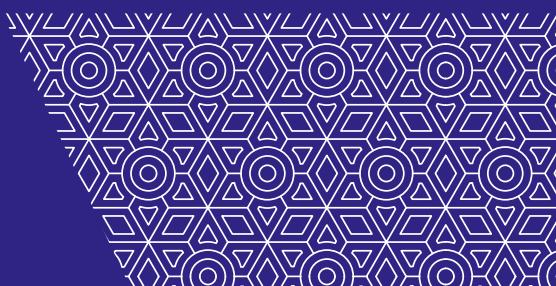
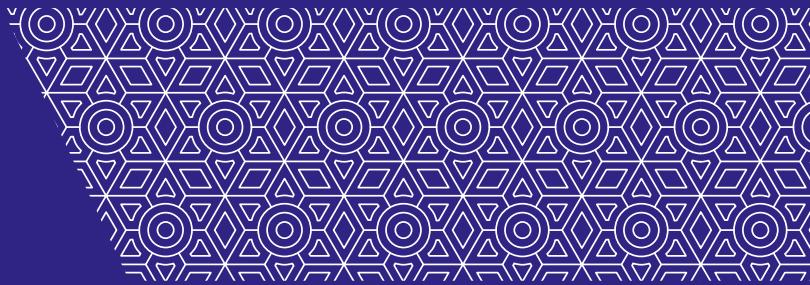
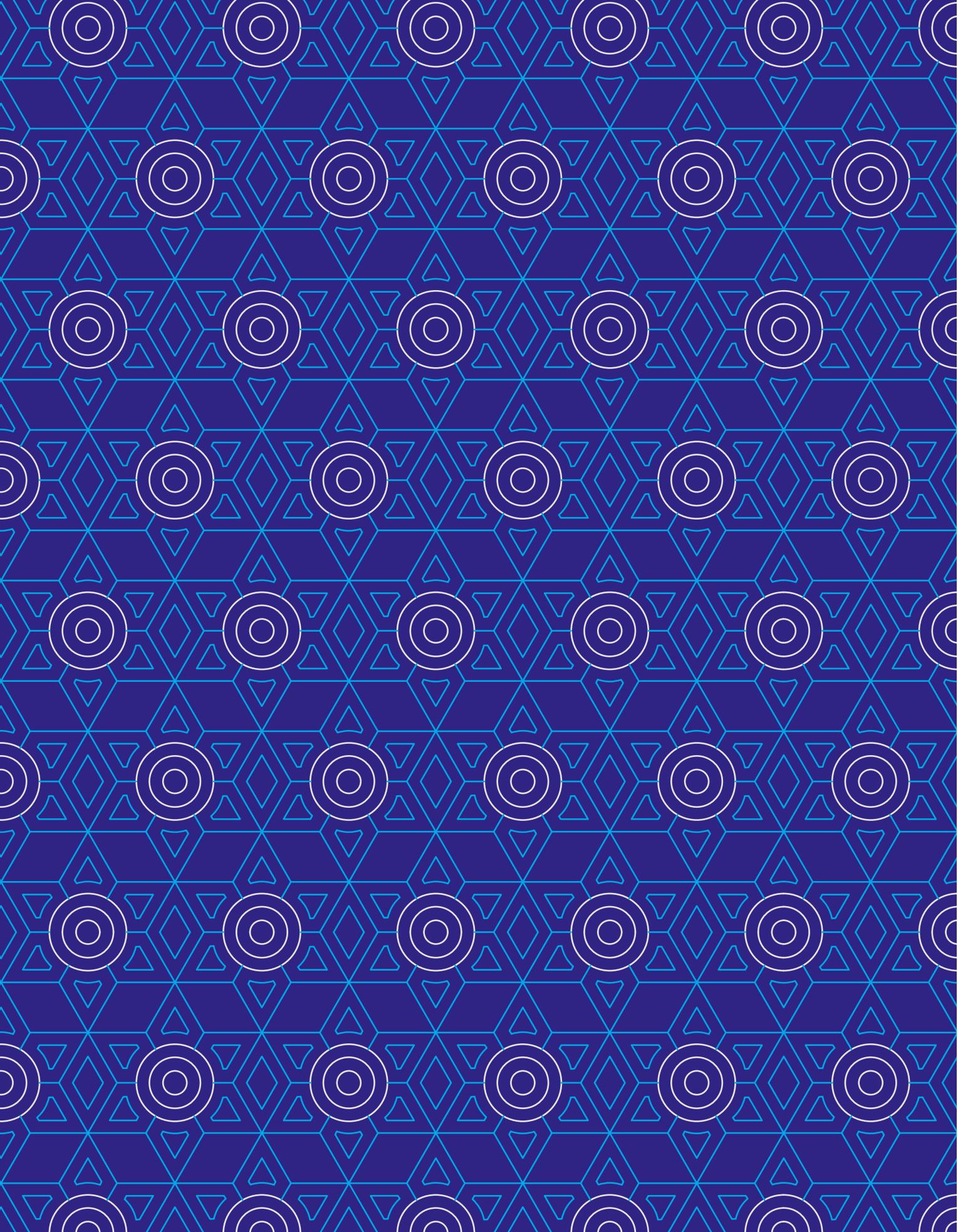


National Strategy against Antisemitism 2.0





National Strategy against Antisemitism 2.0

National Strategy of the Republic of Austria
on combating all forms of Antisemitism
and fostering Jewish life (2025–2030)

Vienna, 2025

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DER REPUBLIK ÖSTERREICH FÜR OPFER DES NATIONALSOZIALISMUS

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der Republik Österreich

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Antisemitism is an attack on the foundations of our coexistence. It is not only directed against Jews, but also against many of the values that define our country – freedom, democracy and humanity.

Austria has a special historical responsibility. The horrors of the Shoah are part of our history, and at the same time, an obligation for our future.

This responsibility does not end with remembrance; it begins where Jewish life is threatened, marginalised or called into question today.

With the National Strategy against Antisemitism 2.0, we are systematically continuing the work we began in 2021. Much has changed since then – in Austria, in Europe and in the rest of the world.

The brutal terrorist attack on Israel, launched by Hamas on 7 October 2023, not only caused immeasurable suffering, but also triggered a new wave of antisemitic violence and incitement in Europe.

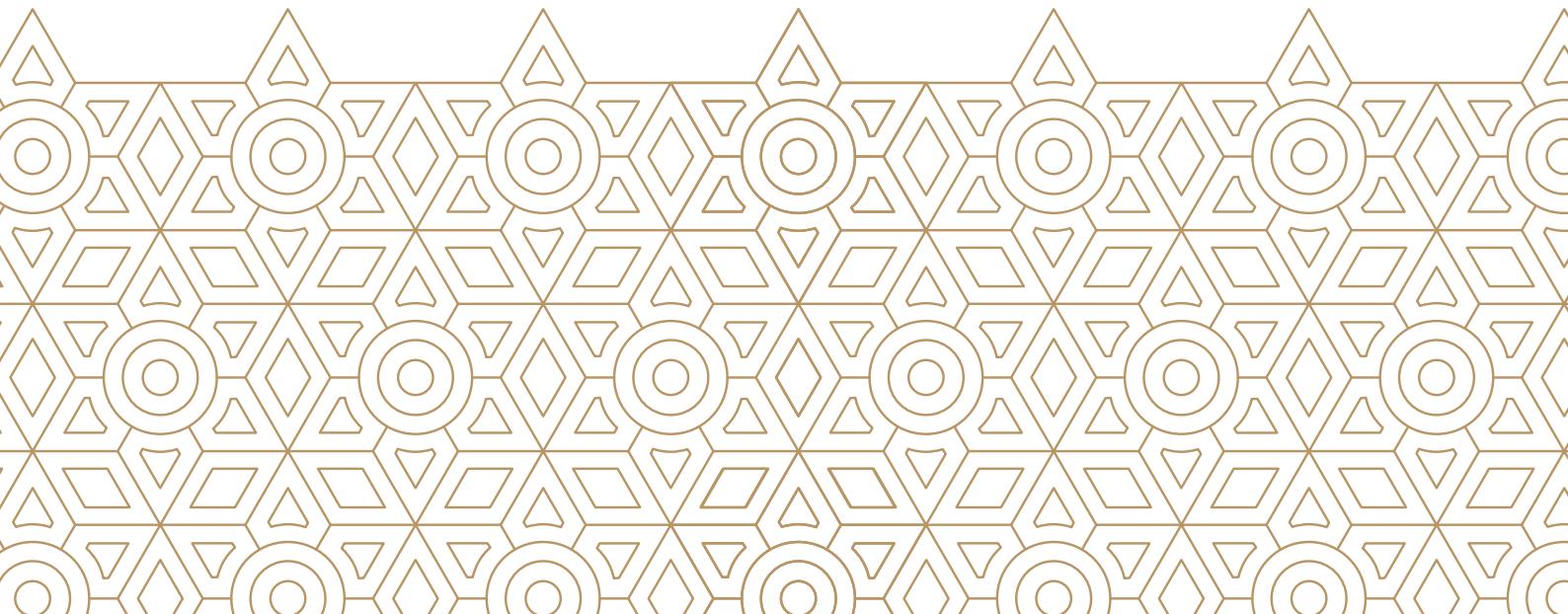
It was precisely for this reason that it was deemed necessary to further develop the strategy – with clearer responsibilities, new measures and a stronger focus on prevention, education and safety.

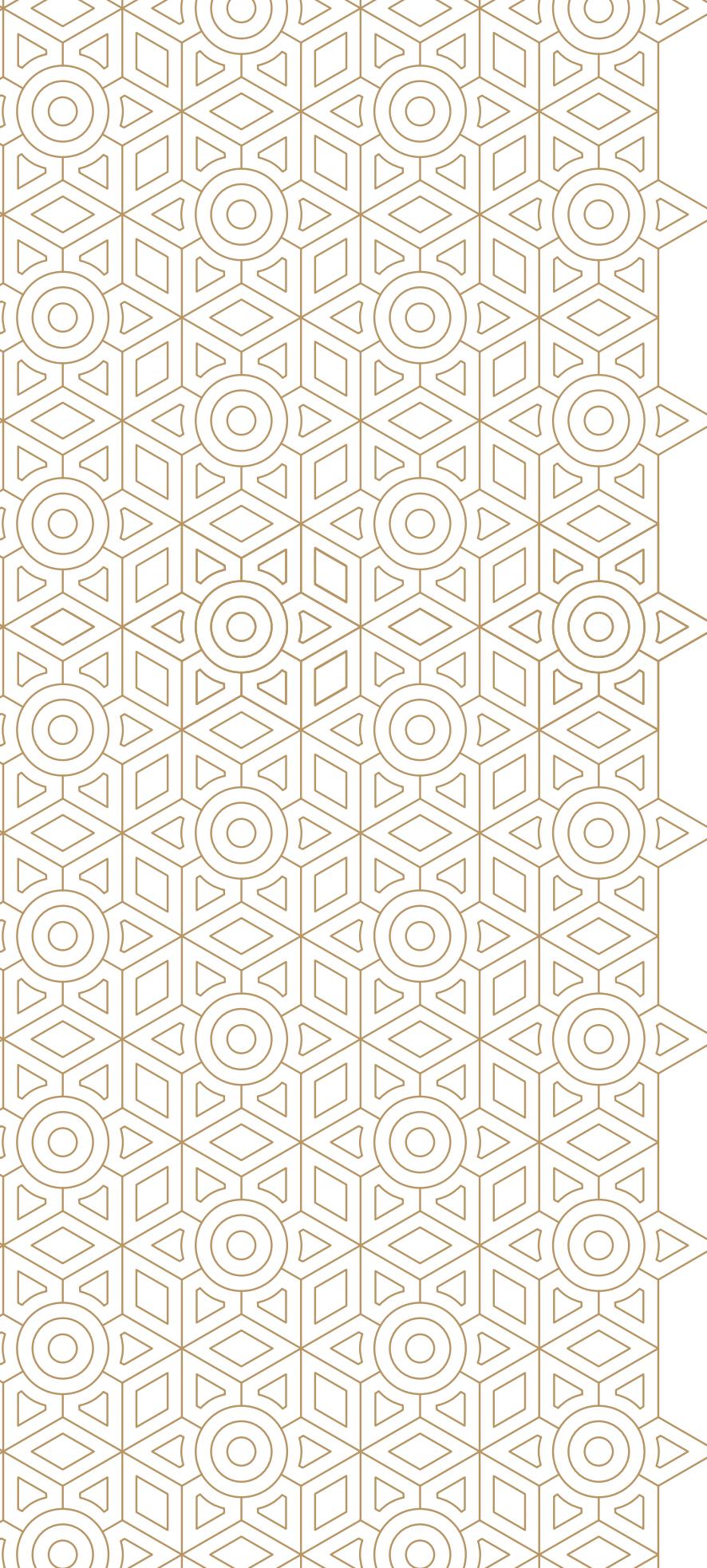
Our goal remains unchanged – to work together for an Austria where Jewish life is visible and safe and has its natural place as part of society. Antisemitism is not a problem of the past or a problem of a minority – antisemitism is a threat to our democracy.



Photo: BKA/Andy Wenzel

Federal Chancellor
Christian Stocker





In his reflections on the concept of history and the pile of rubble that it produces, while in exile in France, Walter Benjamin pondered on his “astonishment that the things we are experiencing are still possible in the twentieth century”. He put his thoughts down on paper in 1940, even before becoming fully aware of the extent of the Shoah.

Today, our fundamental democratic and humanistic consensus is based primarily on our knowledge of the catastrophe of the 20th century, and our historical responsibility for the atrocities committed back then. And yet, against this backdrop, 80 years after the end of the National Socialist reign of terror, we are once again “astonished” at the state of the world we live in today.

Right at the start of the 21st century, it was above all the terrorist attacks of September 11 that triggered a wave of rampant antisemitism that was felt throughout the world. Although there was talk of “new antisemitism” in many places, the racist and conspiratorial motives and the familiar “rumours about the Jews” used by the agitators, were by no means new. Likewise, the rekindled antisemitism with which Jews are being threatened around the world following the shocking massacre of Israeli civilians on 7 October 2023 is anything but new. When Jewish artists are uninvited and Jewish athletes are prevented from competing, when Jews are banned from shops and threatened on the streets, even when on their way to school, we have reached a point that reminds us, especially in Austria, of the darkest times in our history.

The constant recurrence of antisemitism compels us not to freeze in “astonishment”, but to remind ourselves over and again of its violent and murderous effects, which began long before Auschwitz, where it became a breach of civilisation, and the roots of which could not be sufficiently eradicated even afterwards, and therefore continue to have an impact to this day.

Therefore, the starting point of any awareness can never be astonishment that antisemitism is still possible in the 21st century. Awareness must begin with an unwavering commitment to resolutely oppose antisemitism. This commitment must be followed by implementing targeted measures such as those formulated in the second version of the National Strategy against Antisemitism, which is now available.



Photo: BKA/Andy Wenzel

Vice-Chancellor
Andreas Babler

Year after year, we are confronted with the fact that antisemitism is on the rise. In particular, the horrific terrorist attack on Israeli civilians carried out by Hamas on 7 October 2023 has led to a further flare-up in Austria and around the world. Jewish people are insulted and physically attacked, and threats are made against synagogues. Steeped in hatred, antisemitism is showing its old face again in universities, on the streets and on social networks.

This is a reality that we must not turn a blind eye to. With the creation and implementation of the first National Strategy against Antisemitism, the Austrian Federal Government has taken an important step which has served as a model for many other countries. Nevertheless, the figures clearly show that we still have a long way to go. The issue is not just about protecting our Jewish fellow citizens, but also about the resilience of our liberal democracy and the defence of our open society.

And for me as Foreign Minister, it is also about ensuring that 80 years after the founding of the United Nations, we uphold the promise contained in the UN Charter to protect future generations from the scourge of war and to strengthen faith in fundamental human rights, dignity and freedom.

With the National Strategy against Antisemitism 2.0 now in place, we are acknowledging our historical responsibility, because our past is a mandate for the present and the future. We can only defeat antisemitism together if not only the entire Federal Government, but also the federal states and civil society work together effectively as a whole. If we lose this battle and our Jewish fellow citizens cannot live free from fear, we will end up losing ourselves – and thus the foundation on which our society rests.



Photo: BKA/Andy Wenzel

Federal Minister for
European and
International Affairs
Beate Meinl-Reisinger

If we want to successfully combat antisemitism, we must be persistent and flexible. Persistent, because antisemitic narratives run through all radical and extremist ideologies. Flexible, because antisemitism manifests itself in ever new forms. We must not let up and we must constantly adapt to new challenges because we must not allow our democratic values to be attacked in this unscrupulous way.

I am confident that Austria is playing a pioneering role in the fight against antisemitism. In 2021, Austria was one of the first countries in the EU to adopt a national strategy, which has now also been adapted to the current situation. With its National Strategy against Antisemitism 2.0, Austria is once again proving that it is taking effective action at the right time. The successes at European level are also largely thanks to Austria. In 2018, during the Austrian Presidency of Council, the European Council unanimously adopted the first joint declaration on this issue. This provided the basis for the 2021 EU strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life.

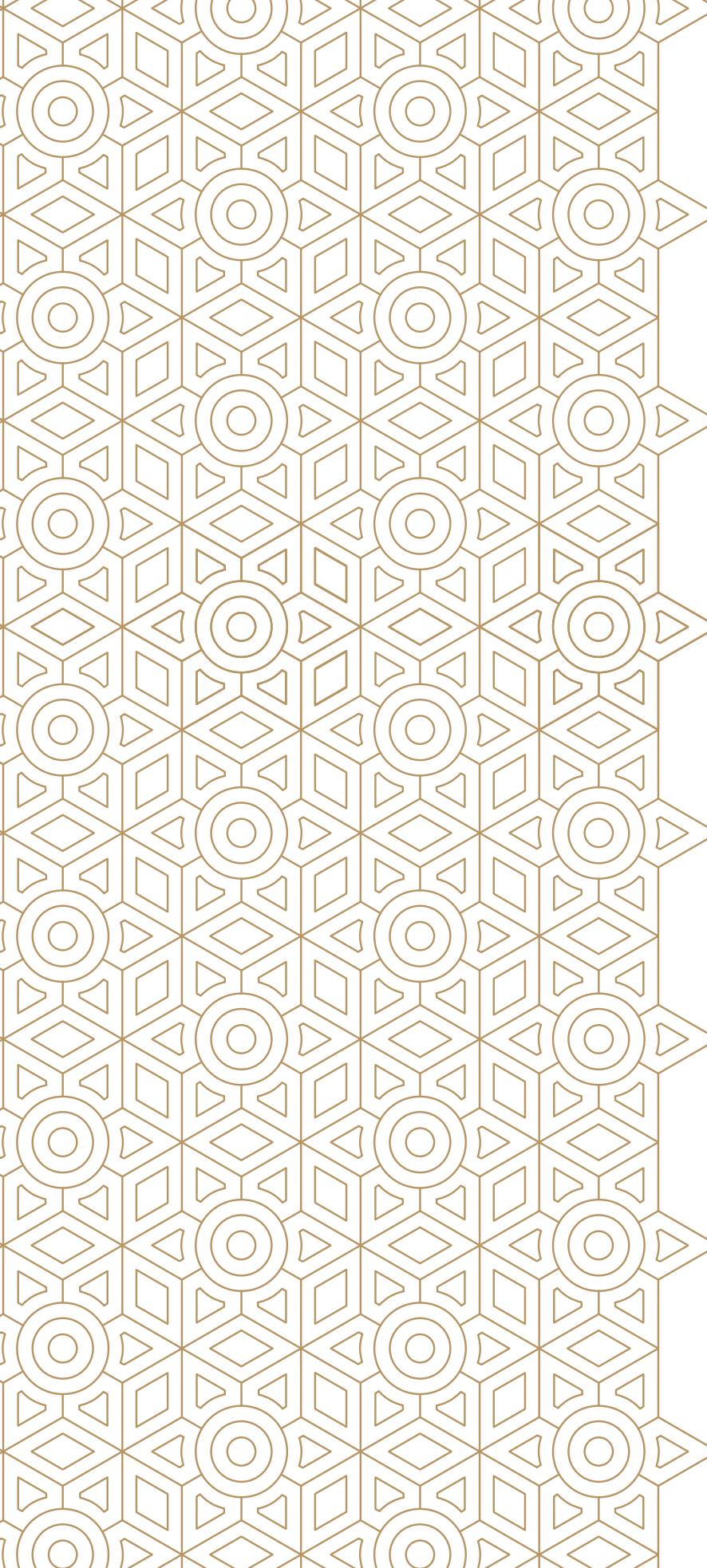
Today, 23 of the 27 EU countries have drawn up their own national strategies, 20 countries have antisemitism commissioners, and all of them use the working definition of antisemitism of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA). At EU level, in the fight against radicalisation and antisemitic hate speech, we are supplementing the National Strategy in the digital space with the “Code of Conduct on Countering Illegal Hate Speech Online”, which is part of the Digital Services Act.

Europe stands firmly alongside Jewish people. We want to strengthen Jewish life and thereby also strengthen our democracy. Austria is showing how this can be done, and sending an important signal – not just to Jewish communities, but to all EU states and their citizens – to courageously stand up to antisemitism. I would like to congratulate everyone involved for everything they have accomplished so far, and wish them every success in implementing the National Strategy against Antisemitism 2.0!



Photo: European Union

EU Commissioner for Home Affairs and Migration
Magnus Brunner



When the National Strategy against Antisemitism was presented for the first time in 2021, it was a milestone – the first ever comprehensive concept, written by a Member State of the European Union, to systematically combat antisemitism. Four years later, we are taking stock – and we can see that the challenges have grown. Particularly since the terrorist attacks committed by Hamas on 7 October 2023, we have seen a worrying increase in antisemitic incidents in Europe as well as in Austria.

These attacks range from open incitement to subtle marginalisation, and from conspiracy myths to assaults in everyday life. In the 2024 reporting year, the Reporting Centre for Antisemitism of the Jewish Community of Vienna (IKG Wien) registered a record 1,520 reported cases of antisemitic incidents – an increase of 32.5 percent compared to 2023.

The National Strategy against Antisemitism 2.0 is our response to this. It builds on the foundations of the first strategy – with new priorities and greater urgency: more consistent law enforcement measures, stronger prevention in digital media, education and society, raising awareness in tourism and administration, and closer cooperation with Jewish communities.

The task of the Federal Government is to ensure that Austria not only remembers, but also acts. This strategy is a tool for ensuring this – as well as a promise:

We cannot undo the crimes that the Jews suffered at the hands of National Socialism – but we must ensure that antisemitism has no place in our society. Yet, beyond political measures, laws and initiatives, there is something more fundamental at stake – the question of what kind of society we want to be. I believe that we must aspire to be a society that faces up to its history and derives responsibility from it. A society that understands that freedom and security are indivisible – and that no one is truly free if others have to live in fear. And a society that has learnt that remembrance is not about looking back at the past, but about guiding us in the present. And to ensure that what Primo Levi warned against never occurs: “It happened before so it can happen again.”

Jewish life belongs in Austria – and that’s where it shall stay. Because only a society that protects and respects Jewish life can also protect itself.



Photo: BKA/Andy Wenzel

State Secretary for the fight
against antisemitism
Alexander Pröll

Since the horrific massacre of Israeli civilians by the terrorist organisation Hamas on 7 October 2023, Jews around the world – including in Austria – have been exposed to an unprecedented explosion of antisemitism in terms of both quantity and quality. But rather than leading to a global show of solidarity against antisemitism, the largest antisemitic pogrom since the Shoah has fuelled it even further.

Since then, an arson attack on the Jewish cemetery in Vienna, antisemitic graffiti on kosher shops, physical assaults and verbal abuse of Jewish children, glorification of terrorism, propaganda and hate speech online and on Austria's streets against the only Jewish state in the world – all this has since been reported by the Reporting Centre for Antisemitism of the Jewish Community of Vienna. In 2024, with more than 1,520 cases – that's more than four per day – we have seen an increase of almost 33 percent compared to the previous year, setting a new negative record. Behind these figures lies a new reality for Jews, consisting of attacks and worries, police presence and massive security measures. Whether right-wing, left-wing, Muslim or antisemitism from the centre of society, the “rumour about the Jews”, as Theodor W. Adorno aptly named antisemitism, is spreading in a completely uninhibited manner and at an ever-increasing pace, all too often mutating into the “rumour about Israel” as the most common manifestation of antisemitism today.

The threatening situation must serve as a wake-up call to everyone in politics and civil society that we are in danger of losing the fight against the evil spirit of hatred if we do not oppose it even more resolutely. Antisemitism is a stress test for society as a whole, for our democracy and for the fundamental values that define us as Austria and Europe.

With its National Strategy against Antisemitism, which was launched in 2021, and the Package of Measures against Antisemitism and Antisemitic Disinformation in the Digital Sphere added in 2024, Austria has set a political milestone in place in the fight against all forms of antisemitism and is now a role model in Europe. It is a great achievement that this strategy exists and that the majority of measures it contains have now been successfully implemented. However, as we can see every day, this does not mean that the goal has been achieved. The fight against antisemitism is ongoing and permanent – it must be waged at all levels of, and within, society.

For this reason, we welcome the Federal Government's initiative to adapt the strategy to the current challenges and its clear commitment to remain active on an ongoing basis.

To complete this marathon, we need staying power. Each and every individual is called upon to take responsibility in this area. This starts by not turning a deaf ear when antisemitic statements are made or the Jewish state is demonised by "rumours about Israel", but instead, reporting antisemitic incidents and supporting those affected.

Our own response to the challenges is clear: to make Jewish life even more confidently visible.

Today, modern Austria is fulfilling its historical responsibility and reaffirming this by presenting its revised strategy against antisemitism. After the catastrophe of the Shoah, the fact that there is once again a thriving Jewish community in Austria today should not be taken for granted – it borders on a miracle! It must be preserved and secured in the long term.



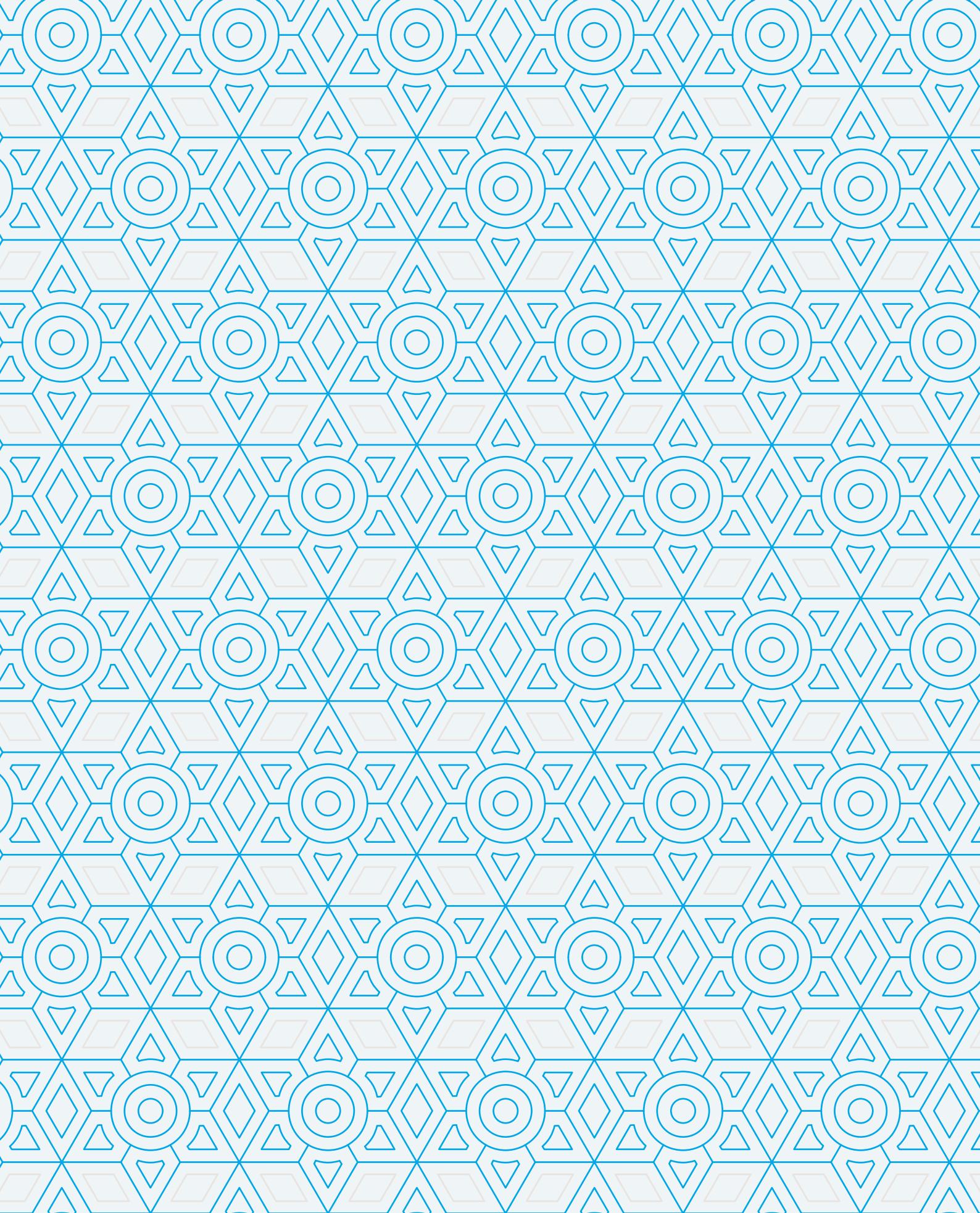
Photo: IKG Wien

President of the Jewish Religious Community of Austria
Oskar Deutsch





Introduction



In a free and democratic society, the inviolable dignity of every human being forms the foundation of our coexistence and the benchmark for our actions. When people are marginalised, threatened or attacked because of their religion or origin, this principle is seriously violated.

Antisemitism is a millennia-old phenomenon that has repeatedly led to the expulsion, persecution and extermination of the Jews. It reached its most cruel peak in the murder of 6 million Jews by the National Socialist regime of terror. It is a form of discrimination that directly puts the lives of those affected at risk, or at the very least, impairs their lives and fundamental rights. In contrast to racial discrimination, antisemitism not only portrays Jews as inferior, but also often depicts them as superior and overpowering.

Therefore, antisemitism is not directed solely against the Jewish population, but also against the foundations of our community as a whole. It functions as a distorted model for explaining the world, offering seemingly simple answers to numerous challenges – in connection with social, demographic or economic change, for example. Jews, but also non-Jewish people, are often blamed for crises and the complexity of modernity as a whole. Therefore, it is one of the central duties of the Republic of Austria to resolutely counteract antisemitic tendencies and ensure the protection of all people affected and of the liberal democratic constitutional state.

Austria has long struggled with its responsibility as a perpetrator nation. The process of coming to terms with the devastating legacy of the Shoah – the Nazi policy of exterminating European Jews – began late and hesitantly with consequences that are still felt today.¹ The early 1990s marked a turning point when Austria's shared responsibility for National Socialism was acknowledged and has now become the general consensus. This led to the development of numerous initiatives, such as the Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance, the National Fund, the Washington Agreement, the Future Fund, the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute and the Shoah Wall of Names Memorial in Vienna.

These efforts are all the more important in view of earlier failures. Austria can now look back with pride on its many achievements in areas such as education, science, security, law enforcement and the culture of remembrance. Numerous measures and initiatives contribute daily to ensuring that as many people as possible are educated about the Shoah, antisemitism, Judaism and Jewish culture, that Jews feel safe and integrated, and that the victims of National Socialism are not forgotten.

Nevertheless, surveys and statistics repeatedly show that, despite these efforts, gaps in knowledge remain within the Austrian population² and that Jews and Jewish institutions are still exposed to hostility and attacks today, and in recent years even more so.³ Antisemitism has gained momentum in many places in Europe over the last 25 years, and poses massive challenges for Jews.

1 See the publications of the Historical Commission of the Republic of Austria: hiko.univie.ac.at and the extensive collection of materials at www.erinnern.at. See also the broadcast of the TV series “Holocaust” by Marvin J. Chomsky in 1979 or the documentary film “Shoah” by Claude Lanzman from 1985 and the Austrian Media Centre: www.mediathek.at/unterrichtsmaterialien/vergangenheitsbewaeltigung-in-oesterreich (19.8.2025).

2 See, for example, Conference on Jewish material claims against Germany (Jewish Claims Conference), Index on Holocaust Knowledge and Awareness, Austria 2025: <https://www.claimscon.org/austria-study> (16.7.2025) and Parliament Austria, Antisemitism in Austria 2024: <https://www.parlament.gv.at/fachinfos/rlw/Antisemitismus-2024> (4.9.2025).

3 See European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA): Jewish People's Experiences and Perceptions of Antisemitism 2024: <https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2024/experiences-and-perceptions-antisemitism-third-survey> (16.7.2025).

To counteract this situation, during Austria's EU Presidency in the second half of 2018, the Council adopted a declaration on combating antisemitism and developing a common approach to ensuring better protection of Jewish communities and institutions in Europe.⁴

This declaration calls on all EU Member States to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to prevent and combat all forms of antisemitism as part of their strategies to prevent racism, xenophobia, radicalisation and violent extremism.⁵ In particular, they are called to step up their efforts to ensure the safety of Jewish communities, institutions and citizens.

Following the Council's declaration, the European Commission set up a working group to support Member States in implementing comprehensive strategies to prevent and combat all forms of antisemitism. The main problem areas were discussed in several meetings with the participation of experts from the European Union and the Member States.

At the same time, the development of a national strategy to prevent and combat all forms of antisemitism was initiated at the end of 2019, based on the aforementioned Council declaration, the discussions of the European Commission's working group, and the implementation of the Federal Government's 2020–2024 programme. This came about under the leadership of the Austrian Federal Chancellery (BKA) in cooperation with the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI), the Austrian Federal Ministry of Justice (BMJ), the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs (BMEIA), the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF), the Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Family and Youth (BMAFJ) and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Defence (BMLV) and the Parliamentary Administration. The measures planned in this strategy are based on contributions from the federal ministries. They also draw on the expertise of representatives of numerous non-governmental organisations, the Jewish Religious Community (IRG) and civil society.

4 See Council Declaration on combating antisemitism and developing a common security approach for ensuring better protection of Jewish communities and institutions in Europe – conclusions of the Council of 6 December 2018, Council 15213/18: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2018/12/06/fight-against-antisemitism-council-declaration/> (19.12.2025).

5 See A Union of Equality: EU Action Plan against Racism 2020–2025: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0565> (19.12.2025).

With the National Strategy against Antisemitism (NAS 1.0), presented on 21 January 2021, Austria was the first Member State of the European Union to launch a comprehensive strategy for preventing and combating all forms of antisemitism. Austria has thus taken on a pioneering role within the EU in the fight against antisemitism, especially as the strategy – for a long time unique in Europe – focuses exclusively on manifestations of antisemitism and, unlike comparable strategies in other countries, shares its focus with other forms of discrimination.

The NAS 1.0 included 38 specific measures in the areas of (vocational) training and research, security, law enforcement, integration, documentation and civil society. Since the successful combat of antisemitism requires ongoing adaptation to changing conditions and existing challenges, over the years three additional measures have been added to the NAS 1.0. Of the total number of 41 measures, 38 had been implemented by the end of the term of the NAS 1.0.

On 18 March 2024, in direct response to the massive rise in antisemitism, particularly online, since the Hamas terrorist attack on Israel on 7 October 2023, the Package of Measures against Antisemitism and Antisemitic Disinformation in the Digital Sphere (MAO package)⁶ was presented.

The MAO package supplements the NAS in the digital space and reinforces the ongoing fight against antisemitism on the Internet with 16 additional concrete measures.

The implementation of the NAS 1.0 was documented in three implementation reports 2021⁷, 2022⁸ and 2023/2024⁹ (overall evaluation of the National Strategy against Antisemitism) and submitted to Parliament.

The operational coordination of the strategy's implementation was carried out by the specially created Department IV/12 Fostering Austrian-Jewish Cultural Heritage and Combating Antisemitism (formerly: Task Force Austrian-Jewish Cultural Heritage)

6 See https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/dam/jcr:dc9a41bf-6429-438a-8dc8-498023a30d98/online-antisemitismus_massnahmenpaket_en.pdf (19.12.2025).

7 See https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/dam/jcr:2dc8734f-ad56-462c-b051-51d8870bb85d/220601_NAS-Umsetzungsbericht_Summary_EN_BF.pdf (19.12.2025).

8 See https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/dam/jcr:56ff0ec9-98e8-4a03-8bd1-892319627ce8/230504_nas_implementation_report_summary_en.pdf (19.12.2025).

9 See https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/dam/jcr:4d61b6c9-bbd7-4b5f-83f2-a864e9fa0096/250219_evaluierungsbericht-umsetzungsbericht_2023_en.pdf (19.12.2025).

of the Directorate General IV of the Federal Chancellery, in cooperation with the respective departments responsible for implementing the NAS measures. The BKA and other departments as well as the National Fund and the Future Fund have supported numerous civil society projects in implementing the NAS 1.0, which has made an important contribution to the successful implementation of the strategy.

Particular attention was paid to projects and measures aimed at preventing antisemitism and raising awareness of Jewish life and culture. Challenges relating to migration and online antisemitism were also addressed.

Nevertheless, the threat to Jewish life posed by antisemitism remains omnipresent. The attack launched by Hamas on Israel on 7 October 2023 also marked a historic turning point for Jews worldwide. Around 1,200 innocent civilians, including many children, were brutally tortured, raped, abducted and killed by Hamas terrorists. The increase in antisemitic incidents around the world has clearly shown that terrorism against Israel not only threatens Jewish life throughout the world, but also threatens all non-Jewish people who are perceived as friends of Jews or of the state of Israel.

At the same time, in the Austrian context, the particular relevance of right-wing extremist prejudices or prejudice motives behind hate crime breaching the Nazi Prohibition Act (NS-Verbotsgesetz) must continue to be taken into account.¹⁰ In view of the historical continuities of right-wing extremist antisemitism, which is reinforced by an increase in the spread of conspiracy ideologies and rampant hostility towards science, it is important to take a close look at this issue and to take appropriate measures.

Therefore, the worrying developments, especially since 7 October 2023, underline the need to update the NAS 1.0 in order to meet this constantly or repeatedly escalating challenge. Accordingly, among other things, Austria's Government Programme for 2025–2029 provides for a “strengthening and further development of the National Strategy against Antisemitism in order to cover all forms of antisemitism (right-wing, left-wing, political and religious)”¹¹.

¹⁰ See 2024 Annual Report on Hate Crime, https://www.bmi.gv.at/408/Projekt/files/160_2025_Hate_Crime_Bericht_2024_V20250723_webBF.pdf (18.8.2025).

¹¹ See https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/dam/jcr:8d78b028-70ba-4f60-a96e-2fca7324fd03/Regierungsprogramm_2025-2029.pdf (18.8.2025).

The Jewish communities and their cultural and intellectual life are and will remain an important part of Austrian society and history. The diverse measures proposed by the NAS are intended to ensure that antisemitism in our country is deprived of its breeding ground and that Jewish life can flourish and develop freely.

Based on the evaluation of the NAS that took place at the end of 2024, a follow-up strategy was designed in 2025, once again under the leadership of the Austrian Federal Chancellery (BKA) and in close cooperation with the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI), the Austrian Federal Ministry of Justice (BMJ), the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs (BMEIA), the Austrian Federal Ministry of Defence (BMLV), the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education (BMB), the Austrian Federal Ministry for Women, Science and Research (BMFWF), the Austrian Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs, Energy and Tourism (BMWET) and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Housing, Arts, Culture, Media and Sport (BMWFKMS). The Parliamentary Administration, the National Fund, the Future Fund of the Republic of Austria and the Mauthausen Concentration Camp Memorial also took part. In addition to the Jewish Religious Community (IRG), other representatives of civil society contributed their expertise to the development of the measures presented here.

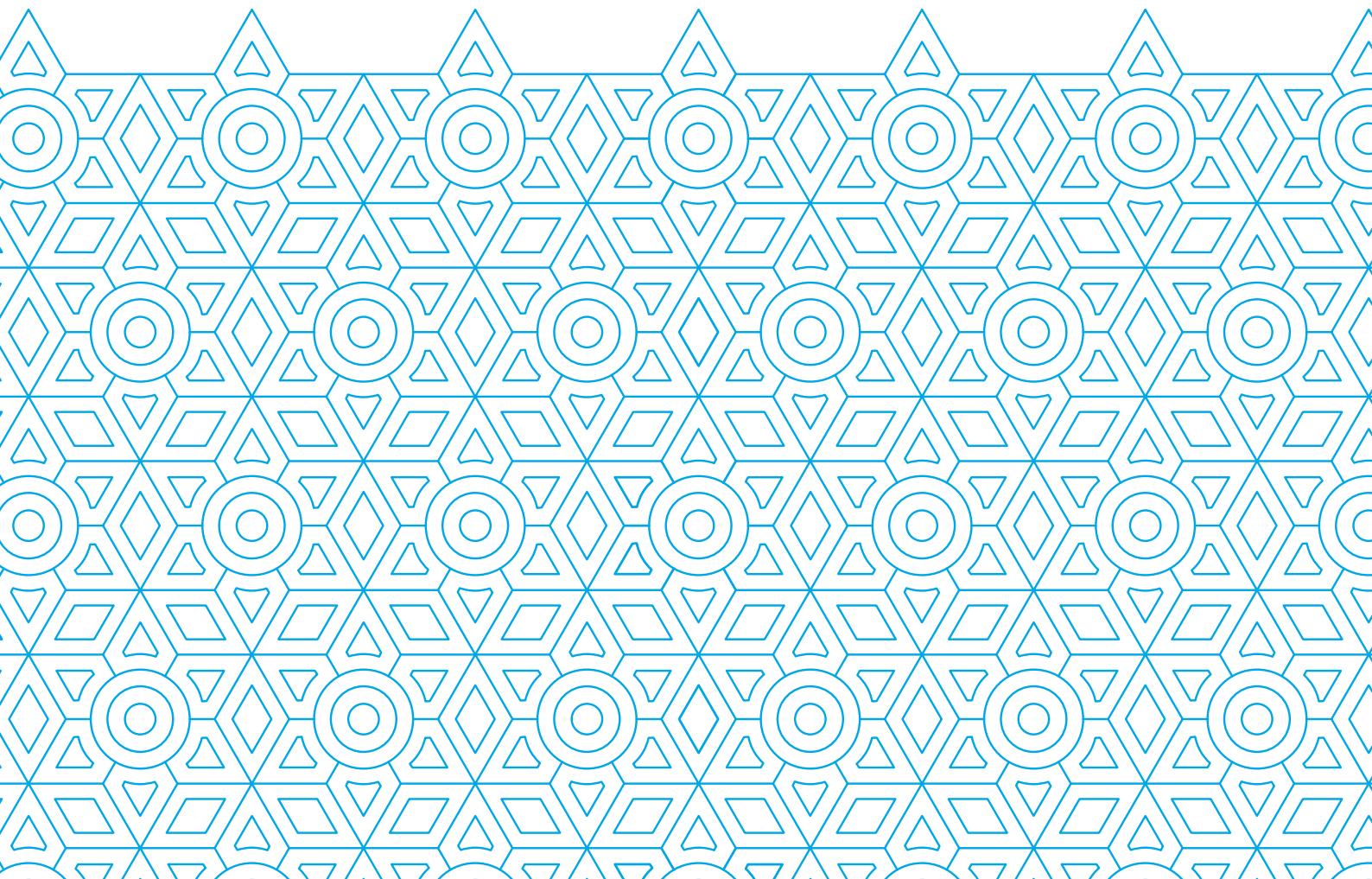
The comprehensive involvement of all these partners enabled the scope of the new NAS to be expanded as widely as possible. This is because antisemitism is not a phenomenon limited to certain population groups or regions – it can manifest itself anywhere in society and in any place. Therefore, it is essential to design countermeasures in such a way that they reach all citizens and all areas of societal life.

Thus, preventing and combating antisemitism is a task for society as a whole, which governments and societies must tackle in equal measure.

Like its predecessor, this strategy should be regarded as a guide and as the impetus for taking concrete further steps, drawing joint conclusions, implementing initiatives and strengthening existing best practices.

