

ANTISEMITIC HATE CRIMES
AND
HATE INCIDENTS
IN HUNGARY

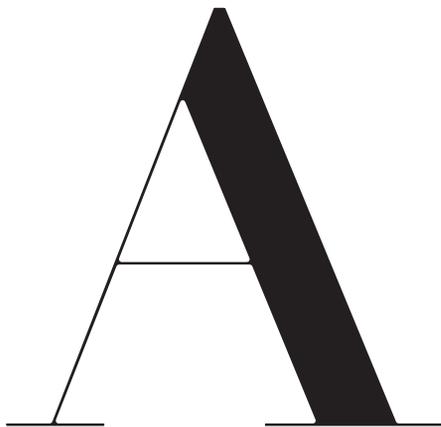
ANNUAL SHORT REPORT

2020.



ACTION AND PROTECTION
LEAGUE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



A significant part of combating antisemitism is monitoring of the prevalence of antisemitic incidents. One of the aims of the Action and Protection League (APL) is to heighten the awareness of antisemitism in the society. The primary tool in achieving this is continuous professional monitoring of hate crimes in public life. Neither Jewish communities nor individual Jews can be protected unless there is data on antisemitic incidents and other hate crimes

and that these are collected and analysed. The data collected by the Action and Protection League cooperated with Action and Protection Foundation (APF/TEV). In Hungary, the monitoring report is carried out by the APF/TEV.

The reports deal with two forms of behaviour: antisemitic hate crimes and hate-motivated incidents. Both types of behaviour are referred to as "hate incidents" in the reports. The main difference between an antisemitic hate crime and other hate crimes is that the former possesses an antisemitic motive. Due to differences in legislation and application of legislation in various countries, there are different interpretations of which antisemitic incidents that are violations of criminal law. In addition are some hate-motivated acts, albeit troubling for Jews, not considered criminal if they, e.g., are considered belonging to the realm of freedom of speech. The APL considers it essential to record both types of hate incidents in order to gain a general overview and to make it possible to analyse changes over time.

METHODOLOGY

The report deals with two types of offense: hate crimes and hate motivated incidents. These are defined by OSCE as follows¹ (OSCE/ODIHR 2009b, 15–16):

- hate crime: a crime as defined by the criminal code, which has been motivated by prejudice against a certain group of people²
- hate-motivated incident: an offense, also based on prejudice against a specific group of people, but not reaching the level of criminal conduct.

The reports present hate crimes and hate incidents motivated by antisemitism, wherever the perpetrator, target, means or the message of a case suggests such motivation. The target may be a person, a group, an event, a building, a monument or other property. It is important, however, that antisemitic motivation can only

be established if the perpetrator chose the given target expressly because it was assumed the target belongs to Jewry. It is not relevant whether the assumption was correct or not: the belief of the target's connection to Jewry is sufficient.

Placing hate incidents in context is also a priority. These actions do not exist in empty space and are by no means independent of the social and cultural environment in which they occur. The dynamics of these incidents is also of importance: these are often processes, rather than separately occurring events (Perry 2001, 8). Apart from statistical data, short descriptions of each event are also published in our reports, leading to a better understanding of the environment surrounding the incidents.³ In presenting timelines, attention is always given to showing the dynamics of the events.

¹ The scientific definition of hate crimes is extremely contradictory and divergent (for more on this, see Chakraborti and Garland 2009, 4–7).

These definitions can serve as important addenda to an understanding of these crimes; however, they are difficult to apply in practice. This is what made the creation of simpler, more practical definitions necessary.

² For example, on these grounds the OSCE does not consider hate speech a hate crime, since the given behaviour would not count as criminal without the motive of prejudice (OSCE/ODIHR 2009a, 24). For our approach in dealing with this, see below.

³ These descriptions, in particular, are held to be the most positive aspect of the Anti-Defamation League reports by Perry (2001, 18).

