

HALF-YEARLY REPORT OF ANTISEMITISM IN ITALY JAN - JUN 2026

CURATED BY CDEC
FOUNDATION'S
OBSERVATORY ON
ANTISEMITISM



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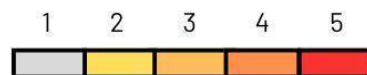
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Antisemitic incidents – data collected between January and June 2026¹

This report analyses the incidents submitted to the Observatory via the Antisemitism Hotline (online form and telephone), WhatsApp channel and email.

From January to June 2026, the Observatory received **621** incident reports; upon careful analysis, **401** of these were classified as antisemitic incidents. **220** reports were not recorded as such as they related to acts not deemed to be antisemitic or which had already been recorded.



The **severity level**² assigned to incidents is classified on a **scale of 1 to 5**, with each value corresponding to a different type of antisemitic act. Specifically, level 1 includes cases of defamation and insults expressed through posts and messages both online and offline; level 2 comprises incidents of graffiti, i.e. offensive drawings and images, as well as online 'shitstorms';³ level 3 covers direct threats against individuals and acts of vandalism against Jewish property or property perceived as such; level 4 refers to physical assaults against individuals; lastly, level 5 includes incidents of extreme violence against individuals. Acts of discrimination are classified as level 2 or 3, depending on their context.

¹ Cover image: Graffiti "Cheers Mussolini, Jews on fire"

² Based on the classification provided by the European Jewish Congress and Security and Crisis Centre (EJC-SACC) in its "European Weekly Antisemitic Incidents Report".

³ A 'shitstorm' is a scenario in which an individual – be it an ordinary person, a celebrity, a politician, an influencer, an activist, or even a company or other organisation – becomes the public target of criticism and condemnation that is almost always harsh, abusive and offensive in tone.

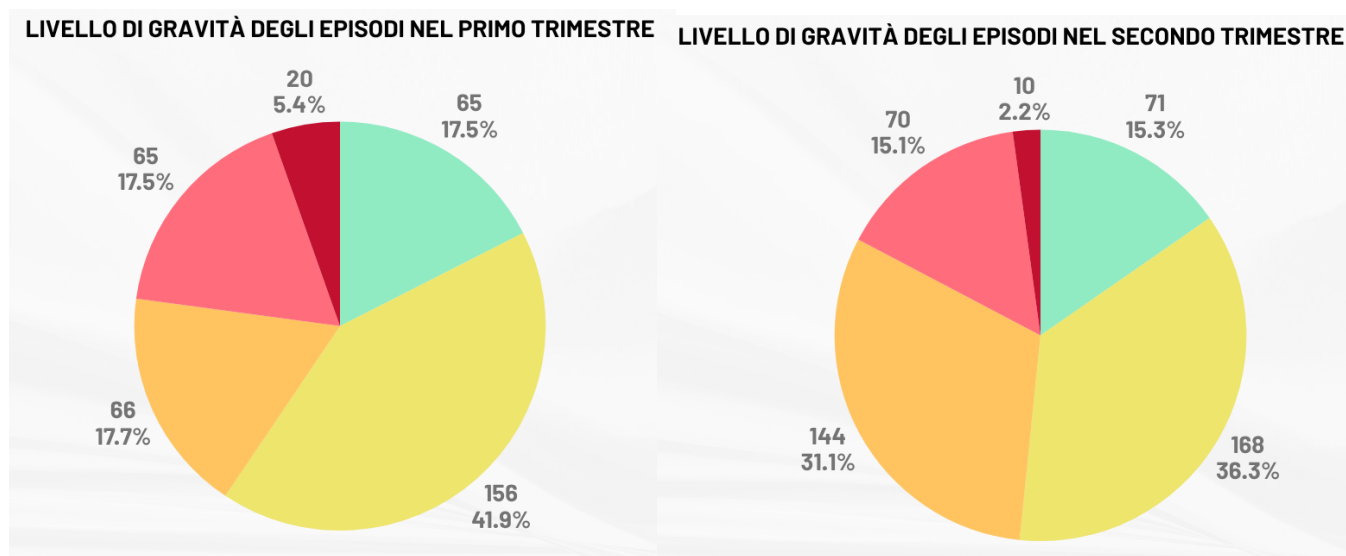


Figure 1. Severity of incidents in 2026: comparison between the first (Q1) and second (Q2) quarters

This figure was compared with Q2 to assess whether there had been an increase in the severity of the incidents. The rise in the coefficient is not primarily due to more serious cases (level 4 incidents fell from higher figures in Q1 to just one incident in Q2), but to the increase in the number of incidents at **level 2 (graffiti/discrimination)** and **level 3 (threats/vandalism)**, which carry greater weight in the overall total.