The federal ministries are committed to implementing the measures of the National Strategy against Antisemitism. Budgetary coverage of the measures is guaranteed by the respective regular funds available to the respective departments.

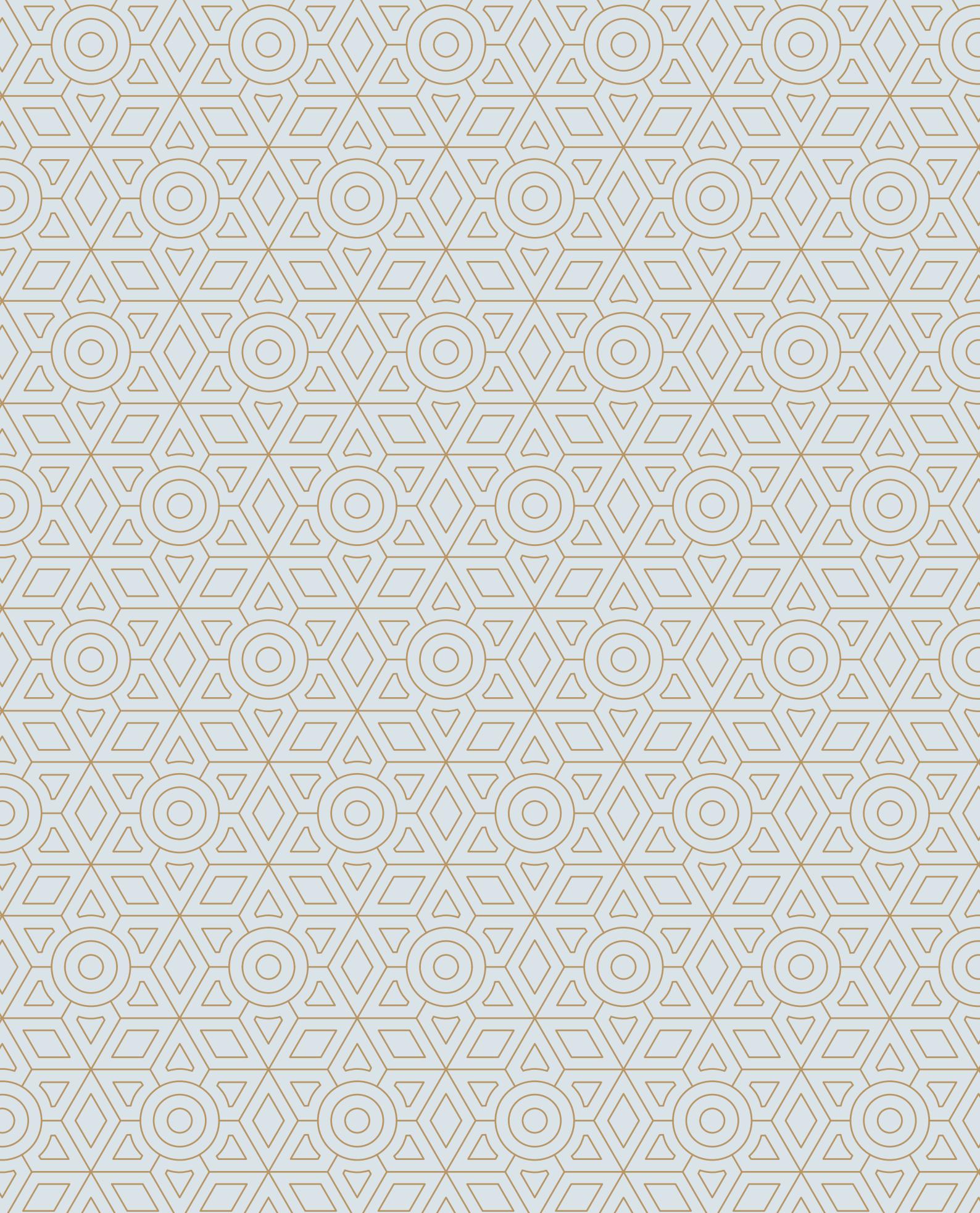
Antisemitism is not directed solely against the Jewish population, but also against the foundations of our community as a whole.





||

Summary, objectives and measures



1 Summary

The National Strategy against Antisemitism (NAS 2.0) represents Austria's clear responsibility to resolutely combat antisemitism and protect Jewish life. Building on the previous strategy for 2021–2024 (NAS 1.0), it formulates concrete objectives and measures – in education and research as well as in security, integration, media and civil society. In doing so, it contributes to protecting and sustainably strengthening democratic values and fundamental rights.

The measures taken by the NAS 2.0 are both preventative and reactive. Antisemitic incitement, attacks and assaults – both in the digital space and the analogue world – are to be effectively prevented and consistently combatted. In addition, the memory of the victims of the Shoah is to be promoted so that their life stories and fates are not forgotten but are preserved for future generations.

The NAS 2.0 is also intended to help educate the broadest possible sections of the population about antisemitism and its dangers. This requires comprehensive prevention work in order to reach all levels of society and thus counteract the spread of antisemitic attitudes from the outset.

Within the context of the NAS 1.0, numerous measures have been implemented that are internationally regarded as examples of best practices in preventing and combating antisemitism. Nevertheless, it needs to be constantly further developed and adapted as antisemitism is not a static phenomenon but evolves along with the

society that supports it. Coordinated measures are necessary to effectively counter these constantly changing forms of antisemitism. In this sense, the NAS 2.0 is not intended to replace the NAS 1.0, but rather to supplement and continue it.

Every day, our society is confronted with a multitude of challenges that pose potential threats to social cohesion, security and peace in our country. It is not easy to answer the question of how to effectively eliminate the breeding ground for antisemitism, racism, extremism and terrorism. It can only be done if numerous players work together, based on a proactive, social approach that incorporates tried and tested methods and is not afraid to try out new ones.

In order to prevent and combat all forms of antisemitism and to promote Jewish life and Jewish culture in Austria, the following objectives and measures must be implemented.

2 Objectives

This strategy of the Republic of Austria pursues the objective of ensuring that Jewish life can continue to flourish in Austria in the long term, curbing antisemitism in all its forms and preserving the memory of the victims of the Shoah.

The following strategic pillars and objectives are essential for this:

1. Security.Law Enforcement

Expanding reporting and recording systems, protecting Jewish individuals and institutions, ensuring the effective prosecution of antisemitism and closing legal loopholes

2. Education.Resilience

Strengthening prevention work in schools, providing further training for teachers, expanding educational programmes, implementing and financing projects in the education sector, and raising awareness among different professional groups in everyday life

3. Digital Sphere.Media

Strengthening civil society's resilience, intensifying cooperation with online platforms, expanding international cooperation and raising awareness among media representatives

4. Integration.Dialogue

Teaching democratic values and basic historical education, strengthening cooperation with the Islamic Religious Authority, implementing and financing projects in the area of integration

5. Remembrance.Commemoration.Culture

Strengthening the culture of remembrance, promoting international cooperation, implementing and financing projects in the area of remembrance and commemorative culture

6. Research.Documentation

Further developing antisemitism research, strengthening existing research structures, implementing and funding topic-specific research projects

7. EU.International Dimension

Promoting initiatives to combat antisemitism and making Jewish life and culture visible at European and international level

8. Society.Democracy.Sport

Ensuring a society-wide approach and exchange between government and private institutions to combat all forms of antisemitism

3 Measures

Security.Law Enforcement

- 1 Combating prejudice-motivated crime as part of the National Action Plan against Hate Crime
- 2 Expanding offence codes relating to antisemitic motives in legal databases
- 3 Evaluating the 2023 Amendment to the Prohibition Act
- 4 Creating guidelines on prohibited symbols for official use
- 5 Raising awareness among prisoners in the prison system

Education.Resilience

- 6 Further developing school organisation and culture in order to respond appropriately to antisemitism
- 7 Establishing and monitoring curricula for the prevention of antisemitism
- 8 Supporting schools and school authorities in teaching values and preventing extremism
- 9 Carrying out research projects on teaching practices in the field of antisemitism prevention
- 10 Promoting and financing visits to memorial sites (mobility grant)
- 11 Expanding dialogue initiatives that promote exchange between young people from different social, religious and cultural backgrounds
- 12 Raising awareness among members of the general administrative service through the Federal Academy of Public Administration
- 13 Developing awareness-raising campaigns for professional groups with public access

Digital Sphere.Media

- 14 Developing a social media presence to communicate the strategy and its content
- 15 Supporting civil society reporting and counselling centres
- 16 Promoting the development of automated systems to recognise and combat antisemitic hate speech and fake news on the Internet
- 17 Promoting trusted flagger organisations within the meaning of the Digital Services Act
- 18 Producing a podcast about Jewish history, culture and antisemitism
- 19 Launching an online media campaign on antisemitism and further developing the website antisemitismus.gv.at
- 20 Intensifying cooperation with international partners and active participation in EU bodies

- 21 Intensifying cooperation with platform operators
- 22 Providing information services for journalists
- 23 Promoting antisemitism-critical media literacy among the general population

Integration.Dialogue

- 24 Extending the integration declaration for persons entitled to asylum and subsidiary protection to include a declaration against antisemitism
- 25 Including antisemitism as a mandatory cross-cutting issue in integration programmes
- 26 Further developing the Documentation Centre for Political Islam
- 27 Actively involving the Islamic Religious Authority in preventing and combating antisemitism
- 28 Expanding the values and orientation courses
- 29 Organising visits to memorial sites as part of the values and orientation courses
- 30 Community formats in cooperation with Jewish organisations

Remembrance.Commemoration.Culture

- 31 Launching a review process for a potential Austrian Holocaust Museum
- 32 Promoting and strengthening Jewish cultural and community life in Austria
- 33 Supporting civil society remembrance and commemoration initiatives
- 34 Making places of Nazi crimes visible in cooperation with federal states and municipalities
- 35 Examining an amendment to the war graves conservation laws

Research.Documentation

- 36 Establishing a documentation centre in the Federal Chancellery
- 37 Continuing comprehensive empirical surveys and research on behalf of Parliament
- 38 Further developing the working group on antisemitism research at the Austrian Academy of Sciences
- 39 Contributions of the Austrian consortium EHRI-AT to the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure
- 40 Permanent anchoring of right-wing extremism research at the Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance

EU.International Dimension

- 41** Continuing the like-minded EU Member State group European Conference on Antisemitism
- 42** Strengthening cooperation within the framework of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and preparing for the Austrian Presidency
- 43** Including antisemitism clauses in standard contracts of the Austrian Development Agency
- 44** Engaging against antisemitism in the context of Austrian development cooperation (Three-Year Programme 2025–2027)

Society.Democracy.Sport

- 45** Strengthening religious encounter projects, especially between young people
- 46** Promoting social cohesion among churches and religious communities
- 47** Creating a handbook for recognising right-wing extremism in football
- 48** Implementing a three-stage plan against discrimination in sport
- 49** Annual report to the National Council and evaluation of the NAS 2.0 in 2030

Operational coordination of the implementation of the measures is carried out by Department IV/12 – Fostering Austrian-Jewish Cultural Heritage and Combating Antisemitism – which is a coordination centre of the Directorate General IV – EU, International Affairs and National Coordination of the Federal Chancellery.

This strategy of the Republic of Austria pursues the goal of ensuring the continued existence of Jewish life in Austria in the long term, curbing antisemitism in all its forms and preserving the memory of the victims of the Shoah.





Current situation



1 Political and legal framework conditions

Austria is a party to the most important international conventions for the protection of fundamental and human rights, and a member of the European Union. This results in an obligation to combat and prevent antisemitism and to take action against racism, discrimination and intolerance.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights enshrines the principles of freedom, equality and human dignity as well as the prohibition of discrimination.¹² At national level, the principle of equality is constitutionally guaranteed in Article 7 of the Federal Constitution and concretised by the exclusion of “No privileges are granted on the basis of birth, sex, gender, estate, class or faith.”

International responsibilities:

- **International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD, 1972/73):** Austria has undertaken to prohibit any discrimination based on “race, colour, descent or national/ethnic origin” and to take active measures against discrimination.

12 See United Nations General Assembly Resolution 217 A (III) adopted on 10 December 1948: [https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_217\(III\).pdf](https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_217(III).pdf) (22.12.2025).

- **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR, 1978):** contains a ban on discrimination (Article 26) and a ban on incitement to hatred or violence based on race or religion (Article 20 (2)). Freedom of expression may be restricted if this violates the rights or reputation of others (Article 19 (3)).
- **European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR, 1958):** guaranteed at constitutional level in Austria and directly enforceable. It protects fundamental rights such as freedom and security, private and family life as well as religious freedom. Article 14 prohibits any discrimination, e.g. on grounds of gender, origin, religion or language. The case law of the European Court of Human Rights, which monitors compliance, is also important.

Monitoring and reporting

Austria is obliged to report regularly to treaty monitoring bodies:

- **Last state report to the CERD Committee:** February 2025 (previous review in 2012)
- **ICCPR:** last review in 2015, new report in preparation
- **Universal Periodic Review by the UN Human Rights Council:** last review in 2020, next review in January 2026

European Union

- **EU primary law:** the prohibition of discrimination is enshrined in the most important EU treaties, including Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU), Article 10 and 19 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) and Articles. 1, 3 and 20–22 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (CFR).
- **EU directives and national law:** Austria has implemented the EU requirements through the Austrian Equal Treatment Act (GIBG)¹³. The Racial Equality Directive¹⁴, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of “race” or ethnic origin, and the Employment Framework Directive¹⁵, which ensures equal treatment in working life, are particularly important.

¹³ See Federal Equal Treatment Act (Equal Treatment Act – GIBG), BGBI I No. 66/2004.

¹⁴ See Council Directive 2000/43/EC of 29 June 2000 implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin.

¹⁵ See Council Directive 2000/78/EC of 27 November 2000 establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation.

International recommendations and initiatives against antisemitism, racism and intolerance

In addition to binding legislation, international organisations such as the EU, the Council of Europe, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the United Nations (UN) issue recommendations that contribute to the development of common standards.

European Union:

- **2017:** the European Parliament called on Member States to take decisive action against antisemitism and to adopt the IHRA working definition of antisemitism.¹⁶
- **2018:** under the Austrian EU Council Presidency, the justice and interior ministers adopted a declaration against antisemitism and in favour of a joint security concept for the protection of Jewish communities.¹⁷
- **2020:** the EU Commission presented the “Anti-racism Action Plan 2020–2025”.¹⁸
- **2020:** the EU Council declared that combating antisemitism is a cross-cutting issue that must be taken into account in all policy areas.¹⁹
- **2021:** the first-ever “EU strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life (2021–2030)”²⁰

16 See https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-8-2017-0243_EN.html (19.12.2025).

17 See Council Declaration on the fight against antisemitism and the development of a common security approach to better protect Jewish communities and institutions in Europe – Council conclusions of 6 December 2018: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2018/12/06/fight-against-antisemitism-council-declaration/> (19.12.2025).

18 See Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions of 18 September 2020: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0565> (19.12.2025).

19 See Council Declaration on mainstreaming the fight against antisemitism across policy areas as of December 2020: www.consilium.europa.eu/media/47065/st13637-en20.pdf (19.8.2025).

20 See Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions as of 5 October 2025: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52021DC0615> (19.8.2025).

- **2022:** the EU Council called on all Member States to develop their own strategies and action plans for implementing the EU targets by the end of the year.²¹
- **2024:** the EU Council again emphasized the urgency of fostering Jewish life and resolutely combating antisemitism, racism and hatred.²²

United Nations (UN):

- The UN General Assembly adopted declarations on the elimination of discrimination based on religion or origin²³ and on the rights of national and religious minorities.²⁴
- **2019:** UN Special Rapporteurs published reports on religious intolerance, antisemitism and racist violence.
- **2025:** the “UN Plan of Action against Antisemitism” (under the leadership of the Alliance of Civilisations) was presented.²⁵ At the same time, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights warned of the global resurgence of antisemitic violence and online hatred.²⁶

Council of Europe:

- The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) of the Council of Europe regularly visits the signatory states to analyse the issues of racism, xenophobia, antisemitism and intolerance and to make recommendations. The last visit to Austria took place in May 2025. The general recommendations in the form of the “General Policy Recommendations” Nos. 6, 7, 9 and 15 are particularly relevant in the current context.²⁷

21 See Conclusions on combating racism and antisemitism of 2 March 2022, 6406/1/22 REV 1: <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-6406-2022-REV-1/en/pdf> (19.8.2025).

22 See Council Declaration on fostering Jewish life and combating Antisemitism of 15 October 2024, 14245/24: <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-14245-2024-INIT/en/pdf> (19.8.2025).

23 See UN General Assembly Resolution 36/55 of 25 November 1981: https://legal.un.org/avl/ha/ga_36-55/ga_36-55.html (19.8.2025).

24 See UN General Assembly Resolution 47/135 of 18 December 1992: <https://de.scribd.com/document/61451931/UN-General-Assembly-Resolution-A-RES-47-135-Dec-18-1992> (17.7.2025).

25 See United Nations Action Plan to Enhance Monitoring and Response to Antisemitism as of 17 January 2025: <https://www.unaoc.org/resource/action-plan-antisemitism> (17.7.2025).

26 See United Nations Action Plan to Enhance Monitoring and Response to Antisemitism as of 17 January 2025: <https://www.unaoc.org/resource/action-plan-antisemitism> (17.7.2025).

27 See www.coe.int/en/web/european-commission-against-racism-and-intolerance/ecri-standards (17.7.2025).

OSCE:

- The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and in particular its Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), deals with various issues related to antisemitism, racism and intolerance. The Special Representatives for Combating Antisemitism, Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims and Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination are a specific focus. ODIHR provides participating countries with numerous resources to combat antisemitism and other hate crimes. Within the framework of the OSCE, the respective chairmanship usually also organises an annual conference on antisemitism. This was held most recently in Helsinki (Finland) in February 2025.

2 Defining antisemitism

IHRA working definition

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) is an intergovernmental organisation with a permanent secretariat in Berlin. In 1998, on Sweden's initiative, it was set up as a task force for international co-operation in education, remembrance and research on the Holocaust. The founding document of the Alliance is the Stockholm Declaration.²⁸ As an international network, the IHRA aims to promote education and research on the topic of the Holocaust and its commemoration at both national and international level.

On 26 May 2016, at its plenary session in Bucharest, the IHRA adopted the Working Definition of Antisemitism. Following intensive discussions between the IHRA Committee of Experts on Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial, the long-standing wish for a working definition of antisemitism supported by all (then 31) IHRA member states was thus realised. The Alliance derived its legitimisation for this step from the aforementioned Stockholm Declaration, which reads: "With humanity still scarred by genocide, ethnic cleansing, racism, antisemitism and xenophobia, the international community shares a solemn responsibility to fight those evils."

28 Stockholm Declaration: <https://holocaustremembrance.com/resources/stockholm-declaration> (19.12.2025).

A comprehensive evaluation carried out in 2015/16 under Austrian leadership led to the adoption of the new IHRA strategy 2019–2023. Under the motto “Countering distortion and safeguarding the record”, the Alliance is to become more powerful and to realise its academic and political potential in order to be better prepared for the challenges of today.

The preliminary conclusion of this development was the consensus adoption of the so-called IHRA Ministerial Declaration on 19 January 2020.²⁹ This is a political declaration of intent that is based on the Stockholm Declaration, but which goes beyond it in terms of content. It particularly emphasizes the importance of the IHRA in view of the current threat to democratic values and social cohesion.

It is also emphasized that the Alliance’s scope of action has expanded significantly since its foundation, for example through the inclusion of the genocide of the Roma and Sinti people, the adoption of working definitions of Holocaust denial and trivialisation as well as antisemitism or research into the connections between the Holocaust and genocide or other mass crimes. Finally, the importance of contemporary influence diplomacy in the face of today’s challenges is also emphasized.

The working definition of antisemitism is a non-legally binding text.³⁰ It is based on a draft prepared by the predecessor organisation of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), which was subsequently further developed by the experts of the IHRA Committee on Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial.

In addition to the actual working definition, the full text includes a number of examples of antisemitism that serve to guide the IHRA in its work. These examples include:³¹ false, dehumanising, demonising or stereotypical accusations against Jews or the power of Jews as a collective; myths about a global Jewish conspiracy or about the control of the media, the economy, governments or other social institutions

29 See IHRA Ministerial Declaration of 19 January 2020: [holocaustremembrance.com/news- archive/ihra-2020-ministerial-declaration](https://holocaustremembrance.com/news-archive/ihra-2020-ministerial-declaration) (17.7.2025).

30 Article 1 (2) of the Rules of Procedure of the IHRA reads: “These Working Rules do not constitute an international agreement and are not intended to give rise to any rights or obligations under international law”.

31 See IHRA working definition: <https://holocaustremembrance.com/resources/working-definition-antisemitism> (19.8.2025).

by Jews; denying the fact, the extent, the mechanisms (e.g. the gas chambers) or the premeditation of the genocide of Jews; calling for the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or extremist religious belief, as well as aiding and abetting or justifying such acts; accusing Jews as a people or the State of Israel of fabricating or exaggerating the Holocaust; applying double standards by demanding behaviour from Israel that is not expected or required of any other democratic state; denying the right of the Jewish people to self-determination; using symbols and images associated with traditional antisemitism to describe Israel or Israelis; comparing current Israeli policies with the policy of the National Socialists; holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the State of Israel. These examples are not part of the actual working definition, but are of an explanatory nature.

Austria has advocated the development of a working definition of antisemitism and campaigned for its adoption within the IHRA. Austria also later supported the initiative launched by the German OSCE Chairmanship in 2017 for the OSCE to adopt the IHRA working definition, but this did not come to fruition.

On 25 April 2017, the Austrian Federal Government took note of and approved the IHRA's working definition of antisemitism and decided to forward it to the National Council and Federal Council for information and possible further consideration.³² At the same time, the Federal Government recommended that the working definition of antisemitism be used, for example, in school and adult education as well as in judicial and executive training.

32 See Presentation by the Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs to the Council of Ministers of 25 April 2017: https://services.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/mrv-xxv/40/40_15_MRV.pdf (19.8.2025).

The working definition of antisemitism adopted by the IHRA is:

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews which may be expressed as hatred towards 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.”³³

According to the understanding of the IHRA, the definition should not be used to restrict expressions of opinion through political instrumentalisation. For example, criticism of Israel that is comparable to that of other states cannot be considered antisemitic.

In the aforementioned resolution of 1 June 2017, the European Parliament called on all EU Member States to adopt the IHRA working definition. In the aforementioned declaration of the Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs of 6 December 2018, the “Member States that have not yet done so” are called upon to “support the non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism used by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance as a useful guide in general and vocational education and training, including for law enforcement authorities in their efforts to more efficiently and effectively identify and investigate antisemitic attacks”.

To date, the following countries have adopted the IHRA working definition in a nationally specific form (in chronological order): Israel, United Kingdom, Germany, Sweden, United States of America, France, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Austria, Argentina, Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Norway, Denmark, Latvia, Romania, Switzerland, Belgium, Croatia, Greece, Slovakia, Estonia, Spain, Canada, Finland, Ireland, Serbia, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Australia, Portugal and North Macedonia.

In addition, numerous international organisations and civil society actors have also adopted the working definition, including the UN, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the European Union, the OSCE, ODIHR, the Arolsen Archives, the Council of Europe, the Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany (Jewish Claims Conference), Global Action against Mass Atrocity Crimes (GAAMAC) and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA).

33 See IHRA working definition: <https://holocaustremembrance.com/resources/arbeitsdefinition-antisemitism> (19.8.2025).

3 Manifestations of antisemitism³⁴

Modern antisemitism

Antisemitism takes many different forms that arise from different ideological, cultural and political contexts. Supporters of antisemitic attitudes can be found today in the right-wing, left-wing and Islamist ideological spectrum as well as in the centre of society. Hatred of Jews still fulfils the function of a simplistic explanation of the world today and expresses itself – sometimes paired with anti-capitalism, anti-imperialism, anti-colonialism or anti-Americanism – in the delusion of a “Jewish world power” or a global “Jewish conspiracy”, linked to discourses about “globalist elites”, the so-called “population exchange” or the myth of “cultural Marxism”.

Particularly in National Socialism and in new right-wing movements, ideas of “racial” otherness are the primary starting point for antisemitic resentment. For other groups, especially on the extreme left and also in the Islamist sphere, the Middle East conflict is a central point of reference today. The basic thought patterns of the current manifestations of antisemitism are not new; rather, traditional antisemitic structures are being adapted to the respective social and global political conditions. They are closely linked with each other, but differ in the political motivation behind them and the rhetoric used.

Anti-Judaism

Anti-Judaism is a form of antisemitism, which is understood to be religiously based hostility towards Jews. It encompasses the degradation, disenfranchisement, persecution and murder of Jews because of their religion. Although anti-Judaism has existed for longer than Christianity, it was precisely the inflammatory and anti-Judaic propaganda of the Church in Roman antiquity and the Middle Ages that was a key driver for the spread of hatred of Jews and an element of state repression in Europe. For example, Jews were blamed for the death of Jesus (Christ's murder) and accused of hostility towards Christians. Other common anti-Jewish stereotypes include host desecration accusations and blood libels. The so-called “scapegoat theory”, according to which Jews were held responsible for all ills, such as the outbreak of the plague, also has its origins in religious anti-Judaism. More modern forms of antisemitism are still partly linked to anti-Judaic narratives, which are also constantly updated in modern conspiracy theories.

34 See <https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/kampagne-gegen-antisemitismus.html> (18.8.2025).

Racist antisemitism

In the context of the legal equality of Jews in the 19th century, the traditional hatred of Jews, which was characterised by religion, increasingly turned into racially based hostility towards Jews. With reference to the pseudo-scientific and biologically argued “racial theory”, the so-called “Jewish question” was presented as a “racial problem”, according to which Jews are seen as different, not belonging to society and not able to integrate. Anti-Judaic narratives have also been picked up and updated; Jews were made scapegoats for social crises and presented as “greedy”, and wanting to unlawfully enrich themselves at the expense of “others”. Under National Socialism, this form of hatred towards Jews became increasingly radicalised, and culminated in the murder of six million Jews from all over Europe.

However, the end of National Socialism by no means meant an end to the hatred of Jews. Combined with other forms of antisemitism, racist antisemitism still manifests itself today in false, unquestioned and stereotypical attributions of supposed character traits, blanket accusations of guilt and the construct of a projected Jewish threat.

Secondary antisemitism

In secondary antisemitism, a particularly defensive attitude is adopted towards the guilt-ridden past of the National Socialist persecution of the Jews. This form of antisemitism is therefore also known as “guilt defence antisemitism” or “post-Shoah antisemitism”. There are many reasons for this, including disinterest, externalisation (others were and are responsible), reference to the alleged social antisemitic consensus, moral overloading and emotional burden or a competition between victims and memories.

Secondary antisemitism also manifests itself in the trivialisation, relativisation or denial of the Holocaust. This is accompanied by a perpetrator-victim reversal, for example, in which the antisemitic narrative that Jews are to blame or are complicit in the hatred of Jews is perpetuated.

Israel-related antisemitism

We speak of Israel-related antisemitism when antisemitic prejudices are transferred to the state of Israel – in other words, when criticism of the policies of the state of

Israel is linked to antisemitic prejudices, and the state of Israel is used as a projection screen for the dissemination of anti-Jewish stereotypes.

Israel-related antisemitism is particularly dangerous because it spreads antisemitic attempts at explanations that are not immediately recognisable as such, as they are understood as “criticism” of the state of Israel. Furthermore, this form of antisemitism in particular can be observed in all (ideological) milieus. In addition, all Jews are often equated with the state of Israel.

Anti-Zionism also often goes hand in hand with Israel-related antisemitism and is sometimes used as a cover for expressing antisemitic resentment. Anti-Zionism is an ideology that rejects Zionism and thus the state of Israel as a sovereign Jewish state. Israel-related antisemitism must be distinguished from legitimate criticism of the policies of the state of Israel. Of course, not every criticism of Israel is automatically antisemitic. The so-called “3-D test for antisemitism” can be helpful in recognising Israel-related antisemitism: Is Israel demonised, viewed with double standards or delegitimised?

The first D stands for demonisation. This includes, for example, comparisons of Israeli policy with the crimes of the National Socialists, such as when Palestinian refugee camps are equated with Auschwitz, or Gaza with the Warsaw Ghetto. Slogans such as “Israel, murderer of children” also demonise and revive the antisemitic blood libels, which have their origins in the Middle Ages.

The second D stands for double standards. This is the case when Israel is treated and evaluated differently from other democratic states, for example, when similar policies of other states are not criticised as harshly as those of Israel. One example of this is the call to boycott Israeli goods, while no such call to boycott goods exists for other countries where serious human rights violations regularly occur.

The third D stands for delegitimisation. This is the case when Israel is denied its right to exist. This occurs, for example, with the slogan “From the river to the sea (... Palestine will be free)” which calls for the establishment of a Palestinian state from the Jordan to the Mediterranean, effectively wiping Israel off the map.

Islamic or Islamist antisemitism

Antisemitism has a long tradition not only in Europe, but also in Muslim-dominated societies. Therefore, anti-Judaism is not limited to Christianity, but can also be found in Islam. The Koran contains several passages that portray Jews as cowardly and hostile, for example, or that disparage them by comparing them to animals. Nevertheless, Jews have been able to lead relatively safe lives for centuries as subjects of protection in Islamic countries.

Where Islamic antisemitism is concerned, antisemitic ideas from two sources merge – Islamic anti-Judaism from the 7th and 8th centuries and antisemitic conspiracy theories with European origins. Islamic antisemitism combines the most negative images of Jews from Christianity and Islam. Here, the Muslim traditions of Jewish weakness and cowardice are combined with the idea of the “Jew” as the secret ruler of the world, linking the 7th century to the 20th century.

Especially in the context of the Middle East conflict and the mobilisation of sympathisers, this tradition is being continued and familiar stereotypes are being instrumentalised for political purposes. This linking of religious enemy stereotypes with antisemitic conspiracy theories is becoming radicalised today, even extending as far as the eliminatory objectives of radical Islamist organisations. One example of this is the Palestinian terrorist organisation Hamas, which openly calls for the killing of Jews and the destruction of Israel in its charter.

4 Antisemitism in the world

Antisemitism is not a purely European phenomenon, but manifests itself worldwide. Although it can be difficult to establish valid trends and data about antisemitism at a global level, various surveys, studies and the recording of antisemitic incidents by state or civil society organisations can contribute to gaining a global picture of the current situation. One of the most comprehensive surveys, the “Global 100 survey” conducted by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), found that in 2025, 46 percent of the world’s adult population – an estimated 2.2 billion people – harbour deeply-rooted antisemitic attitudes. That is more than twice as many as in the ADL’s first global survey conducted in 2014, and the highest figure since the ADL began recording these trends worldwide. The survey also revealed that 20 percent of those surveyed around the world had never heard of the Holocaust. Less than half (48 percent) recognise the historical accuracy of the Holocaust, with this figure dropping to 39 percent among 18 to 34-year-olds, highlighting a worrying demographic trend. There has also been an increase in antisemitic attitudes (50 percent) among people aged 18 to 29, which is 13 percentage points higher than among those aged 50 and over.³⁵

At European level, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) conducts surveys on discrimination and hate crimes against Jews at irregular intervals. The third FRA survey sheds light on their experiences and perceptions of antisemitism and shows the challenges they face when they want to live their Jewish lives openly. The survey was conducted before the Hamas attacks were launched on 7 October 2023 and before Israel’s military response in the Gaza Strip. The report contains information about antisemitism as perceived by those affected. Almost 8,000 Jews aged 16 or older from 13 EU Member States took part in the online survey from January to June 2023. The survey reveals that 76 percent of those surveyed across the EU hide their Jewish identity at least occasionally. 34 percent avoid Jewish events or places because they do not feel safe there. Over the years, research conducted by the FRA has shown that antisemitism tends to increase in times of

35 See <https://www.adl.org/resources/press-release/46-adults-worldwide-hold-significant-antisemitic-beliefs-adl-poll-finds> (19.12.2025).

tension in the Middle East. In this survey, 75 percent said that they felt responsible for the actions of the Israeli government because of their Jewish origin.³⁶

Furthermore, various civil society organisations in many European countries collect data on antisemitic incidents – both below and above the threshold of criminal liability. This data is summarised in an annual report published by the FRA.³⁷

5 Antisemitism in Austria

Antisemitic ideas as an ideological element have been constantly redesigned and adjusted to new or changed social constellations by followers and actors of this ideology for thousands of years. The manifestations of antisemitism have become more disparate in the present day. Antisemitism exists in different forms and in various extremist guises – even across ideological boundaries. The dimensions of antisemitic ideology cannot generally be limited to indicators such as education, gender, age, origin or religion, but in Austria, continue to occur with above-average frequency among people with an extreme right-wing ideology, as can be seen from the latest Right-wing Extremism Barometer 2024 realised by the Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance (DÖW).³⁸

At the end of the Shoah, openly displayed antisemitism was banned in Austria. Although there were only a few Jews living in Austria compared to the time before 1938, antisemitic prejudices by no means disappeared from the scene in the decades following the Second World War. In democratic Austria, antisemitism was and is present in various forms – often in connection with conspiracy theories and the associated idea of an all-powerful Jewish world conspiracy. Although it is usually verbal antisemitic statements or, especially in recent years, online written antisemitic statements that attack Jews in Austria, violent antisemitic incidents have also taken place in recent decades (such as the bombing of the Vienna City Temple (Stadttempel) in Seitenstettengasse in April 1979 or the murder of Heinz Nittel, a

36 See <https://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2024/jews-europe-still-face-high-levels-antisemitism> (19.8.2025).

37 See FRA report, Antisemitism in 2022 – Overview of antisemitic incidents recorded in the EU, <https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2023/antisemitism-overview-2012-2022> (19.8.2025).

38 See https://www.doew.at/cms/download/e1o7t/right-wing-extremism-barometer2024_v1.pdf (19.12.2025).

Vienna City Councillor of the SPÖ on 1 May 1981, for which a Palestinian terrorist group claimed responsibility).³⁹ Over the last 15 years, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of recorded antisemitic incidents. Striking increases have been recorded in the past in connection with the resurgence of armed conflicts in the Middle East and also in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, the terrorist attack by Hamas on Israel on 7 October 2023 marked a turning point in Austria and has led to an, in recent times, unprecedented escalation of antisemitic incidents, such as those described in section 5.2.

A comprehensive picture of the antisemitism phenomenon is drawn from various sources such as surveys, studies and statistics. The following section discusses some of the key elements of the current situation.

5.1 The Austrian Parliament's 2024 Antisemitism Study

The Antisemitism Study 2024⁴⁰ is part of a monitoring programme carried out every two years and is the fourth survey commissioned by the Austrian Parliamentary Administration. The study analyses the status and development of antisemitic tendencies and portrays an up-to-date picture of how widespread different forms of antisemitism are in Austria. It draws a clear distinction between manifest, latent and non-existent antisemitic attitudes, thus providing a sound basis for the social and political debate on the topic.

39 See hdgo, 1979/1981: Anschlag auf den Stadttempel und Ermordung von Heinz Nittel [(Attack on the City Temple and murder of Heinz Nittel)], <https://hdgoe.at/ermordung-nittel-anschlag-stadttempel>. But these two attacks by Palestinian terrorists did not stop there: on 29 August 1981, two men carried out an attack on the synagogue in Seitenstettengasse. The terrorists threw a hand grenade at the synagogue and fired submachine guns at visitors. A 27-year-old woman and a 71-year-old man died from gunshot wounds; 20 people were injured (see https://www.bmi.gv.at/magazinfiles/2011/05_06/files/terrorgeschichte.pdf (19.8.2025)].

40 See <https://www.parlament.gv.at/fachinfos/rlw/Antisemitismus-2024> (4.9.2025).

Key findings

The proportion of manifest antisemitic attitudes currently stands at 13 percent, while latent antisemitic attitudes can be observed in 33 percent of those surveyed.

A comparison over time shows largely comparable trends, with the exception of 2020.

Due to its special context, in particular the terrorist attack in Vienna a few days before the start of the survey, 2020 shows significant deviations in responses.

Antisemitism compared over time from 2018 to 2024

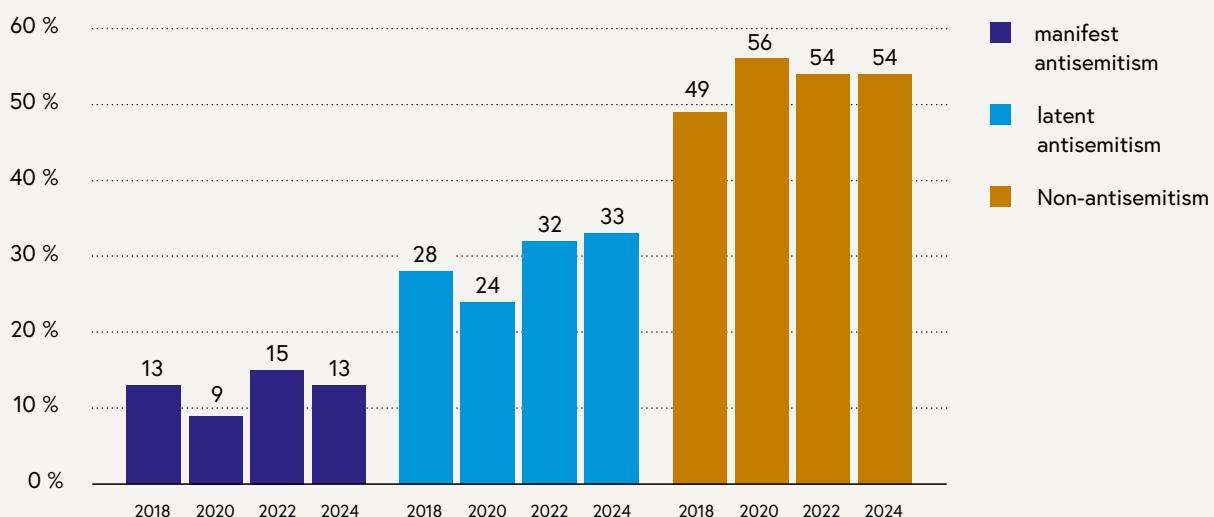


Figure 1: Recorded antisemitic attitudes compared over time from 2018 to 2024
(source: BRAINTRUST GmbH).

Factors influencing antisemitic attitudes

The study identifies an affinity for conspiracy myths and lack of knowledge about Judaism and anti-American attitudes as particularly influential drivers of antisemitic attitudes. Patriarchal attitudes and a longing for authoritarian leadership – for example in the form of a “strong man” – correlate strikingly often with antisemitic convictions.

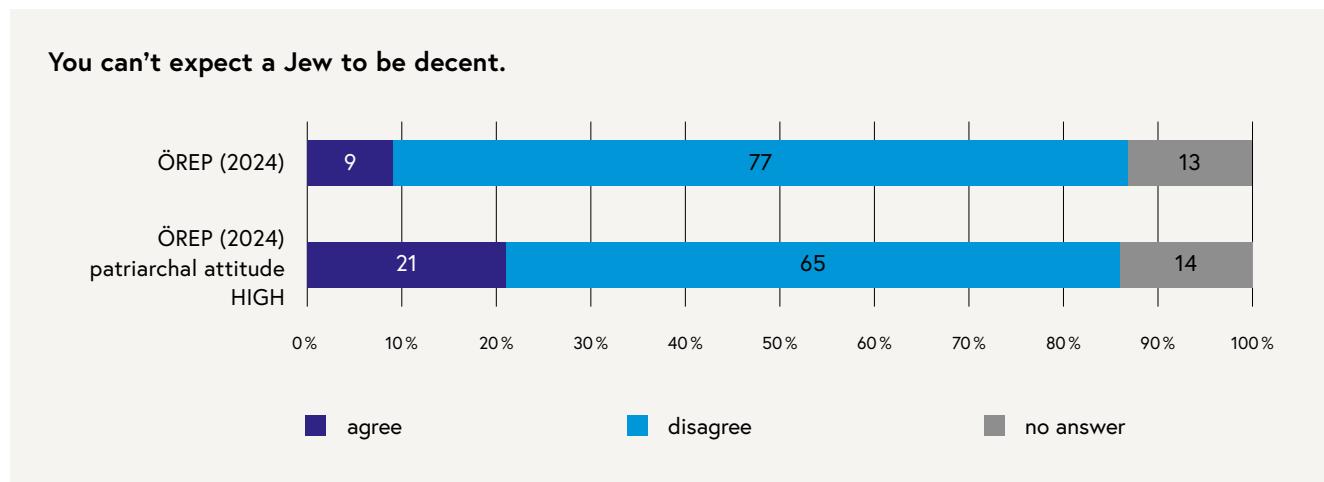


Figure 2: Comparison of responses from respondents representative of Austria (ÖREP) and people expressing a patriarchal attitude (source: BRAINTRUST GmbH).

A similar picture emerges with regard to racist-antisemitic stereotypes: 21 percent of people with patriarchal attitudes agree with the statement “You can’t expect a Jew to be decent”. In the overall population, this proportion is only nine percent.

Significantly more Israel-related antisemitism

The 2024 Antisemitism Study shows a marked increase in Israel-related antisemitism. Compared to 2022, more people have an opinion on this topic and are expressing it more strongly. It can be observed that antisemitic responses are increasing significantly, while negative attitudes are declining slightly. This trend is particularly evident in the statement: “Given the policies that Israel is pursuing, I can really understand why people have something against Jews” – here, agreement increased from 23 percent in 2022 to 31 percent in 2024. The statement “The Israelis are basically treating the Palestinians no differently than the Germans treated the Jews during the Second World War” also saw an increase in agreement from 30 to 35 percent. It is also striking that, compared to 2022, young people in particular as well as people with a university degree are more likely to agree with antisemitic statements related to Israel.

Given the policy that Israel is pursuing, I can really understand why people have something against Jews.

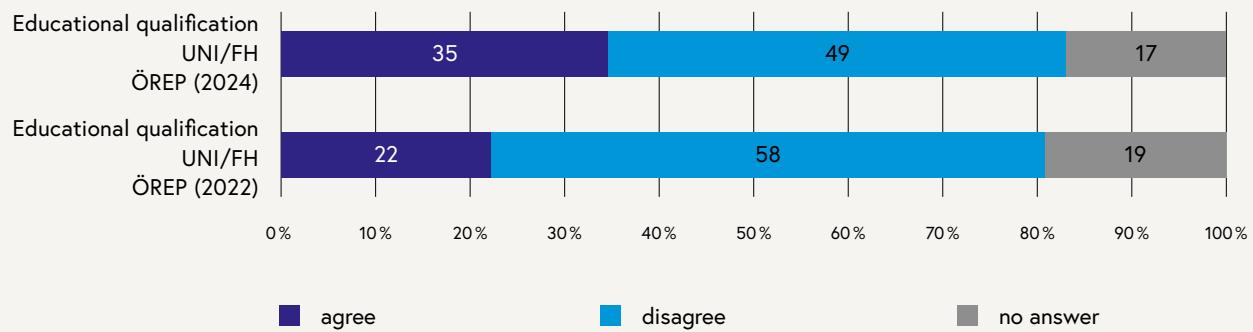


Figure 3: Comparison of responses in 2022 and 2024. Sample: ÖREP university qualification / university of applied sciences degree (source: BRAINTRUST GmbH).

The vast majority of people in Austria (72 percent) classify Hamas' attack on Israel on 7 October 2023 as an act of terrorism. Those who do not share this view, on the other hand, show a significantly stronger tendency towards antisemitic attitudes – not only in relation to Israel, but also with regard to traditional antisemitic stereotypes. For instance, 36 percent of those surveyed who do not describe the attack on 7 October 2023 as an act of terrorism, agreed with the statement: "Jews are not interested in integrating into the country in which they live. That's the main reason for their constant problems." By comparison, 21 percent of the overall population agree with this statement.