DATA

Action and Protection Foundation identified 30 incidents of antisemitic hate crime in 2020. Six incidents were classified as damage to property, one incident fell into the

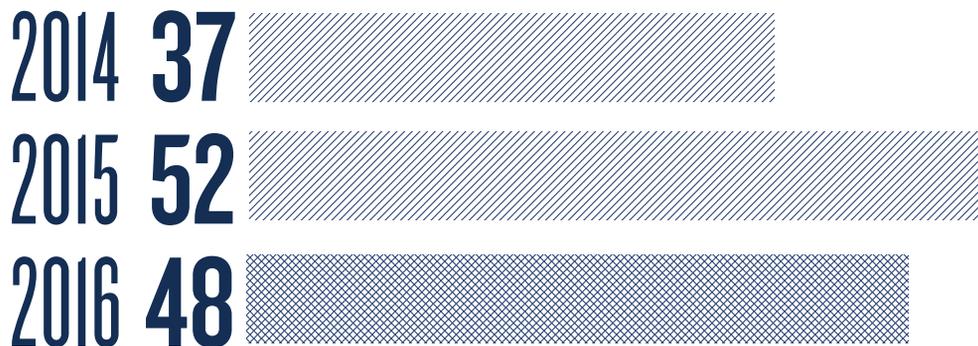
category of threat, and twenty-two were identified as hate speech. One other incident was classified as discrimination.

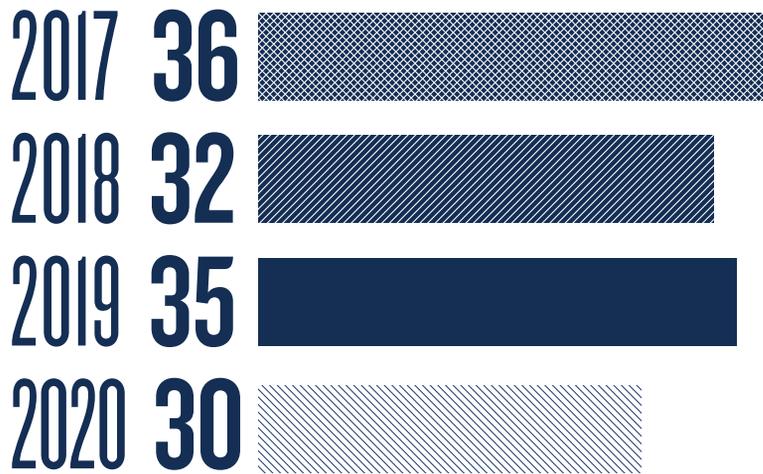
30 NUMBER OF ALL ANTI-SEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS MONITORED



Compared to the previous year, when 35 incidents were identified, this shows a slight – approximately 15% – decrease in the number of incidents. However, it can also be concluded that there have been similar numbers of antisemitic incidents detected every year since 2017. Data from previous years are the

following: we identified 32 incidents in 2018, 36 in 2017, 48 in 2016, 52 in 2015 and 37 in 2014. It is important to note that APF started its suited monitoring activities in May 2013; therefore, we only started making year-on-year comparisons in 2014.





In 2020, it is mainly the number of hate speech cases that decreased compared to the previous year, it reached the levels of 2017 and 2018. There were no attacks identified.

We reported six cases of damage to property, one incident of threat, and twenty-two incidents of hate speech. We were also notified of a case of discrimination in 2020.

1  THREAT

6  DAMAGE TO PROPERTY

1  DISCRIMINATION

22  HATE SPEECH

In 2020, we were not notified of any violent conducts – but they are not so prevalent in Hungary either. We identified and reported one case of threat and one case of discrimination.

We detected the same number of cases of damage to property as last year.

There were 2 such incidents identified in 2014, 5 cases in 2015, 10 in 2016, 12 in 2017, 10 in 2018, and 6 in 2019. In most cases, these were antisemitic graffiti or conducts committed against the community using other surface coating substances.