Comparison with previous years

Change for the first half of the year (Q2).

CONFRONTO EPISODI DEL PRIMO SEMESTRE NEGLI ULTIMI 10 ANNI

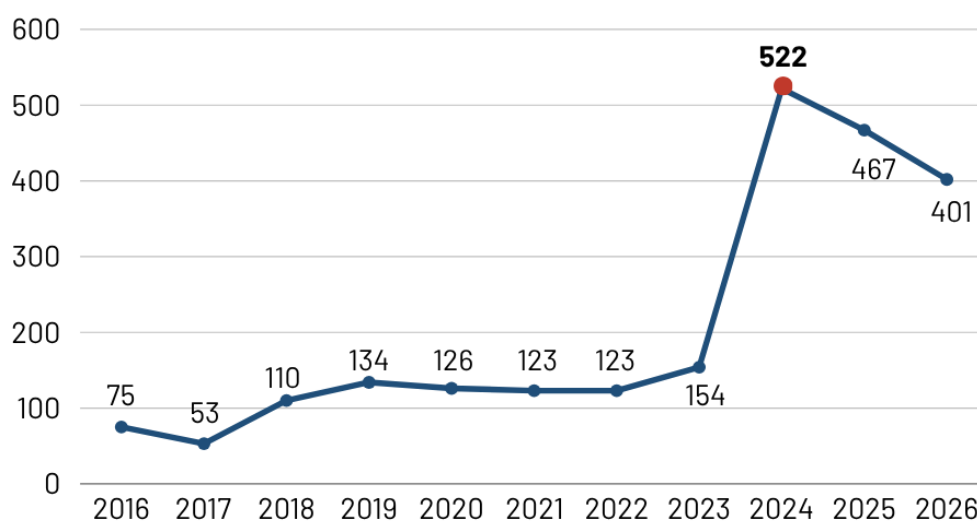


Figure 2. Comparison of incidents recorded in the first six months of the year (2016-2026)

The graph shows three distinct periods. From 2018 to 2022, the incidents remained broadly stable at a plateau of 110–134 incidents per half-year, with a dip in 2017. 2023 signals an early warning (154, up 25 per cent on the previous year), which subsequently proved to be a precursor to a structural surge.

2024 was the tipping point: 522 incidents, more than 3.4 times the figure for 2023 and more than four times the average for the previous five-year period. This peak coincides with the escalation of the Israel-Gaza conflict following 7 October 2023, a pattern consistent with that documented internationally by organisations such as CST, ADL and FRA, which recorded similar surges in antisemitism both online and offline during the same period.

The figures for 2025 (467) and 2026 (402) show a decline, but only a partial one: the year-on-year fall is 14 per cent, **not a return to normality**. The 2026 figure, however, remains around three times the 2019–2022 average, suggesting that the conflict has led to a **higher 'new normal'** rather than a temporary phenomenon that would eventually scale back.

Trigger events of antisemitic incidents

Antisemitism (both offline and online) consistently rises around certain dates, such as Shoah Remembrance Day, Liberation Day, or to coincide with anniversaries of the conflict in the Middle East:

- Remembrance day (January 27 2026);
- Eurovision (May 2026);
- Liberation day (April 2026);
- Pride Month (June 2026);

Other triggering events that led to an increase in the number of recorded incidents included the Epstein case, the pro-Palestine general strikes called by various trade unions, and a campaign to **'record Zionist tourism in Italy'**, which had already been launched in some regions as early as May.

Incidents recorded from January to June 2025

289 incidents took place online, **19** both online and offline, and **112** consisted of physical acts: **6** assaults, **36** incidents of threats, **11** cases of discrimination, **42** instances of graffiti and **3** acts of vandalism.⁴

⁴ Please see the full list of episodes on the website, in Italian: <https://www.osservatorioantisemitismo.it/notizie/episodi-di-antisemitismo-in-italia/>