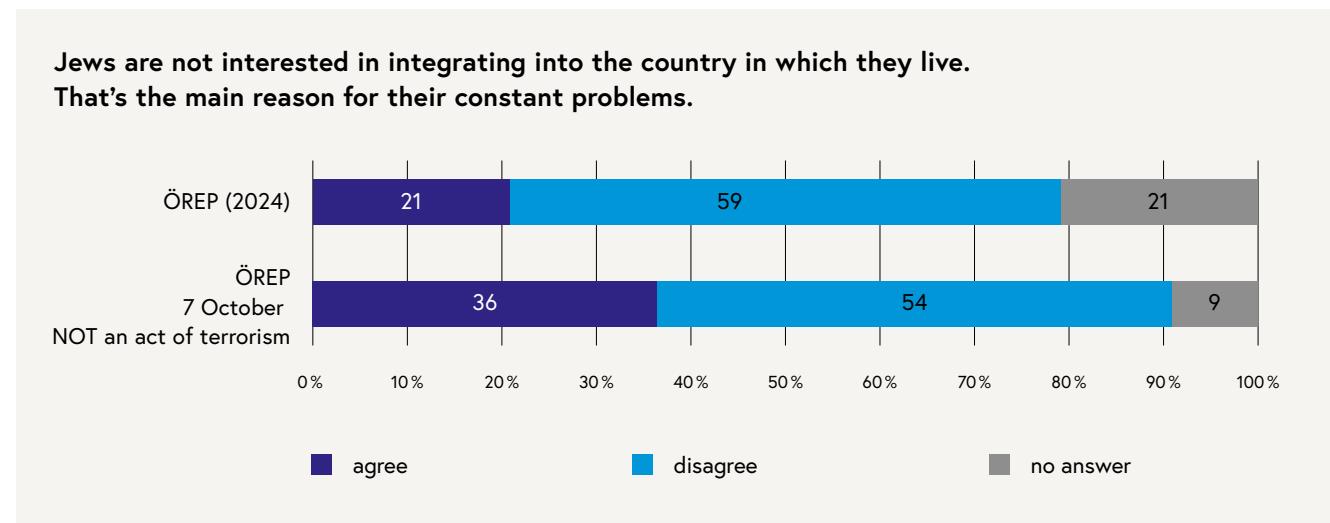


Figure 4: Comparison of responses from ÖREP and those who do not classify 7 October as an act of terrorism (source: BRAINTRUST GmbH).

This result makes it clear that the trivialisation of terrorist violence against Israel is often accompanied by a general antisemitic attitude.

Antisemitism is “getting younger”

The results for the under-25 age group confirm a pattern that was already apparent in the 2022 Antisemitism study: younger people are more likely than older generations to make antisemitic statements more frequently in several areas. For example, around 15 percent of under-25s believe that reports about concentration camps “often exaggerate the facts” – while this figure is eight percent for the overall population.

Reports about concentration camps and the persecution of Jews during the Second World War often exaggerate the facts.

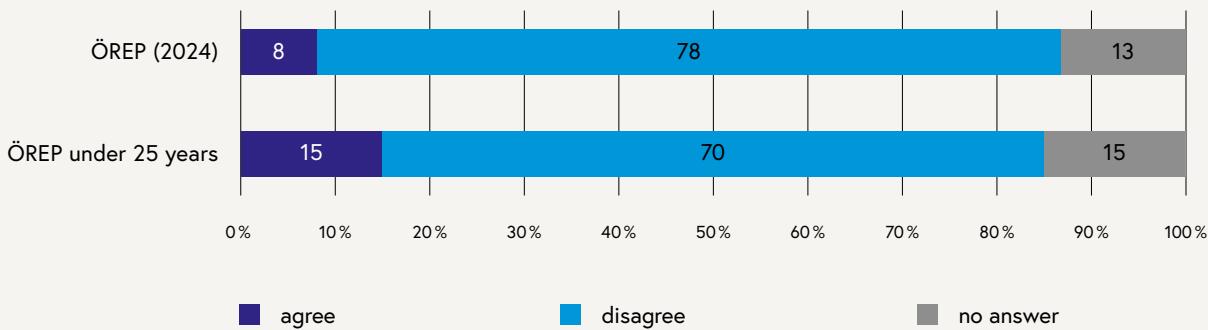


Figure 5: Comparison of responses from ÖREP and young people under 25
(source: BRAINTRUST GmbH).

28 percent of young those surveyed question Israel's right to exist by agreeing with the statement "Without Israel there would be peace in the Middle East" – compared to 14 percent of the overall population. There are also significantly higher levels of agreement with openly racist and antisemitic statements: 18 percent of under 25-year-olds agree with the statement "Jews are not decent people" – twice as many as the population average.

You can't expect a Jew to be decent.

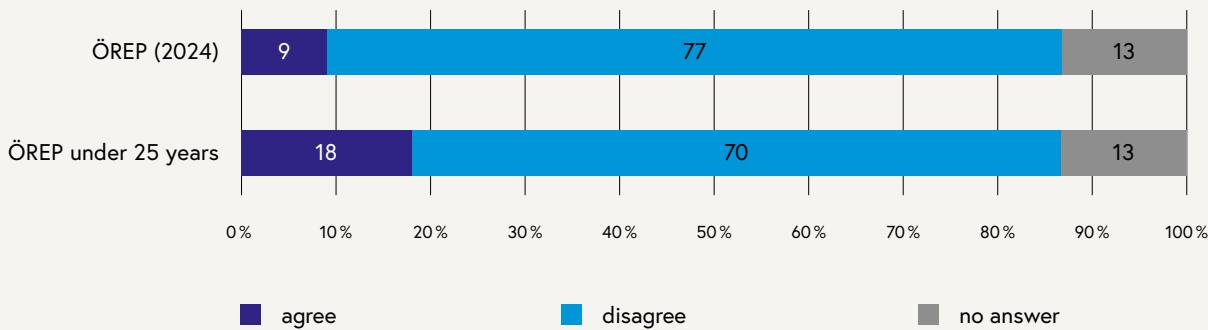


Figure 6: Comparison of responses from ÖREP and young people under 25
(source: BRAINTRUST GmbH).

Young men in particular exhibit antisemitic attitudes more frequently than young women. In addition to a significant lack of knowledge – two out of three under 25-year-olds do not know how many Holocaust victims there were – patriarchal values also contribute to the spread of antisemitic thinking patterns.

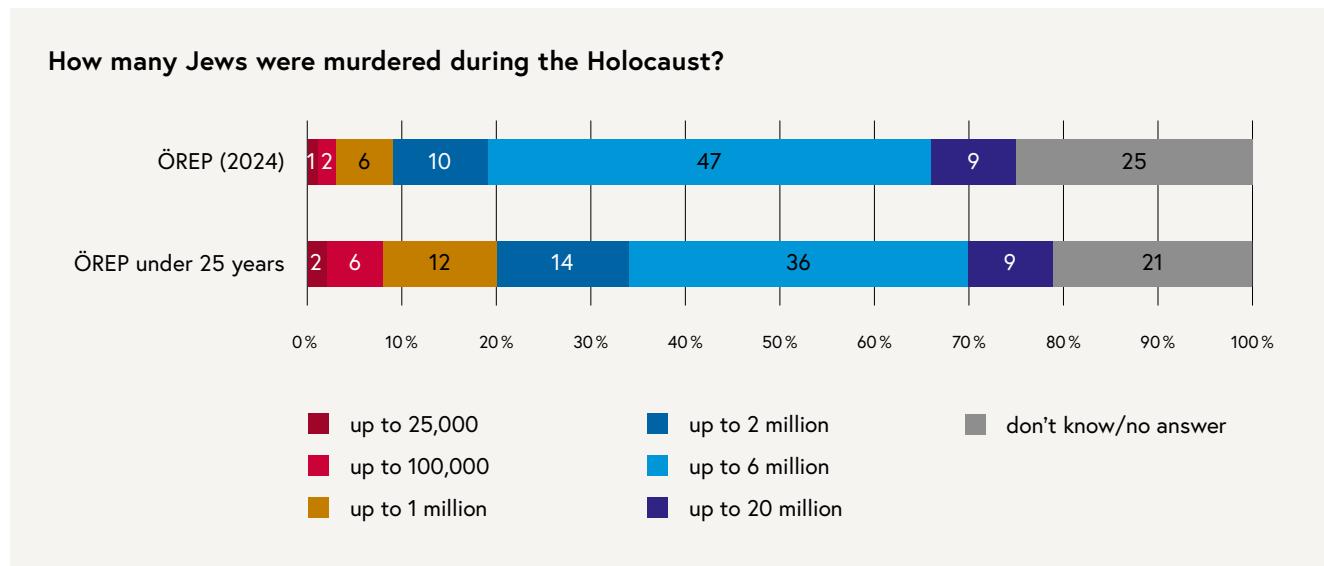


Figure 7: Comparison of responses from ÖREP and young people under 25
(source: BRAINTRUST GmbH).

It is also striking that young people view the Hamas terrorist attack differently to the majority of the population. They are more inclined to not consider the attack as an act of terrorism and are more likely than average to hold Israel responsible for the conflict. Combined with the overall higher ratings for agreeing with antisemitic statements, it is clear that the Middle East conflict is a gateway for antisemitic thinking and corresponding narratives for many young people.

Since 2018, the antisemitism study has also addressed the question of how antisemitic attitudes are expressed among people with Turkish and Arab roots. The additional sample from 2024 again shows a significantly higher level: manifest antisemitic attitudes are found in 27 percent of this group – more than twice as high as in the overall population (13 percent). At 48 percent, latent antisemitic attitudes are also significantly more pronounced (overall population: 33 percent).

5.2 Antisemitic incidents (recorded by the Reporting Centre for Antisemitism of the IKG Wien)

The Reporting Centre for Antisemitism of the Jewish Community of Vienna (IKG Wien) is the central point of contact for all persons wishing to report antisemitic incidents. In addition to systematically recording incidents⁴¹, the Reporting Centre for Antisemitism also supports those affected, and provides advice on psychosocial and legal affairs as well as on other issues.

Current figures and explanations on the cases documented in the previous year are recorded and published in annual reports.⁴²

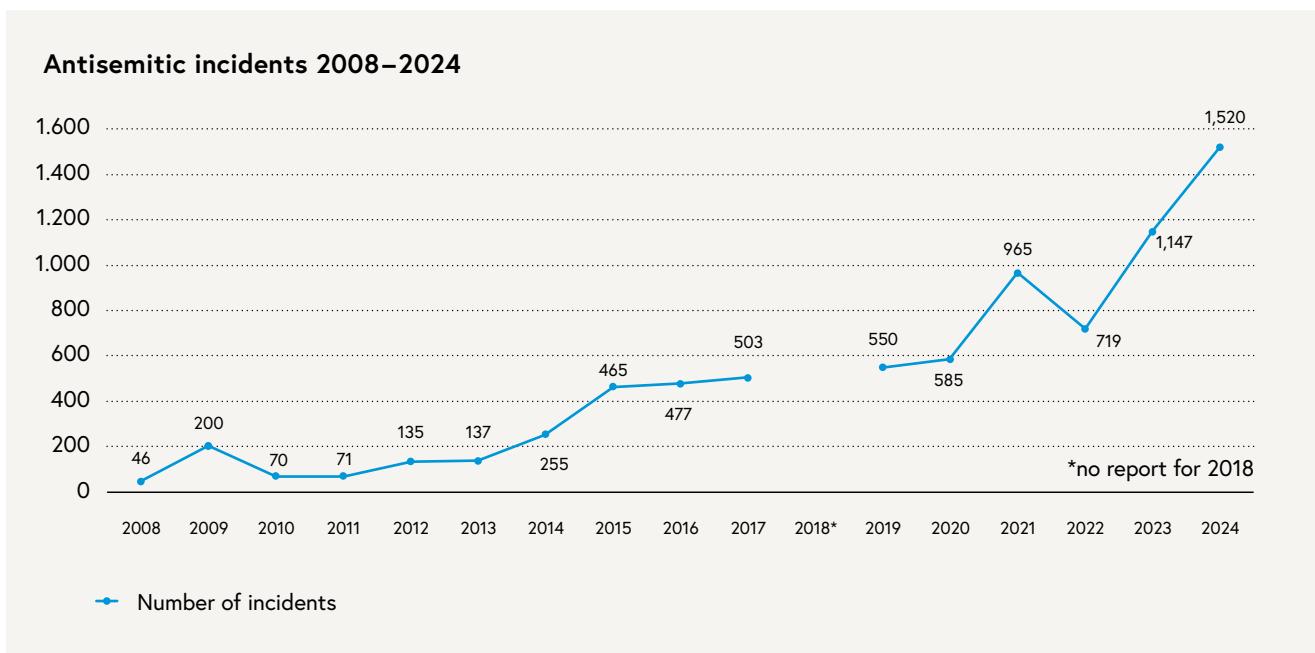


Figure 8: Documented antisemitic incidents 2008–2023 (Source: Reporting Centre for Antisemitism of the IKG Wien, annual report “Antisemitic Incidents in Austria 2024”).

41 Based on the IHRA working definition of antisemitism.

42 See <https://www.antisemitismus-meldestelle.at/berichte> (19.8.2025).

The number of antisemitic incidents in Austria has risen steadily over the years, and experienced an additional sharp increase during the COVID-19 pandemic. After a subsequent temporary decline, the large-scale attack on Israel by the Palestinian terrorist organisation Hamas on 7 October 2023 and the ensuing war triggered a veritable explosion of antisemitic incidents, marking a turning point for Jewish life, not only in Austria, but also throughout the world.

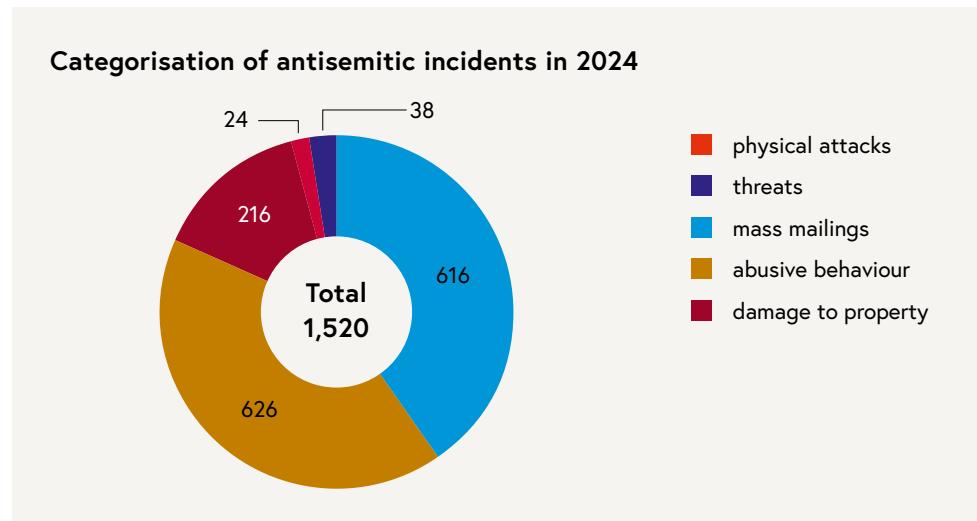


Figure 9: Categorisation of antisemitic incidents in 2024 (Source: Reporting Centre for Antisemitism of the IKG Wien, annual report “Antisemitic Incidents in Austria 2024”).

Of the total 1,520 antisemitic incidents documented in 2024, there were 24 physical attacks and 38 threats. In addition, 216 cases of damage to property, 626 cases of abusive behaviour, and 616 mass mailings were recorded. Compared to 2023, the numbers rose in all categories.

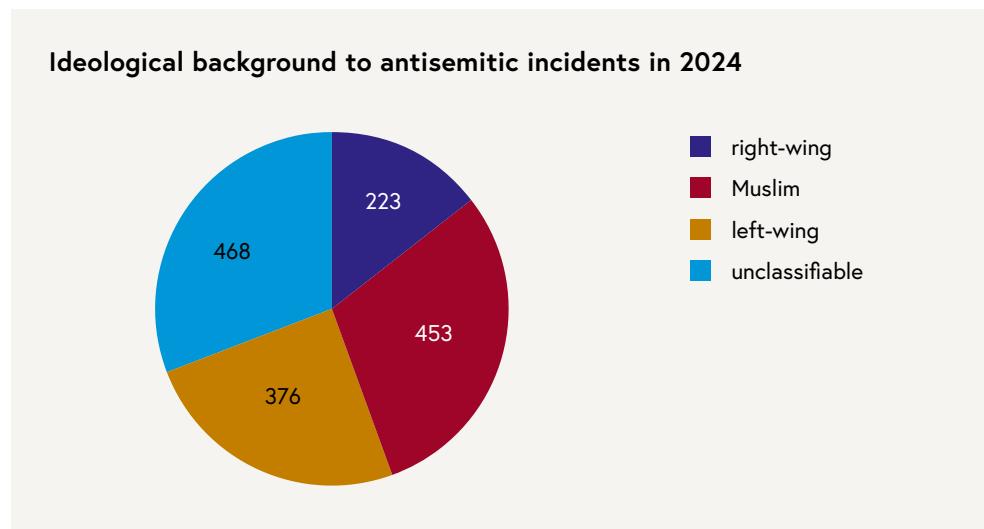


Figure 10: Categorisation of antisemitic incidents according to ideological background
 (source: Reporting Centre for Antisemitism of the IKG Wien, annual report “Antisemitic Incidents in Austria 2024”).

The Reporting Centre for Antisemitism of the IKG Wien also categorises the recorded antisemitic incidents according to their ideological background, namely “right-wing”, “left-wing”, “Muslim” and “unclassifiable”.

Of the 1,520 antisemitic incidents documented in 2024, a total of 69.2 percent could be attributed to an ideological background. Incidents with a “Muslim” background made up the largest proportion of these incidents (453 cases / 29.8 percent), followed by incidents motivated by “left-wing” ideology (376 cases / 24.7 percent) and cases on the “right-wing” ideological spectrum (223 cases / 14.7 percent). For 468 incidents (30.8 percent), it was not possible to clearly determine the ideological background. The figures emphasize the fact that antisemitic attitudes occur in various social and ideological contexts and therefore represent a problem for society as a whole.

Ideological background over the course of the year 2023–2024

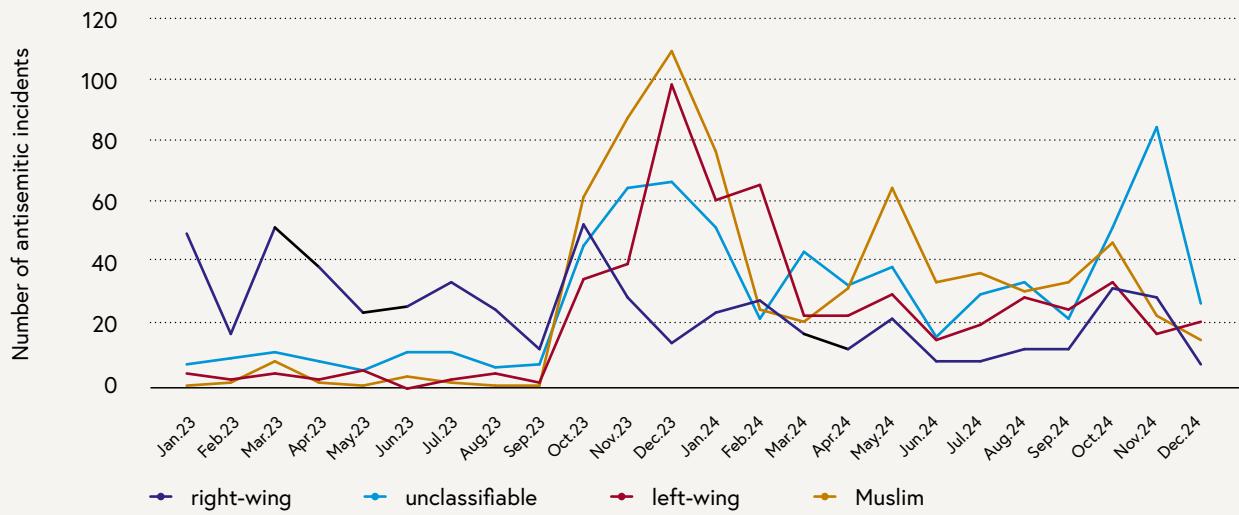


Figure 11: Ideological background of antisemitic incidents in the course of 2023–2024

(Source: Reporting Centre for Antisemitism of the IKG Wien)

The graph illustrates the development of antisemitic incidents in 2023 and 2024. It shows not only the sharp explosion in incidents in October 2023 after a previous continuous decline, but also the marked shift in the ideological background to the incidents. While antisemitic incidents with a “right-wing” background still clearly predominated before 7 October 2023, incidents that can be ideologically classified have been dominated by those with “left-wing” and “Muslim” backgrounds since then.

5.3 Criminal offences – criminal proceedings statistics from 2020 to the first half of 2025

The criminal proceedings statistics for the years 2020 to 30 June 2025 provide an insight into the frequency and outcome of criminal proceedings relating to relevant provisions of the Prohibition Act (VerbotsG)⁴³ as well as into the offence of incitement to hatred pursuant to Section 283 of the Austrian Criminal Code (StGB)⁴⁴.

The statistical recording of criminal proceedings is based on the evaluation of the legal databases “Verfahrensautomation Justiz” (“Judicial Process Automation”) (VJ) – an electronic case management system for processing and storing case data – and “Elektronisch integrierte Assistenz” (“Electronically Integrated Assistance”) (EliAs) – an electronically integrated assistance system for public prosecutors. Until recently, the electronic registers only allowed evaluations based on statutory offences (such as StGB or VerbotsG), and not on the evaluation of criminal offences arising from a specific motive or ideology.

However, since 12 April 2024, the same subcategories of prejudice motives as in the “Protokollieren, Anzeigen, Daten” (“Documentation, Reporting, Data”) (PAD) police recording system can also be recorded as offence identifiers in the VJ and EliAs legal databases – automatic transfer of these identifiers from the PAD was implemented at the end of 2024. This means that judicial authorities can now also systematically record and analyse criminal offences committed with antisemitic motives, for example. Whereas previously only a general code for the existence of a prejudicial motive was recorded, the new common interface for electronic legal transactions now also allows for differentiated recording by age, gender or religion, for example. However, it is not yet possible to present data on criminal offences committed with an antisemitic motive given that the new code for the relevant period has only recently been introduced.

Therefore, statistics on proceedings under the relevant provisions of VerbotsG and due to incitement to hatred (Section 283 StGB) are presented below. However, the data presented does not necessarily or predominantly represent antisemitic criminal

43 See Federal Constitutional Act on the Prohibition of the NSDAP (Prohibition Act 1947 – VerbotsG), StGBI No. 13/1945 (as amended).

44 See Federal Act of 23 January 1974 on acts punishable by law (Austrian Criminal Code – StGB), Federal Law Gazette (BGBl) No. 60/1974, as amended.

offences – only in proceedings under Section 3h VerbotsG can it be assumed that these are generally offences that correspond to the IHRA working definition of antisemitism in the section “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)”.

However, a statistical analysis based on the IHRA working definition outside of criminal law (or any other definition of antisemitism) is not possible, and, from a purely criminal-statistical point of view and *de lege lata*, not necessary.

Table 1: Statistics – VerbotsG nationwide,⁴⁵ VerbotsG total

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	1.1.– 30.6.2025
Incidence	2,116	2,361	2,708	2,756	3,415	1,743
Charges	352	350	392	361	434	206
Diversionary measures (including court) ⁴⁶	211	183	175	138	319	143
Verurteilungen	138	226	222	211	177	95
Freisprüche	24	35	42	54	40	11
Einstellungen	1,281	1,243	1,621	1,440	1,942	1,170
Section 35c of the Public Prosecutor's Office Act (StAG) ⁴⁷ / since 1 January 2025, Section 197a of the Austrian Code of Criminal Procedure (StPO) ⁴⁸	316	393	550	755	662	113

45 Any differences with regard to older/future statistics are due to ongoing corrections or additions in VJ and EliAs.

46 Diversionary measures (Section 200 of the Code of Criminal Procedure) and provisional withdrawals (Sections 201, 203, 204 of the Code of Criminal Procedure) are included under “Diversionary measures”.

47 See Federal Act of 5 March 1986 on Public Prosecuting Authorities (Public Prosecutor's Office Act – StAG), Federal Law Gazette No. 164/1986. Section 35c was repealed by BGBl. I No. 157/2024.

48 See Austrian Code of Criminal Procedure 1975 (StPO), BGBl. No. 631/1975, as amended.

Statistics – VerbotsG total

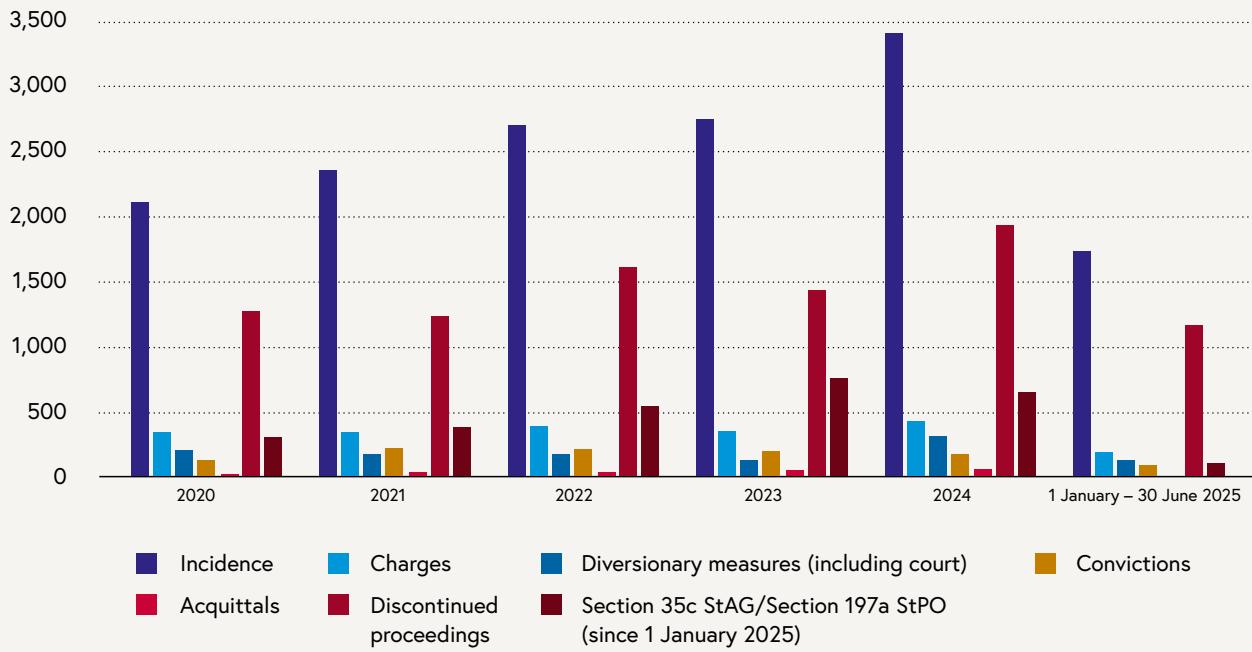


Figure 12: Statistics – VerbotsG total from 2020 to 30 June 2025 (source: BRZ GmbH – VJ and, since 2020, also EliAs, as of 1 July 2025).

Section 3a VerbotsG – National Socialist Association

(1) Anyone who

1. attempts to maintain or re-establish a legally dissolved National Socialist organisation or to enter into contact with such an organisation (or a person acting on its behalf); the following are deemed to be National Socialist organisations (Section 1): the NSDAP, the SS, the SA, the NSKK, the NSFK, the NS-Soldatenring, the NS-Offiziersbund, all other branches of the NSDAP and its affiliated associations, as well as any other National Socialist organisation;
2. founds an association, the purpose of which is to undermine the autonomy and independence of the Republic of Austria or to violate the public peace through the activities of its members inspired by National Socialist ideology, or whoever plays a leading role in an association of this kind;
3. promotes the development of one of the organisations and associations referred to in subparas 1 and 2 by recruiting members, providing financial assets or in a similar manner, equips the members of such an organisation or association with means of warfare, means of transport or facilities for the transmission of messages or, in a similar manner, enables (or supports) the activities of such an organisation or association
4. manufactures, procures or maintains means of warfare, means of transport or facilities for the transmission of information for such an organisation or association is liable to imprisonment for ten to twenty years.

(2) Should the offender or the activity in question be deemed particularly dangerous, the offender is liable to life imprisonment.

Table 2: Section 3a VerbotsG

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	1.1.– 30.6.2025
Incidence	14	9	9	11	17	5
Charges	6	-	-	0	3	0
Diversionary measures (including court)	3	1	1	0	3	0
Convictions	1	4	4	0	0	0
Acquittals	1	1	1	0	1	0
Discontinued proceedings	7	4	4	3	6	0
Section 35c StAG/197a StPO	1	2	2	0	6	1

Statistics – Section 3a VerbotsG

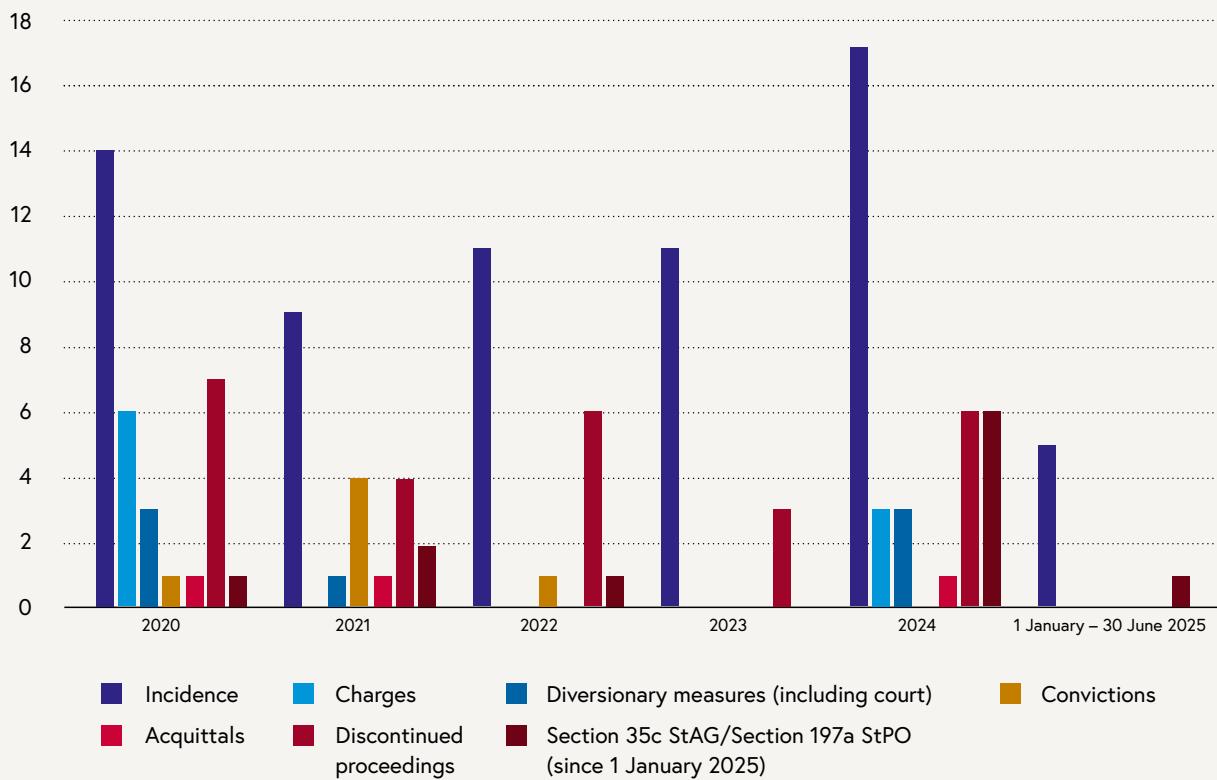


Figure 13: Statistics Section 3a VerbotsG, from 2020 to 30 June 2025 (source: BRZ GmbH – VJ and since 2020, also EliAs, as of 1 July 2025).

Section 3b VerbotsG – Support and participation in a National Socialist organisation

- (1) Any person who participates in an organisation or association of the kind referred to in Section 3a, or supports it by making financial contributions or in any other way, is liable to imprisonment for five to ten years, unless punishable under Section 3a.
- (2) Should the offender or the activity be deemed particularly dangerous, the offender is liable to imprisonment for ten to twenty years.

Table 3: Section 3b VerbotsG

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	1.1.– 30.6.2025
Incidence	1	3	2	2	3	0
Charges	0	4	-	0	2	0
Diversionary measures (including court)	0	-	-	0	2	0
Convictions	0	2	2	0	0	0
Acquittals	0	-	-	1	0	0
Discontinued proceedings	5	-	2	5	1	1
Section 35c StAG/197a StPO	0	1	-	2	0	0

Statistics – Section 3b VerbotsG

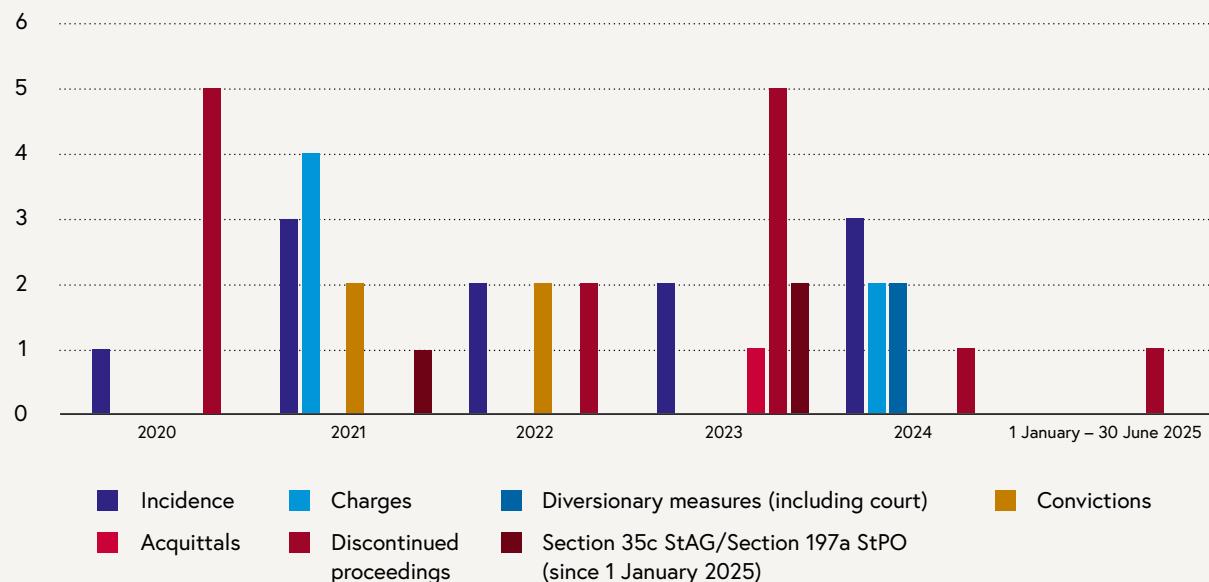


Figure 14: Statistics – Section 3b VerbotsG, from 2020 to 30 June 2025 (source: BRZ GmbH – VJ and since 2020 also EliAs, as of 1 July 2025).

Section 3g VerbotsG – National Socialist reactivation

- (1) Any person who engages in activities inspired by the National Socialist ideology in a manner other than that described in Sections 3a to 3f is liable to imprisonment for six months to five years.
- (2) Any person who commits the offence in a manner accessible to many people is liable to imprisonment for one to ten years.
- (3) Should the offender or the activity be deemed particularly dangerous, the offender is liable to imprisonment for ten to twenty years.
- (4) The offender shall not be punished under paras 1 to 3 if the offence is punishable by a more severe sentence under another provision.

Table 4: Section 3g VerbotsG

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	1.1.– 30.6.2025
Incidence	2,020	2,095	2,432	2,538	3,217	1,624
Charges	337	331	369	335	400	182
Diversionary measures (including court)	202	171	169	134	297	140
Convictions	133	215	212	198	164	86
Acquittals	22	33	37	48	38	9
Discontinued proceedings	1,237	1,188	1,515	1,358	1,853	1,130
Section 35c StAG/197a StPO	273	297	464	706	537	97

Statistics – Section 3g VerbotsG

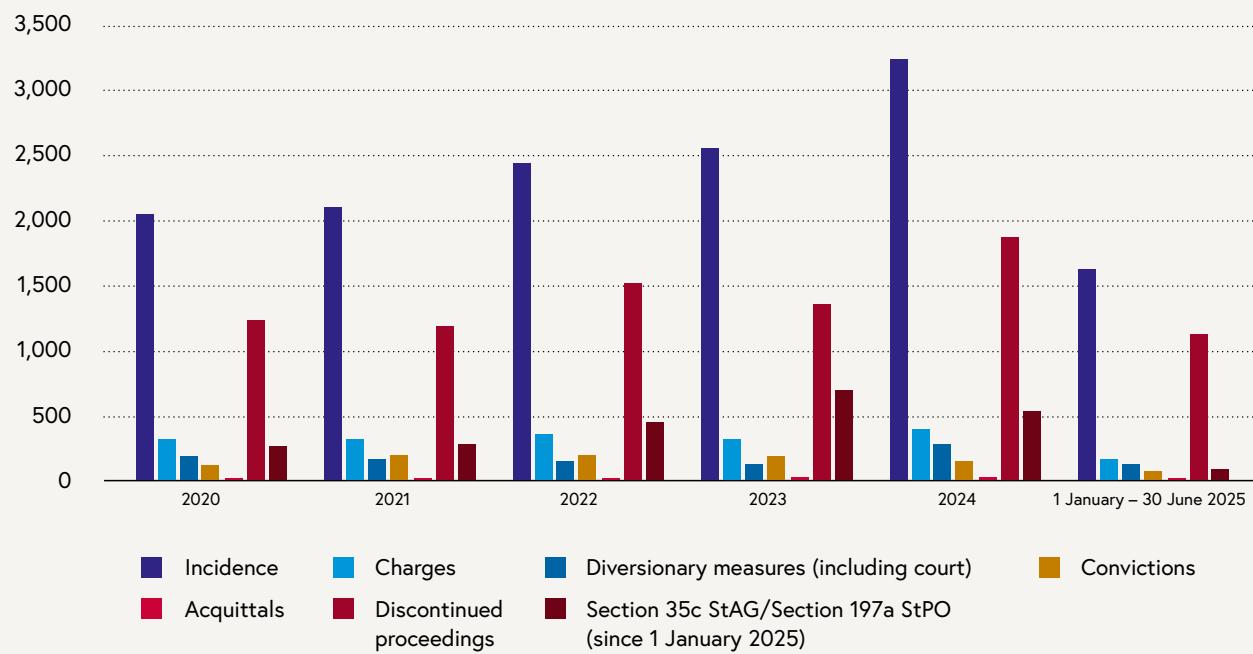


Figure 15: Statistics – Section 3g VerbotsG, from 2020 to 30 June 2025 (source: BRZ GmbH – VJ and since 2020 also EliAs, as of 1 July 2025).

Section 3h VerbotsG – Denial of National Socialist genocide and National Socialist crimes against humanity

- (1) Any person who publicly denies, trivialises, endorses or seeks to justify the National Socialist genocide or other National Socialist crimes against humanity is liable to imprisonment for six months to five years, if the offence is not punishable under Section 3g.
- (2) Any person who commits the offence in print media, in a broadcast or in any other medium or otherwise in a manner accessible to many people, is liable imprisonment for one to ten years.
- (3) Should the offender or the offence in question be considered particularly dangerous, the offender is liable to imprisonment for ten to twenty years.

Table 5: Section 3h VerbotsG

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	1.1.– 30.6.2025
Incidence	51	225	235	165	156	101
Charges	5	15	23	17	22	20
Diversionary measures (including court)	5	8	6	2	11	3
Convictions	3	5	7	12	13	7
Acquittals	1	1	5	5	1	2
Discontinued proceedings	18	49	93	64	73	33
Section 35c StAG/197a StPO	10	91	84	43	113	15

Statistics – Section 3h VerbotsG

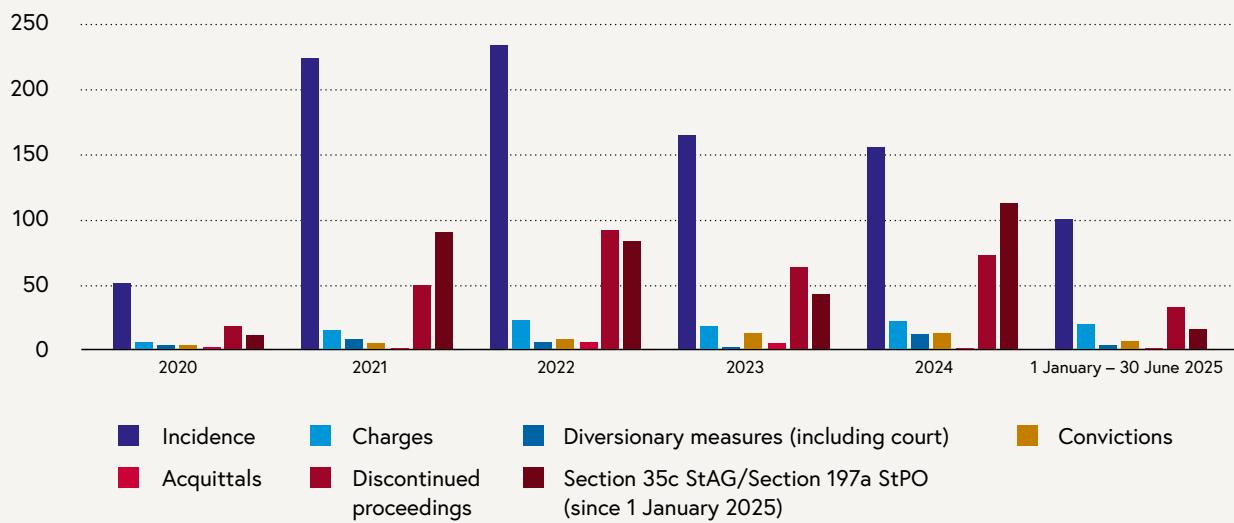


Figure 16: Statistics – Section 3h VerbotsG, from 2020 to 30 June 2025 (source: BRZ GmbH – VJ and since 2020, also EliAs, as of 1 July 2025).

Statistics – Section 283 StGB nationwide⁴⁹

§ 283 StGB – Incitement

(1) Anyone who publicly or in any way that it becomes accessible to many people,

1. incites violence or hatred against a church or religious community or any other group of persons defined according to existing or non-existent criteria of race, skin colour, language, religion or belief, nationality, descent or national or ethnic origin, gender, disability, age or sexual orientation, or against a member of such a group expressly because of their membership of that group,
2. insults one of the groups referred to in point 1 or a person because of their membership of such a group, with the intention of violating the human dignity of the members of the group or of the person in a way that is likely to disparage or denigrate the group or person in the public opinion, or
3. condones, denies, grossly trivialises or justifies crimes within the meaning of Sections 321 to 321f and Section 321k that have been legally established by a national or international court, where the act is directed against one of the groups referred to in point 1 or against a member of such a group expressly because of their membership of that group, and is committed in a manner that is likely to incite violence or hatred against such a group or against a member of such a group,

shall be liable to a custodial sentence for up to two years.

(2) Anyone who commits the offence referred to in point 1 in a printed publication, on the radio or in any other way that makes the acts referred to in point 1 accessible to the general public shall be liable to a custodial sentence of up to three years.

⁴⁹ Any differences with regard to older/future statistics are due to ongoing corrections or additions in VJ and EliAs.

(3) Anyone who, by committing an offence pursuant to subsection 1 or 2, causes other persons to use violence against a group referred to in subsection 1 point 1 or against a member of such a group because of their membership of that group shall be liable to a custodial sentence of six months to five years.

(4) Anyone who, without being involved in an act pursuant to subsections 1 to 3 (Section 2) and subject to a more severe penalty, disseminates or otherwise makes publicly available in an approving or justifying manner, written material, images or other representations of ideas or theories that advocate, promote or incite hatred or violence against a group referred to in paragraph 1 point 1 or against a member of such a group on account of their membership of that group, in a printed publication, on the radio or in any other way that makes it accessible to the general public, shall be liable to a custodial sentence of up to one year or to a fine of up to 720 daily rates.