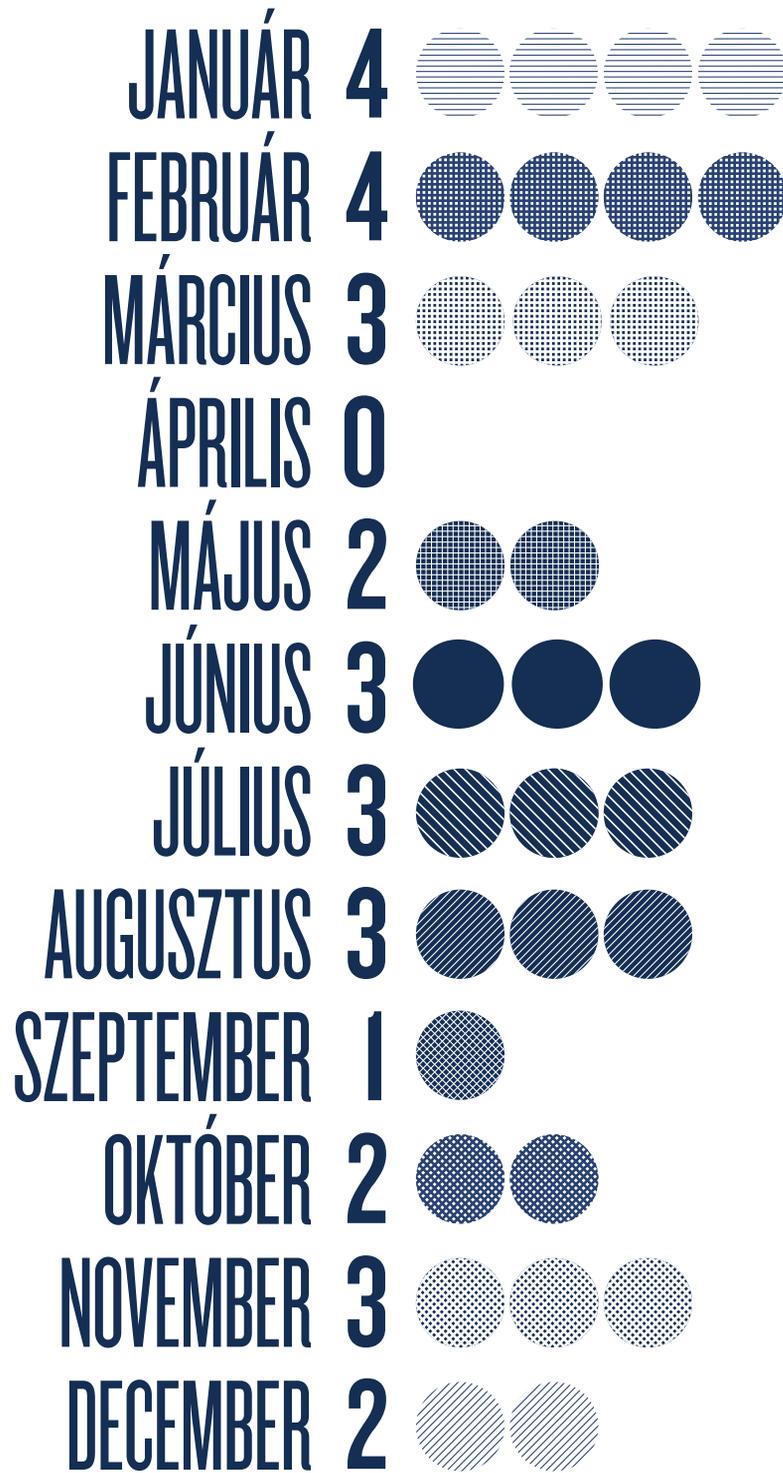
The 22 cases of hate speech identified in 2020 show a decline in the number of incidents, similarly to the number of all antisemitic incidents. Until 2018, there had been a decline with 19 incidents of hate speech detected that year, then there was a significant rise in 2019 with 27 cases identified.

Compared to this, the 22 cases reported in 2020 is again a decline. We identified 24 cases in 2017, 37 in 2016, 43 in 2015, and 32 in 2014. It shows clearly that we detected the least number of incidents classified as hate speech in 2018.



There were no months of notable significance in 2020. There were on average three incidents reported every month, it was only in April when there were no antisemitic atrocities – just as it happened the year

before. We identified 4 incidents in January, 4 in February, 3 in March, 0 in April, 2 in May, 3 in June, 3 in July, 3 in August, 1 in September, 2 in October, 3 in November, and 2 in December.

