graves, demonstrated how this text is a **forgery** and is in fact, for the most part, the product of the plagiarism of *Dialogue aux enfers entre Machiavel et Montesquieu, ou la politique de Machiavel au XIXe siècle* (Dialogue in hell between Machiavelli and Montesquieu, or Machiavelli's policy in the 19th century). Written by Maurice Joly in 1864, this pamphlet was directed against Napoleon III. Despite this, the text continues to meet with increasing notoriety throughout the world and has been translated into several languages.

In France, in 1920, the first translations were published under the title "**Procès-verbaux de réunions secrètes des sages d'Israël**" ("Reports of secret meetings of the wise men of Israel"). In the United States, it was the industrialist and antisemite **Henry Ford** who was responsible for their propagation. It will be a source of inspiration, as well as a document on which **Adolf Hitler** will rely to write *Mein Kampf*. Subsequently, the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion* will become a mainstay of Third Reich propaganda.

In Switzerland, the Protocols have been banned since 1935, following the **Berne trial** which established the falsity of the document. Today, the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion* are still popular, especially in far right and conspiratorial circles, but also in the Arab world.

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Qui ? (Who?)

Qui ? ("Who?") is an antisemitic **slogan** that appeared during anti-sanitary pass protests in 2021. This "**Qui?**" is actually a rhetorical question referring to Jews. Indeed, a demonstrator had, in August 2021, held up a sign listing a series of Jewish personalities with the question: "Mais Qui?" ("But who?") The **Q** of "Qui" wearing the devil's horns. This sign denounced, according to it, the people in power behind the health crisis.

Although this slogan was known to the general public through this demonstration, it started from an interview in June of the same year. In it, **Dominique Delawarde**, a former French general, claimed that the media was controlled by the "**media pack**". Wishing to make the retired general's remarks more explicit, the columnist Claude Posternak insists by asking: "*Qui ? Mais dites qui ?*" ("*Who? But say who?*"). Dalwarde ends up answering: "*The community you know well*".

This element of language has been used to designate a **scapegoat** in times of health crisis. However, today, the terms **QUI / Qui ? (WHO/Who?)** have fully embraced antisemitic expression and continue to be used to spread hatred against the Jews.

Rothschild

The **Rothschild family** is a middle-class family of German Jewish origin. The Rothschilds made themselves known in the 18th century in banking and finance. Today, most branches of the family are extinct, wiped out by Nazism. However, the English and French branches remain.

One of the most widespread **conspiracy theories** in the world revolves around this family and claims that the Rothschilds covertly control the **global economy**. This conspiratorial rumour appeared in the middle of the 19th century and has since taken several forms: the Rothschilds would have ordered political assassinations, started and financed wars, or even, more recently, created the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is not only family members who are attacked, but also those who worked in a Rothschild bank, such as President Emmanuel Macron. The latter is often described as the “**Rothschild puppet**” by right-wing extremists.

Goldman Sachs

More recently, we have observed a similarity of language with regard to the new English Prime Minister **Rishi Sunak**. At the beginning of his professional career, this politician worked for the investment bank, Goldman Sachs, which was founded in 1869 by Marcus Goldman, a man of Jewish origin. Sunak's professional past is therefore frequently recalled to discredit him.

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Sayan

According to antisemitic circles, a '**sayan**' ('sayanim' in the plural form) is a Jewish person from the Diaspora, collaborating with the **Mossad** in the field of espionage and disinformation. It's a term that simply accuses Jews of '**dual belonging**'.

Soros

George Soros is a Hungarian-born, Jewish-born billionaire financier and Holocaust survivor. Today, he is an American citizen and is known for his philanthropy and his progressive and liberal ideas.

Soros is hated by the far right and conspiracy believers who imagine him as **secretly controlling the world** through his investments. He would notably be behind the migration to Europe and therefore the **great replacement**. An antisemitic symbol of the stateless Jew, Soros is considered by his detractors to be so powerful that he is triggering the dissolution of national borders. Invoking him is therefore part of the continuity of traditional antisemitism and links money, power, the foreigner and the conspirator.

tSSahal

The direct reference to the **Schutzstaffel (SS)** to designate the Israeli army is linked to the Nazification of Israel. This way of referring to the Tzahal is intended to demonize the IDF (Israel Defense Forces) by qualifying it as Nazi. Another common form is: **Waffen tSSahal**.

Zionist

The term “**Zionist**” refers to a person who supports the movement of **Zionism**. Zionism believes in the **self-determination** of the Jewish people and aims to establish a Jewish national home. Calling someone a Zionist is therefore not antisemitic as such.

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However, this term is often used interchangeably with the word “Jew” to refer to Jews in general, whether they are Zionists or not. In Alain Soral's speech, for example, the word “Jew” is practically systematically replaced by the word “Zionist” (and also “community”), which allows him to make antisemitic remarks while defending himself from simply being “anti-Zionist”.

In antisemitic and conspiratorial circles, there is often talk of “**Zionist control**” and accusations of Zionism, which amounts to saying: **control of the Jews and Judaism**.

ZOG

Zionist Occupied Government, abbreviated ZOG, is a white supremacist belief that states Western governments – especially the United States – are controlled by Jews.



The 2023 annual report is available on our website : www.cicad.ch

REPORT 2023



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