Table 6: Section 283 StGB

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	1.1.– 30.6.2025
Incidence	668	761	646	658	773	436
Charges	84	93	95	78	110	61
Diversionary measures (including court) ⁵⁰	117	123	54	63	118	53
Convictions	31	37	21	21	38	22
Acquittals	6	11	19	12	9	2
Discontinued proceedings	195	282	197	198	354	221
Section 35c StAG/197a StPO ⁵¹	173	310	313	223	227	74

50 Diversionary measures (Section 200 of the Code of Criminal Procedure) and provisional withdrawals (Sections 201, 203, 204 of the Code of Criminal Procedure) are included under “Diversionary measures”.

51 Since 1 January 2025.

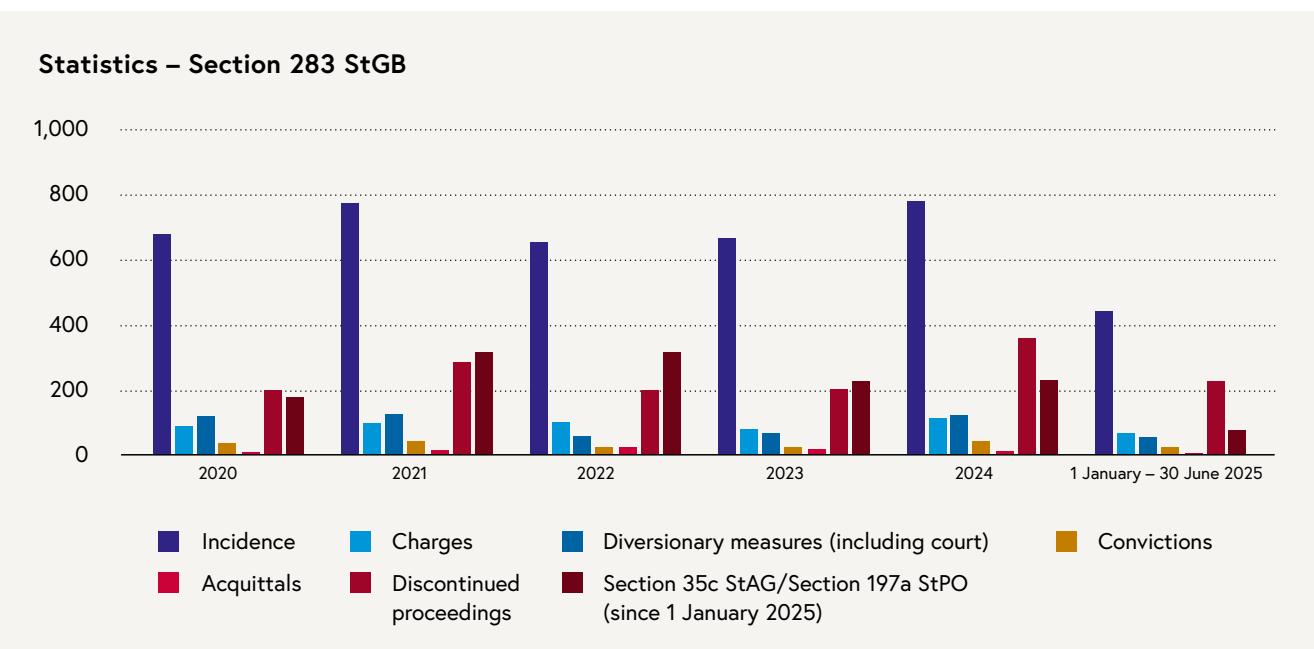


Figure 17: Statistics – Section 283 StGB, 2020 to 30 June 2025 (Source: BRZ GmbH – VJ and, since 2020, also EliAs, as of 1 July 2025).

5.4 Criminal offences with antisemitic motives – the 2024 Annual Report on Hate Crime

For what is now the fourth time, in the Annual Report on Hate Crime⁵², the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI) is documenting prejudice-related and prejudice-motivated criminal offences – which are acts punishable by law that are committed intentionally due to the actual or perceived membership of the victim or the object of the crime to a group (based on origin, religion, gender or ideology, for example) that the perpetrators reject. The recorded figures show a clear trend here – with 7,614 recorded prejudice motives for a total of 6,786 criminal offences, an all-time high was reached in 2024. Particularly striking is the increase in ideologically motivated criminal offences, especially violations of the Prohibition Act, and the increase in antisemitic incidents.

⁵² See https://www.bmi.gv.at/408/Projekt/files/160_2025_Hate_Crime_Bericht_2024_V20250721_1130_webBF.pdf (19.8.2025).

In connection with prejudice-motivated criminal offences against religion, the police database contains the categories “Christians”, “Jews”, “Muslims” and “Other”. The decision to only create separate categories for selected religions is based on the fact that these religious groups are disproportionately affected in Austria. The “Other” category enables the recording of hate crime against other religions, whereby the term “religion” is by no means limited to recognised religious communities. For example, in 2024, prejudice-motivated criminal offences were recorded against Sikhs and followers of Buddhism or Jehovah’s Witnesses.

A total of ten percent (763 prejudice motives) of all prejudice motives recorded in 2024 fell into the “religion” category, which meant that this victim group was ranked third for the fourth time in a row (after ideology and national/ethnic origin).

At nine percent, the increase in prejudice motives in the “religion” category is much smaller than the increase in prejudice motives in other categories (skin colour, ideology). While anti-Muslim prejudice motives were most frequently recorded in the “religion” category in 2021, antisemitism has clearly dominated the records since 2022.

Number of prejudice motives recorded by the police in the “religion” category

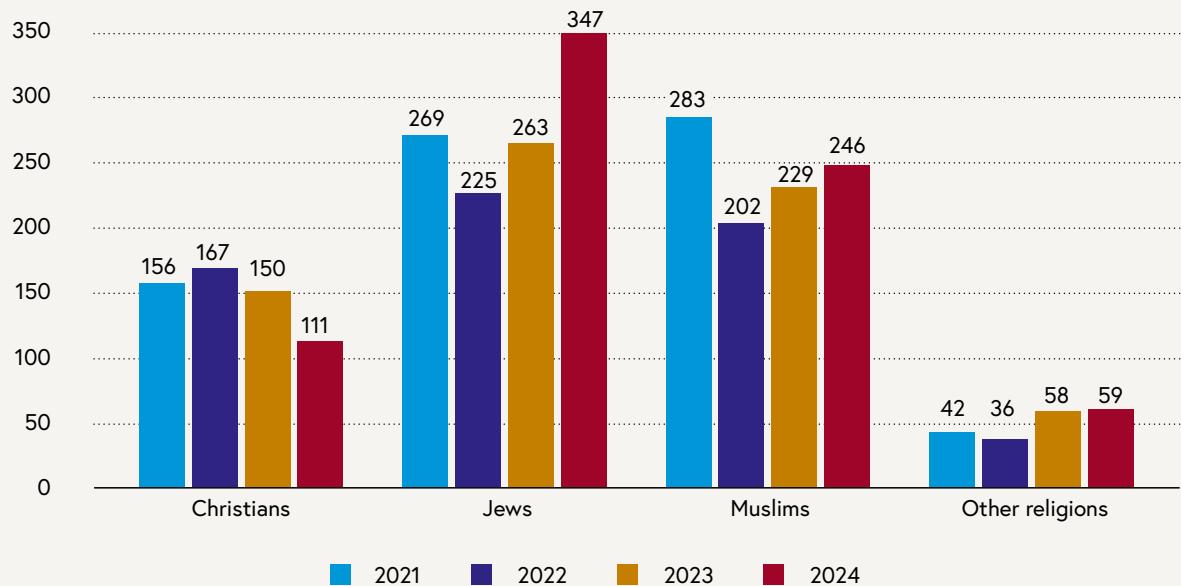


Figure 18: Prejudice-motivated criminal offences in the religion category from 2021 to 2024
(source: BMI's Annual Report on Hate Crime).

In the “religion” prejudice motive category, almost half of the criminal offences recorded in 2024 related to the “Jews” victim group (347 prejudice motives, 46 percent).⁵³ Of these, one in four offences was a violation of Section 3g VerbotsG (28 percent, 96 prejudice motives), followed by damage to property (78 prejudice motives, 23 percent), incitement of hatred (58 prejudice motives, 17 percent), serious damage to property (22 prejudice motives, 6 percent) and dangerous threats (15 prejudice motives, 4 percent).

28 percent of suspects in the “Jews” category were in the 14 to under 18 age group (59 suspects), 21 percent in the 25 to under 40 age group (44 suspects) and 20 percent in the over 40 age group (42 suspects). The clearance rate here was 50 percent.

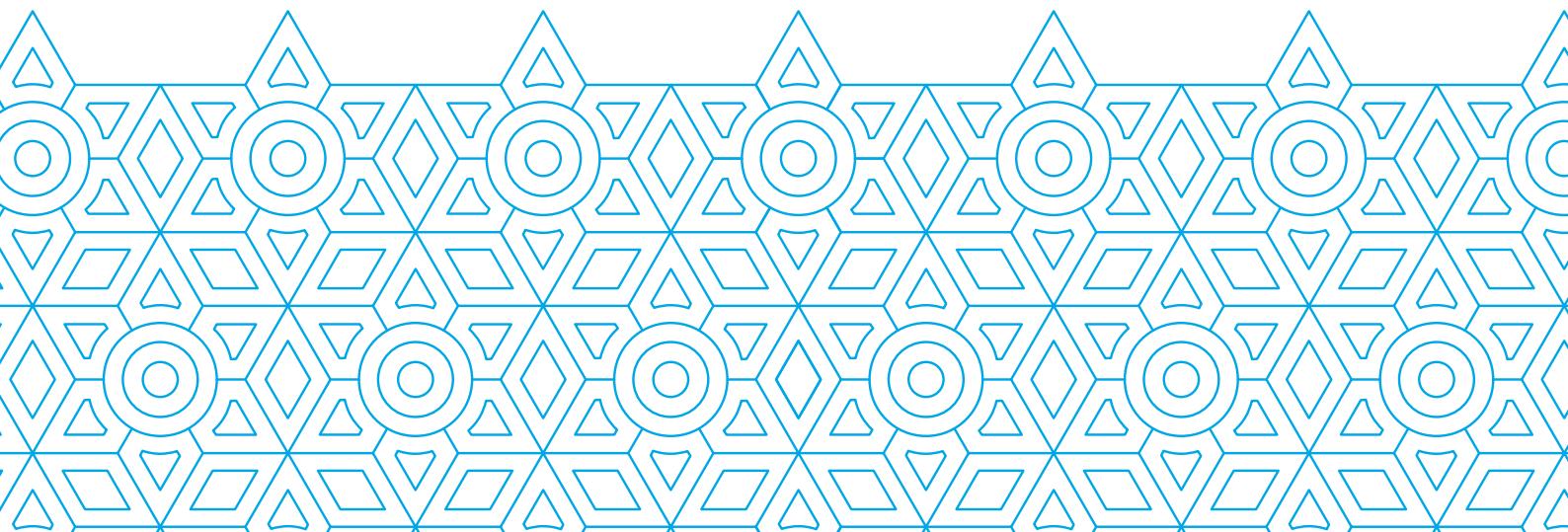
⁵³ The classification of prejudice-motivated criminal offences under the “Jews” motive is based on the IHRA working definition of antisemitism.

With 23 percent of all antisemitic prejudice motives recorded in 2024, the “Internet” is the most frequently recorded location of crime. Within all documented criminal offences with the “religion” prejudice motive and the “Internet” as the location, 61 percent (slightly less than in the previous year) were attributed to the “Jews” category. For criminal offences with anti-religious motives, at 17 percent, the “Internet” is the second most common location of crime after “public space” (19 percent).

A look at the Austrian districts and the number of prejudice motives per district and 100,000 inhabitants shows that antisemitism is increasingly concentrated in Vienna (1st, 2nd and 9th districts).

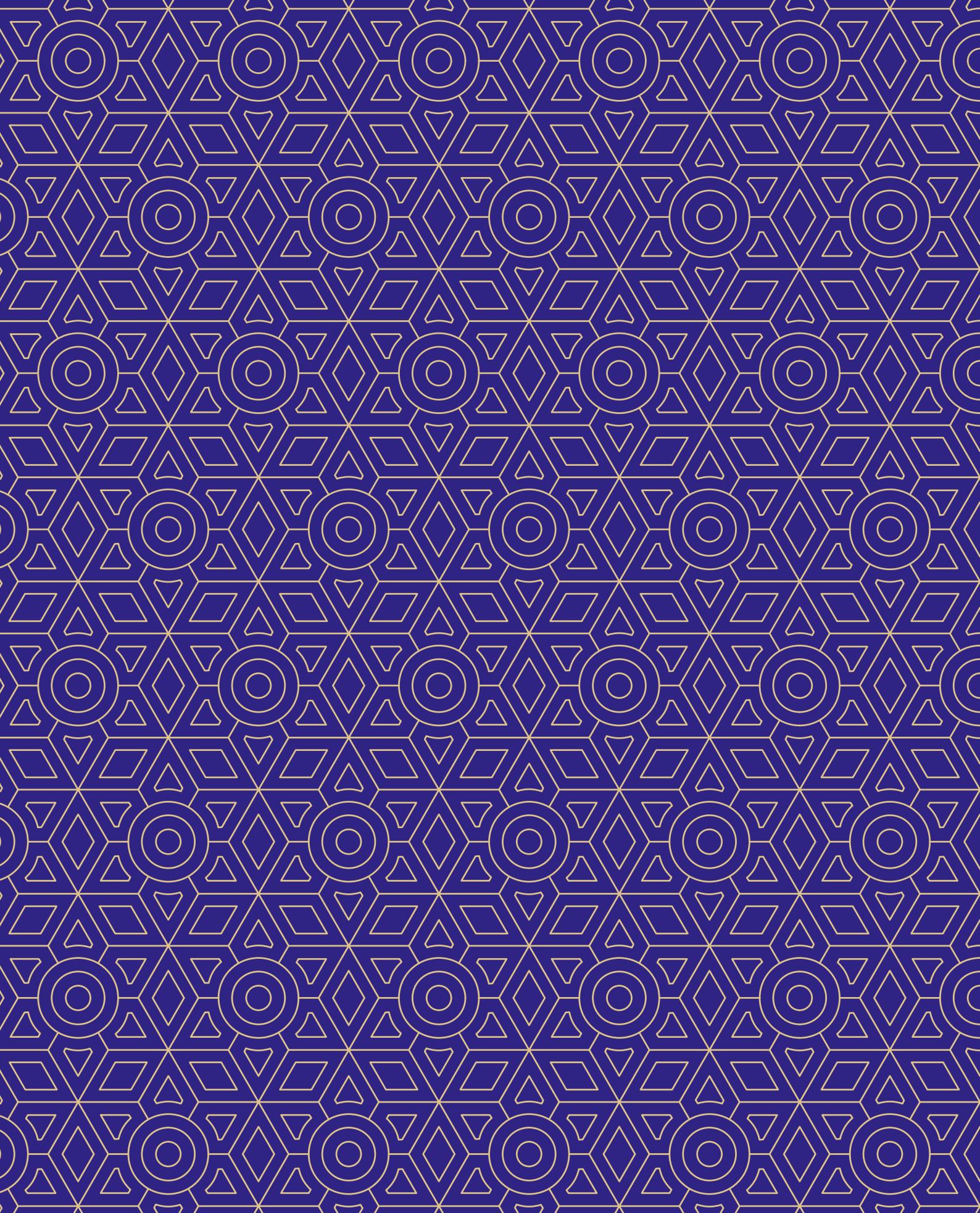
Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.

IHRA working definition of antisemitism



IV

Security.Law Enforcement



- 1 Combating prejudice-motivated crime as part of the National Action Plan against Hate Crime
- 2 Expanding offence codes relating to antisemitic motives in legal databases
- 3 Evaluating the 2023 Amendment to the Prohibition Act
- 4 Creating guidelines on prohibited symbols for official use
- 5 Raising awareness among prisoners in the prison system

1 Current situation

There has been an increase in antisemitic incidents in recent years. The ideological background varies, ranging from Islamist-influenced antisemitism to manifestations of neo-right-wing movements. Despite more recent trends, violent right-wing extremism remains an acute threat. Right-wing extremist groups and networks spread antisemitic hate speech, linking it to nationalist and racist ideologies and thus normalising it in parts of society. In the process, the COVID-19 pandemic acted as a catalyst. Conspiracy ideologies containing antisemitic elements are widely accepted in right-wing extremist and conspiracy-theory circles and have led to further radicalisation.⁵⁴ Online forums and chat groups in particular are showing an increasing propensity for violence, which is reinforced by calls for attacks and the glorification of extremist ideologies. The repeated discoveries of large numbers of weapons among neo-Nazi groups are also alarming, and highlight the considerable potential danger that this poses. For this reason, the Directorate of State Security and Intelligence (DSN) is called upon to identify violent right-wing extremist networks at an early stage, investigate their structures and take decisive action against their activities. Only through consistent observation, prevention and repression can antisemitic and anti-democratic endeavours from the far-right extremist milieu be prevented from gaining further influence.

The DSN acts as a modern security authority on behalf of the Republic of Austria. Its core tasks include guaranteeing the fundamental rights and freedoms enshrined in the constitution, and identifying and protecting against dangers that threaten our democracy and our rule of law. In performing these tasks, the DSN is combatting all forms of extremism and thus all political endeavours that are clearly opposed to the norms and rules of our constitutional state. Antisemitism occurs itself in all areas of the phenomenon – be that in right-wing, left-wing or Islamist extremism – and manifests itself in words, writing, visual representations or other forms of action, especially physical attacks.

Antisemitic acts must also be consistently prosecuted under criminal law. The Prohibition Act was largely revised with the 2023 Amendment to the Prohibition Act⁵⁵,

54 See <https://bundesstelle-sektenfragen.at/wp-content/uploads/Taetigkeitsbericht-2024.pdf>(30.10.2025).

55 See BGBl. I No. 177/2023.

which came into force on 1 January 2024. The aim of the revision was to make the law more modern, practicable and efficient, and thus to continue to effectively counter (revived) National Socialist offences at the level of criminal law in view of the social and technical circumstances that have changed since its last amendment in 1992.

This resulted in a number of innovations:

1. Restructuring of the offences in Sections 3g and 3h VerbotsG through greater differentiation with regard to the different manifestations of the offences covered by these provisions, and division into a low-threshold basic offences (penalty: six months to five years) and two qualifications (penalty: one to ten years and ten to twenty years) as well as the significant tightening of the now second qualification through the introduction of a lower limit of ten years;
2. Breakdown of the other offences under the Prohibition Act (Sections 3a, 3b, 3d, 3e, 3f) into basic offences and aggravated offences, but without any change in content;
3. Extension of Austrian criminal jurisdiction to practices committed abroad that fall under the offences of Sections 3a, 3b, 3d, 3g and 3h VerbotsG;
4. Introduction of a mandatory loss of office and function for civil servants and contract staff in the event of a final conviction for a criminal offence falling under the Prohibition Act;
5. Introduction of the possibility to confiscate Nazi propaganda material even without a connection to a specific offence punishable by law.

With these amendments, the Prohibition Act has been modernised and made more practicable, and is now being applied in practice to improve the prosecution of National Socialist reactivation and other offences in a National Socialist context.

2 Challenges

The fight against antisemitism is a long-term task for the Austrian security authorities. The combination of ideological diversity and increasingly frequent digital radicalisation requires a holistic and society-wide approach. In addition to repression, prevention, education and social co-operation are crucial in order to combat antisemitism effectively and permanently.

Antisemitism in Austria manifests itself in various ideological forms and can be found in the extreme right-wing and extreme left-wing political spectrum as well as in Islamist extremism and mainstream society. In the recent past, conspiracy theories – for example in the context of COVID-19 demonstrations – have also increasingly spread antisemitic narratives. This ideological spectrum of antisemitic manifestations often makes it difficult to clearly classify incidents, which is why antisemitism is observed and analysed by the DSN across all phenomena.

Today, the digital space also plays a central role in the dissemination of antisemitic content – antisemitic conspiracy theories, Holocaust denial and hate speech are increasingly being expressed openly or in code on social networks, and in messenger services and forums.

The number of antisemitic incidents in Austria has risen significantly, not least since the Hamas terrorist attack on Israel on 7 October 2023, as has the number of criminal proceedings, which poses a further challenge for law enforcement authorities. Antisemitic acts range from insults and damage to property, to physical attacks. The cases recorded in the crime statistics are published annually in the “Security Report”⁵⁶ as well as in the Annual Report on Hate Crime⁵⁷. It should be noted that the actual extent of criminalised antisemitic acts is not always fully reflected in police crime statistics, which makes it even more difficult to assess the actual threat situation.

One of the main challenges is to address the rise in antisemitism in some migrant communities in a nuanced way, rather than resorting to generalisations. Through increased political education, intercultural dialogue and preventive programmes in

56 See <https://www.bmi.gv.at/508/start.aspx> (31.7.2025).

57 See <https://www.bmi.gv.at/408/Projekt/start.aspx> (31.7.2025).

and outside schools, it is possible to contribute to reducing prejudices in the long term, strengthen democratic values and promote social cohesion.

Antisemitism often occurs in combination with other forms of group-related hostility and must therefore be viewed in a broader social context and countered by comprehensive prevention and awareness-raising measures. At the same time, social polarisation and political instrumentalisation make it more difficult to implement effective protection and support measures for affected groups.

3 Ongoing and planned measures

As an expression of the Government's responsibility to comprehensively ensure the safety of Jewish life in Austria, Jewish institutions have been under increased protection for many years.

In order to minimise the risks to Jewish institutions as much as possible, regular exchange and close cooperation with the Jewish Religious Community (IRG), the Jewish Community of Vienna (IKG Wien) and other Jewish organisations regarding security-related issues is essential. In close coordination with the IKG Wien – particularly with regard to endangered Jewish and Israeli institutions – preventive measures to protect essential objects are being developed as part of an escalation plan. As part of the BMI initiative "GEMEINSAM. SICHER mit unserer Polizei" (TOGETHER. SAFE with our police), a large number of activities and measures are also being carried out in ongoing cooperation with the IKG Wien, including information events and networking meetings organised through joint public relations work. The intention is to further intensify the cooperation and ongoing coordination between the security authorities and the IRG.

In order to ensure good networking between the various actors in this area, the existing intensive cooperation between the DSN within the framework of the Austrian Nationwide Network for Extremism Prevention and De-radicalisation (BNED) and other ministries (including Department IV/12 of the Austrian Federal Chancellery (BKA)), the federal provinces and civil society will be continued. The aim is to facilitate regular exchange and the preparation of strategic documents within the context of the prevention of extremism and deradicalisation, such as the National Action Plan 2.0 (NAP 2.0).

In addition to preventive and protective measures, the consistent prosecution of antisemitic crimes is also a central component of the fight against antisemitism in Austria. In addition to the Prohibition Act, Section 283 StGB on incitement of hatred is also applied as an essential legal instrument for criminal prosecution of antisemitic hate crimes. Among other things, it criminalises public incitement of violence and incitement of hatred against groups or individuals based on their affiliation to a religion, ideology or ethnic origin.

The Prohibition Act also prohibits the public denial, trivialisation, endorsement and justification of National Socialist genocide and National Socialist crimes against humanity, and makes any form of National Socialist reactivation a criminal offence. In addition to the high and steadily increasing number of criminal proceedings conducted annually under the provisions of the Prohibition Act, which already poses a challenge to the law enforcement authorities in terms of numbers, the focus is currently on the application of the amended legal basis introduced by the 2023 Amendment to the Prohibition Act, and thus its testing in practice by the prosecution authorities.

The establishment of the Reporting Office for National Socialist Reactivation (NS-Meldestelle)⁵⁸ at the DSN has made it possible to contact the centre directly and easily in cases of suspected National Socialist revival – in particular in connection with antisemitic statements or actions – and to report such incidents.

In view of the special responsibility of the judicial system as well as the security authorities and law enforcement authorities, continuous training and further education of staff is also essential in order to raise awareness of the problems of antisemitism, hate crime and extremist tendencies in the long term.

Accordingly, the existing training plan for basic and advanced police training includes a comprehensive and mandatory examination of antisemitism, which is also dealt with in detail in the context of preventing radicalisation and extremism.

58 See <https://www.dsn.gv.at/401/> (31.07.2025).

In cooperation with the IKG Wien, the police organise training courses for police officers as part of their antisemitism awareness raising programme in order to sensitise them to the issue and strengthen their skills in dealing with antisemitic crimes. These training courses are part of a more comprehensive approach to combating hate crime and promoting tolerance and understanding within society.

Awareness of antisemitism is also raised as part of the “Antisemitism” online training course which has been available to all law enforcement officers on the BMI’s learning platform since April 2022. Since 2001, in cooperation with the Anti-Defamation League and, since 2022, with its successor organisation, “NO CHANCE for HATE”, the Security Academy (SIAK) has also been organising a seminar series entitled “A World of Difference” (AWOD), which is a key element of human rights education at the BMI and raises awareness of all forms of discrimination (e.g. based on ethnicity, religion or ideology, age, sexual orientation) and thus also of racism, antisemitism and xenophobia.

The aim is to train all members of staff. Since 2004, the seminar series has also been incorporated into basic police training with 16 teaching units. In addition, the e-learning module for the exhibition “Hitler’s Exekutive” was developed by the SIAK’s e-learning centre in order to implement further possibilities for teaching content on the subject of the police and National Socialism in a wide range of subjects. The educational programme is supplemented by visits by prospective police officers to the Mauthausen Concentration Camp Memorial and the Hartheim Castle Memorial as part of their basic training.

The police also see themselves as part of a diverse society and reflect the diversity that exists in the population. Strong intercultural skills, additional foreign language skills - for example in Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian (BCS), Arabic or Turkish – as well as social and interpersonal skills are regarded as key basic requirements for the police service. As part of the “GEMEINSAM.SICHER mit unserer Polizei” initiative and the specialist group of the same name, police work that is critical of antisemitism and racism is actively promoted.

Raising public awareness is another important aspect of the work of the Austrian security authorities. Therefore, in addition to targeted training for staff of the emergency services, active prevention is also being stepped up at a societal level. To this end, antisemitism is an integral part of awareness-raising events for adults in the context of preventing radicalisation and extremism as a cross-phenomenal topic. To actively reach children and young people, the youth prevention programme “RE#work”, which promotes life skills, addresses the issue in several modules, using a variety of methods with the pupils.

The Austrian Federal Ministry of Justice (BMJ) has been offering extensive training programmes for its staff in the area of raising the awareness of the justice system for some time now, which have been extended to all professional groups in recent years. The training measures are regularly organised in cooperation with external institutions.

In the area of training for trainee judges, two periodic and mandatory training courses in particular deal specifically and in detail with fundamental rights in a historical and current judicial context.

As part of the “Curriculum of Judicial and Contemporary History for Trainee Judges” compulsory training course, the topics of antisemitism, racism and National Socialism are taught in depth over a period of one week in addition to basic and human rights education and basic knowledge of more recent judicial history in the 19th and 20th centuries. The Yugoslavian war and its consequences, hatred, bullying and incitement to hatred – in the real and virtual world – is also covered, as well as a visit to the Mauthausen Concentration Camp Memorial and the memorial “Am Spiegelgrund”.

In the “Fundamental Rights for Trainee Judges” curriculum, in cooperation with the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights Vienna, the European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (ETC) Graz and the Austrian Institute for Human Rights (ÖIM) Salzburg, fundamental and human rights, including equal opportunities and anti-discrimination law, are taught over a period of three days and an (optional) study trip is organised to the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) and to the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU).

Comprehensive information on the IHRA working definition of antisemitism has been published on the intranet for participants in the curriculum and for all judicial staff, and is used by the lecturers in their presentations as part of both curricula, where relevant to the topic.

Relevant offences under the Prohibition Act and the offence of incitement are also discussed as part of the current training courses for trainee judges using specific examples from the Internet. They also form part of the judges examination.

In the area of further training, the seminar series "Justice and Contemporary History" for judges and public prosecutors, which is organised jointly with the Research Centre for Post-War Justice, is particularly dedicated to this topic. Since 2024, the two-day event has taken place as part of an excursion to the Hartheim Castle Educational and Memorial Centre and the Gusen and Mauthausen Concentration Camp Memorials.

In addition to the content of the "Judicial and Contemporary History" training curriculum, other contemporary history topics are covered in lectures, films and panel discussions.

Relevant offences under the Prohibition Act and the offence of incitement of hatred are also dealt with in practical seminars for judges and public prosecutors.

As an offer that is open exclusively to civil servants, contract staff and employees of the prison system, excursions have been offered to the former Mauthausen Concentration Camp with the title "Ort des Verbrechens – Ort des Gedenkens – Ort des Lernens" ("A Place of Crime – a Place of Remembrance – a Place of Learning") since 2023. After a one-hour introduction, during which participants are prepared for the tour and given a historical overview, the visit takes place, lasting around three hours. The experience is then reflected upon and a bridge to the present is built. Topics covered include the judicial revisiting of the Nazi era after 1945 and, above all, the resulting changes in society as well as in the political systems and the development of fundamental rights.

In addition to this, the following measures are also intended to contribute to preventing and combating antisemitism in the area of security and law enforcement:

Combating prejudice-motivated crime as part of the National Action Plan on Hate Crime

As part of the implementation of the National Action Plan on Hate Crime, provided for in the government programme, the significant rise in prejudice-motivated crimes is to be curbed and counteracted preventively. The measures set out as part of the action plan will also have an impact in the area of antisemitic hate crimes and thus make an important contribution to the fight against antisemitism.

Expanding offence codes relating to antisemitic motives in legal databases

To record prejudice-motivated criminal offences, the offence code “VM – Vorurteilsmotiv” (“VM – bias motive”) has been available in the “Verfahrensautomation Justiz” (“Judicial Process Automation”) (VJ) and “Elektronisch integrierte Assistenz” (“Electronically Integrated Assistance”) (EliAs) legal databases for the justice sector since mid-2020. As this code was not further subdivided, it only allowed for a general evaluation of whether or not a criminal offence based on a prejudicial motive was the subject of criminal proceedings, but not what the specific motive was (e.g. antisemitism).

In April 2024, new offence codes for bias motives came into force in the VJ and EliAs legal databases, replacing the previous VM code, and are based on the BMI's subdivisions of prejudice motives.

Following the technical expansion of the interface between police and legal databases on 8 April 2025, when police officers record a prejudice motive in the “Protokollieren, Anzeigen, Daten” (“Documentation, Reporting, Data”) (PAD) programme, the relevant offence code for the accused is now transferred to the VJ and EliAs databases.

To accompany the technical changeover, a new decree on recording prejudice-motivated criminal offences in the VJ and EliAs databases, GZ 2025-0.219.492, was published on 9 May 2025 and sent to the legal authorities, which also contains information on backgrounds, legal bases, technical steps and further training opportunities in connection with (the recording of) prejudice-motivated criminal offences and is dedicated in particular to the new categories of prejudice motives, together with possible practical examples. It is now also mandatory for the decision-making bodies to set or review the respective offence code.

Therefore, in future, it will be possible to analyse criminal offences with an antisemitic motive, which will be recorded in the legal databases as a “religion-Jews” prejudice-motivated crime in the same way as in the police database.

Evaluating the 2023 Amendment to the Prohibition Act

As described in point 1, the Prohibition Act was comprehensively amended in 2023. The changes described will be evaluated after five years (i.e. at the end of 2028). The aim is to review the impact of the amendment in practice, and to identify any (remaining) difficulties in its application, or loopholes.

Creating guidelines on prohibited symbols for official use

In order to raise awareness among authorities such as district authorities, magistrates, municipalities and institutions responsible for the care of war graves and victims' graves in the federal provinces, the DSN is planning to produce guidelines that identify and explain prohibited symbols from the extreme right-wing, extreme left-wing and Islamist spectrum.

Raising awareness among prisoners in the prison system

As part of the care and treatment of persons whose offences fall under the Counter-Terrorism Act, the prison system and the enforcement of measures involving deprivation of liberty focus on secondary prevention. For example, work is currently being carried out on a programme that represents a targeted measure against right-wing extremism and at the same time promotes democratic thinking.

According to the 2023 Amendment to the Prohibition Act (BGBl I No. 177/2023), which came into force on 1 January 2024, it should be possible to deal with an underlying offence through diversionary measures. This mainly applies to people who do not have a fixed ideology. There are also people in prison who have a low level National Socialist ideology but who have been convicted under the Prohibition Act. For this reason, the “REDEmit – Präventionsprogramm für Respekt, Demokratie und Miteinander” (“REDEmit – Prevention programme for respect, democracy and togetherness”) was developed by the Justice Department, the Competence Centre for Correctional Measures and Extremism Prevention, together with the NEUSTART association.

The programme includes mandatory modules and is not only intended for use in diversionary proceedings, but can also be used in the prison system by social services and in the context of probation assistance for conditional sentences in an individual

setting. The programme is currently in its pilot phase, with initial results expected in autumn 2025.

As part of the reorganisation of the juvenile detention system at Vienna Münnichplatz Prison, there is now also the opportunity to anchor elements of extremism prevention in the Austrian prison system for the first time. Among other things, the opportunity will be provided to benefit from the “RE#work” prevention programme developed by the DSN, which is primarily aimed at reaching young people aged between 13 and 17.

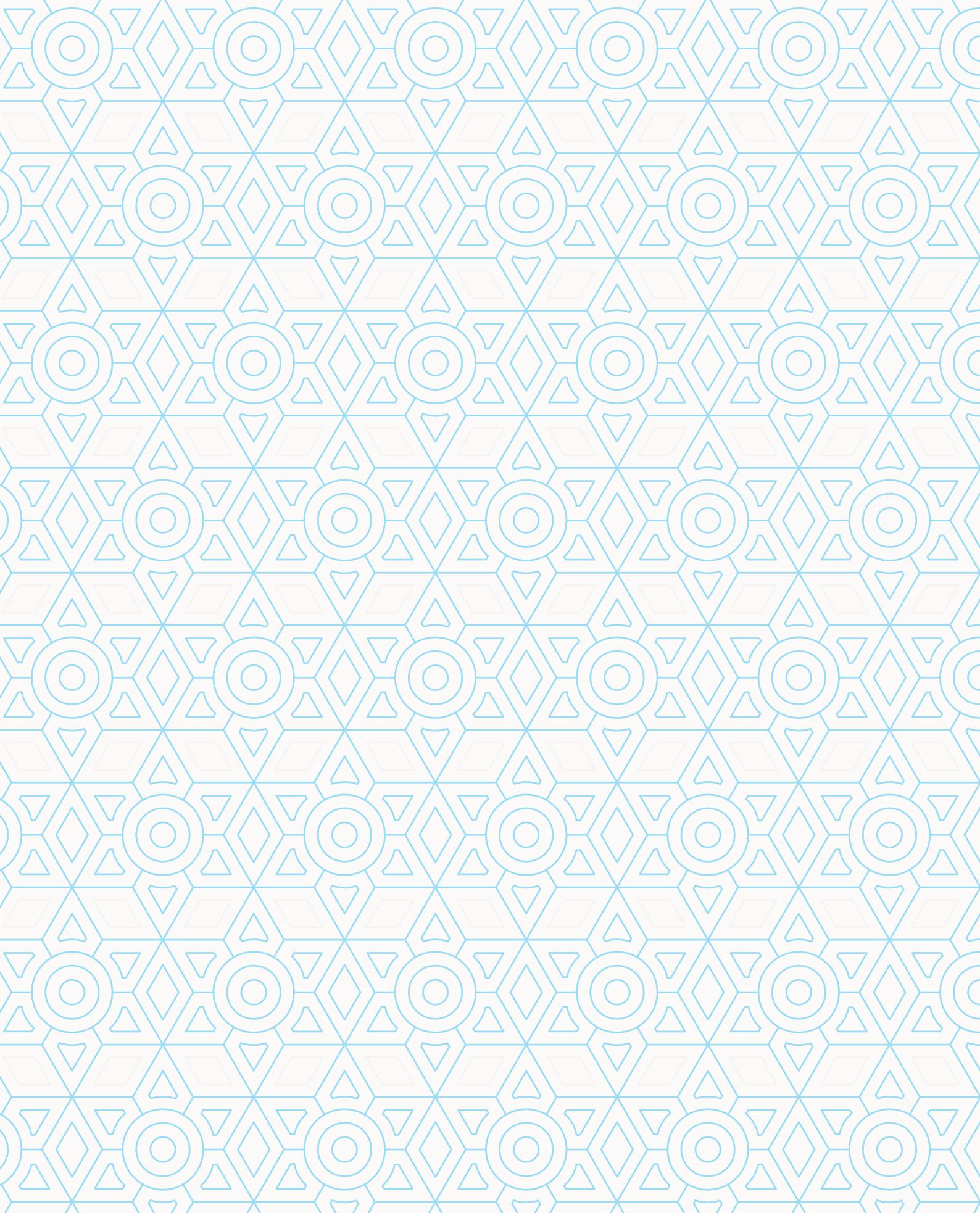
The aims of the programme are to promote legal awareness by providing factual and legal information about the content of the programme, to anchor democracy and human rights as the basis for coexistence in Austria, to critically question reports on the Internet or social media, to understand and counteract radicalisation processes, to learn about support systems and to strengthen personal resilience.

In this regard, training places are now planned for two to three employees of the Vienna-Münnichplatz prison for the upcoming training dates at the DSN. A first trial run of the “RE#work” programme is planned for the 2026 summer semester.

The combination of ideological diversity and increasingly frequent digital radicalisation requires a holistic and society-wide approach.

In addition to repression, prevention, education and social cooperation are crucial to combating antisemitism effectively and permanently.





V

Education.Resilience

- 6 Further developing school organisation and culture in order to respond appropriately to antisemitism
- 7 Establishing and monitoring curricula for the prevention of antisemitism
- 8 Supporting schools and school authorities in teaching values and preventing extremism
- 9 Carrying out research projects on teaching practices in the field of antisemitism prevention
- 10 Promoting and financing visits to memorial sites (mobility grant)
- 11 Expanding dialogue initiatives that promote exchange between young people from different social, religious and cultural backgrounds
- 12 Raising awareness among members of the general administrative service through the Federal Academy of Public Administration
- 13 Developing awareness-raising campaigns for professional groups with public access

1 Current situation

In recent years, the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education (BMB) has implemented comprehensive measures and further developed programmes in order to take targeted educational steps in the prevention of antisemitism through education. These measures include both basic teacher training and a continuous range of further education and advanced training courses for teachers. In addition, learning materials have been revised, updated and newly developed. A school culture against antisemitism is also being promoted, and antisemitism-critical educational work is being actively implemented in the classroom.

In order to achieve these goals, the BMB has implemented several milestones as part of the NAS 1.0. In particular, the further development of teacher training has created new foundations in the prevention of antisemitism. With the reform of teacher training adopted in 2024, all prospective teachers in Master's programmes will be familiarised with the prevention of antisemitism, racism, sexism and anti-gypsyism from the 2026/27 academic year onwards. This reform has attracted international attention and Austria is thus implementing the "Recommendations for Dealing with Antisemitism at Universities with Teacher Education"⁵⁹ of the IHRA. These recommendations suggest that all teacher training programmes for future teachers offer basic courses on dealing with antisemitism. Austria's efforts in the field of education has also been recognised as part of the Networks Overcoming Antisemitism (NOA) evaluation. On behalf of the European Commission, the NOA team of experts evaluated Austria's measures in the area of antisemitism prevention. Austria scored 94 out of 100 points in the area of education.⁶⁰

Holocaust Education and teaching about the diverse history and present day of Jewish people in Austrian schools can be seen as the first step in preventing antisemitism. For over 25 years, extensive and ground-breaking work has been done in this area to share knowledge, raise awareness and encourage students and teachers to engage in dialogue about the history of the Holocaust and the dangers of antisemitism. Educational work on the Holocaust is anchored in the curricula

59 See <https://holocaustremembrance.com/resources/recommendations-combat-antisemitism-classroom> (19.8.2025).

60 See https://www.noa-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/2023-10-06-NOA_NationalReportCard_Austria_Final_ENG_.pdf (19.8.2025).

and takes place in the training and further education of teachers as well as in textbooks and various learning materials. Schools can find information on current learning materials, educational opportunities and regular training courses on the website of ERINNERN:AT – the programme on Holocaust education commissioned by the BMB and run by the Austrian Agency for Education and Internationalisation (OeAD). Encounter and dialogue projects that involve pupils from a wide variety of backgrounds in peer-to-peer formats have long played a key role in breaking down prejudices and focusing on what unites them. Also worth mentioning are the parliament's democracy-building measures relating to antisemitism (for example, the Democracy Workshop or the "Tacheles reden" exhibition).

Since 2023, the Ministry of Education has also been funding school trips to memorial sites. This gives pupils the opportunity to visit historical sites associated with National Socialist persecution and learn about Austrian history on site through educational tours. This programme also raises awareness of the dangers of antisemitism, anti-democracy and hatred.

The NAS 2.0 aims to be broader in scope than the NAS 1.0, and therefore also covers the area of vocational training in companies, which falls under the responsibility of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs, Energy and Tourism (BMWET).

The job profiles of apprenticeships are regularly adapted to the new framework conditions and challenges in the labour market. Due to the demographic diversification of the labour market and therefore also the apprenticeship market, intercultural and interreligious skills are becoming increasingly important. For this reason, competent handling of diversity is anchored in all new and revised training regulations as a skill to be taught. Apprentices should learn to take different forms of diversity into account, avoid discrimination and reflect gender equality and ethical values in their actions.

2 Challenges

Social discourse and conflicts also have an impact in the classroom. Therefore, teachers are faced with the challenge of discussing experiences of discrimination with pupils, but also of dealing with controversial debates (for example, on the Middle East conflict) and of handling them educationally. Recognising antisemitism and responding with appropriate educational intervention as well as dealing with antisemitic incidents with a high level of sensitivity continue to pose a challenge for teachers and the entire education system.

In order to meet these challenges in an appropriate manner, the BMB has developed targeted measures as part of the NAS 2.0 that include both the further development of existing initiatives as well as the implementation of new approaches. These measures are also intended to close existing gaps in prevention and education work. This combination of proven approaches and innovative strategies is intended to make a lasting contribution to overcoming antisemitism and strengthening our democracy.

3 Ongoing and planned measures

In order to reach a broad target group of schools and students in addition to the qualitative development of preventive measures against antisemitism, efficient coordination with relevant stakeholders is required in the school sector. As part of the NAS 1.0, formats for closer exchanges with stakeholders from the education administration and relevant actors (such as the IRG) have already been created in this regard. An annual exchange meeting with all stakeholders is also planned to strengthen the exchange of expertise and the networking of antisemitism-critical education programmes in Austria. The BMB invites all relevant stakeholders to take part in an exchange of expertise in order to present educational programmes (workshops, materials, training concepts, etc.) on current manifestations of antisemitism to each other and to explore and critically discuss implementation options. The programme is aimed specifically at educational institutions that focus on current manifestations of antisemitism rather than historical-political educational institutions that deal with National Socialism or the Holocaust.

The aim is also to secure and further develop the transfer of knowledge to the education authorities in order to enable adequate implementation of the measures in the classroom.

Furthermore, as part of the implementation of the NAS 1.0, teacher training on the prevention of antisemitism has been reformed and educational opportunities for teachers have been expanded to prepare them more adequately for the current challenges in dealing with antisemitism in the classroom. Collaboration with the education authorities and school quality managers will lead to increased dissemination of the opportunities. Appropriate training formats ensure the transfer of practical experience to schools.

Train-the-trainer programmes are also being developed. These are training courses for people who work in training and further educating teachers (for example, in cooperation with international educational organisations such as Yad Vashem). There are also plans to intensify the already close cooperation between ERINNERN:AT and the teacher training colleges.

Current challenges in dealing with antisemitism have also been taken into account in the further development of existing teaching materials and the design of new materials (such as the learning opportunities that are developed annually by ERINNERN:AT, for example a handout for teachers, in which programmes for primary schools and first and second grade lower schools are presented).

