



antisemitismus
meldestelle

Antisemitic cases 2022 in Austria



**ANTISEMITISMUS
MELDEN UND
BEKÄMPFEN**



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Imprint

Publisher: Israelitische Kultusgemeinde Wien
1010 Vienna, Seitenstettengasse 4

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Vienna, 1. edition 2023

The report can be downloaded on
[antisemitismus-meldestelle.at](https://www.antisemitismus-meldestelle.at).

Editing: Antisemitismus-Meldestelle der IKG Wien
Layout & Lektorat: IKG Wien

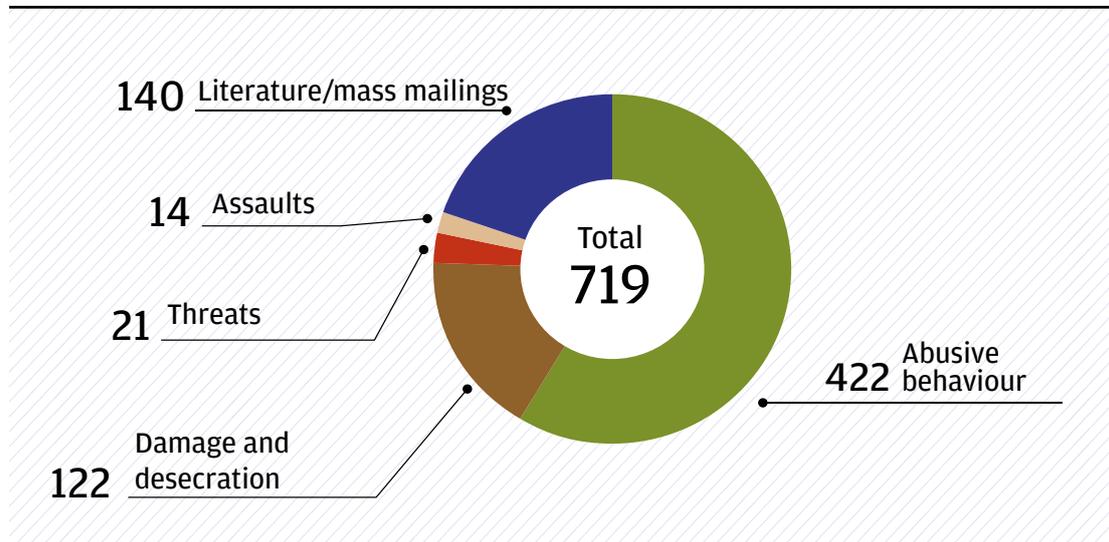
Coverimage: unsplash/Annie Spratt

1. 1. Summary

During the 2022 calendar year, a total of 719 antisemitic incidents were reported to the Reporting Centre for Antisemitism (Antisemitismus-Meldestelle) of the Jewish Community of Vienna (IKG Wien). This is a reduction of 25.5 % compared with the previous year (965 incidents), with the number of incidents coming in at roughly halfway between the all-time high of 2021 and the two preceding years (2019: 550; 2020: 585). It is striking that, in those categories where there are fewer incidents, but where they are particularly physically threatening (physical assault, threats, deliberate damage to property), the number of reports was at the same high level as the previous year or even higher.

This report does not constitute a complete overview of antisemitism in Austria. As in previous years, it must be assumed that there is a larger number of unrecorded incidents. The report counts only those antisemitic incidents which were reported and which, following evaluation by the experts at the Antisemitism Reporting Centre, were verified as clearly antisemitic under the IHRA definition.

Antisemitic incidents (in total)



Of the 719 incidents, there were:

14 physical assaults (2021: 12)

21 threats (2021: 22)

122 incidents of damage and desecration (2021: 95)

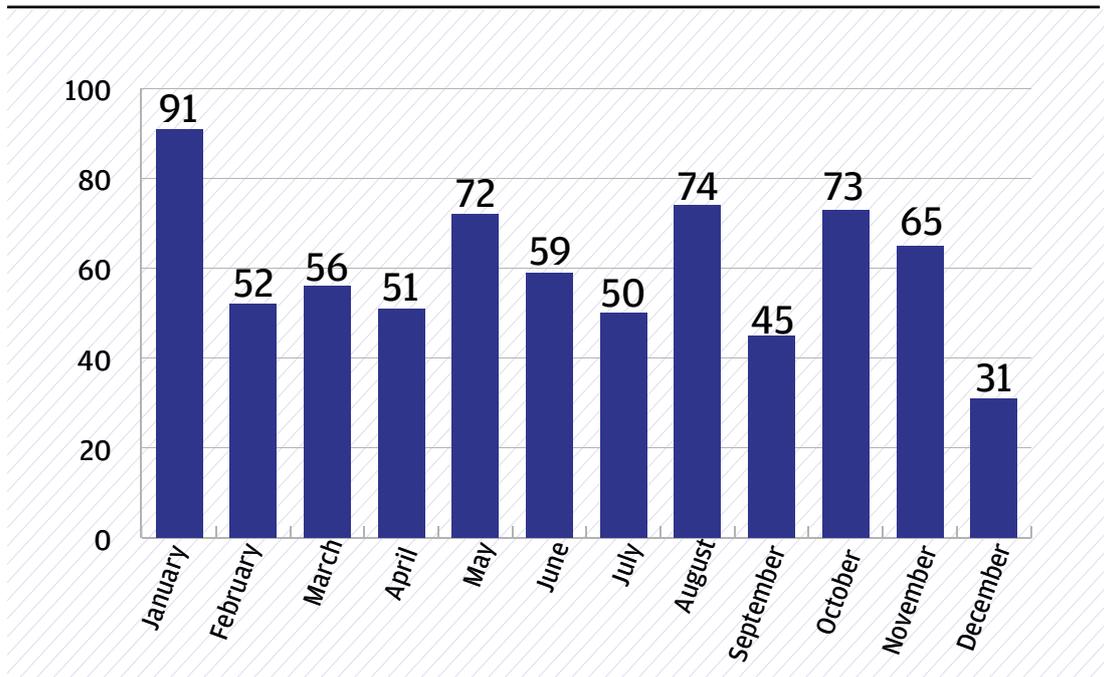
140 literature/mass mailings (2021: 261)

422 incidents of abusive behaviour (2021: 575)

A recognised system of categorisation that has been in use for many years and is now established in several countries ensures that the results can be compared internationally (see the „Categorisation” section starting on page 9).