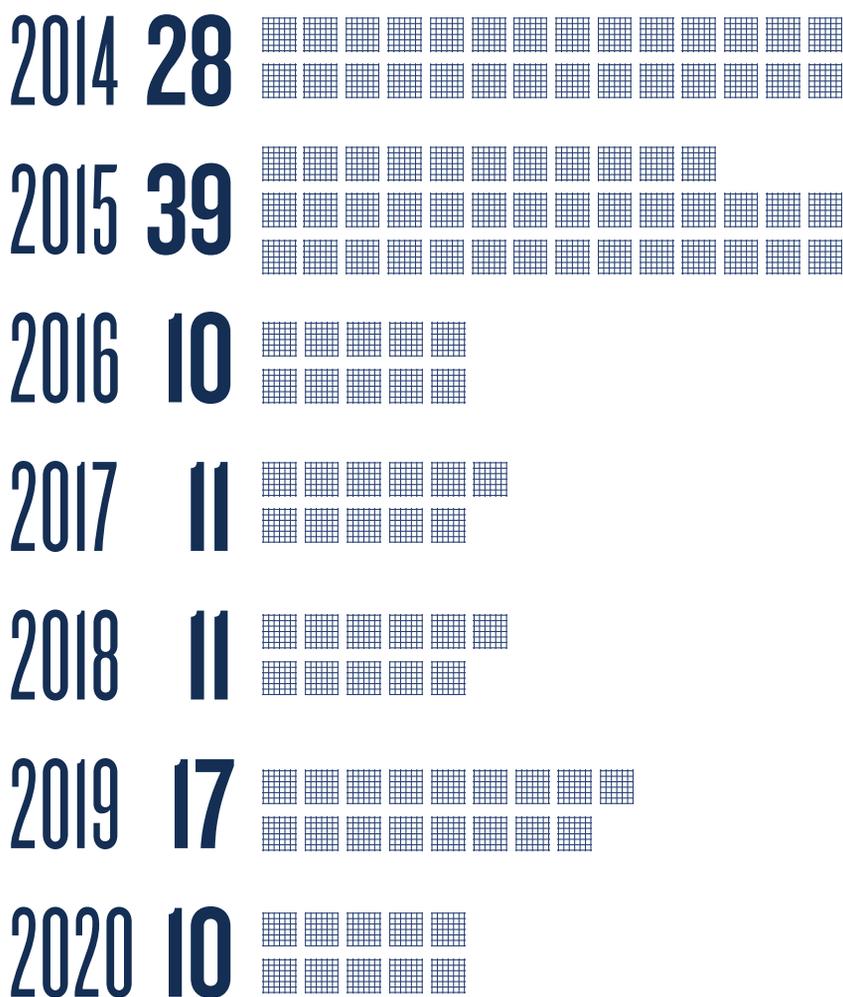


In the majority of the cases, the incidents were spontaneous acts. In some cases – for example, with regards to the cases of graffiti classified as damage to property –, some preparation is assumed.

We did not identify any incidents committed in an organized fashion. No murder, severe physical violence or attack has been committed in the last few years.

There were 10 incidents classified as further hate incidents, when the exact time, location and offenders of the incidents remain unknown. Offenses also fell into this category when there was a lack of clear antisemitic motive. Incidents falling into this category numbered at 28 in 2014, 39 in 2015,

then the number of cases decreased to 10 in 2016. We identified 11 cases in 2017, 11 in 2018, and 17 in 2019. As a yearly comparison, the number of incidents identified in 2020 showed a slight decrease, and reached the average levels of the years 2016-2018.



We initiated two new proceedings in 2020. The proceedings initiated in June 2020 were suspended, and we were notified of the termination of some proceedings we had initiated in 2015. No proceedings – initiated previously or in 2020 – reached indictment in the year 2020. Verdict was brought in the case of an incident registered in 2018: a Canadian rabbi was assaulted in April 2018. An unknown individual hit the rabbi without warning, knocked down his kippah, then quickly left the scene. Instead of violence against a member of a community, the Pest Central District Court (PKKB) classified the offense as slander and sentenced the accused to 3 years of conditional sentence.