In the training regulations for apprenticeships which form the legal basis for in-company apprenticeship training, diversity is systematically anchored as a transversal competence to be taught. According to the BMWET, related practical guidelines are also planned for training companies. As training in the workplace environment is predominantly practical, it is of central importance that the support tools for training are application-oriented, such as the role of diversity in today's working world, the opportunities and challenges of a diverse team, recognising antisemitic statements and patterns, possible courses for action in the event of antisemitic incidents, feedback reports from companies on diversity in practice and successful approaches to anti-discrimination in the workplace context.

In addition to the various initiatives already underway, the following new measures also contribute to effectively preventing and combating antisemitism:

Further developing school organisation and culture in order to respond appropriately to antisemitism

The results of the KIRAS project „Antisemitismus in der Schule – Perspektiven von Betroffenen und Case Management Strategien“ (“Antisemitism in schools – perspectives of those affected and case management strategies”) (project completion in September 2025) are to be implemented as part of this initiative, which is already anchored in the NAS 1.0. The KIRAS research project was the first to investigate Jewish pupils' experience of antisemitism. Based on the results, strategies for dealing professionally with antisemitism were developed for the school sector. These strategies are now to be published in a handout, which is scheduled to be distributed and communicated from autumn 2025 onwards. Various communication measures and training courses also form part of the initiative, and the prevention of antisemitism is also included in measures to prevent extremism and violence.

Establishing and monitoring curricula for the prevention of antisemitism

With the further development of teacher training from 2024 onwards, training content on the prevention of antisemitism and racism will become mandatory for all future teachers in the Master's programme: “The curricula must at least focus on the development of an understanding of the profession and a professional ethos which differentiates between a comprehensive understanding of the educational mandate and a community-securing and democracy-promoting approach to exclusion and discrimination such as racism, sexism, anti-gypsyism and antisemitism”. The measure concerns both the development and implementation as well as the monitoring of these new curricula.

Thus, Austria is once again living up to its pioneering role in combating antisemitism by implementing international recommendations on teacher training and – as the first EU member state and member state of the IHRA – introducing nationwide training on the prevention of antisemitism for teachers in training.

Supporting schools and school authorities in teaching values and preventing extremism

The aim here is to ensure the prevention of antisemitism in democracy education measures by emphasizing the threat to democracy posed by antisemitism.

Existing initiatives in this area, such as the existing extremism prevention workshops, will be continued as part of this measure.

The previous initiative “Extremismusprävention macht Schule” (“Extremism Prevention Goes to School”) was launched by the Federal Ministry of Education. The measures offered as part of this initiative generally comprise three to four teaching units and aim to raise awareness among children and young people and strengthen their resilience to radicalisation. The main topics of the workshops since the 2024/25 school year include democracy, diversity, human rights, discrimination and raising awareness to prejudice, extremist groups and ideologies, conflict resolution and violence prevention, media literacy and conspiracy theories, the Middle East conflict and antisemitism prevention. These workshops are expected to reach around 160,000 pupils throughout Austria by the end of the 2026 school year, with a total of up to 3,000 workshops planned.

Thematic workshops for textbook authors and reviewers are also planned as well as further measures related to the pilot project „Nachkommen von NS-Verfolgten erzählen” (“Descendants of Nazi victims tell their stories”), a concept-based trial of the use of descendants of victims of those persecuted by the NS regime in the classroom.

Carrying out research projects on teaching practices in the field of antisemitism prevention

In Austria, there currently exists only a small amount of qualitative research on teaching practices in the field of Holocaust education and antisemitism prevention. The measure aims to change this by launching projects that explore questions such as: How do history teachers structure their lessons? What role do history books play, what role do video interviews with contemporary witnesses play?

This is modelled on initiatives from Switzerland, which already has well-developed qualitative teaching research.

Promoting and financing visits to memorial sites (mobility grant)

The mobility grant implemented by the Austrian Agency for Education and Internationalisation (OeAD) for memorial site visits by schools has been in place since 2023. Visits to the Mauthausen and Gusen memorials and their satellite camp memorials in Ebensee and Melk are funded by the BMB. Holocaust education and teaching about memorial sites contribute to the prevention of antisemitism at the first level of prevention by educating people about the dangers of antisemitism and about the history and present day of Jewish people.

As part of the measure, the mobility grant for visits to memorial sites is now to be extended to make it even more accessible to schools. With the addition of further regional and international memorial sites (such as the Peršmanhof) and places of remembrance, the culture of remembrance in schools is to be strengthened.

Expanding dialogue initiatives that promote exchange between young people from different social, religious and cultural backgrounds

Dialogue projects such as “LIK RAT”, peer-to-peer opportunities or school exchange programmes offer young people the chance to learn about Jewish life first-hand and break down prejudices. These encounters strengthen understanding of different realities of life and promote social diversity. Programmes that facilitate exchange and dialogue between young people from diverse social, religious and cultural backgrounds are to be continuously strengthened and further developed in a targeted manner.

Raising awareness among members of the general administrative service through the Federal Academy of Public Administration

The targeted sensitisation and continuous training of all federal employees in dealing with antisemitism, racism and other forms of discrimination and exclusion is a central concern of the Austrian Federal Government. With around 15,000 participants per year, the Federal Academy of Public Administration (VAB) is the central training and further education institute for the civil service. To increase awareness among administrative staff with regard to antisemitism, there are plans to include a specific course in the VAB’s education programme.

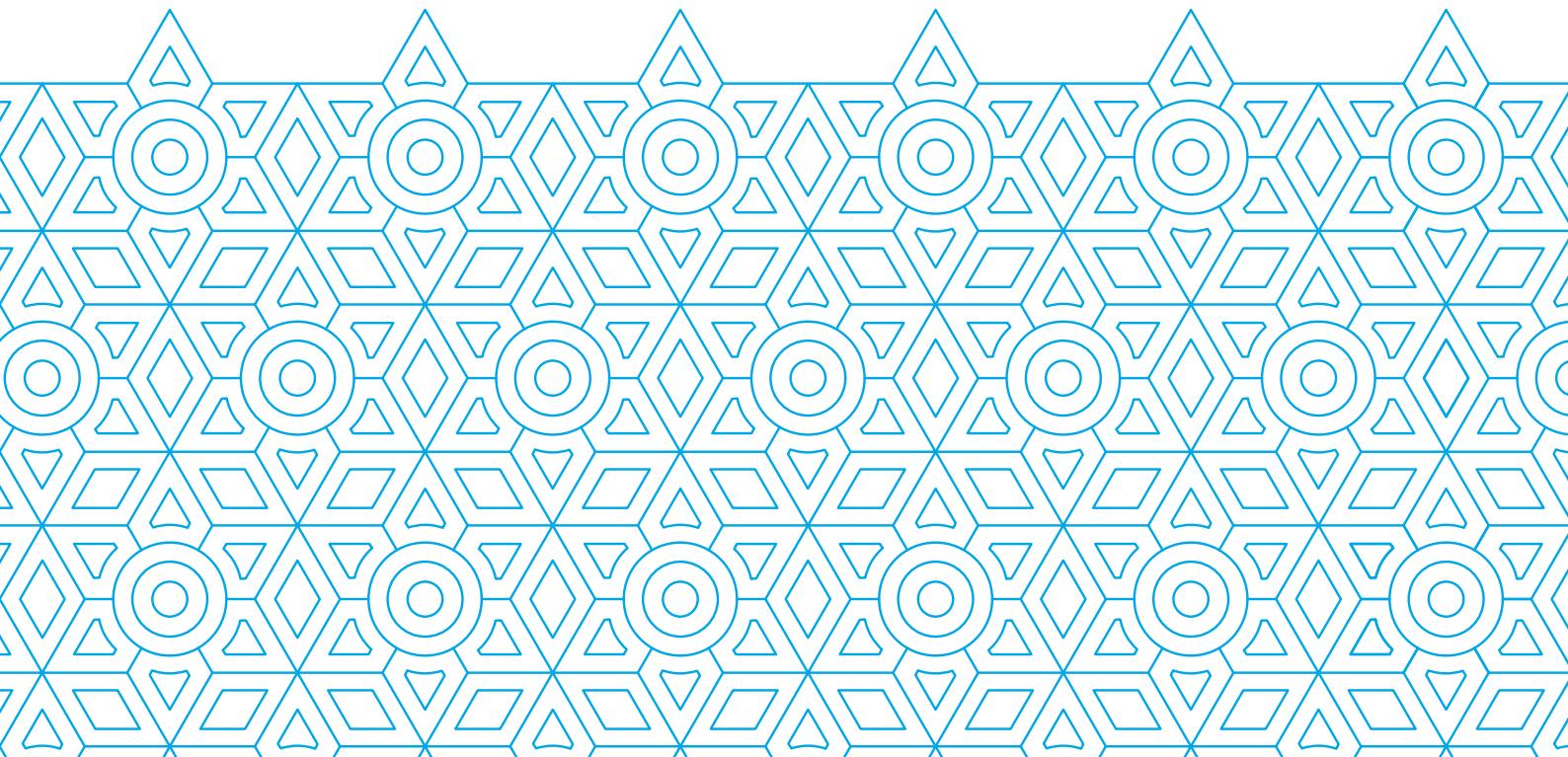
The aim is to impart basic understanding of the phenomenon of antisemitism, to address current manifestations and challenges and to strengthen individual resilience to antisemitic narratives.

Developing awareness-raising campaigns for professional groups with public access

In order to raise awareness that Austria is an open country and that discrimination based on origin, skin colour, ethnicity and religion is not only against the law but also damages the reputation of the entire country, a cooperation programme with federal provinces and tourism associations is to be set up.

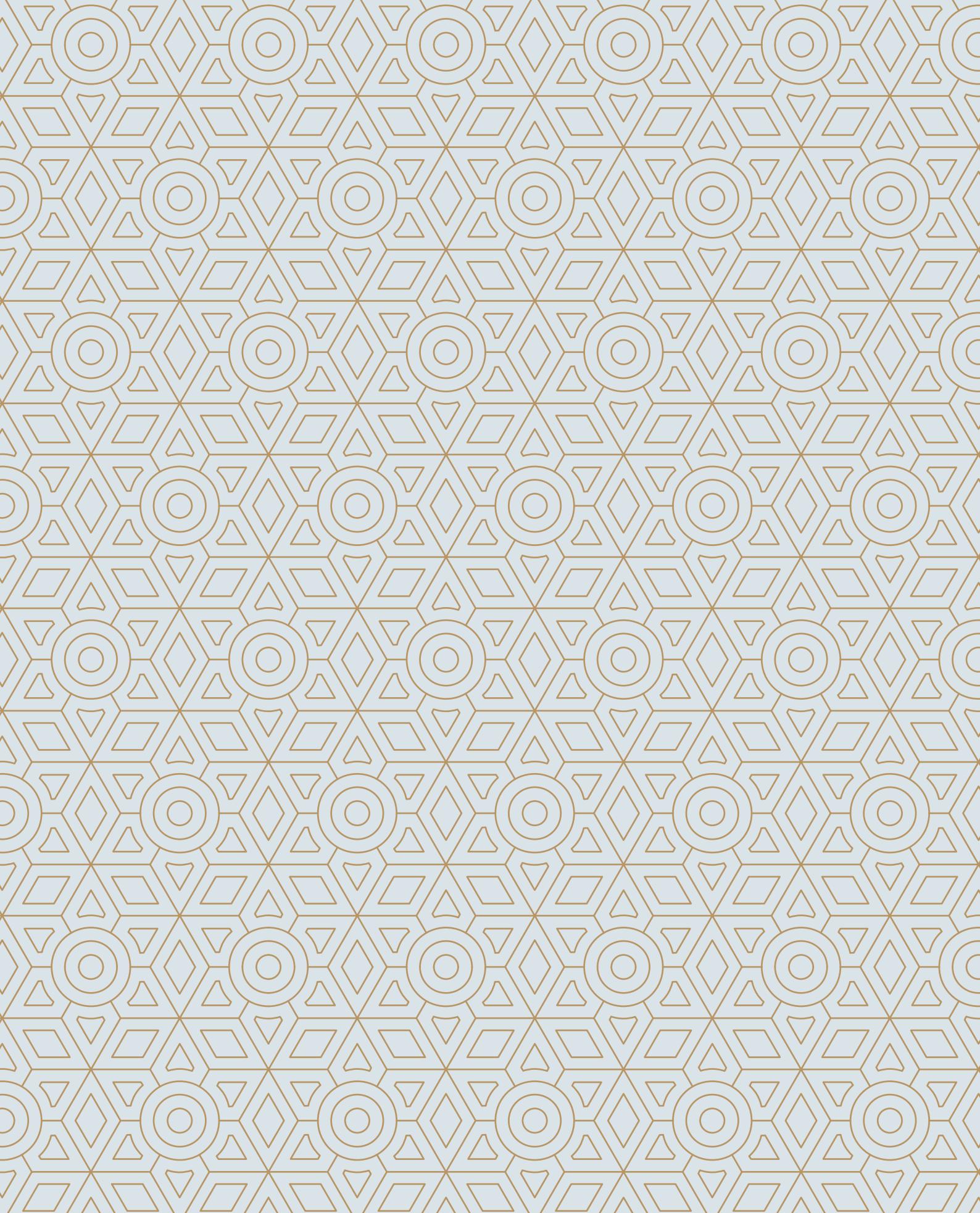
As antisemitic incidents are also increasingly affecting areas with a high level of public interaction, a multilingual awareness-raising campaign is to be designed that is specifically aimed at professional groups with regular public contact. The campaign aims to ensure that all people in Austria – without exception – are treated with equal respect.

Teaching about the Holocaust and about the diverse history and present day of Jewish people can be seen as the first level of prevention of antisemitism.



VI

Digital Sphere.Media



- 14 Developing a social media presence to communicate the strategy and its content
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- 21 Intensifying cooperation with platform operators
- 22 Providing information services for journalists
- 23 Promoting antisemitism-critical media literacy among the general population

1 Current situation

The digital world has become an indispensable part of our everyday lives. The Internet and social media are central hubs for communication, networking, information gathering and entertainment. They shape our social interactions, thinking and everyday actions, and influence our entire lives.

Despite the many opportunities that the digital space offers us, increasing digitalisation also brings with it numerous challenges. The Internet and social media in particular have become the central platform for spreading antisemitic ideologies and antisemitic disinformation as well as for the networking of extremist actors – and combating them is therefore a key challenge for effectively combating antisemitism in Austria and worldwide. In particular, the attack on Israel by the terrorist organisation Hamas on 7 October 2023 and the subsequent escalation in the Middle East have once again highlighted the central role of the Internet and social media in the spread of antisemitic ideologies.

Around 68 percent of the antisemitic incidents documented by the Reporting Centre for Antisemitism of the Jewish Community of Vienna (IKG Wien) in 2024 occurred in the digital space, 740 of which were on social media, 220 by email and 74 in other unspecified online environments. In 2024, the BMI registered a total of 347 antisemitic prejudice motives in police reports of prejudice-motivated criminal offences in Austria – this corresponds to an increase of around 32 percent compared to 2023. Of these, 23 percent were committed online, making the Internet the most frequently recorded location of crime in this category.

In addition to increased efforts at national level (see point 3), it is necessary to think beyond the scope of government intervention in order to effectively combat online antisemitism and ensure effective regulation of online platforms and online search engines⁶¹. Antisemitism is not only a direct threat to Jews in Europe, but also challenges the fundamental values of the EU and the values on which our European society is based: freedom of religion, democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights.

⁶¹ For the terms “online platforms” and “online search engines” see Article 3 (i) and (j) of the Digital Services Act (DSA).

The “EU Strategy on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life (2021–2030)”⁶² provides for numerous measures to combat antisemitism on the Internet. These include measures by the European Commission, such as the establishment of a Europe-wide network of trusted whistleblowers and Jewish organisations, increased support for the European Digital Media Observatory (EDMO), and the implementation of a comprehensive data analysis to better understand the spread of antisemitism on the Internet. The European Commission is also calling on the Member States to provide financial support to civil society organisations in combating antisemitic hate speech, disinformation and conspiracy theories on the Internet and to strengthen the capacity of national law enforcement and judicial authorities in prosecuting hate speech on the internet.

In order to hold online service providers, and therefore also social media, responsible for the content made available on their platforms, the Digital Services Act (DSA)⁶³ was enacted in 2022. It became directly applicable across the EU on 17 February 2024 and, in conjunction with the DSA Accompanying Act (DSA-BegG)⁶⁴, replaced the previously applicable Communications Platforms Act (KoPl-G)⁶⁵ at national level. The primary goal of the DSA is to prevent illegal and harmful activities and the dissemination of disinformation on the Internet. A key aspect of this is the mandatory and rapid removal of illegal content by platform operators.

62 See Communication from the Commission – EU Strategy to combat antisemitism and foster Jewish life (2021–2030), COM(2021) 615 final of 5 October 2021: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52021DC0615> (19.12.2025).

63 See Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on a single market for digital services and amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Services Act).

64 See the Federal Act enacting the Coordinator for Digital Services Act and amending the KommAustria Act, the E-Commerce Act, the General Civil Code, the Copyright Act, the Court Fees Act, the Media Act, the Code of Criminal Procedure 1975, the Public Prosecution Act, the Federal Act on Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters with the Member States of the European Union, the Extradition and Mutual Legal Assistance Act and the Telecommunications Act 2021 (DSA Accompanying Act – DSA-BegG), BGBl. I No. 182/2023.

65 See the Federal Act on Measures for the Protection of Users on Communication Platforms (Communication Platforms Act - KoPl-G), BGBl. I No. 151/2020, as amended.

Based on the “Framework Decision on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia”⁶⁶, the European Commission signed a code of conduct with the largest social media platforms and companies in 2016⁶⁷ to prevent and combat the spread of illegal online hate speech in Europe. This obliges platforms in particular to rapidly review and remove illegal hate speech that is reported to them. In January 2025, the revised “Code of conduct on countering illegal hate speech online+” (Code of Conduct+)⁶⁸ was presented to the European Commission and integrated into the regulatory framework of the DSA. This is intended to facilitate compliance with, and effective enforcement of, the DSA and to encourage online platforms to do more to prevent and anticipate threats in the future. It has been signed by Dailymotion, Facebook, Instagram, Jeuxvideo.com, LinkedIn, the consumer services operated by Microsoft, Snapchat, Rakuten Viber, TikTok, Twitch, X and YouTube.

In addition, the “Artificial Intelligence Act” (AI Act)⁶⁹, which came into force across the EU on 2 August 2024, is intended to establish a comprehensive legal framework for the regulation, responsible development and use of artificial intelligence. This includes, in particular, the labelling requirement for certain AI-generated content.⁷⁰ In addition to this, the “Action Plan against Disinformation”⁷¹ as well as the “EU Code of Practice on Disinformation”⁷² will also help to step up the fight against antisemitism on the Internet.

66 See Council Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA of 28 November 2008 on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32008F0913> (13.8.2025).

67 See https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/combatting-discrimination/racism-and-xenophobia/eu-code-conduct-countering-illegal-hate-speech-online_en (13.8.2025).

68 See <https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/dae/redirection/document/111777> (13.8.2025).

69 See Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence and amending Regulations (EC) No 300/2008, (EU) No 167/2013, (EU) No 168/2013, (EU) 2018/858, (EU) 2018/1139 und (EU) 2019/2144 and Directives 2014/90/EU, (EU) 2016/797 and (EU) 2020/1828 (Artificial Intelligence Regulation): <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32024R1689> (13.8.2025).

70 See Article 50 of the AI Act.

71 See Joint Communication from the Commission – Action Plan against Disinformation, JOIN (2018) 36 final of 5 December 2018: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52018JC0036> (19.12.2025).

72 See <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/code-practice-disinformation> (13.8.2025).

While digital platforms bring new challenges in the area of combating antisemitism, traditional media also continues to play a key role in shaping public opinion, and has a special responsibility to objectively identify and classify antisemitism and to counteract its normalisation.

Freedom of the press is enshrined in the Austrian constitution and protects the media from state interference. In this context, the Austrian Press Council plays a central role as a self-regulatory organisation by serving to ensure editorial quality assurance and guarantee freedom of the press.⁷³ The basis for this is a specially developed code of honour that defines journalistic professional ethics and sets out rules for everyday editorial work.⁷⁴ Point 7 of this code also contains a provision on “protecting against generalised denigration and discrimination”. Although antisemitism is not explicitly mentioned, it is covered by the general prohibition of discrimination.

The Austrian Broadcasting Corporation (ORF) also has its own editorial team that deals with the concerns of religious and cultural minorities in special programmes. Topics such as discrimination, racism and antisemitism are regularly the subject of its reporting.⁷⁵

Although antisemitic stereotypes are no longer consciously disseminated by mainstream media today, there is sometimes a lack of sufficient sensitivity in dealing with certain images and narratives. Therefore, depending on the political orientation of a medium, antisemitic argumentation patterns are occasionally reproduced – whether in the form of right-wing post-Holocaust rhetoric or Israel-related stereotypes, often labelled as “left-wing” antisemitism.

73 See <https://www.presserat.at> (13.8.2025).

74 https://www.presserat.at/show_content.php?sid=3 (13.8.2025).

75 See <https://volksgruppen.orf.at/diversitaet> (13.8.2025).

2 Challenges

Antisemitic content spreads on almost every digital platform that allows user contributions – whether on large or smaller platforms, on websites, in blogs, via video games or in the comment columns of online media. Although overtly antisemitic contributions not only violate the community standards of many platforms, but also often constitute criminal offences under the Austrian Criminal Code and the Prohibition Act and must therefore be removed by platform operators in accordance with the DSA, the sustainable deletion of antisemitic content in particular and hate speech online in general remains incomplete.

Although antisemitism is by no means limited to the digital space, the Internet and social media in particular often act as an amplifier for hate messages, conspiracy narratives and disinformation (fake news), which can spread online not only faster but also more sustainably than in other contexts. This contributes to a creeping normalisation and the shifting of linguistic boundaries in social discourse – and can lead to antisemitic actions and acts of violence when transferred to the analogue world.

In addition, there are many subtle forms of antisemitism that hide behind deliberately coded language and symbols, conspiracy myths and supposedly legitimate criticism of Israel. Their antisemitic character is often camouflaged behind skilful rhetoric and symbols, the understanding of which requires sound knowledge of current and historical manifestations of the problem. This background knowledge is not sufficiently available for the content moderation of the platforms. In addition, such antisemitic content on the Internet often falls below the threshold of criminal relevance and therefore cannot be identified and directly combated with the means available. Despite its considerable harmfulness to society as a whole, it is subsequently even less likely to be recognised and removed.

Complex algorithms turn social media into echo chambers that can reinforce existing prejudices, intolerance and extremist views. This has a profound impact on social cohesion in the real world and can endanger the lives and safety of individuals, groups of people and the existence of institutions, as well as affecting public order and internal security.

Antisemitic narratives are also an integral part of complex, interwoven global conspiracy theories and serve to supposedly simplify complex geopolitical contexts. International crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic, Russia's war of aggression

against Ukraine and the Hamas terrorist attack on Israel and the subsequent escalation in the Middle East are further fuelling existing antisemitism in Austria and around the world – a development that is particularly noticeable in the digital space and on social media.

There have also been repeated antisemitic incidents or the spread of antisemitic prejudices in traditional, non-digital media in Austria in the past. Headlines such as “Trump’s sinister Jewish whisperer”⁷⁶ or statements according to which Trump was “elevated to the throne by influential Jewish party donors”⁷⁷ convey classic antisemitic narrative patterns. Similarly problematic are supplementary literary contributions with formulations such as “Corporations, banks and high finance are parasitising on the substance of the people” – a narrative that is clearly linked to antisemitic stereotypes.

Problematic expressions can also be found in media coverage on Israel. For example, Israeli settlers have been labelled as “a poisonous brood of vipers”, or the State of Israel has been equated with National Socialism – for example by comparing Palestinians with persecuted Jews. Another frequently observed distortion is the disregarding of prevailing antisemitism and of Palestinians as an active party to the conflict, as well as the one-sided focus on emotional victim narratives. Added to this is imagery that serves antisemitic stereotypes of Jews as allegedly aggressive, vengeful and inhumane. Old Testament narratives such as “an eye for an eye” are also occasionally used as a supposed explanation for Israeli government action, and sometimes presented out of context. In some cases, antisemitic imagery merges with content that is critical of globalisation, for example through the depiction of a globe entwined by an octopus – a classic antisemitic conspiracy theory image.⁷⁸

76 See the guest commentary published in “Die Presse” on 10 October 2018 with the title “Trump’s enigmatic Jewish whisperer” by Ian Buruma, which was later removed by the editors of “Die Presse”.

77 See <https://www.mena-watch.com/krone-bedient-antisemitische-verschwoerungstheorien/>.

78 See for example Marc Grimm (ed.), Christina Hainzl (ed.) (2022), “Antisemitismus in Österreich nach 1945” (Antisemitism in Austria after 1945) or Markl, Florian (2018) “Giftiges Natterngezücht” (Venomous brood of vipers). “Antisemitische Argumentationsmuster in der deutschsprachigen Medienberichterstattung über Israel” (Antisemitic argumentation in German-language media coverage of Israel). In: Grimm, Marc/Kahmann, Bodo (eds.) “Antisemitismus im 21. Jahrhundert. Virulenz einer alten Feindschaft in Zeiten von Islamismus und Terror.” (Antisemitism in the 21st century. The virulence of an old enmity in times of Islamism and terror.) Berlin/Boston, 267–291.

A deeper understanding of such recurring patterns and greater awareness among media professionals can help address these challenges in media coverage in a responsible and professional manner.

3 Ongoing and planned measures

In implementing the NAS 1.0, important steps have already been taken to combat antisemitism on the Internet. For example, in order to increase protection against violence and hatred on the Internet, the “Hass-im-Netz-Bekämpfungs-Gesetz” (“Act Combating Online Hate”) (HiNBG)⁷⁹ was adopted, introducing numerous tightening measures under criminal (procedural) law, civil law and media law for the effective prosecution of hate crime and the strengthening of victim protection. An important role is played in this context by the networking of relevant actors within the framework of the No Hate Speech committee.⁸⁰

Following the evaluation of the Prohibition Act, the Symbols Act and the Insignia Act provided for in the NAS 1.0, the Federal Government at the time also agreed on an amendment to the Prohibition Act⁸¹, which came into force on 1 January 2024. Among other things, this amendment provides for an extension of domestic jurisdiction to enable criminal prosecution in Austria for conduct committed abroad and on the Internet.

In order to secure and strengthen the ongoing fight against antisemitism on the Internet through further concrete measures based on the NAS 1.0, the then Federal Minister for the EU and Constitution, Karoline Edtstadler, presented the Package of Measures against Antisemitism and Antisemitic Disinformation in the Digital Sphere (MAO) on 18 March 2024. It complemented the NAS 1.0 with specific measures in the digital area, which have now been integrated into the NAS 2.0.

⁷⁹ See the Federal Act on measures to combat online hate (Act Combating Online Hate – HiNBG), BGBl. I No. 148/2020.

⁸⁰ More information about the tasks and objectives of the committee can be found at www.nohatespeech.at, in particular, the agreement on its structure and working methods.

⁸¹ See Federal Act amending the Prohibition Act 1947, the Introductory Act to the Administrative Procedure Acts 2008, the Badges Act 1960, the Uniform Prohibition Act and the Symbols Act (2023 Amendment to the Prohibition Act), BGBl. I No. 177/2023.

In order to effectively combat antisemitism and antisemitic disinformation on the Internet, a coordinated effort between authorities, technology companies and civil society is required, combining legal, technological and educational approaches.

For this reason, the Online Antisemitism and Disinformation Task Force was set up in December 2023 under the leadership of the BKA's Department IV/12. The task force is made up of experts from the federal government, academia, social media, the IKG Wien and various civil society organisations. Regular meetings are held to discuss possible measures to prevent and combat online antisemitism and to ensure coordination with regard to current developments and challenges. In this context, there are also plans to expand interministerial coordination with regard to online antisemitism in the future.

As part of the third meeting of the Task Force on 31 July 2024, a "Round Table against Antisemitism Online" was organised at the BKA in order to establish a constant exchange with representatives of online platforms and online search engines in the fight against antisemitism on the Internet. The round table was also the starting signal for an online media campaign by the BKA on antisemitism. The aim was to raise awareness in society of antisemitism and its various manifestations and to inform people about the possible (legal) consequences of its spread online. As part of the online media campaign, the website antisemitismus.gv.at has been set up to answer the most important questions about the phenomenon of antisemitism and to show how to react effectively to antisemitic incidents on the Internet.

Successfully combating antisemitism and disinformation on the Internet requires a multi-layered and complex approach. To supplement and further develop the existing measures in the area of online antisemitism, further initiatives are planned that focus on strengthening civil society resilience, intensifying cooperation with online platforms and online search engines, and expanding cooperation at an international level.

Based on this, the implementation of the following measures is planned:

Developing a social media presence to communicate the strategy and its content

Given the insufficient social visibility of the NAS 1.0 to date and the fact that its content and objectives are not well anchored in the public consciousness, the establishment of a targeted social media presence is planned. The content, objectives and implementation measures of the NAS 2.0 are to be presented in a form that is accessible to a broad section of the population, and that is dialogue-oriented and comprehensible, in order to significantly increase the visibility and effectiveness of the strategy in the public sphere.

In addition, through continuous and fact-based contributions on the Jewish past, present and future in Austria, on manifestations of antisemitism and on current prevention measures, a digital space will be created, promoting education, increasing visibility and contributing to the social dialogue. To increase its reach and effectiveness, cooperation with civil society actors, educational institutions, museums, remembrance centres, memorials, cultural institutions and relevant research institutions is also being considered. The aim is to harness existing synergies and develop new forms of cooperation to ensure a continuous and coordinated presence of content that is critical of antisemitism in the digital space.

The overall aim of the measure is to contribute to the sustainable anchoring of antisemitism-critical educational work in the digital public sphere, to raise awareness of Jewish life in all its historical and contemporary diversity, and to promote social discourse on antisemitism in Austria.

Supporting civil society reporting and counselling centres

In addition to the need for reliable data and clear responsibilities for its collection, it is essential to guarantee a comprehensive counselling service for those affected by antisemitism on the Internet. Existing civil society reporting and counselling centres should therefore be strengthened in the long term. This also includes compiling a list of centres in the EU that deal substantially with antisemitism and disinformation, and offer training and funding opportunities for civil society organisations.

Promoting the development of automated systems to recognise and combat antisemitic hate speech and fake news on the Internet

The use of AI to identify and combat antisemitic content will play an important role in counteracting the large amount of hate content on the Internet in the medium and long term. To this end, the development and testing of AI-supported systems should be specifically promoted.

Promoting trusted flagger organisations within the meaning of the Digital Services Act

The DSA defines trusted flaggers as institutions that have special expertise and competence in detecting, identifying and reporting illegal content. Organisations that meet specified requirements can be certified as trusted flaggers by the national Digital Services Coordinator (DSC) – and in Austria, by the Austrian Communications Authority (KommAustria). This gives the respective organisation the right to have its reports of illegal content on online platforms prioritised and processed immediately.

In Austria to date (as of August 2025), six trusted flaggers have been certified by KommAustria. In the area of hate crime on the Internet, these include the Association for Civil Courage and Anti-Racism Work (ZARA) and the Internet Ombudsman's Office of the Austrian Institute for Applied Telecommunications (ÖIAT).

In order to ensure effective enforcement of the DSA with regard to combating illegal antisemitic content, the recognition of organisations with specific expertise as trusted flaggers is essential. For this reason, the identification, targeted promotion and support of organisations with relevant expertise in the field of antisemitism is planned, which can act as trusted flagger within the framework of the DSA in addition to the organisations that have already been certified. In addition, there are plans to ensure that organisations that have already been recognised as trusted flaggers have the necessary expertise in the field of antisemitism, for example through training courses.

Producing a podcast about Jewish history, culture and antisemitism

As part of this initiative, a podcast is being developed that sheds light on Judaism and Jewish life – today and in the past. At the same time, the manifestations, causes and effects of antisemitism are addressed and strategies for preventing and combating it are presented. Experts from science, education, Jewish communities, art and culture as well as civil society should have their say. The podcast is intended to create a permanent, publicly accessible educational space that promotes knowledge,

breaks down prejudices and thus contributes to informed and reflective social discourse.

Launching an online media campaign on antisemitism and further developing the website antisemitismus.gv.at

The media campaign launched online and on social media in 2024 is to be relaunched and its content further developed in order to sustainably raise awareness among the general public about the dangers and manifestations of antisemitism. Through the use of digital formats to address younger target groups in particular, the aim is to strengthen their ability to recognise (pseudo-)subtle and current manifestations of antisemitic content and disinformation on the Internet and to raise awareness to the fact that the Internet is not a legal vacuum. People who are affected by antisemitic hatred on the Internet should be widely informed about the reporting options to law enforcement authorities and civil society organisations in order to protect their personal and digital rights.

In this context, cooperation with influencers – such as well-known personalities from sport and culture – as well as with civil society organisations should also be examined to help raise awareness of the various facets of antisemitism.

Parallel to this, the accompanying information platform antisemitismus.gv.at will also be expanded. The plan is to add practical content on refuting common antisemitic narratives, the Middle East conflict, interactive e-learning tools, reporting options and information on (further) education opportunities, teaching materials, prevention measures and civil society initiatives.

The aim is to raise awareness, provide information and offer low-threshold information channels. The website is intended to establish itself as a central point of contact for all questions relating to antisemitism in Austria – for citizens, specialist centres and the media alike.

Intensifying cooperation with international partners and active participation in EU bodies

In view of the cross-border dynamics of antisemitic narratives that are spreading worldwide via the Internet, intergovernmental cooperation at European and international level is to be strengthened. A central component of this initiative is the structured exchange of experience, examples of best practices, knowledge and data between states, specialist authorities and special representatives as well as civil society organisations.

The focus here is on harnessing the potential for cooperation, enabling international coordination with regard to legal and regulatory framework conditions, and creating a common understanding of the digital threat scenario. This should strengthen the ability to take joint action in order to effectively counter the spread of antisemitic hatred on the Internet across national borders.

Furthermore, the necessary influence on service providers to comply with the instruments created and to take responsibility can only be achieved through active cooperation and a regular exchange of expertise between the competent authorities at national and European level. National experiences and needs must be incorporated into European decision-making processes at an early stage in order to help shape standards for regulating online platforms and promoting synergistic approaches to combating antisemitism at EU level.

This includes, in particular, the ongoing involvement of BKA's Department IV/12 in the *“Working Group on the Implementation of the EU Strategy on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life”*, which monitors the implementation of the EU strategy against antisemitism.

Intensifying cooperation with platform operators

Digital platforms must be more closely involved in society's overall responsibility to combat antisemitism. Building on the dialogue established with representatives of online platforms and online search engines as part of the “Round Table against Antisemitism Online” in July 2024, increased efforts are planned to intensify cooperation with these platforms and search engines, and involving KommAustria as the enforcement authority for the DSA in Austria.

The focus here will be on creating a sustainable exchange (of knowledge) with representatives of online platforms, including through targeted content moderation

and specialist training of moderation teams, the functioning of algorithms, the tightening of community guidelines, the application of the IHRA definition of antisemitism and the implementation of the DSA. The selective involvement of platform representatives in existing expert committees at federal level (for example in the National Forum against Antisemitism (NFA) and the Task Force Online Antisemitism and Disinformation) is also being considered.

Providing information services for journalists

In order to ensure balanced and fact-based media coverage, knowledge and awareness of the changes to, and diverse manifestations of, antisemitism are essential. This should counteract increasing polarisation. The creation of corresponding information material for journalists is therefore planned within the framework of existing structures.

Furthermore, concepts for information events for media representatives, among others, are to be developed. These information events can be offered by experts in cooperation with the BKA and other departments in order to contribute to a better understanding of the phenomenon of antisemitism and the associated challenges.

Promoting antisemitism-critical media literacy among the general population

In order to strengthen society's resilience, it is crucial to enable Internet users to recognise antisemitic content and disinformation and to critically question it and specifically report it in the digital space. For this reason, building on existing materials and in potential cooperation with civil society organisations, there are plans to record, collect and process fact-based information on common antisemitic narratives and disinformation.

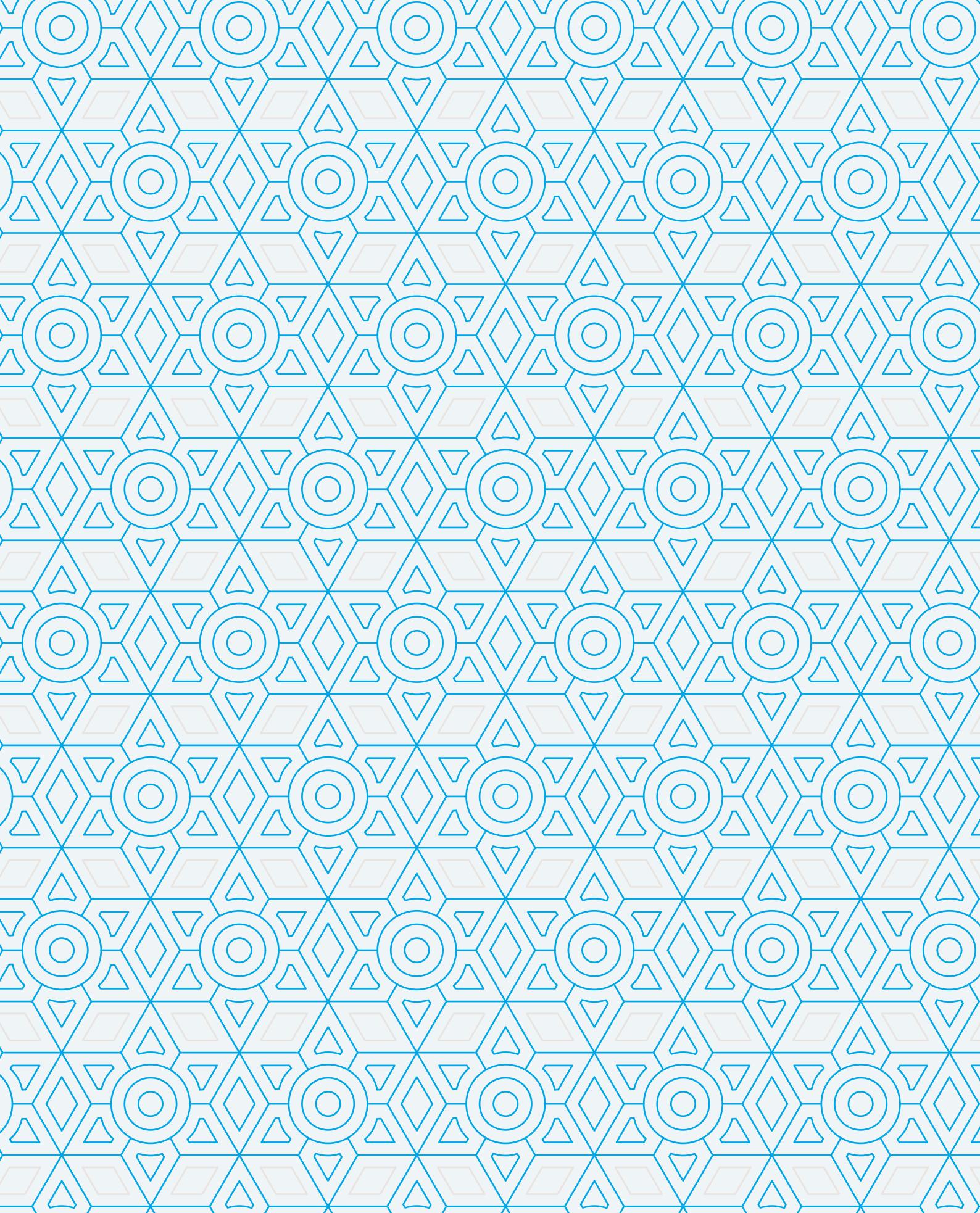
Particular focus will be placed on forms of antisemitism that express themselves in a subtle and encrypted manner, for example through coded language, symbolism, conspiracy myths or in the form of supposedly legitimate, but actually antisemitic criticism of Israel. The information will be made publicly available and accessible in a comprehensible and practical manner – embedded in information about reflective and responsible media use – for example through digital handouts on the website antisemitismus.gv.at.

The Internet and social media in particular have become the central platform for disseminating antisemitic ideologies and antisemitic disinformation, as well as for networking among extremist actors.



VII

Integration.Dialogue



- 24 Extending the integration declaration for persons entitled to asylum and subsidiary protection to include a declaration against antisemitism**
- 25 Including antisemitism as a mandatory cross-cutting issue in integration programmes**
- 26 Further developing the Documentation Centre for Political Islam**
- 27 Actively involving the Islamic Religious Authority in preventing and combating antisemitism**
- 28 Expanding the values and orientation courses**
- 29 Organising visits to memorial sites as part of the values and orientation courses**
- 30 Community formats in cooperation with Jewish organisations**

1 Current situation

In the context of integration, the prevention of antisemitism already plays a major role in various measures and initiatives. Nevertheless, it is clear that there is still work to be done in this area – in terms of giving Jewish people a sense of safety, and ensuring democratic and social coexistence in Austria. The escalation in the Middle East caused by the Hamas massacre of the Israeli civilian population, the war in the Gaza Strip and the extent of the suffering are also preoccupying people in Austria and causing emotional consternation. These events have further led to a consolidation and radicalisation of antisemitic actions and statements among immigrants from Muslim countries. This development emphasizes the need to counter antisemitic tendencies at an early stage and effectively as part of general integration policy measures and, in particular, in the teaching of values.

The aim of the integration measures is to counteract antisemitic attitudes at an early stage through targeted preventive work and to raise the awareness of immigrants to the principles of good community relations. Examining the history of antisemitism and the Shoah and gaining insights into contemporary Jewish life are central components of successful integration as they provide an understanding of the development and characteristics of Austrian society. Belonging to Austrian society is not only based on formal conditions, such as having a secure residence status and participating in the labour market or the education system, but also on understanding and accepting democratic principles, constitutional norms and historical responsibility. In this sense, the culture of remembrance becomes a key element in the dialogue on value-based integration and social participation.

The urgency of such integration policy approaches is also evident in the current situation. According to the report written by the Reporting Centre for Antisemitism of the IKG Wien, an all-time high number of antisemitic incidents was recorded in Austria in 2024. A total of 1,520 cases was documented, which represents an increase of over 30 percent compared to the previous year. Part of this development is related to the migration policy dynamics of recent years.

As almost one third of the reported antisemitic incidents from 2024 can be ideologically attributed to a Muslim background,⁸² it is evident that antisemitic acts occur more frequently in certain migrant milieus – a finding that is also consistent with the results of the current study conducted by the Institute for Empirical Social Research (IFES) on behalf of the Austrian Parliament. The IFES study shows that young people, in particular, agree with certain antisemitic attitudes at an above-average rate⁸³, which makes the group of (unaccompanied) minors entitled to protection especially relevant. It should be noted that social media has increasingly established itself as a platform for spreading such views – with 740 cases accounting for almost half of the incidents documented in the digital space, in which antisemitic narratives often spread quickly and unfiltered.⁸⁴

The 2024 antisemitism study commissioned by Parliament and conducted by IFES also shows that antisemitic attitudes among Turkish and Arabic-speaking respondents are significantly higher than average. In almost all areas analysed, individuals from this additional sample expressed stronger agreement with antisemitic statements. It was also found that antisemitism is often less recognised or problematised in this group.⁸⁵ This difference can be explained by factors such as a high degree of religiosity, patriarchal attitudes and a lack of historical education in conflict-ridden contexts of origin. Particularly worrying is the finding that Israel-related antisemitism is often not recognised as such and that antisemitic statements are increasingly perceived as supposedly legitimate criticism of Israel, especially by Turkish- and Arabic-speaking respondents and by young people and people with a university degree.⁸⁶ This lack of clarity complicates social and educational discussions about antisemitic thought patterns and underlines the need for targeted educational work in the area of integration.

82 See https://fca755ac-004d-4a98-bf62-6ebd5ba1ecc3.filesusr.com/ugd/ed51c1_d4d2fa144b5847ca962da62aceb21215.pdf; see p.20 (19.12.2025).

83 See https://www.parlament.gv.at/dokument/fachinfos/publikationen/Antisemitismus_2024_Gesamtbericht.pdf (3.4.2025).

84 See https://fca755ac-004d-4a98-bf62-6ebd5ba1ecc3.filesusr.com/ugd/ed51c1_d4d2fa144b5847ca962da62aceb21215.pdf; see p. 5 (19.12.2025).