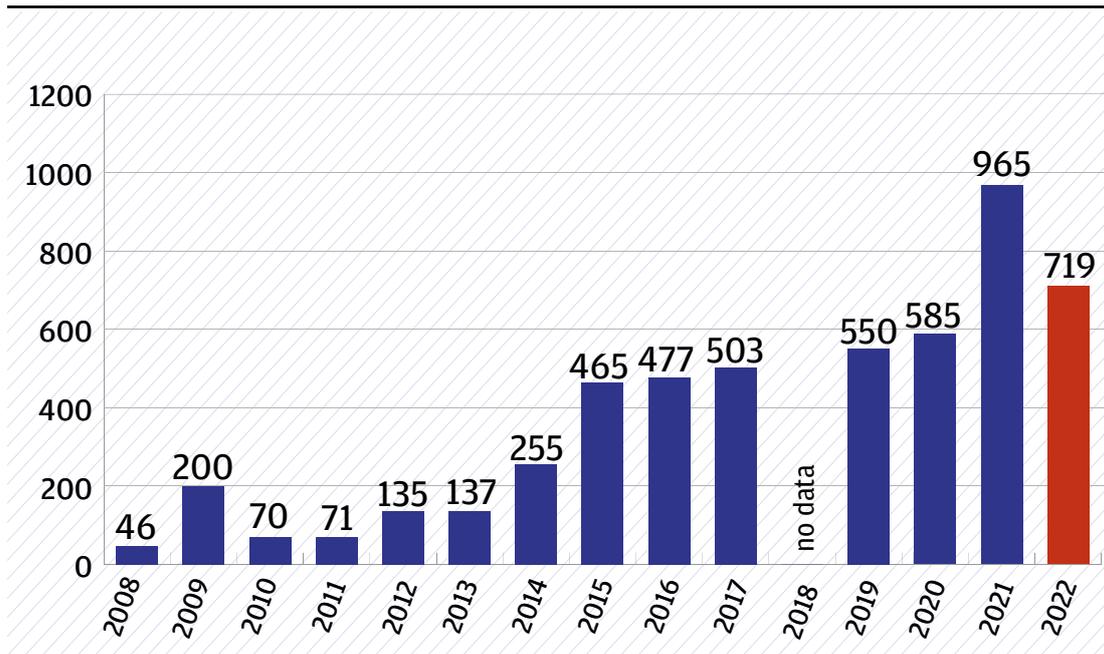
The downward trend compared with 2021 that was identified in the first six months of 2022 continued in the second half of the year. Apart from one spike in January (the last month, for the time being, in which coronavirus-related antisemitism played an above-average role) and a dip in December, the number of incidents fluctuated within a relatively narrow range from 44 to 74 incidents per month.

2022: Total 719 cases



Unlike in 2021, most incidents were reported on the basis of „personal perception” (284 cases), while 212 cases originated from „social networks.” Emails (90 cases) featured more often in the statistics in 2022 than other online incidents (83 cases). However, it must be remembered that in discussion forums or on social media threads there can often be several antisemitic comments – sometimes dozens – but they are only recorded in the statistics as one incident. Antisemitic letters were reported 39 times. The statistics include five examples of antisemitic phone calls and two newspaper articles. There was also one reported incident in a TV broadcast.

Changes in the number of reported incidents since 2008



Changes in the number of reports (*no report for 2018)

2. Commentary

From July to December, the downward trend that was outlined in the [half-yearly report](#) for the first six months of the year continued: following the worst recorded figures in 2021, there was a clear fall in the number of reported antisemitic incidents. Nevertheless, a closer look at the statistics confirms a worrying trend from the first six months, because the number of reported incidents of specifically physical assaults and threats remained at the same high level as the previous year, or even exceeded it.

2.1. Reduction in coronavirus-related antisemitism

One of the fears that was raised, particularly at the start of the Covid pandemic, was that the rapidly spreading coronavirus-related antisemitism would lead to anti-Jewish resentment becoming normalised and firmly rooted in wide sections of society. In spring 2020, activists from the extreme right and neo-Nazi movements very quickly developed new variants of

„Following the worst recorded figures in 2021, there was a clear fall in the number of reported antisemitic incidents; nevertheless, a closer look at the statistics confirms a worrying trend from the first six months.“

the endlessly adaptable phenomenon of antisemitism, drawing on the rich store of hostility to Jews to recycle motives and hackneyed ideas that were in some cases thousands of years old, and creating new scenarios from them. There was huge concern that this would lead to a permanent rise in antisemitism – and with that, the fear that the aforementioned activists could use this upturn to revitalise and re-establish extreme right-wing and neo-Nazi ideologies and structures.

The last two annual reports showed how the intensity of this form of antisemitism correlated closely with the course of the pandemic and with the restrictions and vaccination programmes, and, in the same way, a sharp fall in pandemic-related antisemitism was observed in 2022. Although, in January, the numbers in the sub-category „Coronavirus-related antisemitism“ still reflected a relatively high level of reporting (41 incidents), from then on, except for in the following month, the figures were no longer even in double digits.

Efforts were also made in the judicial system to take action against the perfidious and strategic exploitation of various aspects of Shoah relativisation. This was symbolised by the repeated use (both online and at demonstrations) of so-called „Jewish stars“, several cases of which were [prosecuted by the police](#) from the start of 2022.

Furthermore, in November the federal government announced a [reform of the National Socialism Prohibition Act](#) which would not only make the „gross“ trivialisation of the Shoah a punishable offence but would also make it possible to take legal action against any kind of trivialisation.

Since most incidents of this kind (but by no means all) originate in right-wing ideology (see section XX), a sharp fall can be observed in the absolute number of incidents arising from that source (down from 461 to 395, a drop of 14.3 %). However, since the overall number of cases fell even more sharply, the proportion of such incidents rose by seven percentage points from 48 % to 55 %.