EPISODI PER TIPOLOGIA: ONLINE E OFFLINE

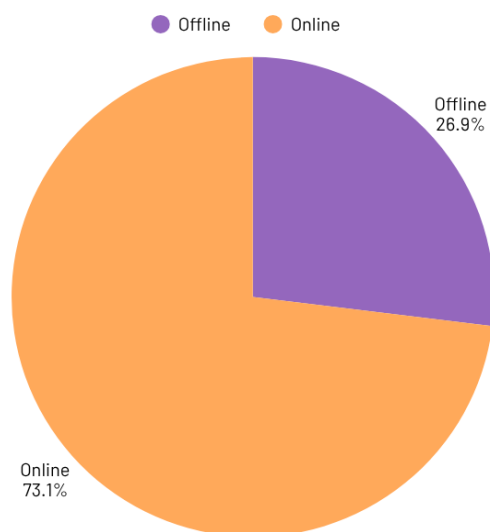


Chart 3. Incidents by type (online and offline) in the first six months of 2026

Note: Incidents of online antisemitism on the web are limited to those reported to the Observatory on Antisemitism by users. The Observatory directly monitors and processes a vastly greater number of posts and incidents of online antisemitism throughout the year.

Source of reports

Jewish people: **275**

Non-Jewish people: **107**

Mass media: **19**

Types of incidents

Physical assault: **6**

Defamation and insults: **303** (of which **30** were offline)

Discrimination: **11**

Graffiti and displays: **42**

Threats against individuals: **36** (of which **33** were online)

Vandalism: **3**

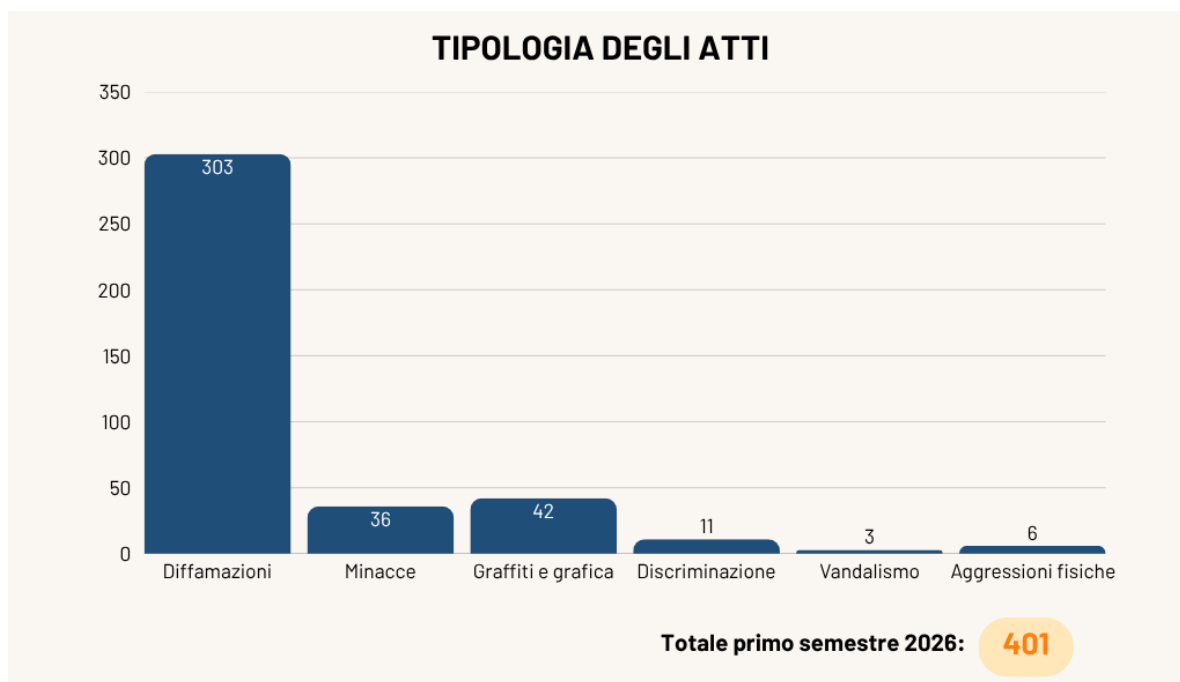
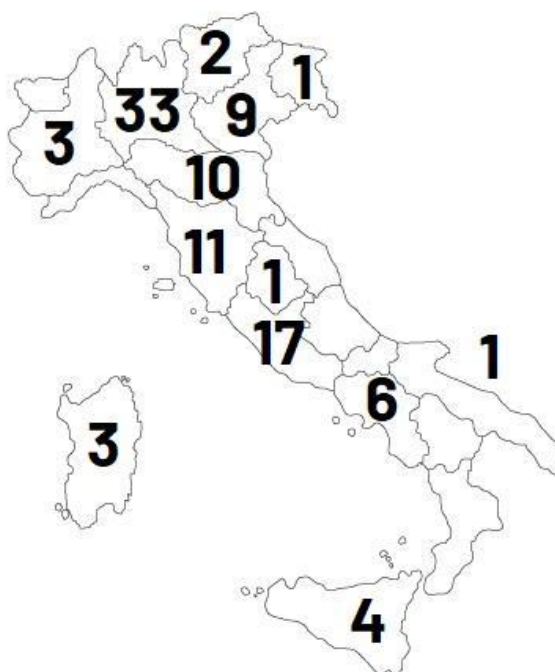