85 In comparison, the corresponding figures for the Austrian population as a whole were 13 percent for manifest and 33 percent for latent antisemitic attitudes. See https://www.parlament.gv.at/aktuelles/pk/jahr_2025/_pk0245?utm (2.4.2025).

86 See https://www.parlament.gv.at/dokument/fachinfos/publikationen/Antisemitismus_2024_Gesamtbericht.pdf; see p. 107 and 110–111 (19.8.2025).

It also shows that antisemitic conspiracy myths, particularly in connection with global crises, continue to find fertile ground. This mainly affects young people with a low level of formal education, a high level of religiosity and patriarchal attitudes. According to the 2024 Integration Report, a significant proportion of the younger immigrant cohorts have massive educational deficits. Almost two thirds of new immigrants needed literacy training, and around half of them, in their language of origin. Many have no or only a very low level of school education. This level of education also has a direct impact on the critical assessment of disinformation, antisemitic stereotypes and conspiracy theories.⁸⁷

Against this backdrop, targeted and effective prevention of antisemitism in the context of migration and integration is more urgent than ever, and the measures taken as part of the NAS 1.0 should therefore be supplemented and adapted in light of these developments.

2 Challenges

Current developments show that antisemitism in Austria is not only increasing in frequency, but also manifesting itself in new forms of expression, such as Israel-related hostility, conspiracy myths or religiously motivated images of the enemy, which are increasingly gaining a foothold in migrant youth milieus and in the digital space. Prevention work in the field of integration faces several structural, educational and social challenges that will be increasingly addressed in the coming years.

These diverse challenges can be roughly categorised as follows:

Polarisation due to international conflicts

Conflicts in the Middle East have a direct impact on the social climate in Europe. The terrorist attack by Hamas on 7 October 2023 and the escalation in Gaza have not only led to an increase in antisemitic incidents, but also to a polarisation in the public sphere, particularly at demonstrations and in school contexts. Many people with family ties in Israel, but also in the Gaza Strip, Lebanon or Iran, are directly affected

⁸⁷ See <https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/agenda/integration/integrationsbericht.html>; see p. 60–61 (19.8.2025).

by the events in the region. These tensions have an impact on the Jewish people's sense of security as well as on the discourse on integration as a whole.

Increasing spread and normalisation of Israel-related antisemitism

A significant proportion of the population, especially individuals with a migration background, does not recognise antisemitic statements in the context of criticism of Israel as problematic. This lack of clarity not only makes educational work more difficult, but also lowers society's threshold for reacting to antisemitic incitement. In the case of immigrants from predominantly Muslim countries of origin, antisemitism is also culturally acceptable or widespread in these countries or is part of the *raison d'être* of the state.

The 2023 Annual Report of the Documentation Centre for Political Islam (DPI) also shows that antisemitic attitudes are becoming increasingly visible among Muslims and certain Islamic organisations. Since 7 October 2023, such narratives have been expressed more openly, also in connection with political statements by international players. In Austria and Germany, antisemitic positions can be observed, especially among organisations with close ties to the Muslim Brotherhood, Iran or Hizb ut-Tahrir. These groups are increasingly spreading their content via social media and are also becoming more visible in public.

At the same time, there is increasing evidence that antisemitic narratives are finding acceptance among young Muslims, for example in academic circles. This raises questions about the role of Islamic organisations, educational institutions and religious authorities. Against this background, there is further need for analysis and education in order to counteract antisemitic tendencies at an early stage.⁸⁸

⁸⁸ See https://www.dokumentationsstelle.at/fileadmin/dpi/publikationen/DPI_Jahresbericht_2023.pdf, see p. 19–24 (19.8.2025). In May 2025, the Islamic Religious Authority in Austria (IGGÖ) signed a declaration of intent on educational cooperation with the Turkish religious authority, Diyanet, the president of which had attracted attention in the past with controversial statements. Islamic Religious Authority in Austria (2025), see <https://www.derislam.at/2025/05/03/igg-oe-und-diyanet-vertiefen-zusammenarbeit-mit-memorandum-of-understanding> (19.8.2025).

Digital radicalisation and antisemitism in social media among migrant youths

Social media in particular has established itself as a low-threshold platform for antisemitic content. Here, young people are exposed – often without any media filter – to antisemitic memes, Shoah relativisation or conspiracy theories. This content has a particularly strong impact on young people, as it is emotionally charged and packaged in simple, often polarising language. What makes this particularly challenging is that many immigrants consume media content from their countries of origin in the respective language, in which antisemitic content is sometimes conveyed without reflection or even actively shared.

In summary, it can be observed that advancing digitalisation, social polarisation and international conflict pose new challenges for the prevention of antisemitism and the effective combating of antisemitic tendencies in the area of integration.

Antisemitic narratives are spreading increasingly dynamically and easily in digital communication spaces, including in the languages of origin of many immigrants. In the context of integration, this requires communication and education strategies that respond in a differentiated manner to cultural backgrounds, language levels and media habits in order to identify antisemitic attitudes at an early stage and combat them effectively.

In the area of integration, the NAS 2.0 is placing greater emphasis on target group-oriented educational work, innovative teaching formats and evidence-based further development of measures. The structural anchoring of the topic of antisemitism in integration programmes and other formats is being strengthened, as is the involvement of civil society and religious actors in prevention measures.

Preventing antisemitism in the area of integration is not a one-off measure, but must be seen as a permanent component of integration policy responsibility. Only through structurally anchored, coherent and practical measures can antisemitic attitudes be effectively countered and an integration framework based on shared values, historical awareness and constitutional principles be strengthened.

3 Ongoing and planned measures

The NAS 2.0 is supported by a variety of measures in the area of integration, the aim of which is to prevent and suppress antisemitic attitudes in migrant milieus, above all through the consistent communication of values, and at the same time, to raise awareness of the historical and social contributions of Judaism. Central to this is the establishment of a common understanding of good community relations in a free democratic society. In addition to the continuation of existing initiatives, further important steps have been taken to reach new target groups, particularly in the context of integration policy.

Within the framework of the NAS 1.0, the values and orientation courses of the Austrian Integration Fund (ÖIF) for asylum seekers and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection have also been expanded to include modules on reducing antisemitic prejudices. In addition, the contributions of Judaism to Austrian and European history have been actively communicated in various integration and educational formats.

In order to improve prevention work, multiplier workshops were organised by the ÖIF in cooperation with the IKG Wien. Youth projects in the area of integration have also been promoted, educating young people about radicalisation, propaganda, antisemitism and the importance of peaceful dialogue between cultures and religions. In addition, projects in the field of education that support young people with a migrant background are continuously being promoted to raise awareness of antisemitism. For example, as part of the ÖIF initiative "ZUSAMMEN:ÖSTERREICH" ("TOGETHER:AUSTRIA") initiative, integration ambassadors are working with the school dialogue format "LIK RAT" to break down antisemitic prejudices through personal encounters. The Styrian project "Vorurteile überwinden 2.0" ("Overcoming Prejudices 2.0") also focuses on targeted interventions in the classroom in order to recognise antisemitic thought patterns at an early stage and question them effectively.

To accompany this, the ÖIF published an overview dossier on antisemitic attitudes in Austria and Germany in 2021. In addition, the Institute for Advanced Studies carried out an evaluation of the awareness-raising module on antisemitism anchored in the values and orientation course in 2023. A separate package of measures was also launched for Jews displaced from Ukraine.

In the context of integration, teachers, German language trainers and integration counsellors play a particularly important role in preventing antisemitism. Their educational skills are crucial, in recognising antisemitic attitudes at an early stage and dealing with them effectively. Targeted training courses enable them to actively contribute to raising awareness and communicating values in their environment.

Further concrete initiatives are planned to supplement and further develop existing integration policy measures in the prevention of antisemitism. The aim of these measures is to raise awareness of the dangers of antisemitism, set binding standards in the integration process and create spaces for encounters and knowledge transfer.

Extending the integration declaration for persons entitled to asylum and subsidiary protection to include a declaration against antisemitism

The integration declaration is to be expanded in future to include a declaration or passage on antisemitism. This initiative serves to take a clear and comprehensible stance against any form of hostility towards Jews, and will be implemented as part of the mandatory integration programme. The declaration is intended to emphasize that antisemitism is incompatible with the values of democratic coexistence in Austria. It will ensure commitment and transparency with regard to the expectations of immigrants.

Including antisemitism as a mandatory cross-cutting issue in integration programmes

At the same time, the topic of antisemitism will be included as a mandatory cross-cutting theme in the new integration programme, which will be available from the first day of the immigrant's arrival in the country. The discussion of antisemitism is integrated into the existing content – particularly in the modules on democracy, the rule of law, history and social cohesion. This ensures that immigrants are sensitised to antisemitic thought patterns, its historical roots and its potential dangers at an early stage. The aim is to achieve a uniform, standardised approach to the topic that can be applied across the board in integration practice.

Further developing the Documentation Centre for Political Islam

Further developing the Documentation Centre for Political Islam (DPI) is a central component of the overall national strategy to combat religiously motivated extremism and thus also antisemitic ideologies. In view of the worrying trends, a thorough analysis of extremist structures, narratives and individual actors is essential, especially where Islamist-motivated antisemitism is linked to political activism. The DPI is to be strengthened in its efforts to systematically record, classify and scientifically analyse such content in social media, networks and organisations. This will enable risks to be identified at an early stage and targeted measures to be taken for politics, security authorities and educational work.

Actively involving the Islamic Religious Authority in preventing and combating antisemitism

In view of the rise in antisemitism with a Muslim background, greater attention is being paid to the active involvement of the Islamic Religious Authority in Austria (IGGÖ) in the prevention and suppression of antisemitism. Within the framework of interfaith dialogue and responsibility towards democracy, the rule of law and peaceful coexistence, cooperation between the state and the IGGÖ in combating antisemitism is to be intensified, particularly in the production of materials for Islamic religious education and the training and further education of imams at Austrian universities.

Expanding the values and orientation courses

Compulsory values and orientation courses also remain a key element of the integration programme which focuses on teaching core constitutional values such as equal rights, human dignity, democracy, the rule of law, LGBTIQ+ rights and the fight against antisemitism. The duration of the values and orientation courses is to be extended from three to five days in order to give the respective topics sufficient space.

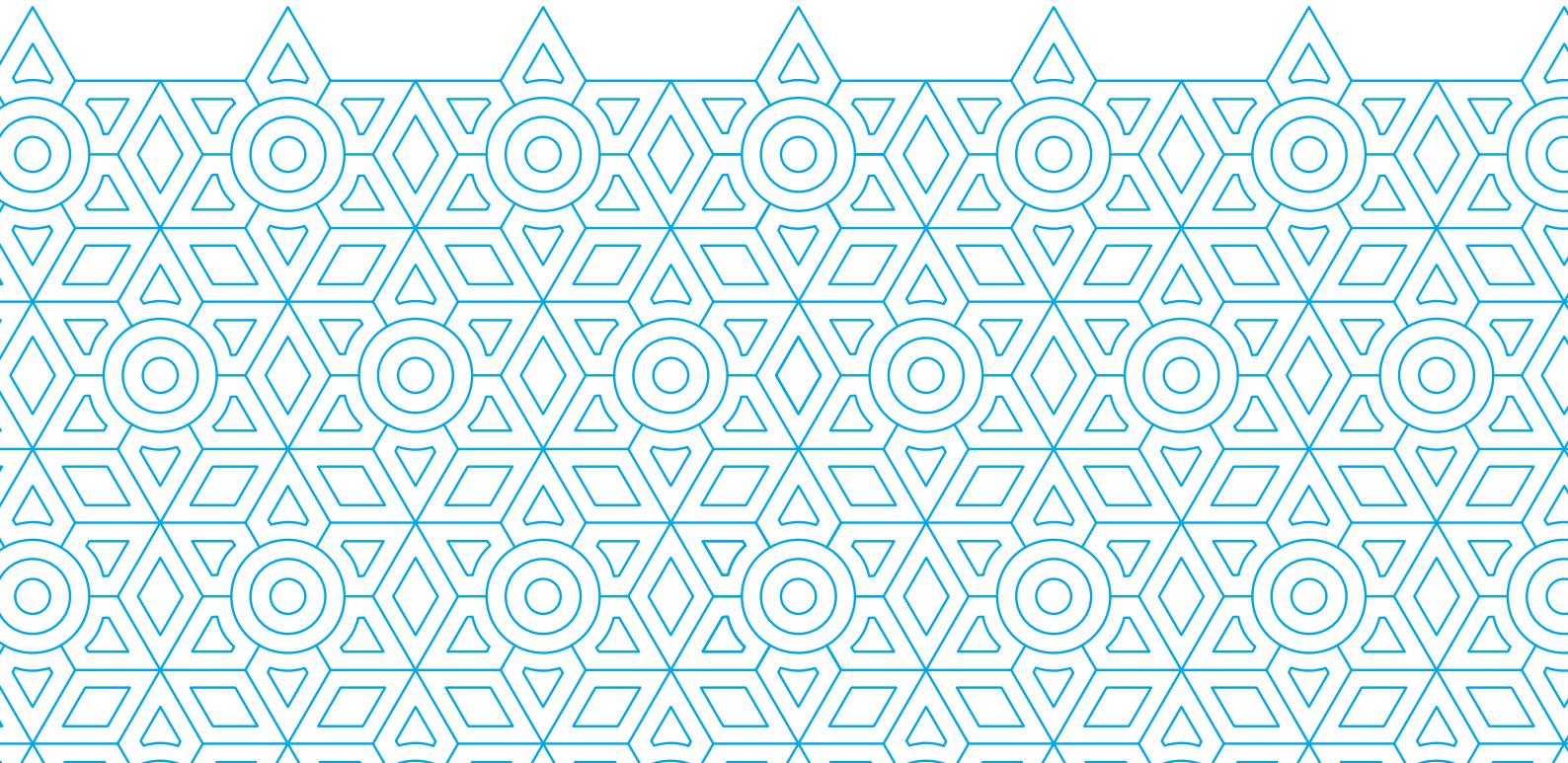
Organising visits to memorial sites as part of the values and orientation courses

Building on the anchoring of antisemitism as a mandatory cross-cutting topic in the new integration programme, the ÖIF is intensifying its prevention work by piloting visits to memorials with participants from the values and orientation courses in Vienna. The aim is to vividly convey the historical dimension of antisemitism and its current manifestations in a social context and to raise awareness of basic democratic values. The direct confrontation with the crimes of National Socialism is intended to promote empathy, a sense of responsibility and a clear commitment against hostility towards Jews.

Community formats in cooperation with Jewish organisations

In addition, the ÖIF is developing and implementing new community formats in cooperation with Jewish organisations. These events are intended to help make Jewish life in Austria more visible, promote intercultural dialogue and reduce existing gaps in knowledge and stereotypes. They can be organised in the form of dialogue evenings, information events, excursions or thematic focuses and should be deliberately located in the local area to enable easy participation.

The aim of the measures in the area of integration is to counteract antisemitic attitudes at an early stage through targeted prevention work, and thus lay the foundation for good community relations.



VIII

Remembrance.
Commemoration.Culture



- 31 Launching a review process for a potential Austrian Holocaust Museum
- 32 Promoting and strengthening Jewish cultural and community life in Austria
- 33 Supporting civil society remembrance and commemoration initiatives
- 34 Making places of Nazi crimes visible in cooperation with federal states and municipalities
- 35 Examining an amendment to the war graves conservation laws

1 Current situation

2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the end of the National Socialist regime of terror and the Second World War, as well as the establishment of the Second Republic. This special turning point in the culture of remembrance and commemoration coincides with the gradual disappearance of contemporary witnesses – a central pillar of the culture of remembrance that has been practised to date. This is accompanied by the need to further develop concepts and practices of remembrance.

Active remembrance work within the Austrian Federal Ministry of Housing, Arts, Culture, Media and Sport (BMWKMS) includes, the scholarly and property law-based examination of National Socialist property seizures. This is carried out by the Commission for Provenance Research and the Art Restitution Advisory Board with regard to all museum collections and libraries owned by the Republic. The research findings not only form the basis for the restitution of art and cultural assets seized as a result of Nazi persecution to the former victims or their legal successors, they also make an important contribution to Austrian-Jewish history by meticulously reconstructing biographies and researching stories of repression, persecution and loss as well as the mechanisms and practices that led to them.

Austria is also endeavouring to place its culture of remembrance and commemoration on a broad social footing. This can be seen, for example, in the broad participation in international initiatives such as the IHRA, the promotion of civil society remembrance projects, the institutionalisation of Holocaust education in schools and the support of memorial sites such as Mauthausen. Visits to memorial sites are also a compulsory part of several educational and integration programmes. In the 2025 Year of Remembrance, the federal government, federal states, municipalities, academia and civil society are working to coordinate remembrance projects that go beyond a purely historical review but also address issues of the present and future – for example with regard to antisemitism, racism, democratic education and human rights.

The aim is to understand that commemoration and remembrance work is not just about looking back at the past, but that it also makes an active contribution to building a value-based democratic culture in an increasingly diverse society.

2 Challenges

The narratives of a nation, as central parameters that create meaning and identity and are therefore of great importance for coexistence within a state, are not static, taking into account federal structures and regional awareness. Of course, specific places or the material “heritage” preserved in museums, for example, prove to be constitutive elements. At the same time, the remembrance and commemoration of individuals, groups of people or specific events become agglomerated in an immaterial way and sometimes in abstractions.

The more the population changes, the looser the connections to previous material and immaterial places of remembrance and commemoration become. This happens as time passes due to demographic changes and migration, or as a result of shifts in discourse, as can currently be observed in many areas.

Against the backdrop of current (global) debates and social challenges that show how fragile these narratives and historical references, democracy and its political achievements can be, existing motifs of commemoration and remembrance must be increasingly brought back into focus, practices further developed and the findings of historical research communicated in a variety of ways. However, overly ritualised commemoration runs the risk of becoming devoid of history; rather, commemoration must aim to sharpen and strengthen historical and contemporary judgement through historical awareness.

A key element here is the fight against antisemitism – reconstructing and making Austrian-Jewish history visible as part of Austrian history, the history of antisemitism (which did not begin with National Socialism) and the consequences that culminated in the National Socialist policy of repression and extermination, including the legal and historical reappraisal in the Second Republic, while at the same time, consciously highlighting continuities, are an essential part of a culture of remembrance and commemoration based on a history-conscious and future-oriented “never again”.

Microhistory, such as the reconstruction of biographies, is just as important as the research and visualisation of structures and overarching phenomena and events. Scientific foundations based on humanistic values, on the one hand, and egalitarian, interdisciplinary and intersectional (mediation) approaches, on the other, should lead to insight rather than confession; history should provide guidance for the present.

3 Ongoing and planned measures

Provenance research, dealing with property seized as a result of Nazi persecution and the restitution of art and cultural assets are an essential part of active remembrance work, which has been consistently pursued and implemented at federal level since the adoption of the Art Restitution Act in 1998. Since then, provenance research has become a constant element of contemporary and responsible museum work – embedded in collecting and archiving, researching and contextualising, narrating and communicating.

Thanks to the Art Restitution Act, the Commission for Provenance Research and the Art Restitution Advisory Board, Austria is now recognised as an example of best practice, and in this context also carries out important basic research, not only in the field of Nazi-related property confiscation, but also in particular on Austrian-Jewish history. The findings of the federal government's research are published in various formats and also made available digitally in order to disseminate them.

As a concrete measure of cultural remembrance, the diverse biographies of people persecuted, expelled and murdered under National Socialism are being reconstructed and brought (back) to the attention of the public. The aim is also to counter antisemitism after Auschwitz in particular by reminding people of the ubiquity of the National Socialist policies of repression and extermination and their consequences for individuals, groups and society.

The amendment to the Art Restitution Act 2023 also created the possibility of supporting non-federal institutions with regard to the increasingly complex task of researching heirs. This also always involves research into family history or histories and often takes place in dialogue with the descendants and legal successors of those who were once victims. Between curiosity about their own family history and dealing with transgenerational trauma, researchers encounter a wide range of reactions.

Furthermore, it is also possible to call upon the Art Restitution Advisory Board as a non-federal institution for recommendations based on the Art Restitution Act. This is because provenance research and art restitution are carried out at state level with varying degrees of intensity based on state laws and regulations.

But even there, provenance research and art restitution, as an important measure of remembrance culture and part of contemporary museum work, should also be consistently pursued and continuously implemented in the collecting institutions. Embedded in the web of National Socialist policies of repression and disenfranchisement, the confiscation of property through Nazi persecution is inscribed in every collecting and exhibiting institution, especially if material evidence of it still exists there today.

In addition, the BMWKMS occasionally facilitates selective remembrance and commemorative culture projects as well as (research) projects that relate, in particular, to groups of victims of Nazi persecution and resistance to the Nazi regime, which are implemented by the Coordination Centre for the Culture of Remembrance and Commemoration.

The Future Fund of the Republic of Austria also supports the implementation of projects that serve to commemorate the victims of National Socialism. The resolute fight against antisemitism of any origin and tendency is already laid down in the statutory founding mandate of the Future Fund. Section 1 of the Future Fund Act, which came into force on 19 December 2005, states: "This federal law establishes a fund for promoting projects to commemorate the victims of the National Socialist regime and for carrying out research into the injustices committed during the National Socialist regime on the territory of today's Republic of Austria, as well as for the future-oriented promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination, entitled the "Future Fund of the Republic of Austria" (hereinafter referred to as the "Future Fund")."

Specifically, Section 2 of this Act states that the Future Fund shall promote projects that serve the interests and commemoration of the victims of the National Socialist regime, the remembrance of the threat posed by totalitarian systems and tyranny and international cooperation and contribute to the promotion of respect for human rights and mutual tolerance in these areas.

With this in mind, the Future Fund supported a total of 4,400 projects between 1 January 2006 and 31 May 2025, the vast majority of which were explicitly aimed at combating antisemitic tendencies and preventing racism and violence. Two million euros are available each year for these projects, which are approved by the Board of Trustees of the Future Fund after consultation with a project funding advisory board.⁸⁹

The sectors in which projects have been funded by the Future Fund are diverse, and relate in particular to the areas of education, resilience, integration, values, digital technology and media. The projects cover a wide range of formats – publications, conferences, studies, films, websites, prevention training etc. – and span all federal provinces in order to reach the various target groups as comprehensively as possible. A particular focus is on immunising the younger generation, especially pupils – particularly those from a migrant background – against all forms of antisemitism and racism.

Another organisation active in the field of remembrance, commemoration and culture is the National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism. It also provides benefits to survivors of National Socialist victimisation in order to express Austria's particular responsibility towards the victims of National Socialism – regardless of the reason for their persecution. The vast majority of the victims were Jewish, which is why raising awareness of antisemitism and combating its manifestations have been central themes of the Fund since its inception.

Since its establishment in 1995, one of the Fund's main tasks has been to collect and document the life stories of victims of National Socialism. These biographical accounts provide a personal perspective of persecution and flight during National Socialism – especially in the context of antisemitic ideologies and the violent persecution of Jews. They illustrate the concrete effects of these events and create a basis for drawing lessons for today's social action.

⁸⁹ A brief description of all projects is available on the www.zukunftsfoonds-austria.at website, where all of the annual reports of the Future Fund can also be found.

For 30 years now, the promotion of projects has been another key area of activity for the National Fund. The fund supports projects⁹⁰, that contribute to analysing and coming to terms with National Socialism and its aftermath. These include projects for scientific research into National Socialism and the fate of its victims, for remembering National Socialist injustice and for commemorating the victims. Funding is provided for commemorative projects such as memorials, memorial sites and commemorative trips as well as academic work, school and extracurricular educational projects, artistic and cultural formats, publications and documentary films as well as projects with local historical references.

Antisemitism is a central theme in many of the funded projects – be it in the historical analysis, the critical examination of the manifestations of antisemitism or the transfer of knowledge as a preventative measure.

A thematic focus for project funding has been decided for 2025 and 2026: funding will be provided for initiatives aimed at identifying and combating disinformation in online media, and in particular content that relativises the Holocaust, reinforces antisemitic narratives or undermines the culture of remembrance.

The background to this is the increased dissemination of such content on social networks and digital media since 7 October 2023. These often openly or subtly convey antisemitic messages that contribute to the delegitimisation of Jewish life, the relativisation of the Holocaust and the erosion of democratic values. Even if such narratives often remain below the threshold of criminal law, they still have a social impact. The aim is to develop and provide effective counter-content by promoting projects in this area.

Since 2021, the National Fund has also awarded the annual Simon Wiesenthal Prize in Parliament for outstanding civil society engagement against antisemitism and for educating people about the Holocaust. The Simon Wiesenthal Prize emphasizes projects and initiatives that raise awareness of the dangers of antisemitism and its mechanisms of action, and encourage a critical attitude and civil courage. Special consideration is given to projects, initiatives and achievements that set an example, are innovative, and have a lasting impact on the present and future.

90 See Section 2 (3) of the National Fund Act.

Since the first call for applications, the Fund has received an average of around 200 applications from around 30 countries each year. Around 230 applications were received for 2024. This underlines the national and international commitment in this area and illustrates the high relevance of raising awareness of these initiatives and organisations and of their commitment to combating antisemitism and educating people about the Holocaust.

In 2024, the Fund's remit was expanded to include targeted measures to support young people's involvement in the culture of remembrance and commemoration. This includes projects for young people that contribute to analysing and coming to terms with National Socialism and raising awareness of antisemitism, such as providing financial support for memorial service volunteers and promoting international exchange programmes for young people to raise awareness of Jewish life, intercultural exchange and the dangers of antisemitism.⁹¹ These new tasks are forward-looking instruments of educational and remembrance work – they create the basis for passing on awareness and commitment to the culture of remembrance and commemoration to future generations.

A visible place of remembrance that raises awareness of the fate of the Jewish victims of National Socialism and brings historical knowledge to life is the Shoah Wall of Names Memorial in Vienna, which is maintained by the National Fund and the City of Vienna. The memorial commemorates over 65,000 Jewish children, women and men who were disenfranchised, deported and murdered between 1938 and 1945 as a result of antisemitic persecution by the Nazi regime. Their names are immortalised on the stone walls of the memorial, which not only makes the scale of National Socialist crimes visible, but also conveys a powerful awareness of the consequences of antisemitism. The Shoah Wall of Names Memorial is thus a place of remembrance, education and warning.

91 See Section 2 (4) of the National Fund Act.

The names are based on research by the DÖW, which has been documenting the biographical data and circumstances of death of Austrian Shoah victims since 1992. The work has not yet been completed – since the memorial was inaugurated in 2021, over 340 names have been engraved. Currently around 80 more names of Jewish victims are to be added to the memorial.

Another important gesture against forgetting is the restoration and maintenance of the 65 Jewish cemeteries as part of the funding administered by the National Fund for the Restoration of Jewish Cemeteries in Austria, an active contribution to preserving the cultural heritage of Jewish towns and communities in our country. The legal basis, which was extended in 2024, emphasizes the Republic's cultural and historical responsibility to protect this heritage.⁹²

The National Fund also initiates regional educational projects at Jewish cemeteries, giving young people access to the history of Jewish life in their own district. In cooperation with schools and local memorial initiatives, Jewish cemeteries are made brought to life as places of historical education – with the aim of communicating the biographies of Jews with regional connections, raising awareness of Jewish life before and during the National Socialist era, and making an active contribution to combating antisemitism in the present day.

In order to deepen cooperation with national and international organisations and institutions in the field of analysing and coming to terms with the history of National Socialism and related prevention work, the Fund has also held an annual conference since 2024 to inform the public about the performance of its tasks.

The tasks of the National Fund in the area of coming to terms with the fate of the Jews under National Socialism and preserving their memory make a significant contribution to the social debate on antisemitism. They strengthen the awareness of historical responsibility and promote learning from history in order to prevent such events from ever happening again.

92 See the Federal Act on the Establishment of the Fund for the Restoration of Jewish Cemeteries in Austria, as amended (StF: BGBl. I No. 99/2010).

The Mauthausen Concentration Camp Memorial is also active in the field of remembrance and the culture of memory. It researches and documents the history of the concentration camp and its satellite camps, and enables visitors to come to engage with the history of the concentration camp through exhibitions and educational programmes. The aim of this educational work is to raise awareness of National Socialist revivalism, antisemitism, racism, discrimination against minorities and anti-democracy.

The Federal Act on the Establishment of the Mauthausen Concentration Camp Memorial Federal Institution / Mauthausen Memorial (Memorials Act – GStG)⁹³ sets out the framework for the work of the Mauthausen Concentration Camp Memorial. The memorial sees itself as a place of remembrance and learning. With its educational programmes, it promotes historical and political awareness. For this reason, the educational programme takes a multi-perspective approach to the victims, the perpetrators and the social environment of the Mauthausen concentration camp system. In the reconstruction of these historical perspectives, the conditions, motives and scope of action of the people involved become apparent.

The educational principles here are autonomous and participatory learning. The visitors take on an active role. They hold discussions about their perceptions and historical texts and images within the group in order to approach history independently. On this basis, visitors come up with questions about the present, and independently establish connections to today and to their own actions.

The key questions that guide the educational practice are: "How was it possible that 100,000 people were murdered in the midst of a civilised society?" and "What does that have to do with me?". On the one hand, these key questions promote historical learning and, on the other, they help visitors understand the relevance of the past to the present.

The Mauthausen, Gusen and Melk concentration camp memorials receive more than 300,000 visitors every year. Around one third of the visitors make use of the educational programmes offered by the concentration camp memorials. In this respect, the educational programmes are aimed at a diverse audience: relatives of

⁹³ See the Federal Act on the Establishment of the Mauthausen Concentration Camp Memorial Federal Institution/Mauthausen Memorial (Memorials Act - GStG), BGBl. I No. 74/2016.

concentration camp victims, national and international school and student groups, interested adult and tourist groups, and people who want to get to know the concentration camp as part of their vocational training, such as prospective police officers, members of the judicial system or members of the Austrian Armed Forces.

In addition, the Mauthausen Concentration Camp Memorial offers self-organised visitors a comprehensive service with free site maps, including historical information, audio guides and an audio guide app with all materials available in over ten languages.

The Mauthausen Concentration Camp Memorial also supports educational work at the Ebensee Concentration Camp Memorial and occasionally accompanies visiting groups to the site of the former Gunskirchen satellite camp.

In total, a team of around 70 educators at the Mauthausen, Gusen, Melk, Ebensee and Gunskirchen sites designs these educational programmes and projects. A specially created training programme for educators (known as guides) ensures a high quality of educational work, as do the regular training courses on historical and educational topics, and on current issues in memorial site education.

Co-operation with international and national educational institutions and memorial initiatives also promotes the continuous development of the educational work. Close cooperation with the Austrian school system enables the development of materials that support the preparation and follow-up of memorial site visits when teaching at school. The Mauthausen Concentration Camp Memorial is also involved in the training and further education of teachers at universities and teacher training colleges.

One particular aspect of this work is the former Gusen concentration camp, the history of which was largely suppressed from public consciousness in Austria for decades. In contrast to Mauthausen, after 1945 a state memorial was not established here. Instead, the site of the former concentration camp was built over with residential buildings and used by commercial and industrial enterprises. The memory of the at least 72,000 prisoners remained marginalised and only a memorial initiated by former prisoners was created around the crematorium furnace.

In 2021 and 2022, in fulfilment of its national political responsibility, the Republic of Austria purchased several plots of land on the site of the former Gusen I concentration camp and in the entrance area of the “Bergkristall” tunnel complex built by prisoners in St. Georgen an der Gusen. Significant structural remains of the

concentration camp exist on the purchased land, including the roll call square, the gravel crusher and two SS administration buildings. The purchase of the land has enabled the existing concentration camp memorial to be redesigned and significantly expanded. This project, which centres on the architectural design of the sites, will be accompanied by several qualitative and quantitative research projects. Their aim is to close gaps in research and provide the basis for new digital and analogue information and communication services.

The entire process of developing a new memorial site essentially relies on the participation of relevant interest groups. Another key objective is to achieve the broadest possible social participation in order to lend legitimacy and acceptance to the overall project by involving regional, national and international interest groups.

The Mauthausen Concentration Camp Memorial has initiated a participation process in order to place the future design on as broad a democratic basis as possible. With the involvement of victims' associations, expert groups, regional stakeholders and survivors, a comprehensive plan was drawn up to implement this broad-based regional, national and international project, setting out design and functional guidelines for a future memorial. This was presented to the public in autumn 2023 and in January 2024, the Mauthausen Concentration Camp Memorial was commissioned to redesign the Gusen Concentration Camp Memorial through an amendment to the GStG.

The plan subsequently formed the basis for a two-stage EU-wide implementation competition for landscape planning and architectural and urban design, which was completed in summer 2025. At the same time, concepts are being developed for the curatorial design of the future memorial in the form of exhibitions, information systems and digital offerings. On the one hand, these form the basis for a future design competition, on the other, they provide the framework for developing the content and the associated research work.

The aim is to establish a contemporary memorial and educational centre by 2031 that is historically informed, spatially sensitive and internationally accessible.

In addition to the main camp at Mauthausen and the branch camp, more than 40 satellite camps were set up on the territory of present-day Austria and beyond. In those camps, concentration camp prisoners were mostly used as forced labourers for the defence industry. In order to strengthen the commemoration of the victims

in these camps and the interaction with history of these often marginalised places, in cooperation with civil society organisations, such as the Mauthausen Committee Austria, the Comité International de Mauthausen and local commemorative initiatives, the Mauthausen Concentration Camp Memorial initiated the “Außenlager-Stele” (satellite camp stele) project.

These steles act as a coherent, recognisable, iconic marker of the sites of former satellite camps of the concentration camp system, and make the Mauthausen connection and the system of satellite camps spatially tangible. They are erected on an ongoing basis and in cooperation with local partners, communities and civil society initiatives. Since 2023, five steles have been erected at the sites of former satellite camps such as Melk, St. Aegyd, Hirtenberg and Gunskirchen as well as in Mauthausen and were unveiled in the presence of the Federal Minister of the Interior. The aim of this project is to strengthen growing regional remembrance, as it appeals to a broader public and counteracts abstract and placeless memory.

The BMI has also set itself the goal of resolutely opposing and combating antisemitism and all other forms of group-specific hostility. The protection of Jewish communities is a top priority and as a result, the BMI is already implementing numerous measures in line with the Federal Government's NAS 1.0 and is thereby demonstrating its commitment to a vibrant and contemporary culture of remembrance. To this end, on 1 July 2022, all historical and commemorative policy agendas of the Ministry of the Interior were combined in the new Department III/S/3 – Historical Affairs for the first time. Its responsibilities range from state supervision of the Mauthausen Concentration Camp Memorial Federal Institution, which was spun off in 2017 within the meaning of the Memorials Act, and the care of war graves and victims' graves from the First and Second World Wars, to the history of law enforcement and police traditions. The strategic amalgamation of these closely related areas of responsibility will enable sustainable and long-term memorial and remembrance work. Thematic bundling promotes synergies and improves internal coordination, enabling thematic priorities to be further developed consistently. A regional and societal culture of remembrance is seen as an essential contribution in combating antisemitism.

Remembering is always linked to events and the places where they took place. With the loss of eyewitness accounts, the historical site is increasingly regarded as authentic. This makes it all the more important to increasingly commemorate events locally and regionally. For this reason, the Mauthausen Concentration Camp Memorial and the BMI, which is responsible for supervision under the Memorials Act, are endeavouring to make the former satellite camps of the Mauthausen concentration camp system visible again. By erecting steles at approximately 40 sites of the former satellite camps of the Mauthausen-Gusen concentration camp complex, the former crime scenes are being transformed in a topographical context in order to make the Mauthausen connection spatially tangible.

In addition to its obligations in the field of memorial sites, the BMI is also responsible for the care of war graves and victims' graves. This applies, in particular, to burial grounds of all nations and religions on Austrian federal territory, where people died in both world wars as members of the armed forces, prisoners of war or civilian internees, forced labourers or prisoners in concentration camps. The war graves and victims' graves are administered and maintained throughout Austria by the federal provinces in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity under indirect federal administration. Given the Austria-wide responsibility, the regionality of remembrance also plays a decisive role in the care of war graves and victims' graves. In this regard, there is close cooperation with regional stakeholders such as the provincial administration, scientific institutions and local memorial initiatives.

The Republic of Austria has undertaken to maintain the graves of the aforementioned persons in accordance with its obligations under international treaties (State Treaty of St. Germain⁹⁴ and the State Treaty of Vienna⁹⁵) and the Austrian War Graves Commission Acts⁹⁶ permanently and with dignity. In order to fulfil this mandate, in cooperation with the relevant offices of the state governments, extensive maintenance and refurbishment work is being carried out. Between 2022 and 2024, in collaboration with Friedhöfen Wien GmbH and the IKG Wien, around 450 graves of

⁹⁴ See State Treaty of Saint-Germain-en-Laye of 10 September 1919, StGBI No. 303/1920.

⁹⁵ See State treaty for the re-establishment of an independent and democratic Austria, BGBl. No. 152/1955.

⁹⁶ 96 See Federal Act of 7 July 1948 on the Care of War Graves from the First and Second World Wars, Federal Law Gazette No. 175/1948, and Federal Act of 7 July 1948 on the Care and Protection of War Graves and War Memorials from the Second World War for Members of the Allies, United Nations and for Victims of the Struggle for a Free, Democratic Austria and Victims of Political Persecution, BGBl. No. 176/1948.

Jewish soldiers from the First World War in Section 76B of Vienna's Central Cemetery will be renovated and officially opened as part of a commemorative event in August 2024. The service of Jewish soldiers in the Austro-Hungarian army was not only forgotten after the First World War, but their families were also expelled or murdered in the Shoah. The comprehensive restoration of this war grave site has made Jewish life and culture visible.

Even today, soldiers killed in the war are still being found throughout Austria in the course of construction work or targeted investigations. In March 2025, test drillings were carried out on the site of Hartheim Castle at the initiative of the BMI together with the Institute of Prehistory and Historical Archaeology of the University of Vienna. In recent years, it has been increasingly suspected that there may be more mass graves around the former Nazi killing centre. The basis for this was a joint project carried out in 2024 with the German War Graves Commission. Evidence of mass graves was extracted from the drill cores. These are pits filled with human bones and ashes. Following an in-depth investigation currently being carried out by a team of archaeologists from the University of Vienna, the BMI, in cooperation with the Province of Upper Austria and the Hartheim Castle Learning and Memorial Site, will ensure that the victims of the National Socialist killing centre are given a dignified and permanent resting place.

In addition to preserving and maintaining these burial sites, they will also be researched and put into their historical context. The contextualisation of a victims' grave in Unteraspang, Lower Austria, can be cited as an example of best practice. The work carried out here made it possible to identify the names of two Polish forced labourers who crashed in a stolen plane during their escape in the Wechsel region and were buried anonymously in the nearby cemetery in Aspang. In addition to the erection of a new gravestone, an information board was put up on the outer cemetery wall. The German military cemetery (Group 97) in Vienna's Central Cemetery with its approximately 7,300 soldiers killed during the Second World War was put into context in terms of contemporary history. Group 97 is Austria's largest Second World War cemetery and, until recently, was maintained by the Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge e.V. (German War Graves Commission) (VDK). The cemetery has existed since 1939 and was enlarged in the early 1970s after around 2,000 additional burials were added from 52 suburban cemeteries in Vienna. In addition to Group 97, the VDK created further so-called "collective cemeteries" by transferring individual graves to large, easier to maintain sites. All former VDK facilities are now in the care of the Republic of Austria, and, like Group 97, are to be put into their historical

context. Contextualisation of the grave of Auschwitz site doctor Franz Bodmann in Lend is also planned for 2026. The research work for this has already been completed.

After the Second World War, it was primarily the victims of National Socialism in the police and gendarmerie who were commemorated. Questions about the perpetrators within the police remained unresolved for a long time. Today we know that the police played a central role in enforcing and maintaining National Socialist rule. For this reason, the BMI initiated the research project “The Police in Austria: Ruptures and Continuities 1938–1945”, which examined the history of the police under National Socialism in cooperation with the University of Graz, the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Research on the Consequences of War, the DÖW and the Mauthausen Concentration Camp Memorial. The Ministry of the Interior was the first ministry to face up to its past under National Socialism, and opened its own archives to external research partners for the first time. The results of the research are now being incorporated into training and further education in order to sharpen the knowledge of all BMI employees and police officers regarding the crimes of National Socialism, and to encourage self-reflection. This sends out a clear signal in favour of a critical understanding of roles, and against all forms of discrimination and antisemitism.

After a country has analysed and come to terms with its own history, it is important to communicate this internally and externally. In this regard, an anthology of scientific findings was presented at the Ministry of the Interior on 24 May 2024. The research volume, which consists of 824 pages, with contributions from 32 national and international experts offers comprehensive insight into the working methods of the police in Austria during the National Socialism era. Another output of this pioneering research project is the publicly accessible exhibition “Hitlers Exekutive. Die österreichische Polizei und der Nationalsozialismus” (“Hitler’s Executive. The Austrian Police and National Socialism”), which, unlike the other educational formats, is aimed at a non-academic audience and pursues the goal of opening up Science to the Public. It gives an overview of the organisation, tasks and ethos of the executive branch under National Socialism, including the breaks and continuities before and after the National Socialist rule. Based on biographies, it shows the fates that befell Austrian police officers and gendarmes. In the coming years, the exhibition will be presented as a travelling exhibition in all federal provinces. It has previously stopped at Vienna, Eisenstadt, Graz, Klagenfurt and Salzburg. From autumn 2025, it will be on display at the Museum Niederösterreich in St. Pölten. In order to reach all police officers and trainees as well as the general public, the exhibition will be on display in

state police headquarters and museums. The content has also been integrated into the various curricula. To this end, the content of the research project was made easily accessible to all members of the department by providing an e-learning programme on “Hitler’s Executive”.

By highlighting historical events and developments, police officers are to be sensitised during their training to recognise antisemitic tendencies and similar dangers that are relevant to democratic coexistence at an early stage and to take decisive action against them.

In 2024, the Federal Ministry of Justice, in cooperation with the DÖW, is dedicating a new permanent exhibition in the foyer of the former execution chamber of Vienna Regional Court for Criminal Matters, which, since 1967, has been used as a memorial room to resistance, Nazi injustice and the (inadequate) coming to terms with the post-war period. The aim of addressing these issues at the site of the crime is to raise awareness among members of the judicial system, to prevent such crimes from happening again, and to learn lessons for future action.

In addition to all these endeavours, the following measures are also being considered in the context of the NAS 2.0:

Launching a review process for a potential Austrian Holocaust Museum

The 2025–2029 government programme provides for the preparation of a feasibility study for the establishment of an Austrian Holocaust Museum (ÖHM) as a collection, education, research and memorial site.

At the meeting of the Council of Ministers on 7 May 2025⁹⁷, the Austrian Federal Government adopted the further roadmap for the planned review process. It is planned that the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs (BMEIA), in coordination with the BKA and BMWKMS, will obtain detailed information on existing international memorial and educational sites via Austrian representations abroad. The results of this evaluation of the respective concepts, financing models, organisational structures and tested strategies will subsequently be summarised in

97 See Ministerial Council presentation 9/12 of the BKA, BMWKMS, BMEIA (7 May 2025): https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/dam/jcr:2f9bcb4e-fec7-421d-a8f3-4f4aa857f0dc/9_12_mrv.pdf (11.7.2025).

a report by the BKA and BMWKMS. This report is intended to identify key success factors and potential challenges and to serve as a basis for further considerations. National stakeholders and representatives of existing relevant organisations will be involved in the process.

Promoting and strengthening Jewish cultural and community life in Austria

The support for projects that serve to promote Jewish cultural and community life and make it visible, which was already anchored in the NAS 1.0, is to be continued in the NAS 2.0. The central issue remains the “Federal Act on the Safeguarding of Austrian-Jewish Cultural Heritage” (Austrian-Jewish Cultural Heritage Act – ÖJKG), which is an essential support for the Jewish communities in Austria and should also make an important contribution to prospering Jewish life in the future.