So whereas the Reporting Centre for Antisemitism saw a definite decline in the number of „extreme right” cases, figures published recently by the Ministries of Justice and Internal Affairs came to somewhat contradictory conclusions: for example, [statistics from the Ministry of Internal Affairs](#) show a fall from 1053 to 928 extreme right-wing offences (791 of these offences were classified as explicitly extreme right (2021: 819), 51 as racist (66), 33 as antisemitic (52) and three as Islamophobic (9)). Consequently, the number of people charged under the law banning National Socialist activities also fell slightly, from 998 to 929.

On the other hand, the Ministry of Justice recorded a sharp increase in people charged under the law banning National Socialist activities in 2022, up to 2397 (2021: 2072). The [„Stoppt Die Rechten”¹](#) („Stop the Right”) platform has noted these and other discrepancies.

When the crime [statistics for 2022](#) were presented, Minister of Internal Affairs Gerhard Karner declared that one of the biggest challenges was *„extremism’ in all its forms, as pursued both by right-wing extremists and new far-right groups such as the Identitäre movement, and by organisations hostile to the state, „state refuseniks” or „Reichsbürger” (who reject the legitimacy of the Federal Republic of Germany). The number of people charged with these criminal offences is at the same level as in 2021, but higher than before the pandemic.” Furthermore, „in 2022 more than 660 people were reported to the police, over 100 properties were searched and 37 arrests were made.”*

Here at the Reporting Centre for Antisemitism, we see the systematic recording and processing of data as the essential foundation for analysing and subsequently combating problematic phenomena that affect society as a whole. The findings made in this way can serve as the basis for action by stakeholders and decision-makers in different sectors, especially in politics.

„Here at the Reporting Centre for Antisemitism, we see the systematic recording and processing of data as the essential foundation for analysis.”

That is why, in several places in our reports, we are deliberately transparent in explaining the criteria behind the work of the Reporting Centre – not least in order to make the results internationally comparable, as we have always been strongly urged to do by organisations such as the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA).

A good example at an international level is the [„GEMEINSAM.SICHER”](#) (SAFER TOGETHER) partnership between the Austrian police and the Jewish community that was announced in June. The already existing professional collaboration is to be taken to a new level with the aim of breaking down barriers on numerous levels. The focus will also be on better sharing of information and the prevention of antisemitism.

2. 2. Fewer incidents but the highest-ever level of assaults

In contrast to the pleasing fall in the overall number of antisemitic incidents by about a quarter, the number of physical assaults has actually risen (14, after 12 in 2021). One alarming aspect of this is the high number of attacks on children and young people, and the fact that, in many of these attacks, not only the victims but also the perpetrators were children and young people. In every one of these incidents, the perpetrators knew about the Jewish background of the people they assaulted, whether from their external appearance or clothing or because they knew each other in person from school.

1 1 <https://www.stopptdierechten.at/2023/03/09/rechtsextreme-straftaten-im-blindflug-unterwegs/>

This flare-up of antisemitic violence by children against other children is in line with a similar observation in the United Kingdom, where the [CST](#) highlighted this form of violence for the first time in its [2021 annual Antisemitism Report](#).² The report refers to a wide range of different causes, from the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to the spread of extremist content on the social media platforms that are so popular with this generation.

In the light of this, the strategy paper on antisemitism that was introduced by the government in September for schools, entitled [„Preventing Antisemitism through Education“](#), is most welcome. Implementation of the strategy is being supported by [erinnern.at](#), the Holocaust education programme of the OeAD (Austria’s Agency for Education and Internationalisation). The [LIKRAT](#) dialogue project, an IKG Wien initiative, will also play an important role in the work to prevent antisemitism.³

Unlike in 2021, no attacks were reported on people who were believed to be Jewish but were not.

2 CST - Antisemitic Incidents Report 2022 cst.org.uk/public/data/file/e/6/CST%20Incidents%20Report%202022.pdf, S. 5

3 Umsetzungsbericht 2022 - Nationale Strategie gegen Antisemitismus www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/dam/jcr:40c03b24-30d5-495f-b50d-009f4284da96/2_bericht_nsa_2022_nb.pdf, S. 58, 66 sowie 80.

3. Categorisation of antisemitic incidents and examples

An important element of the recording, analysis and distribution of data relating to antisemitism is the categorisation of antisemitic incidents. For two decades, various EU institutions have highlighted the lack of comparability at international level as a significant problem in the fight against antisemitism and they have consistently sought standardisation.

To that end, guidelines have been published on the categorisation of antisemitic incidents. These were themselves greatly influenced by the CST, which has special experience in this field.⁴ The recommendation is that its categories and terminology should be adopted “as far as possible”

At present, the recommendations have only been adopted and translated by the “Antisemitism Observatory” in Italy⁵ (with slight amendments) and RIAS, based in Germany; the latter organisation has been using them in its antisemitism work for the last seven years. The IKG Reporting Office for Antisemitism works particularly closely with RIAS. A further strengthening of the international cooperation is in the works.

Adopting the categories and terminology of the EUMC Guidelines for antisemitism work in Austria in 2019 marked another step forward in international efforts to combat antisemitism.

The following section explains the categories and clarifies them, using examples from the past year. For further details about the methodology employed by the Reporting Office for Antisemitism and the international context, please see the relevant section (from page 18 onwards).

3. 1. Threats

Any form of physical assault on people or buildings, with or without weapons. Even a failed attempt at an assault (be that because the victim defends himself or was able to flee) is also included in this category. The same applies when objects are thrown at people, even if they miss their target.

(The EUMC Guidelines, CST and RIAS also recognise a category called “Extreme Violence” as an aggravated form. We do not see the need to differentiate between the latter and “assaults” in Austria. See also the section on “Antisemitism work on an international level”)

Vienna, over several months, starting in September: After his Jewish background emerged in the course of conversation, a student was bullied first by a teacher and subsequently by fellow students, using antisemitic abuse and threats. He was beaten up more than once; he had to be treated in hospital three times, with the doctor who treated the student once reporting the case to the police as bodily harm.

The school management was not cooperative, saying that the victim was partly or even wholly to blame for the above incidents. The student left the school. Only later did the family contact the Reporting Centre and the offer of support from the psychosocial centre ESRA was accepted.