Figure 4. Incidents by type of offence, January-June 2026

From left to right: Defamation, Threats, Graffiti, Discrimination, Vandalism, Physical attacks

Antisemitic incidents by Italian region



Out of the **401** antisemitic incidents recorded in the first six months of the year, it was possible to pinpoint the location where **101** of them took place. Following is the list of cities where incidents took place and the number of incidents:⁵

Anzio (RM), Bergamo (3), Bologna (7), Brandizzo (TO), Brescia, Cagliari, Catania (2), Cernusco/Merate, Cinisello Balsamo, Ferrara, Florence (6), Gallarate (VA), Imola (BO), Latina, Livorno, Milan (22), Monza (4), Morciano di Leuca (LE), Naples (4), Nuoro (2), Padua (6), Palermo (2), Perugia, Pisa (2), Positano (SA), Rimini, Riva del Garda (TN), Rome (11), Sabaudia (LT), Santa Marinella (2), Sesto Fiorentino (FI), Siena, Tivoli (RM), Turin (2), Torre del Greco, Trento, Trieste, Venice, Verona (2).

In a further **11** cases, the incidents involved print newspapers (3) or unspecified locations (8). See below the five cities where most of the incidents took place:

1. **Milan: 22 incidents (22,0%)**
2. **Rome: 11 incidents (11,0%)**
3. **Bologna: 7 incidents (7,0%)**
4. **Florence and Padua: 6 incidents each (6,0% each)**
5. **Monza and Naples: 4 incidents each (4,0% each)**

The concentration of incidents correlates strongly with the physical presence and visibility of historic Jewish communities, whilst the presence of Israeli tourists has led to an increase in incidents in touristic cities. Milan represents a microcosm within this landscape. Although Rome is the city with the largest community, in Milan the high visibility makes symbols and individuals an 'easier' target for acts of vandalism, graffiti, verbal abuse or direct provocation. Milan is also home to major research institutes and observatories studying the phenomenon, including **CDEC Foundation**, supported by civil society and local communities keen to report incidents promptly, following patterns similar to those seen in Rome and other major metropolitan areas. In smaller towns or regions with less established communities, many similar incidents go unreported (a phenomenon known as **under-reporting**).

In recent years, raising awareness of the existence of the Antisemitism Hotline through UCEI and local Jewish media has been crucial in bringing to light incidents that were previously not reported. We reiterate the importance of raising awareness of the Hotline's existence and the importance of reporting incidents, including amongst the Haredi communities, as well as Jewish and Israeli tourists, some of whom have been victims of antisemitism both offline and online, and whose incidents have come to our attention through the media or social media monitoring.

⁵ No number between brackets means one incident.

In other regions, such as Lombardy, Lazio, Piedmont, Tuscany, Veneto and Emilia-Romagna, there are established networks of right-wing extremism (neo-fascist/neo-Nazi), far-left extremism, anti-establishment pro-Palestinian movements and Islamic radicalism, where anti-Zionism and antisemitism often end up overlapping or becoming intertwined.

Web platforms

The Observatory recorded **139** incidents that took place on Facebook, **25** on TikTok, **77** on Instagram, **8** on X/Twitter, **7** on YouTube, and a further **24** on websites, online magazines, email, Telegram and social media/other unknown platforms.

Victims on antisemitic incidents

216 incidents targeted **unspecified** Jewish individuals and/or Jewish organisations, described using antisemitic stereotypes, such as: cruel, bloodthirsty, racist, rich, cunning, stingy, vindictive, prone to domination and conspiracy, and 'Nazis'.

The language used in online abuse is often vulgar and scatological, and rife with metaphors relating to the Shoah ('missed soap bars', 'the ovens await you', 'off to the showers').

Victims of antisemitism are increasingly being explicitly identified as Jewish by the perpetrators of these hostile acts.