Supporting civil society remembrance and commemoration initiatives

Plans are also in place to support and enable civil society remembrance and commemorative culture initiatives with a focus on science-based cultural and artistic projects.

In this context, the historicisation, visualisation and networking of commemoration and remembrance projects in Austria should also be made possible.

Making places of Nazi crimes visible in cooperation with federal states and municipalities

As education, science and research are an effective means of combating antisemitism, war graves and victims' graves should in future be seen not only as memorials to fallen soldiers and civilian victims, but also as memorials and places of learning.

As starting points for educational work and historical understanding, they open up spaces for critical debate, including with the role played by their own region during the Nazi era. This promotes empathy, strengthens awareness of responsibility and counteracts antisemitic narratives that are often based on a lack of knowledge of history or trivialisation. In addition, the interdisciplinary research of war graves and victims' graves from different perspectives provides valuable insights into historical contexts, social developments and the fates of individuals. The aim of any contextualisation is to link the historical, biographical and geographical levels and thus make abstract history tangible through concrete places.

Department III/S/3 – Historical Affairs in the BMI is doing the groundwork for this contextualisation of war graves and victims' graves by ensuring that historical research is methodologically sound and regularly evaluated with the help of guidelines that have been developed. For targeted research and contextualisation, the available sources at federal, state and municipal level are to be accessed and recorded according to the principles of knowledge management. These explanations are also to be made available to the responsible offices of the state governments, future employees as part of the onboarding process, and also to local stakeholders as a source of assistance. At the same time, the offices of the state government are to be made aware of the need to raise the visibility of marginalised victim groups. In Burgenland, for example, there are graves of Roma and Sinti, persecuted by the Nazi regime, and of partisans in Carinthia. This makes the Austrian landscape of remembrance more regional, diverse, heterogeneous and contemporary.

As more and more communities take a critical look at their own history, local war memorials are also increasingly being questioned and put into context. Due to similar problems and issues, the national War Graves Commission can support local measures by providing expertise and experience.

The historical research and associated contextualisation, including the references to the present day, strengthen awareness of antisemitism and promote sensitivity to it. The central question “What does this have to do with me?” places the examination of the consequences of antisemitism in a contemporary social context.

Examining an amendment to the war graves conservation laws

The current government programme includes the examination of an amendment to the war graves conservation laws in order to enable contemporary commemoration. While the laws of 1948 were primarily aimed at the preservation and ongoing care of graves and thus at providing a kind of financial compensation for surviving relatives, the national War Graves Commission must increasingly face up to the social demands of a modern culture of remembrance and commemoration. This is becoming increasingly important as war graves and victims' graves are placed in a wider historical, political and social context.

The amendment aims to strengthen and expand the current culture of remembrance and historical analysis. On the basis of contemporary care for war and victims' graves, the consequences of racism, antisemitism and xenophobia are to be made clear, and at the same time social resilience to these phenomena promoted.

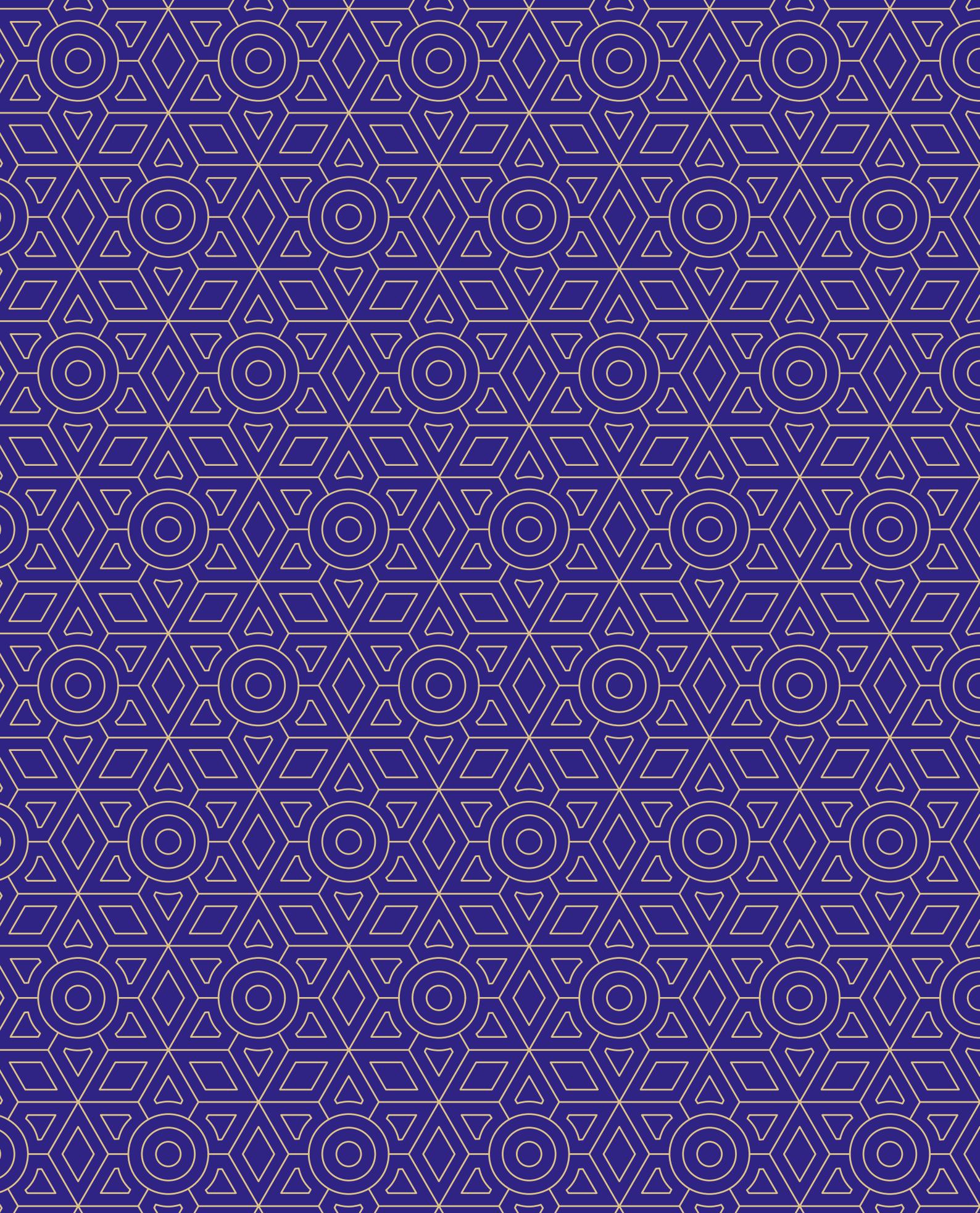
Through clear legal requirements for educational work, commemorative formats and the involvement of civil society actors, war graves and victims' graves can be further developed as important tools in the fight against antisemitism.

The aim is to understand that remembrance work is not just about looking back at the past, but that it also makes an active contribution to building a value-based democratic culture in an increasingly diverse society.



IX

Research.Documentation



- 36 Establishing a documentation centre in the Federal Chancellery**
- 37 Continuing comprehensive empirical surveys and research on behalf of Parliament**
- 38 Further developing the working group on antisemitism research at the Austrian Academy of Sciences**
- 39 Contributions of the Austrian consortium EHRI-AT to the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure**
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1 Current situation

The sharp rise in antisemitic incidents and narratives, which, in addition to historical continuities of antisemitism, has been particularly noticeable since the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent escalations in the Middle East conflict, has also left its mark on the academic and university sector. As free spaces for open academic discourse, Austrian universities take a clear stance and condemn all forms of antisemitism.

This is also reflected in the academic debate on antisemitism, which rests on several institutional pillars in Austria.

Austrian universities engage extensively with the topics of antisemitism, the Holocaust, National Socialism, right-wing extremism, racism and structural discrimination through research and development, and through development of the arts and teaching. Not least due to this fact, the “Antisemitism 2024” study commissioned by the Parliamentary Administration came to the conclusion that “those surveyed who have graduated from a university or university of applied sciences [...] display the strongest non-antisemitic attitudes when compared to other formal educational qualifications.”⁹⁸

However, a significant part of research and teaching takes place outside of the university sector.

At the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW), for example, intensive research into antisemitism is being carried out at the Institute of Cultural Studies. Of the three working groups, two focus on research into antisemitism and on the culture of memory and the politics of history. While the working group on antisemitism carries out research into current and more recent manifestations of antisemitism, the working group on the culture of memory addresses issues of remembrance and the politics of history surrounding National Socialism, the Second World War and the Holocaust, thus making an important contribution to basic research.

98 See https://www.parlament.gv.at/dokument/fachinfos/publikationen/Antisemitismus_2024_Gesamtbericht.pdf; see p. 116 (6.4.2025).

Also active in this area is the Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance (DÖW), which was founded in 1963 by former resistance fighters and researchers in order to keep the memory of resistance and persecution alive and to analyse it scientifically. Since 1983, the DÖW has been organised as a foundation, supported by the Republic of Austria (represented by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Women, Science and Research), the City of Vienna and the Documentation Archive Association.

The main areas of activity of the DÖW can be summarised as follows:

Collection, archiving and research

The DÖW collects, preserves and makes accessible a wide range of sources on topics such as resistance and persecution, the Holocaust, the history of the Roma and Sinti, exile, Nazi medicine and biopolitics, Nazi and post-war justice, right-wing extremism after 1945 and restitution and compensation issues.

Archive and library service

The archive and the specialised library are available to researchers, students, journalists and other interested parties, providing advice and support for research enquiries.

Educational and outreach work

The DÖW makes its research findings accessible to a broad public in the form of exhibitions, events, guided tours and tailor-made educational programmes. A particular focus is on the historical and political education of young people and school pupils as well as adult education.

Another important institution in this field is the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies (VWI) which was founded in 2002. A non-profit organisation, the Institute is financed by the Republic of Austria, the City of Vienna and third-party funds. It is dedicated to interdisciplinary research, documentation and education on the Holocaust, antisemitism, racism and nationalism. The VWI sees itself as a joint project involving various supporting organisations, the focus of whose activities is mainly:

Documentation and archive

The VWI preserves key collections relating to the Holocaust.

Fellowship programme

Research grants are awarded annually and support innovative projects.

Mediation and public history

Current research findings are presented in the context of lectures, exhibitions, publications and artistic programmes.

In addition, the Ludwig Boltzmann Institutes for Research on the Consequences of War and for Digital History also conduct research on antisemitism in various projects. The Institute for Digital History for example, focuses on the fields of Visual History, Urban History and Holocaust Studies. Particularly noteworthy is the long-standing international research project “Europa in Mauthausen” (“Europe in Mauthausen”), which examines the role of the Mauthausen concentration camp in the National Socialist terror system and addresses questions about the motives for persecution, deportation and the living conditions of the prisoners.

2 Challenges

The field of antisemitism research in Austria is currently facing a number of major challenges. On the one hand, a rapid increase and continuous development of antisemitic phenomena and narratives can be observed on the Internet, especially in social media. This development not only makes it more difficult to record and analyse current manifestations of antisemitism, but also places new methodological demands on research. In addition, increasing overlaps and areas of tension exist between scientific work, political debate and civil society activism. This complicates independent and differentiated scientific analysis and the social reception of scientific insights, as political expectations are often linked to research.

Against this backdrop, Austrian universities are also confronted with specific challenges. As places of open academic discourse, they enable a multi-voiced examination of the topic of antisemitism, taking into account different theories, methods and perspectives. At the same time, current geopolitical developments and the growing spread of conspiracy myths and disinformation in social media are placing an increasing burden on university discourse.

Thus, in spring 2024, the then Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) launched a screening process⁹⁹ in order to gain an overview of the way in which Austria's public universities are addressing the fight against and prevention of antisemitism in the areas of research, teaching and public engagement, and in the structures of the university. The screening revealed that some universities are already making a significant contribution to preventing and combating antisemitism through research, teaching and third mission, are coming to terms with their Nazi past and are taking a clear stance against antisemitism.

However, the academic analysis of antisemitism under National Socialism and the resulting continuities as well as the examination of the historical responsibility of universities cannot be regarded as a completed process and should continue to be pursued. Furthermore, with regard to the increasingly contemporary manifestations of antisemitism, it will be important to address these more intensively and to pay particular attention to recontextualisation in the further development of the research area in relation to present and future challenges.

3 Ongoing and planned measures

In accordance with Section 1 of the Universities Act 2002, universities are called upon to contribute responsibly to solving human problems and to the prosperous development of society through scientific research and development, and development of the arts and teaching. They must also consistently fulfil this mandate when dealing with antisemitism and discrimination.

A visible expression of this undertaking is the institutionalisation of Jewish studies. For example, independent centres for Jewish studies and Jewish cultural history have existed at the universities of Graz and Salzburg for years. Jewish Studies is also offered at the Universities of Vienna, Graz and Salzburg. In addition, the Institutes of Contemporary History at the Universities of Vienna, Innsbruck, Graz, Linz, Salzburg and Klagenfurt continuously address current academic issues relating to National Socialism, the Holocaust and antisemitism, and are widely networked in international research projects.

⁹⁹ See https://www.bmbwf.gv.at/dam/jcr:07f35a60-aa76-4a3f-8f2f-42235e86da1e/Endbericht_Juni2024.pdf (19.8.2025).

The extensive achievements of Austrian universities in combating and preventing antisemitism in the areas of research, teaching and public engagement are summarised below in the survey commissioned by the former Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) for the period between 2021 and 2024.¹⁰⁰

The following measures will also be implemented:

Establishing a documentation centre in the Federal Chancellery

A central documentation centre is to be set up in the Federal Chancellery to supplement the Reporting Centre for Antisemitism of the IKG Wien and, in coordination with the Federal Ministry of the Interior and other ministries and institutions such as the Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance and the Documentation Centre for Political Islam, to pool information and data on antisemitic incidents in Austria and serve as an interface for systematically recording, analysing and coordinating counter-strategies.

The establishment of this Documentation Centre is intended to ensure a comprehensive and up-to-date picture of antisemitic incidents and developments in Austria. By collecting and analysing reports from various sources, trends can be identified at an early stage and targeted measures developed. Close networking with existing structures also strengthens the confidence of those affected that their reports will be taken seriously and visibly translated into political action.

100 See https://www.bmbwf.gv.at/dam/jcr:07f35a60-aa76-4a3f-8f2f-42235e86da1e/Endbericht_Juni2024.pdf; see p. 9 et seq. (19.8.2025).

Continuing comprehensive empirical surveys and research on behalf of Parliament

The continuation of scientific research and empirical surveys on antisemitism, such as the Parliament's antisemitism study, is of central importance to obtaining reliable data on attitudes, prejudices and experiences of discrimination in Austria. Only on the basis of current and representative findings can political decision-makers, educational institutions and civil society actors develop targeted measures that respond effectively to antisemitic tendencies.

In addition, regular studies make it possible to make developments and changes visible over time and thus to measurably evaluate the success of strategies and initiatives to combat antisemitism.

Therefore, in addition to the Parliament's antisemitism study, comprehensive empirical surveys are to be carried out in order to systematically record current manifestations, prevalence and developments in antisemitic attitudes, and make them available as a basis for taking political measures. As is customary in comparable international surveys, these studies are intended to investigate factors such as voting behaviour or ideological influences in relation to antisemitism.

Further developing the working group on antisemitism research at the Austrian Academy of Sciences

The working group on antisemitism research at the Institute for Cultural Studies at the ÖAW is dedicated to researching the current and upcoming performance agreement between the BMFWF and the ÖAW with a postdoctoral position (from July 2025) and annual fellowships on antisemitism in Austria since 1945.

The following projects are currently being carried out: the role of antisemitism in Austrian broadcasting from 1945 to 1986, antisemitism in the Austrian labour movement from 1945 to the Kreisky era, antisemitism at Austrian universities and colleges since 1945, and the role of Jewish women in the Austrian Ravensbrück Camp Community and the camp community's approach to antisemitism.

The working group is supported by an international scientific advisory board appointed for a term of three years. The fellowship programme as well as the ÖAW's "Antisemitism Research in Austria" postdoctoral position will be continued, and the research centre will continue its activities to promote networking in antisemitism research.

In addition, a further analysis of the Parliament's antisemitism study will be carried out.

Contributions of the Austrian consortium EHRI-AT to the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure

Austria has been a member of the former European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI) since 2023, which is now active under the new name of European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC). Since 2024, EHRI-AT has been established as an Austrian consortium, the creation of which dates back to an initiative of the NAS 1.0. The consortium is constantly working to make historical source material on National Socialist crimes findable and accessible via a digital research infrastructure, and is also initiating cross-border cooperation to this end.

As part of the "Conny Kristel Fellowship Programme", the Austrian EHRI-AT partner institutions will also mentor international junior researchers at their institutions.

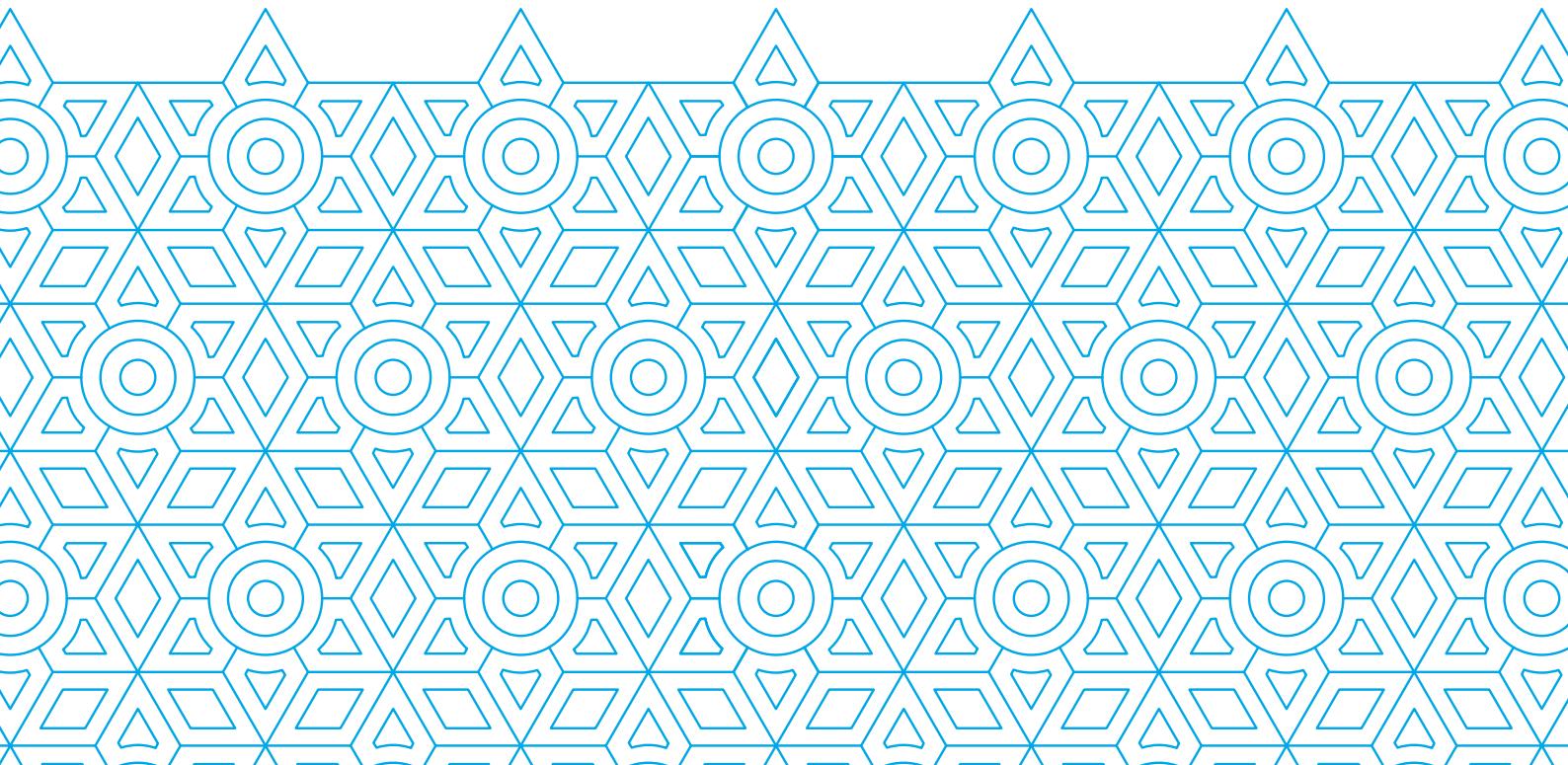
Permanent anchoring of right-wing extremism research at the Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance

Since 2025, the Research Centre for Right-Wing Extremism and Antisemitism has been permanently institutionalised as a separate department at the DÖW. In this way, a successful measure of the NAS 1.0, namely the initially temporary establishment of the research centre in the period 2022–2024, will be established.

The Department of Right-Wing Extremism Research continues to focus on systematic and multilingual observation – including online monitoring – and research into right-wing extremism and antisemitism. It is conducting research into both Austrian right-wing extremism and right-wing extremist diaspora phenomena in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. The data is collected and analysed at the DÖW and made available for further research.

The action plan against right-wing extremism, which is currently being developed and is based largely on the documentation and analyses of the research centre, should make an important contribution to the comprehensive assessment of the phenomenon of antisemitism in Austria, and therefore also to the conception of measures against antisemitism (e.g. in the form of a future further development of the National Strategy against Antisemitism).

By pooling and analysing reports from different sources, trends can be identified at an early stage and targeted measures can be developed.





X

EU.international Dimension

- 41 Continuing the like-minded EU Member State group – European Conference on Antisemitism**
- 42 Strengthening cooperation within the framework of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and preparing for the Austrian presidency**
- 43 Inclusion of antisemitism clauses in standard contracts of the Austrian Development Agency**
- 44 Engaging against antisemitism in the context of Austrian development cooperation (Three-Year Programme 2025–2027)**

1 Current situation

Since the Hamas terrorist attack on Israel on 7 October 2023, hybrid forms of antisemitism have increasingly come to the fore, combining traditional antisemitic stereotypes with modern conspiracy narratives and targeted disinformation. This content is spreading rapidly in digital spaces, especially via social media and messenger platforms. This blurs the boundaries between antisemitism, anti-Zionism and hostility towards Israel. Israel-related antisemitism manifests itself in the form of relativisations and denials of Israel's right to exist, Holocaust comparisons or demonising depictions of Israel and is not only present online, but also in political discourse, at demonstrations and in educational institutions.

In view of the increasing antisemitic threats at various levels, the structural integration of the fight against antisemitism into foreign and development policy instruments is more important than ever. Austria is therefore also committed to protecting Jewish life worldwide and to preserving an open, democratic and diverse society as part of its foreign cultural policy, development cooperation and through diplomatic missions.

Austria has been able to position itself throughout Europe as a pioneer in the fight against antisemitism and works closely with like-minded EU Member States and the European Commission, among others. As part of the implementation of the EU strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life (2021–2030), Austria initiated the European Conference on Antisemitism (ECA), which has already met three times in Vienna (18/19 May 2022, 17/18 April 2023 and 6/7 May 2024). The fourth meeting took place on the fringes of the European Commission's Antisemitism Working Group in Gdansk, Poland (18 June 2025). At the first meeting of the ECA on 18 May 2022, the “Declaration on enhancing cooperation in fighting antisemitism and encouraging reporting of antisemitic incidents” (in short: “Vienna Declaration”) was signed by eight EU Member States (Austria, Germany, Estonia, Spain, Hungary, the Netherlands, Romania and Slovakia). In the meantime, it has since been signed by seven more (Bulgaria, France, Greece, Italy, Croatia, Luxembourg and the Czech Republic), bringing the total number of EU Member States to 15. The “Vienna Declaration” stands for the common fight against antisemitism and the fostering of Jewish life in Europe and aims to improve networking between EU Member States in the fight against antisemitism. One focus is primarily on improving comparability and the exchange of data.

2 Challenges

The fight against antisemitism today faces a number of complex global challenges. The tense geopolitical situation and, in particular, the various conflicts in the Middle East – for example in the Gaza Strip – are making it increasingly difficult to engage in objective and constructive discourse on antisemitism at an international level. This development affects almost all multilateral forums and organisations – discussions about antisemitism are often politicised, polarised or deliberately instrumentalised.

Increasingly, certain states and non-state actors are also using the issue in a targeted manner to further exacerbate geopolitical tensions or undermine the social cohesion of liberal democracies. Antisemitism is either relativised, denied or misused as a means of ideological conflict – for example by equating Israel with National Socialism or denying the perspectives of Jewish victims.

In this tense environment, cooperation with reliable, like-minded partners in Europe and worldwide is becoming increasingly important. A coordinated, value-based approach to combating antisemitism requires the definition of common principles, such as recognising the IHRA working definition, distinguishing between legitimate criticism and antisemitic rhetoric, as well as a clear commitment to human dignity and universal human rights, a culture of remembrance and pluralistic societies.

Identifying and expanding cooperation structures with these partners – at national, regional and global level – is therefore of increasing strategic importance. Only through targeted exchange, common standards and multilateral initiatives can antisemitic agitation, disinformation and polarisation be effectively countered.

3 Ongoing and planned measures

As the improvement of international cooperation in the fight against antisemitism is becoming increasingly relevant, Austria has been heavily involved in multilateral forums such as the IHRA or the ECA, initiated and led by the BKA (Department IV/12), for some time. In addition, measures taken by the UN, the OSCE and the Council of Europe, for example, by participating in the OSCE's annual conferences on combating antisemitism, issuing joint statements with like-minded states within the UN Human Rights Council or supporting side events on the margins of major UN conferences. On 17 July 2024, Austria co-signed the "Global Guidelines on Countering

Antisemitism”, proposed by the USA, as part of one of the conferences organised in Buenos Aires by the World Jewish Congress (WJC) and its working group Special Envoys and Coordinators Combating Antisemitism (SECCA). These Global Guidelines provide a set of best practices for governments in the fight against antisemitism.

In addition to these multilateral initiatives, bilateral workshops on the topic of antisemitic criminal offences have been organised by the BKA (Department IV/12) with the participation of the BMI and the BMJ together with the Central Antisemitism Commissioner of the Bavarian judicial system since 2022. As part of these workshops, Austrian and Bavarian experts, particularly from the police and judicial system, meet to discuss developments in legislation, police cooperation and the judicial system, and to share best practices and new initiatives.

Continuing the like-minded EU Member State group European Conference on Antisemitism

Within the framework of the EU, Austria also plays an active role in the implementation of the EU Strategy to Combat Antisemitism and Foster Jewish Life (2021–2030). For the first time, this strategy provides a comprehensive political framework at EU level and emphasizes the need to identify and combat antisemitism in all its forms and to prevent it through education, research and commemorative work. Austria's special commitment at EU level is reflected in the creation of the ECA, which is to be intensified in the coming years as a platform for developing closer coordination between EU Member States.

At international level, the Austrian embassies and cultural forums provide significant support for projects and events aimed at combating antisemitism and promoting Jewish cultural heritage. Austria is also actively involved in measures to promote the application of the IHRA working definition of antisemitism and the dissemination of IHRA recommendations and IHRA teaching materials on Holocaust denial and distortion in schools and adult education, especially in the public sector.

A central sign of Austria's historical responsibility towards the victims of National Socialism and their descendants is the amendment to the Austrian Citizenship Act (StbG)¹⁰¹, which came into force on 1 September 2020. It enables the relatives of

101 See Federal Act on Austrian Citizenship (Austrian Citizenship Act 1985 – StbG), BGBl. 311/1985, as amended by BGBl. I No. 96/2019.

victims of National Socialism to acquire Austrian citizenship more easily by means of a declaration ("Anzeige") (Section 58c StbG) without having to give up their current citizenship in return. This regulation honours the memory of the victims of Nazi terror, reaffirms Austria's confrontation with its history and builds symbolic and real bridges to the descendants of Jewish Austrians all over the world.

In 2024, 8,795 victims of National Socialism and their direct descendants were naturalised, of which 8,783 individuals or 99.9 percent live abroad. The proportion of persons naturalised under Section 58c StbG in the total number of naturalisations (21,891) was around 40 percent in 2024. The BMI is engaged in ongoing constructive dialogue with the federal provinces responsible for the procedures and the BMEIA in this regard.

At the same time, initiatives such as intercultural and interreligious dialogue formats, artistic collaborations with a meeting of Jewish and Arab musicians, presentations of examples of Jewish art and Jewish culture abroad and the annual Seder dinner with representatives of the diplomatic corps help to convey a differentiated image of Jewish life and strengthen shared values in international exchange.

The fight against antisemitism and the promotion of Jewish life and culture is therefore an integral part of Austrian foreign policy, and existing measures in this area are to be supplemented by the following initiatives:

Strengthening cooperation within the framework of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and preparing for the Austrian presidency

The IHRA is a key international player when it comes to education, remembrance and research into the Holocaust and combating antisemitism. During its IHRA presidency, Austria will work to strengthen the IHRA and promote close networking and cooperation with experts at national and international level.

Including antisemitism clauses in standard contracts of the Austrian Development Agency

During the revision of standard contracts of the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), it is to be clarified that incitement to hatred, such as antisemitism, can lead to the cancellation of the funding agreement by the ADA.

Engaging against antisemitism in the context of Austrian development cooperation (Three-Year Programme 2025–2027)

The new Three-Year Programme of the Austrian Development Policy 2025–2027 (adopted by the Council of Ministers on 25 June 2025) includes peace-building, human security, resilience and social cohesion as its thematic target areas.

Peaceful conditions that promote development require democratic, responsible governance and a strong civil society. This includes democratic structures and processes, political participation and proximity to citizens, the rule of law, respect, protection and observance of all human rights, action against antisemitism, a functioning public finance system and freedom from corruption. This concept is aimed at constructive interaction between state and non-state actors to create long-term stable and equitable development processes.

It is implemented through a wide range of instruments, modalities and the coordinated cooperation of numerous federal actors. In addition to the development policy dialogue – for example through regular stocktaking with partner countries, intercultural dialogue formats and mediation initiatives – bilateral programmes, reintegration measures, co-financing of civil society organisations and projects to promote freedom of religion and belief are also used. Austria is involved at a multilateral level through contributions to international financial institutions, United Nations and EU programmes and initiatives to promote democracy, human rights and cultural diversity.

In view of the increasing antisemitic threats at various levels, the structural integration of the fight against antisemitism in foreign and development policy instruments is more important than ever.



XI

Society. Democracy. Sport



- 45 Strengthening religious encounter projects, especially between young people**
- 46 Promoting social coexistence between churches and religious communities**
- 47 Creating a handbook for recognising right-wing extremism in football**
- 48 Implementing a three-stage plan against discrimination in sport**
- 49 Annual report to the National Council and evaluation of the NAS 2.0 in 2030**

1 Parliamentary initiatives

As a democratic body, the Austrian Parliament stands firmly against all forms of antisemitism and discrimination. In this sense, it not only supports concrete measures to combat antisemitism, but is also actively committed to increasing the visibility, security and diversity of Jewish life in Austria.

The following initiatives and projects have been launched for this purpose:

Antisemitism study

Since 2018, Parliament has been conducting an empirical, Austria-wide representative study on antisemitism every two years. It serves to monitor various forms of antisemitism over the long term and to develop effective countermeasures. In addition to this regular survey, special analyses and thematic follow-up studies have also been carried out such as the snapshot study on antisemitism among young people in 2024. The current study results, last presented in April 2025, are published extensively on the Parliament's website and regularly presented in various committees and at relevant conferences or meetings.¹⁰²

“Tacheles reden” (“Straight talk”) exhibition and workshop

The permanent exhibition “Tacheles reden. Antisemitismus - Gefahr für die Demokratie” (“Straight talk. Antisemitism – A threat to democracy”) in the parliamentary library provides in-depth knowledge about the history and current dangers of antisemitism, and at the same time offers an insight into Jewish life in Austria today. Accompanying materials in printed form are available on site.

Since 2025, in-depth, public tours have been offered that vividly illustrate the historical developments of antisemitism and its threat to democratic coexistence. In addition to media stations with personal accounts from young Jewish people, the tours offer a space for open dialogue where visitors can share and discuss their own impressions.

102 See <https://www.parlament.gv.at/fachinfos/rlw/Antisemitismus-2024> (11.7.2025).

Democracy workshops

In the Democracy workshops, the Parliamentary Administration offers various workshops on parliamentarianism and democracy for children, young people and apprentices. The information obtained in this process is used by the participants in a media product (newspaper, podcast, film) and is available on the website www.demokratiewebstatt.at as a download. The aim is to make democracy and parliamentarianism tangible and understandable for young people. The following workshops in particular invite participants to engage with the topic of antisemitism in different ways – either directly or in the broader context of democratic education.

“Werkstatt Tacheles reden: Verstehen verbindet“ (“Straight talk: understanding connects people”)

In this workshop organised by the Democracy Workshop, pupils deal with the topic of antisemitism with great sensitivity and professional guidance. They learn how systematic discrimination against people damages democracy and how stereotypes, ideologies and attributions can be recognised in good time. They also visit the exhibition “Tacheles reden. Antisemitismus - Gefahr für die Demokratie” (“Straight talk. Antisemitism – A threat to democracy”). This workshop aims to raise awareness of how important diversity and tolerance are for a democracy and what can happen when they are lacking or neglected.

“Werkstatt mit Zeitzeuginnen und Zeitzeugen“ (“Workshop with contemporary witnesses”)

This workshop addresses historical topics and events. It gives participants an insight into the socio-political situation of individual time periods, enabling them to competently deal with information about an event. By involving a contemporary witness, a historical topic becomes more vivid for the participants. Their own stories serve as a valuable source and help the participants grasp historically relevant content. The conversations with contemporary witnesses are intended to bring historical turning points and milestones to life and thus make them easier to understand.

“Werkstatt Medien: Wie informiere ich mich?“ (“Media workshop: How do I inform myself?”) and „Werkstatt Neue Medien: Meine Rolle und Verantwortung“ (“New media workshop: My role and responsibility”)

In these workshops, participants deal with the use of media, opinion-forming and information processing, and their important role in democracy. They recognise themselves as producers and consumers of information. They analyse the

opportunities and risks associated with (digital) media and discuss their significance for democratic processes.

“SWIGGI workshops”

In these workshops, young people go in search of clues in the life stories of former Jewish citizens. This involves visiting former places of residence in the city and using the digital SWIGGI tool to bring personal stories to life. The tool has been in use in selected workshops of the Parliament since 2022 and is currently being expanded to include a route, specially designed for the Parliament, leading from the Shoah Wall of Names Memorial to the Parliament building.

“Demokratie & Verantwortung – das Format gegen Antisemitismus” (“Democracy & Responsibility – the format against antisemitism”) as part of the “Parlament kommt zu dir” (“Parliament comes to you”) programme

Under the title “Parlament kommt zu dir” (“Parliament comes to you”), the so-called “Hohe Haus” (similar to the House of Commons) is touring Austria’s schools with various workshops. The two-hour workshop “Demokratie & Verantwortung – das Format gegen Antisemitismus” (“Democracy & Responsibility – the format against antisemitism”) raises awareness among pupils and apprentices of the issues of antisemitism and racism. The educational concept is designed to encourage young people to critically scrutinise their own assumptions and attitudes. Accompanied by experienced moderators, they independently explore and reflect on the topic, and thus learn to take responsibility for democratic coexistence.

This workshop was revised in 2024, taking into account the findings of the antisemitism study, and will be offered again from 2026. The aim of the revision is to take greater account of current social challenges.

Dialogue formats and other relevant workshops

In addition to the workshops already mentioned, Parliament also offers other thematically relevant educational formats for various target groups at selected times, such as workshops and dialogue rounds that promote social exchange and raise awareness of the dangers of antisemitism and racism.

Focus on antisemitism in the Parliamentary library

Antisemitism is one of the main points of focus of the Parliamentary library collection. Selected publications are available in a separate reference section in the publicly accessible subject-specific open-access area, and presented in the context of

National Socialism, among other things. By focusing on this area in the development of its collection, presenting selected works in the open access area and publishing literature recommendations online on specific occasions, the Parliamentary library contributes to the historical analysis and in-depth examination of current forms of antisemitism, thereby contributing to political education and the culture of remembrance.

Relevant content in the visitor centre

In addition to the exhibition “Tacheles reden. Antisemitismus - Gefahr für die Demokratie” (“Straight talk. Antisemitism – A threat to democracy”), visitors can also find in-depth content on the topic in the “Demokratikum – Erlebnis Parlament” (“Demokratikum – Experience Parliament”) area, for example at the history table or on the history wall in the visitor centre. In addition, two in-situ works of art invite reflection: Peter Weibel’s “Die Vertreibung der Vernunft” (“The Expulsion of Reason”) in the library and Heimrad Bäcker’s work “Nachschrift” (“Postscript”) on the terrace overlooking Hofburg Palace.

Simon Wiesenthal Prize

The Simon Wiesenthal Prize is awarded annually in Parliament for outstanding civic engagement against antisemitism and for educating the public about the Holocaust. The award is open to individuals, groups, school projects and associations and comes with €30,000 in prize money. Contemporary witnesses are also honoured for their commitment during the event. The award ceremony takes place during a festive event in Parliament. It is organised in cooperation with the National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism, which was set up at the Austrian Parliament and is responsible for administering the award.

Commemorative events in parliament

Every year, Parliament celebrates the Memorial Day against Violence and Racism in May with an official commemorative event. The International Holocaust Remembrance Day (27 January) and the commemoration event for the November Pogrom (9 November) or other selected thematically-relevant dates are also celebrated every year, often with events or book presentations, but sometimes also in the form of campaigns or other formats. For example, Parliament organised an international parliamentary antisemitism conference in 2024 and participates every year in the #WeRemember international campaign.

Special formats for raising awareness of the culture of remembrance and combating antisemitism

On selected occasions, Parliament presents special formats such as exhibitions or campaigns that address key issues of remembrance culture and the confrontation with antisemitism. One example is the 2024 “Torn from Life” exhibition which focuses on the fate of Jewish Austrians from 1938 onwards and was developed in close cooperation with Yad Vashem. Another example in this context is the solidarity campaign organised by members of the National Council in 2023, in which they publicly showed their support for the Israeli hostages being held in Gaza.

Teaching and learning materials for schools

In cooperation with ERINNERN:AT and Yad Vashem, an innovative educational project for lower secondary school pupils is currently being developed based on the “Torn from Life” exhibition. It offers modular teaching materials based on personal biographies, escape stories, digitalised objects and multimedia access. The aim is to promote critical historical awareness particularly with regard to the portrayal of the decision-making processes of Jewish refugees after 1938. The intention is that pupils recognise and understand the significance of objects that are directly linked to the events of escape. In addition, first-person documents and memorabilia are presented as the key to unlocking complex life stories before and after 1938. Another focus is on learning about and understanding Jewish perspectives on the Shoah as well as the diversity of Jewish lifestyles and identities in Austria before 1938.

2 Initiatives in the area of family and youth

Direktorate General VI of the Federal Chancellery also supports and implements projects and measures aimed at combating all forms of antisemitism and discrimination. It also provides significant funding for the Federal Office of Religious Affairs (established by federal law), the Extremism Information Centre at the Austrian Centre of competence for Open Youth Work (bOJA) and the Counselling Centre #AgainstOnlineHate of ZARA.

The following initiatives are organised in cooperation with these institutions:

Federal Office of Religious Affairs

As part of the implementation of the NAS 1.0, the Federal Office of Religious Affairs has already taken the first important steps in systematically observing, analysing and documenting antisemitic phenomena in the context of ideological groups. As a result, a technical analysis and documentation of the role that antisemitism plays in the areas of phenomena dealt with by the Federal Office – such as esotericism, neopaganism, evangelical milieus and conspiracy ideological movements – are planned. The aim is to highlight structural connections and ideological functions of antisemitic elements in these contexts.

Extremism Information Centre

Since 2021, the Extremism Information Centre has been offering workshops on the topic of antisemitism for educational professionals, youth workers and other influencers. Workshops and discussion groups are also offered to young people. This service is being continued on an ongoing basis and its content is adapted to current developments. Special offers, for example for family counselling centres, are currently being considered. The topic of antisemitism is also part of other workshop formats, for example, in the context of right-wing extremism. In the online database of the Information Centre, which contains information materials, training courses, workshop offers and counselling facilities, the “antisemitism” search criterion has been added, enabling targeted filtering of content. The database is expanded on an ongoing basis.

Exchange between the Federal Chancellery and relevant counselling services

The Federal Chancellery (Directorate General Family and Youth) is continuing the joint exchange that it has begun with the Extremism Information Centre, the Counselling Centre #AgainstOnlineHate and the Federal Office of Religious Affairs. This promotes the coordination of content and enables better networking for joint prevention of extremism and combating antisemitism within the remit of the Directorate General Family and Youth.

National No Hate Speech Committee

In 2021 and 2023, the Mauthausen Committee Austria (MKÖ) and the Reporting Centre for Antisemitism of the IKG Wien, institutions with specific expertise, joined the No Hate Speech Committee. They are invited to contribute their observations in order to facilitate an in-depth discussion of current and planned activities. Regular dialogue with these agencies and with Department IV/12 at the BKA serves as an important source of inspiration for the committee's future work.

3 Initiatives in the area of state and defence policy education

The Austrian Federal Ministry of Defence (BMLV) and the Austrian Armed Forces (ÖBH) are staunch advocates of democratic values, human rights and the rule of law – both within Austria and in the context of their international partnerships and missions.

The measures to combat all forms of antisemitism, which have been intensified since 2020 in the BMLV and the ÖBH, are intended to be a clear signal against exclusion, hatred and radicalisation, both internally and externally. In this way, they also make a significant contribution to strengthening social cohesion and ensuring the operational readiness of the ÖBH.

Therefore, the measures described below, which have been implemented at various levels to date, should not only be seen as a contribution by the BMLV/ÖBH to the NAS 2.0, but also as a clear commitment and active expression of a zero-tolerance policy by the Ministry of Defence towards all forms of antisemitism, racism and totalitarianism.¹⁰³

With the involvement of various cooperation partners, programmes are continuously being developed to convey democratic values and attitudes, identify and counteract radicalisation tendencies, promote historical awareness and, above all, promote knowledge (for example in the area of the history of antisemitism, the role of violence, enemy stereotypes or xenophobia in the Nazi regime) in order to make an important contribution within the meaning of the NAS 2.0. These initiatives are aimed at different target groups both within and outside of the organisation of the Ministry of Defence, and thus also demonstrate their sustainability in society as a whole.

103 See for example: “Zero tolerance policy on antisemitism, racism and nationalist acts”, 26 January 2022: <https://www.bmlv.gv.at/cms/artikel.php?ID=11223> (27.5.2025); Educational cooperation against totalitarianism, racism and antisemitism”, 23 February 2025: https://www.ots.at/presseaussendung/OTS_20250223_OTS0001/bundesheerbildungskooperation-gegen-totalitarismus-rassismus-und-antisemitismus (27.5.2025).

As part of its general conscription program, the ÖBH recruits prospective basic military service personnel (GWD) and future professional soldiers from all sections of Austrian society. Men and women from different social, cultural, religious and educational backgrounds reflect the diversity of society and complete their basic training together for at least six months. This pluralistic composition requires targeted measures to impart historical knowledge, reduce potential resentment – for example due to origin or socialisation – promote intercultural sensitivity and thus have a lasting effect on society beyond the Austrian Armed Forces.

The Ministry of Defence is also continuing its activities in the area of officer and non-commissioned officer training in the ÖBH and, together with its partners, is intensifying the efforts already made. In this context, the Museum of Military History (HGM) also has an important role to play as an educational and research institution and a place of knowledge transfer.

The BMLV and the ÖBH are also increasingly focusing on promoting comprehensive national defence (ULV), in particular “intellectual national defence”, and thus on strengthening and protecting democratic values.

With this in mind, the following initiatives have been launched:

Commission to Combat Anti-State Tendencies

The Commission to Combat Anti-State Tendencies was established at the end of October 2022. This commission, consisting of six members, meets at regular intervals to evaluate and analyse possible anti-constitutional tendencies and backgrounds within the institutions of the BMLV and the ÖBH, and consequently to advise the BMLV on the initiatives to be taken.