Vienna, June: A Jewish teenager at an open-air swimming pool was first accosted by a group of young people aged from 12 to 18 - who knew about his Jewish background - and then subjected to antisemitic abuse. One of the teenager’s friends who is also Jewish intervened and the group withdrew. As they

4 [EUMC - Manifestations of Antisemitism in the EU 2002 - 2003](#), S. 343

5 [Antisemitismusbericht Italien 2022](#)

left the pool, the pair, along with other – also Jewish – friends, came across the boys from earlier on, now accompanied by a group of about two dozen teenagers. There was further antisemitic abuse, this time followed by blows, including punches. When some passers-by approached, the attackers ran off; the frightened Jewish boys – some of them slightly injured – also ran away. Only at a later date was the incident reported to the police.

3. 2. Threat

An explicitly formulated threat of physical violence against individuals or institutions that are Jewish or perceived to be Jewish; the threat is specific and may be either written or verbal.

Bomb threats and fake bombs targeting Jewish institutions are also categorised as threats.

Vienna, October: On Yom Kippur, a man who was recognisably Jewish because of his kippah was going home from prayers. On the escalator in an underground station, he came across two young men who instantly began to make fun of him. When he tried to push past them, they blocked his way. They were obviously taunting and insulting him, but the victim could not understand them. One of the two men lifted his boot and, laughing, scraped dirt from the sole of his shoe on to the intimidated, frightened victim. At the top of the escalator the men let him go and they went off.

Graz, St. Pölten and Vienna, June: Along with several other recipients, IKG Wien received a jihadi bomb threat. In the letter, which was also sent to courts in Vienna, Graz and St. Pölten, and to the Schools Department of the City of Vienna, it said among other things „death to all Jews and infidels (non-believers) in Austria!” and „Let them all died today, Cionist pigs !!!” (sic).

Vienna, July: A car driver who was recognisably Jewish because of his kippah became engaged in a verbal dispute with another driver in the course of a traffic incident. His opponent got out of the vehicle and immediately embarked on a tirade of anti-Semitic abuse, at the end of which he raised his fists and tried to tear the Jewish driver’s cap from his head, with the words „I’ll stick your kippah up your arse!”. Only when the victim telephoned the police did the aggressor make off.

Vienna, September: A Jewish family man was on his way home from evening prayers with his son and daughter when five teenagers approached them in the 20th District of Vienna.

First of all, the teenagers shouted „Free Palestine” at them. Then one of the teenagers threatened the son with the words „If you come here again, I’ll stab you!”. There was a tussle between the father and the teenagers. The noise alerted the attention of local residents who threatened to call the police. The teenagers ran off.

It turned out that the teenagers already knew the son, knew that he was Jewish and had already threatened and followed him several times and once even „hunted him down”.

3. 3. Damage and desecration

Non-life-threatening assault on an object. Damage and desecration also includes graffiti and the application of stickers and posters.

Note: Unlike CST and RIAS, we include in this category not only material damage directed at objects which are in Jewish ownership, are perceived as such or could be associated with Judaism, Israel or Shoah, but also damage that does not meet those criteria (e.g. stars of David and antisemitic abuse on election posters).

Vienna, September and October: During the presidential election, antisemitic graffiti was daubed on several election posters showing Alexander Van der Bellen.



May: In Vienna's Meidling district, antisemitic graffiti was daubed on a poster for the SPÖ.

July: In Vienna's Margareten district, a Shoah memorial plaque was badly damaged in several places.



May: At the University of Vienna, an antisemitic comment was daubed on a toilet wall.



3. 4. Abusive behaviour

Antisemitic abuse, expressions, comments and messages; these may be expressed verbally (face-to-face, by phone) or in writing (letter, email, online media, other digital communication channels) and are directed at a specific person or institution.

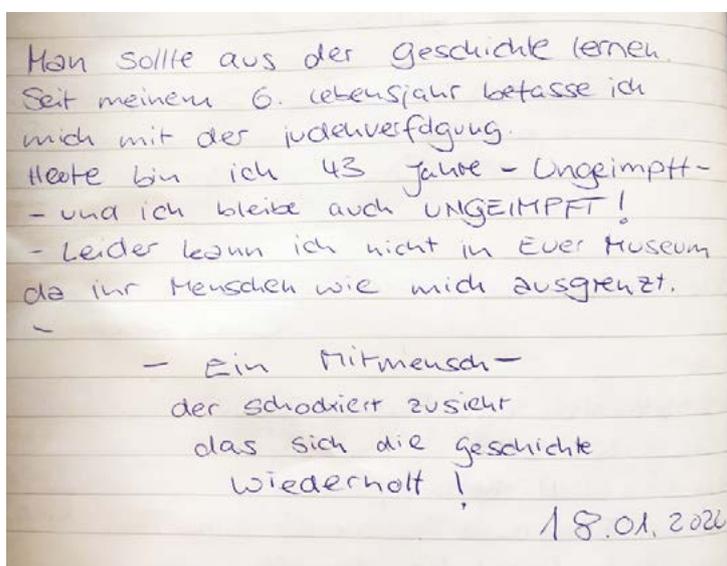
Note: To avoid distorting the statistics, in the case of antisemitic postings online, all comments on one posting (messages or social media) are combined into one incident. In some cases, a discussion forum or social media thread may include several dozen antisemitic comments.

Vienna, May: At a demonstration by the so-called „Palestinian Solidarity Group Austria“, its leader Wilhelm Langthaler made a speech comparing Israel's behaviour towards the Palestinians and Israeli Arabs with that of the Third Reich towards the Jews.

Vienna, November: One report form contained a screenshot showing a Wi-Fi network with a racist, antisemitic and islamophobic name.

Vienna, January: At a protest against coronavirus restrictions, someone held up a poster showing Adolf Hitler with the slogan „Vaccination sets you free“, a modified version of the slogan „Work sets you free“ which appeared at the entrance to a number of concentration camps during the Second World War. Below Hitler's likeness, it said: „I'LL BE BACK“

Vienna, May: At a football match between FK Austria Vienna and SK Rapid Vienna, following a collision between two players, a Rapid supporter with a megaphone yelled „You filthy Jewish shit!“



Hohenems, January: In the Guest Book at the Jewish Museum in Hohenems, there is an entry comparing the public health protection measures with the persecution of the Jews during the Third Reich.