These undefined Jews are almost always portrayed as **Zionists** – a term which has taken on a distorted meaning and encapsulates the main tropes of anti-Jewish sentiment: allegations of racism, cruelty, conspiracy and a desire for domination. This distorted use of the term is widespread and far-reaching, and is not confined solely to extremist circles. This generalisation acts as a mechanism of dehumanisation, fostering a growing legitimisation of violent language, the normalisation and justification of hatred towards an *undefined enemy*. The result is the **legitimisation of verbal and, at times, physical violence (six attacks in six months)** against Jews, who are perceived not as individuals but as collective representatives of the 'genocidal' actions of the State of Israel.

The remaining **185** incidents concern Jewish individuals (or those perceived as such) and/or Jewish organisations (or those perceived as such), who are also stereotyped, demonised using well-established antisemitic libels, and accused of Zionism. The list follows: Liliana Segre, Livia Ottolenghi (President of UCEI), David Parenzo, Klaus Davi, Emanuele Fiano, Fiamma Nirenstein, David Zebuloni, Alberto Kostoris, Massimiliano Tedeschi, Marco

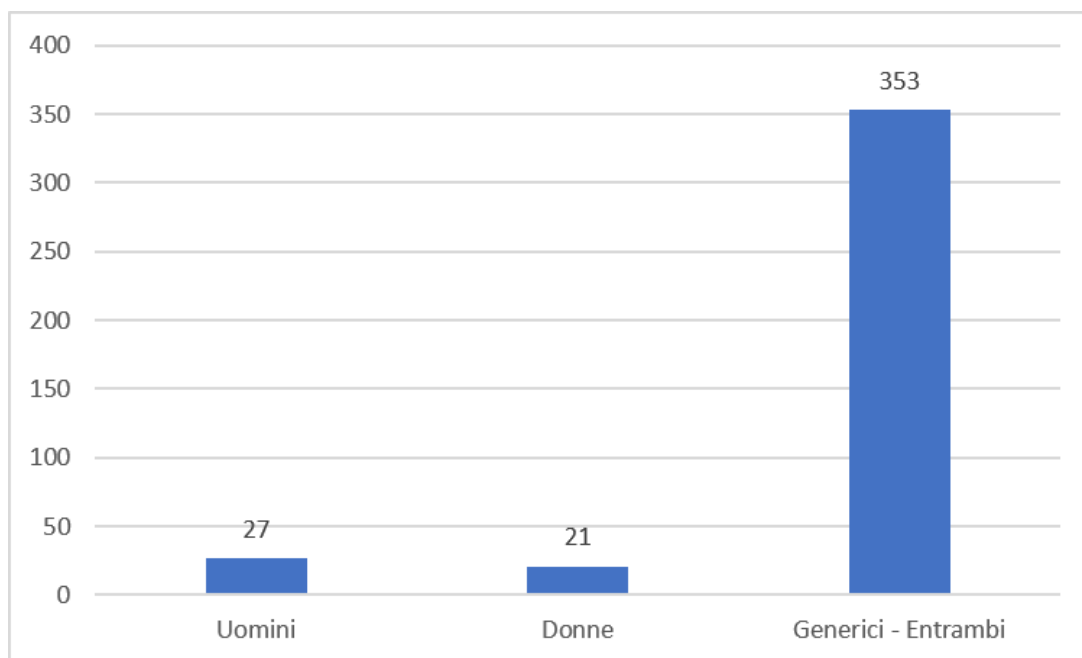
Vigevani, Dalia Gubbay, Alessandra Veronese, Fabiana Di Segni, Claudia Sermoneta, Rudy Zerbi, Grace Raccah, Nicolae Galea, Marco Carrai, Elly Schlein, Dana Lauriola, Raz Degan, the Jewish Community of Naples, the Jewish Community of Vercelli, UCEI, UGEI (Italian Jewish Youth Union), Keshet Italia, the Jewish Museum of Padua, Benjamin Birely (an Israeli student at the Orientale University of Naples who was the victim of a vicious smear campaign), Rabbi Michi Nazrolai, Noa Sinigaglia. Ordinary Jewish and Israeli citizens (children, adults and the elderly).

Gender of victims (January-June 2026)

Men: **27**

Women: **21**

Unspecified - Both genders: **353**



Graph 6. Gender of the victims

From left to right: Men, Women, Unspecified - Both genders

The victim's gender is recorded when the target is an individual whose gender is known. Incidents in which the target was a group (two or more people) or in which the target was Jews or Judaism as a group or entity are classified as 'Unspecified - Both genders'. In some incidents, recording the victim's gender becomes important when the victim was targeted because they were wearing items recognisable as Jewish (a kippah, tzitzit, or a necklace with the Star of David), or where there is an intersection of different forms of hatred, such as antisemitism and misogyny directed at Jewish women, or antisemitism and homophobia directed at gay Jewish men.