Cooperation between the Federal Ministry of Defence and the Austrian Integration Fund

In December 2023, the BMLV and the ÖIF agreed on a cooperation that includes joint events and educational programmes.

One of the aims of this cooperation is to strengthen intercultural cooperation and tolerance, reduce possible prejudices and generate knowledge and understanding of democratic values.

As part of this cooperation, the first event took place on 17 April 2024 when a panel discussion at the HGM was attended by 70 conscripts from the Armed Forces of various religious affiliations. Representatives of the Islamic Religious Authority in Austria (IGGÖ) and the IKG Wien discussed topics such as intercultural and interfaith coexistence, common values and tolerance. This event was followed in June 2024 and again in October 2025 by the “Apprentice Day” at the HGM, and was supplemented by educational formats focussing on understanding democracy and combating extremism.

In addition to these major events, there are also plans to open the seminars offered by the ÖIF up to employees of the BMLV and the ÖBH.

Educational cooperation between the Federal Ministry of Defence and the Mauthausen Concentration Camp Memorial

The cooperation between the BMLV and the Mauthausen Concentration Camp Memorial is one of the Federal Ministry's most prominent educational initiatives. What began as a pilot measure in 2021 developed by 2025 into a systemically anchored cross-institutional and, above all, active partnership that now encompasses all the academies of the Austrian Armed Forces (Theresian Military Academy, Austrian National Defence Academy (LVAk), Army Non-Commissioned Officers Academy), individual troop units and barracks as well as the HGM in a central role.

This educational cooperation is a response to the realisation that questions of historical awareness, democratic self-image and the prevention of radicalisation must be an integral part of military training in a democracy – especially in a challenging phase of security policy such as that which Europe is currently experiencing. The cooperation goes far beyond mere memorial site education, and establishes a multi-layered educational network.

Since 2023, the cooperation has been structurally and curricularly anchored in the training and further education of the Austrian Armed Forces. In co-operation with the Mauthausen Concentration Camp Memorial, the National Defence Academy fundamentally revised lesson plan 1 “Nationalsozialismus: Ausgrenzung, Verfolgung, Vernichtung“ (“National Socialism: Exclusion, Persecution, Extermination”) and placed it on a contemporary, multi-perspective foundation that is synergistically linked to other lesson plans.

In this context, the Mauthausen Concentration Camp Memorial acts not only as a supplier of content, but also as an active partner in the conception and realisation of various initiatives. For example, a new workshop for conscripts was developed in 2025, which is dedicated to this property under the title “Das KZ Melk und die Birago Kaserne – eine Spurensuche zwischen Vergangenheit und Gegenwart” (“The Melk concentration camp and Birago barracks – a search for traces between past and present”) in the 2025 Year of Remembrance.

The Theresian Military Academy, the Army Non-Commissioned Officers Academy, the LVAk as well as troop schools and individual units implement the cooperation at various levels – from accompanying excursions to individual modules for democracy promotion.

Every year, the Theresian Military Academy organises a course that brings in historians to examine and discuss individual aspects of the history of Nazi persecution. This can also be seen at the Birago barracks in Melk, where, in cooperation with the MERKwürdig association, the Pioneer Battalion 3 and the Melk Concentration Camp Memorial (Melk Memorial), a new education centre has been created. Characterised by its Nazi past, it serves as a place of learning and discussion for those serving in the armed forces.

Regional co-operation axes are also being established in the federal provinces – supported by information officers specialising in “democratic identity” who work at the interface between military practice, historical expertise and educational communication. They have been trained jointly by the LVAk, the HGM and the Mauthausen Concentration Camp Memorial since 2023: the first six information officers were trained in 2023, followed by others in 2024.

Overall, the cooperation combines different levels of historical educational work from direct communication on site and the targeted qualification of experts, to topic-specific training modules and historical research by the HGM, and the educational and didactic expertise of the Mauthausen Concentration Camp Memorial.

These elements are interlinked, coordinated in terms of content and intertwined in terms of organisation. In this graduated and coordinated form, the interplay of remembrance, research, education and communication within a military framework is unique in Europe.

Reform of the Museum of Military History

The HGM was repeatedly the subject of critical debate until 2022. In addition to finding that its curatorial approaches were outdated, it was particularly criticised for a lack of historical depth, multi-perspective reflection and connection to current discourses on memory politics. Since 2023, this criticism has triggered a far-reaching reform process that is fundamentally redefining the content, organisational structure and strategic role of the museum within the BMLV.

The aim of this reorganisation is to position the HGM as a scientifically sound, educationally relevant and publicly accessible platform for historical debate in the context of security policy. This can be seen in the concept for a new exhibition on Austrian contemporary history (1918–1955). This will replace the much-criticised presentation “Republik und Diktatur” (“Republic and Dictatorship”) that was closed in 2023 and, among other things, will focus on the destruction of the First Republic, the Dollfuss-Schuschnigg dictatorship, National Socialism, war crimes and expulsion as well as the path to the State Treaty. Particular attention will be paid to marginalised perspectives, but also to the analysis of antisemitic narratives.

The HGM understands antisemitism not merely as a phenomenon of the past, but as a historically deeply rooted system of group-related social exclusion and racist stereotyping. Based on this realisation, the prevention of antisemitism was defined as an independent area of the museum's work – at curatorial, scientific and educational policy levels.

As part of the interdepartmental cooperation with the Mauthausen Concentration Camp Memorial, the HGM is actively involved in training information officers in “democratic identity”. It designs and implements educational modules that deal with the history of violence, antisemitism, perpetration and the culture of remembrance. These include source-critical training units, object-based education formats and didactically reflected learning scenarios. The educational and outreach work not only takes place at the museum site, but has also included the “Äußere Burgtor” (“Outer Castle Gate”) as an additional learning and education venue since 2024.

The HGM's new research department, which was created in 2024, enables the sustainable scientific processing of topics relevant to the NAS 2.0. In cooperation with universities, memorial sites and non-university research centres, interdisciplinary projects are being initiated in the fields of military history, antisemitism research and the politics of remembrance. One example of this is the international conference,

“Kriegsendverbrechen 1945” (“Crimes at the End of the War in 1945”), which was organised jointly with the VWI and the universities of Vienna and Klagenfurt. The conference examined the escalation of military violence in the final months of the war, and focused on perpetrator structures in the Wehrmacht, SS and police. It was comprehensively documented and will form the basis for further educational and communication formats within the department.

The structural safeguarding of the reform process took place when the new organisational plan came into force in September 2024. With the creation of new management levels, the expansion of scientific capacities, significantly strengthened mediation work and a strategic opening towards academic and civil society partners, the HGM has been established as a permanently viable institution for historical and political education within the Austrian Armed Forces, thereby also contributing to intellectual national defence.

The overall picture shows that between 2022 and 2025, the HGM has transformed itself from a controversial memorial site into an active institution of historical self-reflection, developed in the military sphere. It assumes responsibility for critically examining the burdened past, contributes specifically to the prevention of antisemitism through research, curatorial work and education, and thus makes an independent contribution to strengthening democratic resilience and historical judgement in the context of security policy.

4 Initiatives by churches and religious communities

Churches and religious communities are important pillars of social cohesion. Their commitment to the dignity of every human being is indispensable, and responsible role modelling, religious peace and open-minded coexistence contribute significantly to building a climate of reducing prejudice and promoting togetherness.¹⁰⁴

¹⁰⁴ See <https://www.kathpress.at/goto/meldung/2441372/mein-groesster-wunsch-das-gegenseitige-wohlwollen-soll-nie-verloren-gehen> (2.7.2025).

Counteracting the various forms of antisemitism with a keen sense of awareness is a responsibility that all churches and religious communities must assume and fulfil. As explained in the NAS 1.0, it was already established in 1948, with the emergence of international ecumenical co-operation, that “Antisemitism is a sin against God and man”. This stance still continues to shape the churches’ commitment at international level today, and is expressed in joint initiatives, declarations and projects to promote interfaith dialogue and combat antisemitism.

The Charta Oecumenica, which was signed in 2001 by the European churches, including the member churches of the Ecumenical Council of Churches in Austria, also represents an important milestone in Christian-Jewish relations. In it, the churches expressly commit themselves to “oppose all forms of antisemitism and anti-Judaism in church and society” and “to seek and intensify dialogue with our Jewish brothers and sisters at all levels”.

Although Christianity has its historical and theological roots and identity in Judaism, throughout history the churches have been actively involved in the emergence and spread of many forms of antisemitism. Out of this special responsibility, since the Shoah, a process of renewal has been underway that not only reflects historical hostility towards Jews, but is also aware of the mechanisms of present-day antisemitism and develops counter-strategies.

In view of the rising number of antisemitic incidents¹⁰⁵, the commitment of churches and religious communities in Austria to preventing antisemitism through a variety of projects and initiatives is of particular importance. The following examples show how diverse and wide-ranging these measures are. Educational work is fundamentally key here, and religious education and extracurricular youth work are of great importance.

105 See <https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/bundeskanzleramt/nachrichten-der-bundesregierung/2025/04/staatssekretaer-proell-konsequentes-vorgehen-der-bundesregierung-gegen-besorgniserregende-entwicklungen-im-bereich-antisemitismus.html> (2.7.2025).

The Hillel Award

In 2025, the Coordinating Committee for Christian-Jewish Cooperation, founded in 1956, presented the “Hillel Award” for the first time, named after the Jewish Torah scholar. This is aimed at pupils who discuss Jewish life or Christian-Jewish relations in their pre-scientific work as part of their school-leaving examinations at a general secondary school or in their dissertations.

The award was created on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp with the aim of motivating young people to engage intensively and critically with Jewish history, the present day and the relationship between Christianity and Judaism.

The award makes the perspectives and insights of the younger generation visible, and makes an important contribution to raising awareness. The award highlights the perspectives and insights of the younger generation, which makes an important contribution to raising awareness. In addition, the prize creates an incentive to continue to deal with these topics on a scientific level in the future and thus promotes a new generation of influencers in remembrance and prevention work.¹⁰⁶ Workshops to support the preparation of the works are in preparation.

“Day of Judaism”

Another important initiative is the so-called “Tag des Judentums” (“Day of Judaism”), which has now established itself as an important fixture in the Austrian church year.¹⁰⁷ It has been celebrated annually on 17 January by the Austrian churches since it was introduced by the Ecumenical Council of Churches in Austria (ÖRKÖ) in the year 2000.

The aim of the day is to make Christians aware of the roots of their faith in Judaism and to emphasize the historical and theological connections between the two religions. Over the years, the “Day of Judaism” has developed into a “Day of Learning from Judaism”, on which encounters, dialogue and reflection take centre stage. A wide range of events, including church services, lectures, panel discussions and

106 See <https://www.christenundjuden.org> (5.5.2025).

107 See <https://christenundjuden.org/tag-des-judentums> and <https://www.erzdioezese-wien.at/site/home/nachrichten/article/117439.html> (17.7.2025).

commemorative events, offer space for a critical examination of antisemitic traditions in Christian theology and history. On this day, theologians call on people to recognise and actively combat the antisemitism that is rooted in their own traditions. In this way, it is part of a larger effort to openly identify and address problematic traditions in the church and to draw consequences for the present.¹⁰⁸

The day is also an occasion to remember the injustice that Jews have suffered throughout history at the hands of the church. A particularly broad impact can be expected in 2027, as 17 January falls on a Sunday.

Church and civil society events

Another day that inspires nationwide reflection is the anniversary of the November pogroms of 1938, a key date in commemorating the victims of National Socialism and the occasion for numerous church and civil society events. The Jews murdered on the night of 9 to 10 November 1938 are commemorated in church services, commemorative ceremonies and discussion panels, and churches use this day as an opportunity to call on their congregations to be vigilant against current forms of antisemitism.

The events offer space for reflection, exchange and solidarity with the Jewish community and are an important part of the work to prevent forgetting and to prevent new forms of hatred towards Jews from developing.¹⁰⁹

Representative for Christian-Jewish Cooperation

Another important measure is the appointment of authorised representatives for Christian-Jewish cooperation, who can be found in every organisational unit of the Roman Catholic Church (diocese) and the Protestant Church (superintendencies) throughout the federal provinces. These representatives promote encounters with the Jewish community at local level and are active in regional educational work.

108 See <https://www.kath-kirche-kaernten.at> und <https://www.katholisch.at/aktuelles/151719/heiligenblut-antijuedische-darstellung-in-kirche-wird-aufgearbeitet> (13.1.2025).

109 See <https://www.erzdiocese-wien.at/site/home/nachrichten/article/124478.html> und <https://www.evang-wien.at/news/mechaye-hametim-gedenken-novemberpogrome-vor-85-jahren> (both 17.7.2025).

Symposium of the Catholic Austrian Liturgical Institute Salzburg

The ecumenical (interdenominational) symposium organised by the Catholic Austrian Liturgical Institute in Salzburg in September 2025 also addressed the perception of Judaism in the worship services of the various churches. In addition to describing and analysing traditional pitfalls in the devaluation of Judaism, the symposium presented today's perspectives of a sensitive religious proclamation that values Judaism.

Coordinating Committee for Christian-Jewish Cooperation

The observer status of the Coordinating Committee for Christian-Jewish Cooperation at the ÖRKÖ is also conducive to Christian-Jewish cohesion. Through it, issues concerning Judaism and antisemitism can be included in the agenda of all churches.

A research project by the Coordinating Committee for Christian-Jewish Cooperation also documents images of Judaism in ecclesiastical art across the country, using art-historical, theological and educational approaches in an interdisciplinary manner to foster a new social attitude towards Jewish hostility and antisemitism.

“LIKRAT”

With the “LIKRAT” project supported by the BKA – derived from the Hebrew word “Likrat” meaning “to approach each other” – the IKG Wien promotes encounters between Jewish young people (so-called “Likratinas” and “Likratinos”) and non-Jewish young people. The 14- to 18-year-olds are given in-depth training in communication and content, which they then take with them into schools to talk to their peers in discussions about Judaism. The aim is to build bridges and promote dialogue between young people from different backgrounds. Thanks to this programme, over 16,000 personal encounters had already taken place by spring 2025.¹¹⁰

Antisemitism prevention programme offered by the University College of Teacher Education of Christian Churches Vienna/Krems

Another important initiative in the field of education is the nine courses on the prevention of antisemitism offered by the Private University College of Teacher Education of Christian Churches Austria (KPH Wien/NÖ), which aims to send a strong signal against discrimination and hatred. Starting in the winter semester 2025/26, a special course entitled “Antisemitismus, Muslim/Islamfeindlichkeit und Rassismus als Herausforderung in Österreich” (“Antisemitism, Muslim/Islamophobia and Racism as

110 See <https://www.ikg-wien.at/Likrat> (17.03.2025).

a Challenge in Austria") will be offered. The aim is to make participants – especially prospective and active religious education teachers – aware of the similarities and differences between various forms of discrimination and to provide them with concrete options for action in everyday school and social life.¹¹¹

“Marko-Feingold-Gastprofessur” (“Marko Feingold Visiting Professorship”)

Academic perspectives on antisemitism and Jewish life are also being strengthened at the University of Salzburg. The “Marko Feingold Visiting Professorship” in the Department of Biblical Studies and Church History has been available there since the summer semester of 2021. It is dedicated to academic research into antisemitism, Jewish ethnicity, religion and national identity. The visiting professorship makes it possible to research current and historical questions of antisemitism from an interdisciplinary perspective and to contribute to the public discourse.¹¹²

Handout on learning about remembrance in religious education

Auch bieten evangelische Lehrende der Universität Wien mit ihrem Buch „Was geht mich das an? Antisemitismus gestern – heute – ...“ erstmals eine Handreichung zum Erinnerungslernen im Religionsunterricht von der Primarstufe bis zur Matura an.¹¹³

European Lutheran Commission on the Church and the Jewish People

The Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession is a member of the European Lutheran Commission on the Church and the Jewish People (LEKKJ), the European network of Evangelical churches and institutions for Christian-Jewish dialogue founded in 1976.¹¹⁴ It encourages all Christian congregations and churches to engage in encounters, dialogue and joint activities with Jewish communities in order to create networks of empathy and solidarity.

Following a broad discussion process about the antisemitic windows from 1970 in the Evangelical St Paul's Church in Vienna's 3rd district, the parish decided to remove the

111 See <https://bildung.kphvie.ac.at/antisemitismus-muslimsforderung-in-osterreich-302437-0-202526.html> und <https://bildung.kphvie.ac.at/catalogsearch/result/index/?q=Antisemitismus> (both 17.7.2025).

112 See <https://www.katholisch.at/aktuelles/131125/neuer-marko-feingold-lehrstuhl-zur-antisemitismus-forschung> (17.7.2025).

113 Danner & Schweighofer, Vienna: edition tandem 2025.

114 See www.lekkj.eu (17.7.2025).

windows in the coming years and to set up a memorial in the church to document the Evangelical church's history of guilt in connection with antisemitism.

“Dialogue: Abraham”

The initiative “Dialog: Abraham” (“Dialogue: Abraham”) – formerly “Café Abraham” – has launched an interfaith holiday calendar “feiertagsgruss.at”, which has been expanded since the NAS 1.0 in terms of accessibility and additional holidays. The calendar provides information about the most important holidays of Judaism, Christianity and Islam and is jointly supported by representatives of these faith communities. It is available in both digital and printed form and is aimed at the general public, schools and educational institutions.

The calendar not only reminds us of upcoming holidays, but also offers accompanying material that is regularly expanded and is particularly suitable for use in religious education lessons. Those interested can be reminded of important festive dates via messenger services, e-mail and social media. The initiative thus promotes interreligious dialogue, breaks down prejudices and supports educators in making religious diversity visible and understandable in everyday life.¹¹⁵

Measures to prevent radicalisation and antisemitism by the Islamic Religious Authority in Austria

The importance of such initiatives became particularly clear after the terrorist attack by Hamas on 7 October 2023, when antisemitic tendencies intensified worldwide and the Middle East conflict also created social tensions in Austria. The IGGÖ responded with targeted measures to prevent radicalisation and antisemitism. These include regular exchange meetings with community leaders, the development of recommendations for religious education teachers on how to deal with the Middle East conflict, and the support of families and young people to prevent radicalisation.¹¹⁶

¹¹⁵ See www.interreligioesdialog.at/dialoginitiativen-in-oesterreich/initiativen-von-religionsgemeinschaften/projekt-feiertagsgruss und <https://www.katholisch.at/aktuelles/146657/interreligioeser-feiertagskalender-fuer-2024-erschienen> (both 17.7.2025).

¹¹⁶ See <https://www.derislam.at/2023/10/20/austausch-der-verschiedlichen-einrichtungen-der-iggoe-und-den-kultusgemeinden-zur-aktuellen-situation> (17.7.2025).

The need to resolutely oppose antisemitism and all forms of misanthropy and to promote social cohesion is emphasized.¹¹⁷

“Was glaubt Österreich?” (“What does Austria believe?”)

Studies such as “Was glaubt Österreich?” (“What does Austria believe?”), which was carried out in spring 2024 at the University of Vienna – funded by the Future Fund and in cooperation with the ORF – provide scientific support for this area of social tension. The study examines religious and ideological attitudes of the Austrian population and analyses prejudices against religious minorities in particular, with the aim of providing impetus for education, the culture of remembrance and democratic discourse. The results show that antisemitic resentment is particularly strong where there is little personal contact with Jews – a clear indication of the effectiveness of educational work and encounter formats.

“Botschafter des sozialen Zusammenhalts” (“Ambassadors of Social Cohesion”)

Therefore, such personal encounters are a central element of prevention work. One impressive example of this is the initiative “Botschafter des sozialen Zusammenhalts” (“Ambassadors of Social Cohesion”), a joint school project run by a Viennese community rabbi and an imam who regularly visit educational institutions together. With their authentic and dialogue-oriented approach, they act as interfaith eye-openers, break down prejudices and promote understanding of different religious perspectives. In 2024, they were awarded the Ute Bock Prize for Civil Courage for this extraordinary commitment – on the grounds that their educational work is invaluable in an increasingly polarised society.¹¹⁸

In view of the ongoing challenges, it is clear that the continuous commitment of churches and religious communities is of particular importance to society as a whole and is therefore included in the NAS 2.0. with the following initiatives:

117 See <https://www.derislam.at/2024/01/05/fachtagung-imam-und-seelsorgeausbildung-in-oesterreich> (17.7.2025).

118 See https://www.meinbezirk.at/wien/c-leute/ute-bock-preis-fuer-imam-demir-und-rabbinerhofmeister-und-nachbarinnen_a6697580 (18.8.2025).

Strengthening religious encounter projects, especially between young people

Knowledge of one's own religious identity as well as that of the respective counterpart, combined with a communicative and co-operative willingness to meet and engage in dialogue are important factors for ensuring a prosperous coexistence in our society. Churches and religious communities in particular are highly committed to youth work.

Projects in this area and the support they receive can make a lasting contribution to coexistence and the reduction of prejudices at various levels.

Promoting social cohesion among churches and religious communities

As part of the NAS 2.0 measures, initiatives that deepen mutual understanding in society, strengthen social cohesion, effectively counter antisemitic tendencies and promote open discourse are to be supported in the long term.

5 Initiatives in the field of sport

Against the backdrop of the constantly growing threat of right-wing extremism and religious extremism, organised and non-organised sport is becoming particularly important as a preventative field of action.

Exclusion and inequality are often more visible in the national sport of football than in the rest of society and at the same time, sport also has great potential to counteract precisely this – because sport connects and brings people together.

The anti-discrimination work of fairplay, the initiative to promote diversity and anti-discrimination at the Vienna Institute of International Dialogue and Cooperation (VIDC), receives significant funding from the Directorate General Sports of BMWKMS as part of the fairplay Service Centre for Diversity, Inclusion and Human Rights (2023–2026) and the Prevention Centre for Extremism in Sport/fairplay prevention (2022–2025). The fight against antisemitism is explicitly part of the funding agreement.

Through educational work, cooperation with professional and amateur clubs, campaigns and events, discussions and support for proactive forces, be they fans, sports clubs or initiatives, as well as public relations work, studies and the documentation of discriminatory incidents, fairplay fights against discrimination. fairplay's work in this area is particularly visible every year in October, when the Action Weeks against Discrimination in Football take place. During this time, Austria's entire sports landscape is called upon to send a strong signal in favour of diversity and against discrimination.

Sport creates identity, is easily accessible to millions of people and offers spaces for community, role models and the communication of values. This is precisely where there is potential for effective antisemitism prevention. The study "Survey Insights on Combating Antisemitism Through Football"¹¹⁹ emphasizes that football and other sports can be used as a platform to educate people about history, prejudice and diversity – for example through joint commemorative events, training modules and fan work. This is precisely where the project "fairplay prevention – Anlaufstelle gegen menschenfeindliche Ideologien" ("fairplay prevention – contact point against misanthropic ideologies") comes in.

“fairplay prevention – Anlaufstelle gegen menschenfeindliche Ideologien” (“fairplay prevention – contact point against misanthropic ideologies”)

In Austria, there has so far been a lack of structural measures in organised sport. The "fairplay prevention" project offers an innovative approach with its contact point against misanthropic ideologies, and aims to fill this gap across all sports. Cooperations with the IKG Wien, the Jewish Museum Vienna and the WJC as well as events such as the symposium "Diversität im Kampfsport" ("Diversity in martial arts") show how diverse the prevention of antisemitism in sport can be – from martial arts to educational work and youth social work.

The project also offers workshops and training courses throughout the country, with the aim of strengthening and supporting organised sport in its resilience to politically and religiously motivated extremism. One focus of the educational measures is the workshop series "Erinnern, Erkennen, Entgegentreten: Antisemitismus im österreichischen Fußball" ("Remembering, Recognising, Countering: Antisemitism in

¹¹⁹ See Survey Insights on Combating Antisemitism Through Football. what matters, World Jewish Congress, CEJI. 2024: <https://archive.jpr.org.uk/object-4322> (19.8.2025).

Austrian football") as part of the exhibition entitled "Leopold Stastny – Überlebender des Nazi-Terrors, Trainerlegende und Erfinder der Schülerliga" ("Leopold Stastny – Survivor of Nazi Terror, Legendary Coach and Inventor of the School League").

„Zusammen1“

Another pioneering project is the "Zusammen1" ("Together1") project, which specifically targets football clubs. In workshops with coaches, young people and club officials, it imparts knowledge about Jewish life, raises people's awareness of antisemitic narratives and creates positive points of reference to Jewish history. Central to this is an empowerment approach and integration into the training programme of youth academies.

Sport alone cannot eliminate antisemitism. But it can make a decisive contribution to sensitising young people, creating encounters and conveying democratic values. Therefore, anchoring sport-based prevention work in the NAS 2.0 is not only a good idea, but also necessary.

Further training for influencers in the sports sector

Everyone who is in regular to intensive contact with children and young people and who influences them are educated and sensitised as potential role models and confidants of young people with the help of targeted educational and campaign work. In the process, the ability to convey preventive values is also taught and strengthened, as is the ability to recognise tendencies towards radicalisation at an early stage and to respond to them professionally. The aim is to integrate awareness-raising and training measures for coaches, referees and club or association officials into their education and training in a long-term and sustainable manner, as well as to integrate the associated training measures into the training materials and guidelines for the prevention of discrimination and extremism.

To date, special emphasis has been placed on the training of children and youth coaches. In addition, a further training concept for referees exists in the youth sector, which primarily deals with conflict situations such as discrimination on the pitch, as well as raising awareness among those responsible for security in the regional associations and the Bundesliga (national league).

Awareness-raising measures in the area of fan culture

This involves the development of training concepts for official football fan representatives, which is mandatory for club licensing in the national leagues. As part of this focus, the Bundesliga club conference adopted the decision to extend sanctions for discriminatory behaviour by fans from the 2023/24 season onwards, from racism to antisemitism, homophobia and sexism.

A major milestone was also achieved with regard to the fan clubs of the Austrian Football Association (ÖFB). A fan charter was jointly drawn up and adopted, to which all official ÖFB fan clubs have committed themselves. It sets out the values that fans are expected to represent to the outside world, as well as prohibitions on discriminatory behaviour and possible sanctions for violations of the charter.

Remembrance work and networking in the sports sector

The ÖFB actively encourages participation in days of remembrance in order to consciously address the systematic persecution and murder of Jews during the Nazi era. Trips to memorial sites, such as the “Themenrundgang zu Fußball” (“Themed Tour on Football”) at the Mauthausen Concentration Camp Memorial¹²⁰, and museum visits are organised.

Educational opportunities for young people in the field of sport

The ÖFB project “Lernkurve Stadion” (“Learning Curve Stadium”) invites teenagers and young adults to workshops in the stadium to discuss socially relevant topics in a unique learning atmosphere. The programme, which is currently available in Vienna, Linz, Graz, St. Pölten and Klagenfurt, is aimed at school classes and junior football teams, as well as young people who have no access to political education or are not in training or employment. Antisemitism is also a key topic here.

In addition to these ongoing measures, the following initiatives are planned in the area of sport:

Creating a handbook for recognising right-wing extremism in football

In cooperation with the DÖW, a handbook is being developed that can be used to identify group-related hostility such as racism, antisemitism, homophobia or sexism

¹²⁰ See <https://www.skrapid.at/de/startseite/news/news/aktuelles/2023/01/rapideum-bei-football-themed-tour-in-kz-mauthausen> (14.8.2025).

in stadiums, and to take action against it. The document is primarily intended for association and club officials, as well as security officers and stewards to educate them about the most important identifying features and symbols of right-wing extremism.

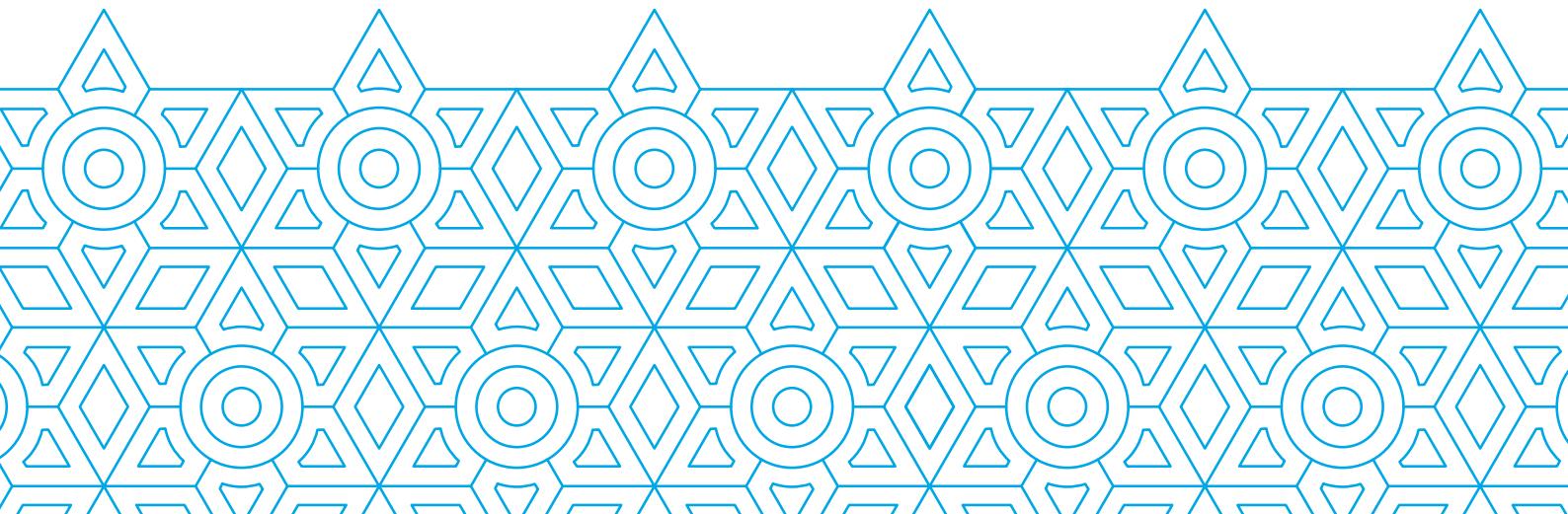
Implementing a three-stage plan against discrimination in sport

Since spring 2025, the Referees' Association, its rules committee and the Bundesliga have been working together on a response plan to be implemented when participants in a football match (primarily players and referees) are discriminated against by the public due to their origin, religion, gender or sexual identity.

The aim of the three-step plan is to create a safe environment and protect those involved from serious humiliation and discrimination by the public. Therefore, referees are called upon to intervene in discriminatory situations and, together with the club, to point out that antisemitic, racist, homophobic or otherwise discriminatory behaviour is undesirable and will be sanctioned. This raises awareness among the public, players and clubs, and promotes greater respect and fair play in football.

Antisemitism is not a static phenomenon: it changes, as does the society that supports it. Coordinated measures are necessary to effectively counter these constantly changing forms of antisemitism.

In this sense, the NAS 2.0 is not intended to replace the NAS 1.0, but rather to supplement and continue it.



Abbreviations

AI	Artificial intelligence
AI Act	Artificial Intelligence Act
Art.	Article
BGBI.	Federal Law Gazette
BKA	Austrian Federal Chancellery
BMAFJ	Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Family and Youth
BMB	Austrian Federal Ministry of Education
BMBWF	Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research
BMEIA	Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs
BMFWF	Austrian Federal Ministry for Women, Science and Research
BMI	Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior
BMJ	Austrian Federal Ministry of Justice
BMLV	Austrian Federal Ministry of Defence
BMWET	Austrian Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs, Energy and Tourism
BMWKMS	Austrian Federal Ministry of Housing, Arts, Culture, Media and Sport
BNED	Austrian Nationwide Network for Extremism Prevention and De-radicalisation
bOJA	Austrian Network for Open Youth Work
CERD	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
CFR	Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union
CJEU	Court of Justice of the European Union
DÖW	Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance
DPI	Documentation Centre for Political Islam
DSA	Digital Services Act
DSA-BegG	DSA Accompanying Act
DSN	Directorate of State Security and Intelligence
EDMO	European Digital Media Observatory
ECA	European Conference on Antisemitism
ECHR	European Court of Human Rights
EHRI	European Holocaust Research Infrastructure

EliAs	Elektronisch integrierte Assistenz (Electronically Integrated Assistance)
ERIC	European Research Infrastructure Consortium
ETC	European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy
EU	European Union
FRA	European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
GAAMAC	Global Action against Mass Atrocity Crimes
GIBG	Austrian Equal Treatment Act
GStG	Memorials Act
GWD	Basic military service personnel
HiNBG	Act Combating Online Hate
HGM	Museum of Military History
IFES	Institute for Empirical Social Research
IGGÖ	Islamic Religious Authority in Austria
IHRA	International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance
IKG Wien	Jewish Community of Vienna
IRG	Jewish Religious Community
Jewish Claims Conference	Conference on Jewish material claims against Germany
KommAustria	Austrian Communications Authority
KoPI-G	Communication Platforms Act
KPH Wien/NÖ	Private University College of Teacher Education of Christian Churches Austria
LEKKJ	European Lutheran Commission on the Church and the Jewish People
LVAK	Austrian National Defence Academy
MAO package	Package of Measures against Antisemitism and Antisemitic Disinformation in the Digital Sphere
MKÖ	Mauthausen Committee Austria
NAP	National Action Plan
NAS	National Strategy against Antisemitism
NFA	National Forum against Antisemitism
NOA	Networks Overcoming Antisemitism
ODIHR	Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
OeAD	Austrian Agency for Education and Internationalisation
ORF	Austrian Broadcasting Corporation
OSCE	Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe
ÖAW	Austrian Academy of Sciences

ÖBH	Austrian Armed Forces
ÖFB	Austrian Football Association
ÖIAT	Austrian Institute for Applied Telecommunications
ÖIF	Austrian Integration Fund
ÖIM	Austrian Institute for Human Rights
ÖJKG	Federal Act on the Safeguarding of Austrian Jewish Cultural Heritage (Austrian Jewish Cultural Heritage Act)
ÖREP	Respondents representative of Austria
ÖRKÖ	Ecumenical Council of Churches in Austria
PAD	Protokollieren, Anzeigen, Daten (Documentation, Reporting, Data)
SIAK	Security Academy
StAG	Public Prosecutor's Office Act
StbG	Austrian Citizenship Act
StGB	Austrian Criminal Code
StGBI	Federal Law Gazette for the Republic of Austria
TEU	Treaty on European Union
TFEU	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union
ULV	Comprehensive national defence
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
VAB	Federal Academy of Administration
VerbotsG	Prohibition Act
VDK	Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge e.V. (German War Graves Commission)
VIDC	Vienna Institute of International Dialogue and Cooperation
VJ	Verfahrensautomation Justiz (Judicial Process Automation)
VWI	Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies
WJC	World Jewish Congress
ZARA	Association for Civil Courage and Anti-Racism Work

Table appendix

Table for figure 1: Recorded antisemitic attitudes compared over time from 2018 to 2024 (source: BRAINTRUST GmbH).

Form of appearance	Year	Agreement rate
Manifest antisemitism	2018	13 %
Manifest antisemitism	2020	9 %
Manifest antisemitism	2022	15 %
Manifest antisemitism	2024	13 %
Latent antisemitism	2018	28 %
Latent antisemitism	2020	24 %
Latent antisemitism	2022	32 %
Latent antisemitism	2024	33 %
Non-antisemitism	2018	49 %
Non-antisemitism	2020	56 %
Non-antisemitism	2022	54 %
Non-antisemitism	2024	54 %

Table for figure 2: “*You can't expect a Jew to be decent.*” Comparison of responses from respondents representative of Austria (ÖREP) and people expressing a patriarchal world view (source: BRAINTRUST GmbH).

Respondents	Agree	Disagree	No answer
Representative of Austria (2024) patriarchal attitude high	21	65	14
Representative of Austria (2024)	9	77	13

Table for figure 3: “*Given the policy that Israel is pursuing, I can really understand why people have something against Jews.*” Comparison of responses in 2022 and 2024. Sample: ÖREP respondents with a university / university of applied sciences degree (source: BRAINTRUST GmbH).

Respondents	Agree	Disagree	No answer
UNI/FH educational qualification, representative of Austria (2022)	22	58	19
UNI/FH educational qualification, representative of Austria (2024)	35	49	17

Table for figure 4: “*Jews are not interested in integrating into the country in which they live. That’s the main reason for their constant problems.*” Comparison of responses from ÖREP respondents and people who do not classify the 7 October as an act of terrorism (source: BRAINTRUST GmbH).

Respondents	Agree	Disagree	No answer
Representative of Austria	36	54	9
7 October not an act of terrorism			
Representative of Austria (2024)	21	59	21

Table for figure 5: “*Reports about concentration camps and the persecution of Jews during the Second World War often exaggerate the facts.*” Comparison of responses from ÖREP respondents and young people under the age of 25 (source: BRAINTRUST GmbH).

Respondents	Agree	Disagree	No answer
Representative of Austria under 25 years	15	70	15
Representative of Austria (2024)	8	78	13

Table for figure 6: “*You can’t expect a Jew to be decent.*” Comparison of responses from ÖREP respondents and young people under the age of 25 (source: BRAINTRUST GmbH).

Respondents	Agree	Disagree	No answer
Representative of Austria under 25 years	18	70	13
Representative of Austria (2024)	9	77	13

Table for figure 7: "How many Jews were murdered during the Holocaust?"

Comparison of responses from ÖREP respondents and young people under the age of 25 (source: BRAINTRUST GmbH).

Respondents	up to 25,000	up to 100,000	up to 1 million	up to 2 million	up to 6 million	up to 20 million	Don't know/no answer
Representative of Austria under 25 years	2	6	12	14	36	9	21
Representative of Austria (2024)	1	2	6	10	47	9	25

Table for figure 8: Documented antisemitic incidents 2008–2023 (Source: Reporting Centre for Antisemitism of the IKG Wien, annual report "Antisemitic Incidents in Austria 2024").

Year	Antisemitic incidents
2008	46
2009	200
2010	70
2011	71
2012	135
2013	137
2014	255
2015	465
2016	477
2017	503
2018	no report
2019	550
2020	585
2021	965
2022	719
2023	1,147
2024	1,520

Table for figure 9: Categorisation of antisemitic incidents in 2024 (source: Reporting Centre for Antisemitism of the IKG Wien, annual report “Antisemitic Incidents in Austria 2024”).

Categorisation	Antisemitic incidents
Mass mailings	616
Abusive behaviour	626
Damage to property	216
Physical assaults	24
Threats	38
Total	1,920

Table for figure 10: Categorisation of antisemitic incidents according to ideological background (source: Reporting Centre for Antisemitism of the IKG Wien, annual report “Antisemitic incidents in Austria 2024”).

Ideological background	Antisemitic incidents
Right-wing	223
Muslim	453
Left-wing	376
Unclassifiable	468

Table for figure 11: Ideological background of antisemitic incidents over the course of 2023–2024 (source: Reporting Centre for Antisemitism of IKG Wien).

Month/Year	Right-wing	Left-wing	Muslim	Unclassifiable
January 2023	51	5	1	8
February 2023	18	3	2	10
March 2023	53	5	9	12
April 2023	40	3	2	9
May 2023	25	6	1	6
June 2023	27	0	4	12
July 2023	35	3	2	12
August 2023	26	5	1	7
September 2023	13	2	1	8
October 2023	54	36	63	47
November 2023	30	41	89	66

Month/Year	Right-wing	Left-wing	Muslim	Unclassifiable
December 2023	15	100	111	68
January 2024	25	62	78	53
February 2024	29	67	26	23
March 2024	18	24	22	45
April 2024	13	24	33	34
May 2024	23	31	66	40
June 2024	9	16	35	17
July 2024	9	21	38	31
August 2024	13	30	32	35
September 2024	13	26	35	23
October 2024	33	35	48	53
November 2024	30	18	24	86
December 2024	8	22	16	28

Table for figure 12: Statistics – VerbotsG total, from 2020 to 30 June 2025 (source: BRZ GmbH – VJ and, since 2020, also EliAs, as of 1 July 2025).

Year	Diversionary measures (including court)				Convictions	Acquittals	Discontinued proceedings	Section 35c StAG/Section 197a StPO
	Incidence	Charges						(since 1 January 2025)
2020	2,116	352		211	138	24	1,281	316
2021	2,361	350		183	226	35	1,243	393
2022	2,708	392		175	222	42	1,621	550
2023	2,756	361		138	211	54	1,440	755
2024	3,415	434		319	177	40	1,942	662
1 January – 30 June 2025	1,743	206		143	95	11	1,170	113

Table for figure 13: Statistics – Section 3a VerbotsG, from 2020 to 30 June 2025 (source: BRZ GmbH – VJ and, since 2020, also EliAs, as of 1 July 2025).

Year	Diversionary measures (including court)				Convictions	Acquittals	Discontinued proceedings	Section 35c StAG/Section 197a StPO
	Incidence	Charges						(since 1 January 2025)
2020	14	6		3	1	1	7	1
2021	9	-		1	4	1	4	2
2022	11	-		-	1	-	6	1
2023	11	0		0	0	0	3	0
2024	17	3		3	0	1	6	6

Year	Diversionary measures						Discontinued proceedings	Section 35c StAG/ Section 197a StPO (since 1 January 2025)
	Incidence	Charges	(including court)	Convictions	Acquittals			
1 January – 30 June 2025	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

Table for figure 14: Statistics – Section 3b VerbotsG, from 2020 to 30 June 2025
(source: BRZ GmbH – VJ and, since 2020, also EliAs, as of 1 July 2025).

Year	Diversionary measures						Discontinued proceedings	Section 35c StAG/ Section 197a StPO (since 1 January 2025)
	Incidence	Charges	(including court)	Convictions	Acquittals			
2020	1	0	0	0	0	5	0	0
2021	3	4	-	2	-	-	1	
2022	2	-	-	2	-	2	-	
2023	2	0	0	0	1	5	2	
2024	3	2	2	0	0	1	0	
1 January – 30 June 2025	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	

Table for figure 15: Statistics – Section 3g VerbotsG, from 2020 to 30 June 2025
(source: BRZ GmbH – VJ and, since 2020, also EliAs, as of 1 July 2025).

Year	Diversionary measures						Discontinued proceedings	Section 35c StAG/ Section 197a StPO (since 1 January 2025)
	Incidence	Charges	(including court)	Convictions	Acquittals			
2020	2,020	337	202	133	22	1,237	273	
2021	2,095	331	171	215	33	1,188	297	
2022	2,432	369	169	212	37	1,515	464	
2023	2,538	335	134	198	48	1,358	706	
2024	3,217	400	297	164	38	1,853	537	
1 January – 30 June 2025	1,624	182	140	86	9	1,130	97	

Table to Figure 16: Statistics – Section 3h VerbotsG, from 2020 to 30 June 2025
 (source: BRZ GmbH – VJ and, since 2020, also EliAs, as of 1 July 2025).

Year	Diversionary measures (including court)						Discontinued proceedings	Section 35c StAG/ Section 197a StPO (since 1 January 2025)
	Incidence	Charges		Convictions	Acquittals			
2020	51	5	5	3	1	18		10
2021	225	15	8	5	1	49		91
2022	235	23	6	7	5	93		84
2023	165	17	2	12	5	64		43
2024	156	22	11	13	1	73		113
1 January – 30 June 2025	101	20	3	7	2	33		15

Table to Figure 17: Statistics – Section 283 StGB, 2020 to 30 June 2025 (Source: BRZ GmbH – VJ and, since 2020, also EliAs, as of 1 July 2025).

Year	Diversionary measures (including court)						Discontinued proceedings	Section 35c StAG/ Section 197a StPO (since 1 January 2025)
	Incidence	Charges		Convictions	Acquittals			
2020	668	84	117	31	6	195		173
2021	761	93	123	37	11	282		310
2022	646	95	54	21	19	197		313
2023	658	78	63	21	12	198		223
2024	773	110	118	38	9	354		227
1 January – 30 June 2025	436	61	53	22	2	221		74

Table for figure 18: Prejudice-motivated criminal offences in the religion category from 2021 to 2024 (source: BMI's Annual Report on Hate Crime, 2021-2024).

Religion	Prejudice motives in	Prejudice motives in	Prejudice motives in	Prejudice motives in
	2021	2022	2023	2024
Christians	156	167	150	111
Jews	269	225	263	347
Muslims	283	202	229	246
other religions	42	36	58	59