Von:
Gesendet: Donnerstag, 6. Oktober 2022 12:38
An: Office (IKG) <office@ikg-wien.at>
Betreff:

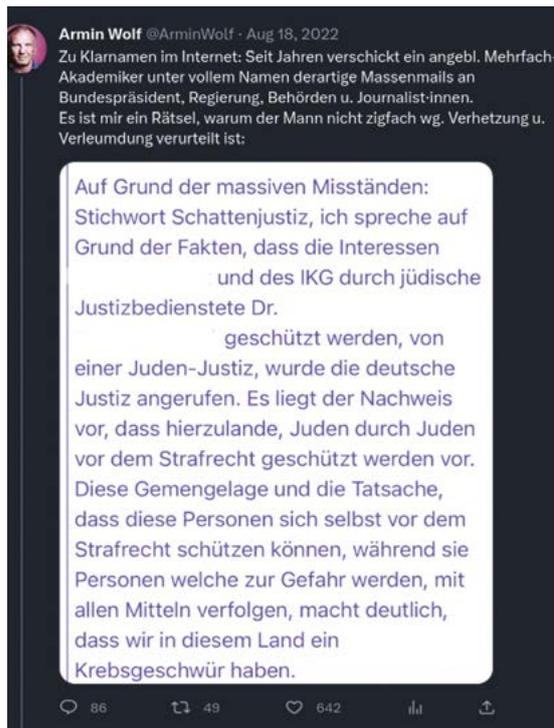
Sie brauchen nicht auf einen OESTERREICHER und FPÖ Losgehen.
 Ihr Posting samt Aussage zeigt von Ihren IQ.
 Es gibt keinen besseren BP ALS Herrn Rosenkranz, wenn es Ihnen nicht passt in Österreich.
 AB NACH ISRAEI
 UNTERLASSEN SIE SOLCHE AUSSAGEN.

Gruß

Vienna, October: Antisemitic email sent during the presidential elections

3. 5. Literature/mass mailings

This refers to written antisemitic material sent to at least two addressees and usually targeting a large group of recipients. It includes publications (online and offline, e.g. newspapers, magazines, blogs), documents sent to multiple recipients (letters, emails) and the social media platforms which are rapidly replacing the latter two.



Example 1, Vienna, August: ORF presenter Armin Wolf referred to one very active author of hate mail who is still sending incessant antisemitic letters to all kinds of recipients in politics, the media and the judiciary and, above all in the Jewish community.



(right), Graz, December: The so-called „Palestinian Solidarity Group Austria” once again attacked the then President of the Jewish Community of Graz, deploying two antisemitic stereotypes: that of the disloyal (or rather, „loyal to Israel”) Jews, and the conspiracy theory about Jews influencing politics and their „pressure” being solely responsible for anti-BDS decisions.

(right), Vienna, November: A Palestinian activist explains on Instagram how the „Free Palestine” slogan should be understood, namely as a rejection of the right to existence of the state of Israel, both geographically and demographically („Liberation from the river to the sea”, „the right of return for all who have fled or been driven out”) and the glorification of martyrdom.



Von: [REDACTED]
Gesendet: Dienstag, 26. Juli 2022 09:15
An: kontakt@auschwitz.info
Cc: Deutsch Oskar <o.deutsch@ikg-wien.at>; karl.nehammer@oevp.at
Betreff: Treffen BK Nehammer, Viktor Orban

Sehr geehrter Herr Heubner !

Sie fordern Herrn Bundeskanzler Nehammer dazu auf, er möge die verbalen Entgleisungen des Herrn Orban bei seinem Treffen mit ihm besprechen.

Warum sollte das Herr Nehammer tun, ich glaube Sie müssen ihm keine Tips geben, was die beiden Herren zu besprechen haben, wenn Sie ein Problem haben, dann haben Sie ja die Gelegenheit und Möglichkeit das selbst direkt Herrn Orban mitzuteilen, aber **mischen Sie sich bitte nicht in die österreichische Innenpolitik ein.**

Ich kann das **Klagen und Jammern der Juden** nach fast 100 Jahren nicht mehr hören, nicht einmal mein Vater (Jahrgang 1943) hat mit diesem Thema mehr etwas am Hut gehabt und **ihr werdet in 500 Jahren immer noch die Armen und Verfolgten sein, dabei seid ihr Juden um keinen Deut besser, ihr habt den Palästinensern das Land gestohlen und ermordet bis heute deren Bevölkerung,** also bitte nach fast 100 Jahren einmal damit aufzuhören, wie arm ihr gewesen seid, das kann niemand mehr hören !

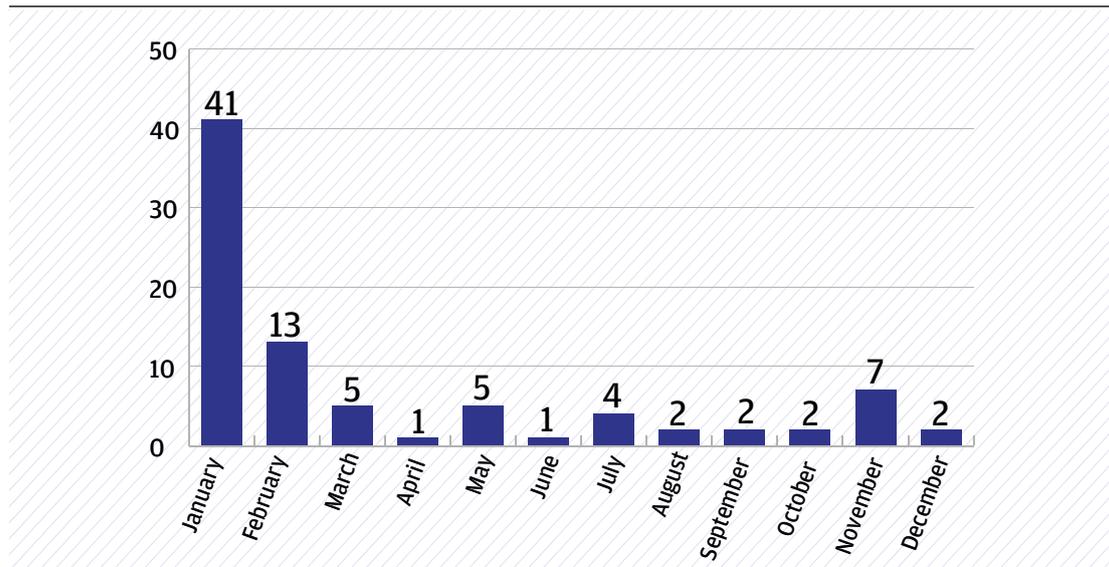
online, July: Antisemitic email to the International Auschwitz Committee, IKG President Oskar Deutsch and Federal Chancellor Karl Nehammer.