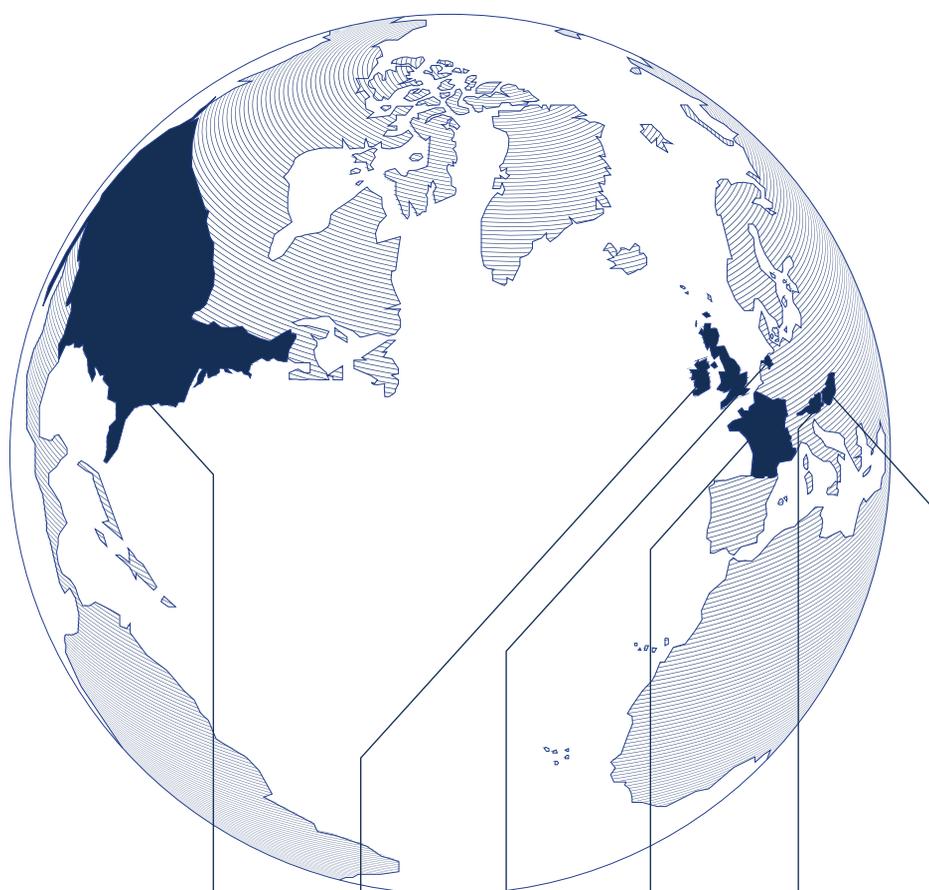
The judgment is not final. In the other case, APF represented a case of discrimination at the Equal Treatment Authority in the context of legal assistance. The Authority notified us that it had not succeeded to settle an agreement. APF continued to initiate proceedings and took the necessary steps.

It is important to note, however, that in the context of legal assistance, law enforcement is not uniform on providing notification. Although APF was registered as filing the report, the party having filed the report may not necessarily be notified because of the victim (community).

Finally, we would like to present comparable data from countries which compile statistics on the number of hate incidents. The table below presents the number of cases reported. Annual reports are prepared after the closing of the year, so many times data are published later in time – we will update

our report with data received in the future.

The number of incidents registered in Hungary are significantly lower than the figures in Western countries. It is the Jewish communities in France and Great-Britain which have become especially threatened in recent years.



	USA ⁸	GREAT-BRITAIN ⁶	NETHERLAND ⁵	FRANCE ⁴	GERMANY ⁷	HUNGARY					
2013	751	2,3	535	8,1	100	5,9	423	6,3	n.a	n.a	n.a
2014	912	2,8	1182	17,9	171	10,0	851	12,7	n.a	29,1	3,8
2015	942	2,9	960	14,5	126	7,4	808	12,0	n.a	53,0	5,3
2016	1266	3,9	1346	20,4	109	6,4	462	6,9	n.a	54,4	4,9
2017	1986	6,1	1382	20,9	113	6,6	331	4,9	n.a	57,3	3,8
2018	1979	5,7	1690	25,0	135	7,9	541	8,1	1799	61	3,3
2019	2107	6	1813	27,7	182	10,6	687	10,2	1839	62,3	3,5
2020	2024	6,3	1668	25	135	7,9	339	5	2275	27,4	3

4 <https://www.antisemitisme.fr/>

5 <https://www.cidri.nl/antisemitisme/antisemitisme-monitors/>

6 <https://cst.org.uk/research/cst-publications>

7 <https://www.gatesoneinstitute.org/17095/germany-covid-antisemitism>

8 <https://www.adl.org/>

CONTACT AND SUPPORT

Action and Protection League is the civil initiative of a number of Jewish organizations that is ready to take resolute steps to curb increasing widespread antisemitic manifestations.

The Action and Protection Foundation is the partner of the Action and Protection League in Hungary.

In case anyone faces insults or antisemitic abuse due to a supposed or real Jewish background, do not remain silent, let us know, so that we can forward the case through the appropriate channels to the official organs required to take measures!

Notifications of such incidents are received by the Foundation through any of the following means:

HOTLINE (+36 1) 5 1 00 000

The website of Action and Protection League: www.apleeu.org

The Facebook page: www.facebook.com/tev-tett-es-vedelem-alapitvany

Action and Protection League's undertaking can only be successful if great numbers share in our commitment to prepare the grounds for the right to fair process for all those who have suffered offenses. In aid of this cause please support the work of the Foundation with your contribution! Donations can be made to the Foundation on the following bank account:

13597539-12302010-00057157

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