4. Sub-categories

In addition to the main categories, the Reporting Office for Antisemitism also collects other data. We believe that the following analysis of sub-categories is particularly interesting and meaningful.

4.1. Coronavirus-related antisemitism

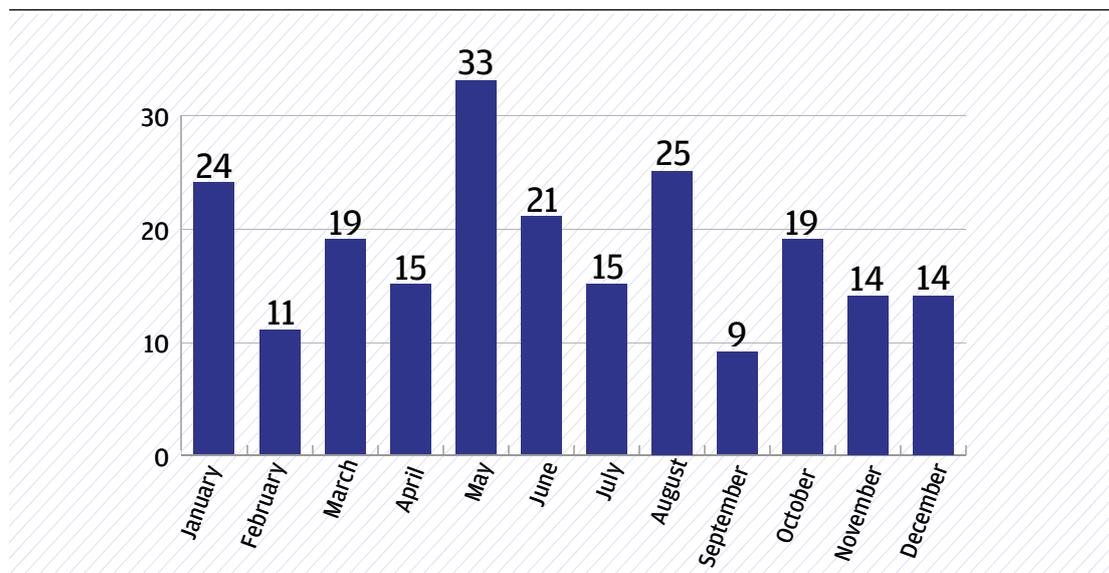
2022: 85 cases of coronavirus-related antisemitism



As mentioned in the commentary, there has been a very sharp and equally pleasing fall in numbers in this sub-category, which was added in 2020. January is the exception here, and alone accounts for about half of the total 85 cases in this sub-category, which is less than a third of those in 2021 (270).

4.2. Israel-related antisemitism

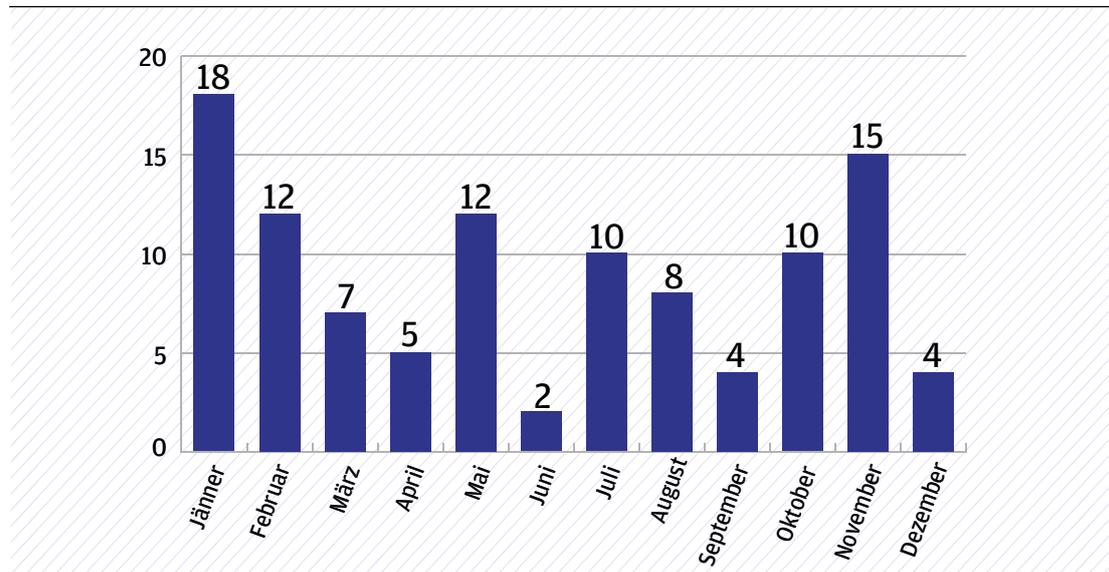
2022: 219 cases of Israel-related antisemitism



Even though there was no major intensification of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in 2022, isolated escalations in May (the death of a well-known Palestinian journalist during an Israeli raid) and in August ([four-day military conflict](#) between Israel and the terrorist organisation „Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine“ in Gaza) led to slight increases in the number of incidents reported - but nothing like the veritable explosion of cases in May 2021, when 74 incidents were reported. So the total figure of 219 was down almost a quarter on that for 2021 (289 incidents).

4. 3. Antisemitic conspiracy theories

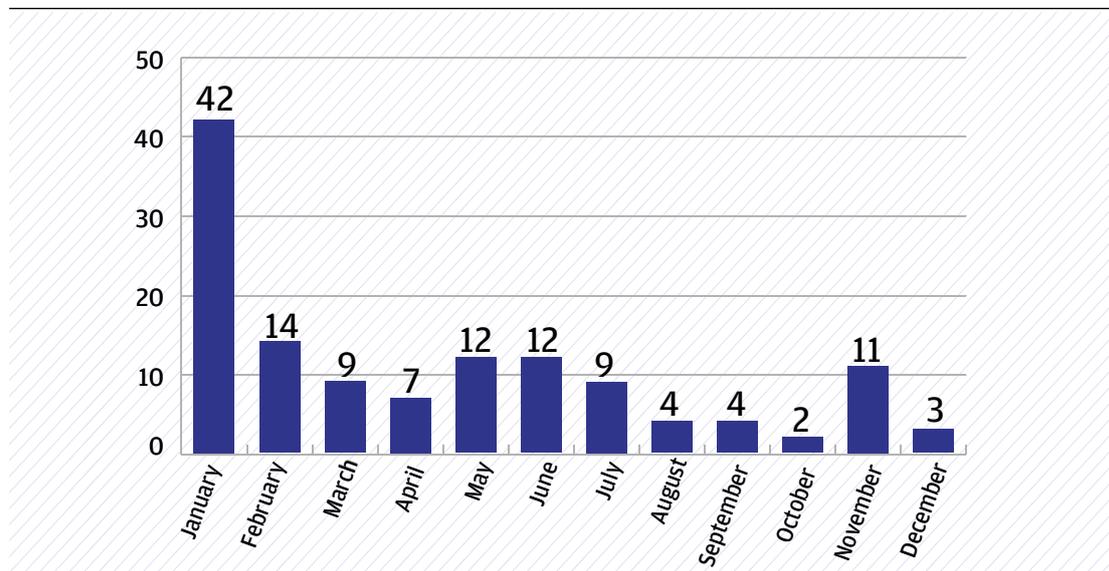
2022: 107 cases of antisemitic conspiracy theories



With 107 incidents, there was an increase in antisemitic conspiracy theories - unlike all the other categories - and by nearly a third (2021: 81). Hate letters and emails played an important role here, either addressed to individuals (not only, but mainly in the Jewish community, and in particular to its President Oskar Deutsch) or to a wider group of recipients in politics, the media, the judiciary and other spheres (see Examples section).

4. 4. Shoah relativisation/denial

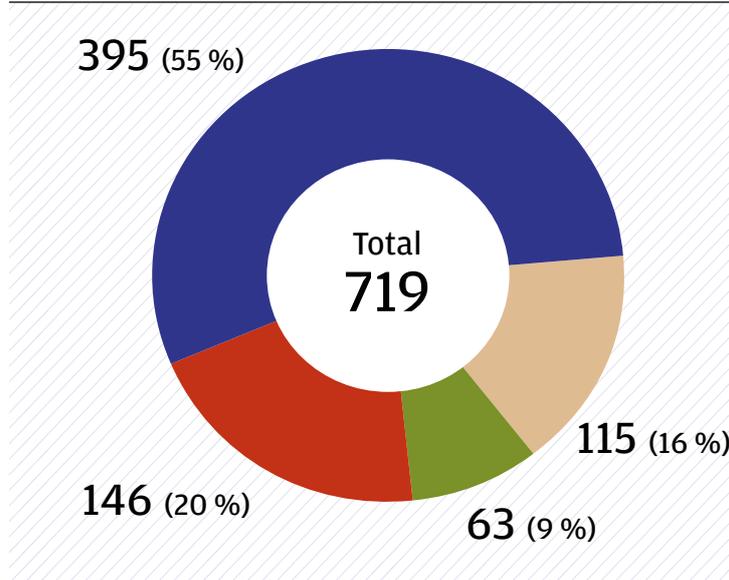
2022: 129 cases of Shoah relativisation/denial



Cases of Shoah relativisation, at 129, were down by more than half compared with last year (2021: 324). Here, too, the majority (about one third) occurred in January, the month that was still dominated by the coronavirus.

5. Ideological background

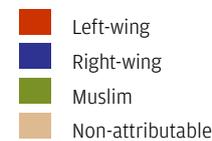
Antisemitic incidents Ideological background



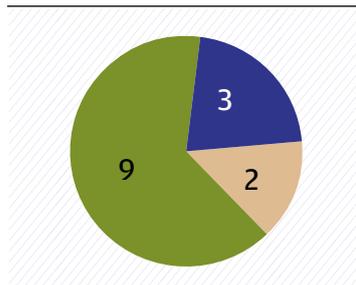
“**Right-wing**” covers all the incidents which could be attributed to the political or sociopolitical right-wing, right-wing extremism or (neo-)Nazism.

“**Left-wing**” covers all the incidents which could be attributed to the political or sociopolitical left-wing or left-wing extremism in all its forms (e.g. the antisemitic BDS movement and anti-imperialism).

“**Muslim**” refers to antisemitic incidents perpetrated by people or organisations which can be attributed to Islam on account of their world view or religious beliefs.

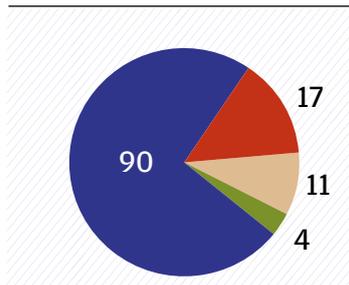


Assaults



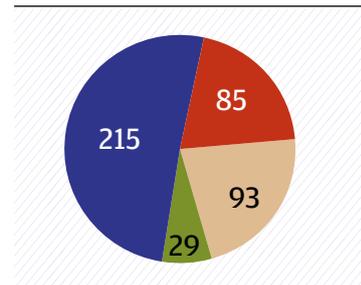
Once again in 2022, the vast majority of the perpetrators had a Muslim background. As mentioned in the commentary, there was a steep rise in violence by children and teenagers against other children and teenagers. Three of the attackers had a far-right background while two of the assaults could not be attributed to any particular world view.

Damage and desecration



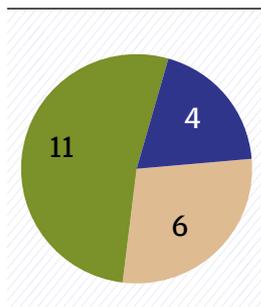
In 2022, almost three-quarters of the damage to property could be attributed to perpetrators from the extreme right, a dramatic increase over 2021 when they accounted for somewhat less than half. In 17 cases, a left-wing background was identified, and in 11 incidents a Muslim one; in only four cases could the incident not be attributed to any particular group.

Abusive behaviour



In the category with the highest numbers of incidents, those with a clearly right-wing ideological background were in the absolute majority for the first time. That is partly due to better attribution, reflected in a greatly reduced number of non-attributable incidents compared with previous years (13% in 2022 compared with 22% in 2021).

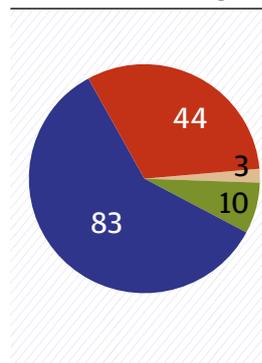
Threats



When it comes to threats, perpetrators with a Muslim back-

ground again account for the majority of incidents. In four cases, a right-wing background was identified, and in six cases the threat could not be attributed to a particular group. It should also be mentioned here that a number of attacks were associated with simultaneous abuse and/or verbal threats. To avoid these incidents being counted twice, they are included only in the „more serious“ incident category.

Literature/mass mailings



With regard to mass mailings, right-wing ideological sources continued to account for the majority of cases, nearly two-thirds, but this was far fewer than in 2021 (more than three-quarters). Antisemitism that is disseminated in the left-wing mass media has increased dramatically, but the proportion of Muslim originators is very small.

6. Methodology

The main basis for our working methodology is the IHRA working definition of antisemitism.

6.1. Working definition of antisemitism

Ever since the working definition of antisemitism produced by the EUMC in 2005 with the help of numerous experts and civil society organizations was adopted in May 2016 by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), it has enjoyed ever-increasing international support at all levels. This is also the case in Austria, where the Council of Ministers (2017) and the Municipal Councils in Vienna (2018) and Graz (2019) have ruled that this working definition should be accepted. At EU level, in December 2018 the EU Council made a declaration to EU member states, calling on them to adopt the definition.⁶ EU Commissioner Vera Jourovà had already called for the definition to be supported in January 2017.

Even though it is not legally binding, a definition of this kind is an essential weapon in the fight against antisemitism. It should help to achieve the intrinsically important international comparability that we have always called for and that is essential in order to make relevant findings and take the required targeted measures. Especially at national level, it also serves as a scientifically-based working tool: above all for organisations that are involved in the fight against antisemitism but potentially also for the forces of law and order which naturally often serve as the first point of contact for victims of antisemitism.

We should remember that by no means every antisemitic incident has legal implications; however, it is important that they are recorded efficiently in order to create as complete an overall picture as possible. This will in turn enable soundly-based decisions to be made by the relevant stakeholders, not least in terms of preventing antisemitism.

All the incidents reported to us are compared against this definition; not all of them meet its criteria and some are therefore not included in the statistics.

Here is the wording of the definition:⁷

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

Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for “why things go wrong.” It is expressed

⁶ Combating antisemitism: Declaration by the Council

⁷ IHRA

in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.

Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

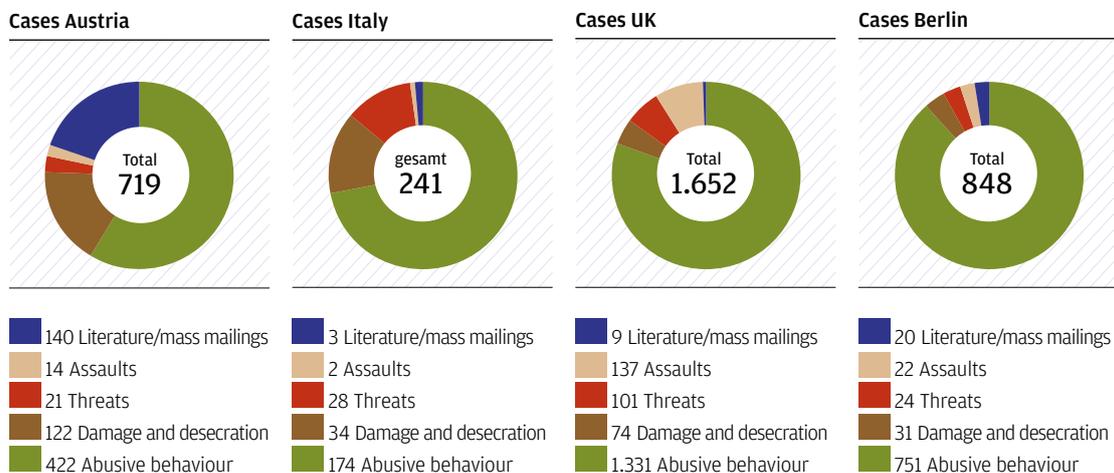
- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective – such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.

6. 2. Antisemitism work on an international level

As we have highlighted in our previous reports, we are very aware of the particular importance of internationally accepted standards in the recording of antisemitic incidents. Stakeholders have understood this problem since at least 2004, but still there has been very little progress made. In its latest antisemitism update in November 2021, the [EU Fundamental Rights Agency \(FRA\)](#) laments the inadequacy of the data about antisemitic incidents and the difficulty of comparing it at a European level, given that the methods of data collection and categorisation vary from one country to another. It says that this prevents meaningful comparisons and reinforces the need for the surveys conducted by the FRA among Jews in EU member states.⁸ The [most recent results](#) of this kind of survey were published in 2019.

Even though we regard such surveys as a useful tool in an overall concept for combating antisemitism, we believe that they can merely represent a complement to the process of recording and dealing with antisemitic incidents in accordance with generally recognised scientific criteria and procedures. Only data resulting from this kind of process can usefully serve as a basis for offering evidence-based recommendations to policy-makers.

Ever since it was first founded, the Reporting Office for Antisemitism has been aware of this long-standing problem of the lack of international comparability. That is why right from the start it adopted not only the IHRA working definition of antisemitism but also the system for categorising antisemitic incidents that is used by two of the leading organisations in this field, namely [RIAS](#) in Germany and the [Community Security Trust \(CST\)](#) in the United Kingdom.



⁸ https://fra.europa.eu/sitehttps://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/eurydice/content/denmark-new-antisemitism-action-plan-increase-knowledge-about-holocaust_ens/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2021-antisemitism-overview-2010-2020_en.pdf, page 92