Ideological background of incidents

Israel-related antisemitism: **198**

Hatred that cannot be clearly categorised and/or encompasses multiple ideological nuances: **149**

Jewish power/antisemitic conspiracy theories: **13**

Neo-Nazism/neo-fascism: **18**

Anti-Judaism: **23**

MATRICE IDEOLOGICA DEGLI ATTI REGISTRATI (GENNAIO-GIUGNO 2026)

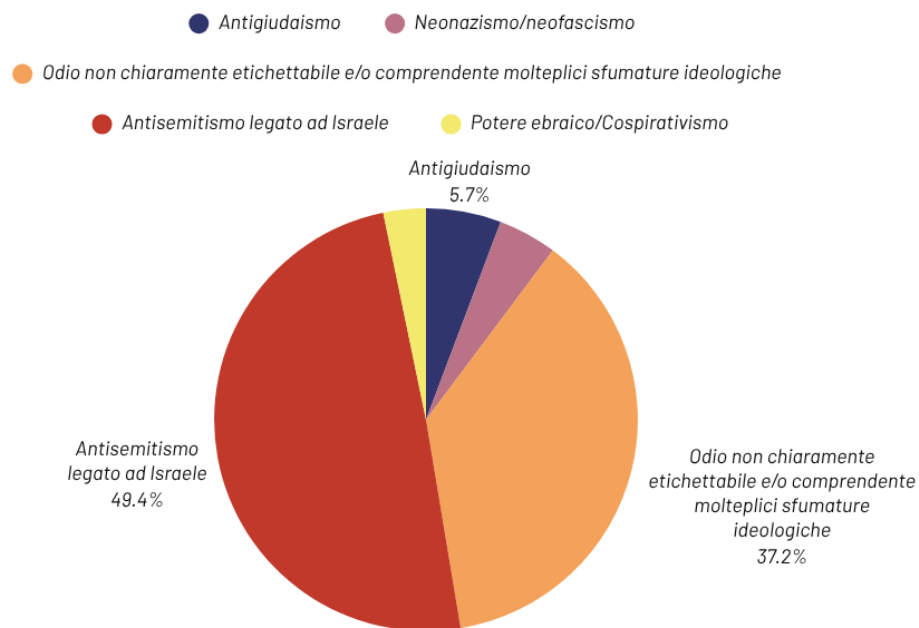


Chart 7. Ideological background antisemitic incidents in the first six months of 2026

The April–June 2026 quarter saw an increase in acts of antisemitism attributable to the category ‘Hate that cannot be clearly categorised and/or encompasses multiple ideological nuances’, which may be explained by the gradual normalisation of antisemitism and by the fact that hostility towards Jews is a sentiment that is increasingly expressed in a direct and aggressive manner. The social and political acceptance of this hatred therefore leads to the use of libels and stereotypes drawn from rooted anti-Jewish repertoire (deicide, blood libel, misoxenia). The main driving force behind acts against Jews continues to be the conflict in Gaza, but when haters (especially on social media) attack ‘Zionists’, in addition to well-established anti-Zionist libels – such as the comparison between Zionism and Nazism – they also employ anti-Jewish libels, such as deicide (‘Let us remember that they killed Jesus and know no mercy’)⁶ or the hatred of humanity that is said to move Jews. There is an increasingly frequent use of conspiratorial rhetoric that seems to be drawn from the

⁶ Facebook, antisemitic post
<https://www.osservatorioantisemitismo.it/episodi-di-antisemitismo-in-italia/facebook-post-antisemiti-34/>

infamous 'Protocols of the Elders of Zion' or from anti-Jewish pamphlets such as 'The Talmud Jude' by August Rohling, according to which Zionist Jews are said to dominate the world and/or are taking possession of it through their sprawling networks, driven by a desire for domination and a spirit of vengeance⁷ towards non-Jews. Often, these libels of the most archaic antisemitism are used unconsciously, take, for example, the mural in Torre del Greco (NA), where the artist, in his reinterpretation of The Last Supper, includes the image of 'an elderly, bearded man in a black hat handling money, evoking a classic anti-Jewish stereotype'.⁸



A section of the mural *Fractio Panis*, created by the painter Salvatore Seme, depicting a Jewish man counting money. For a commentary and the full image, please visit (in Italian): <https://www.osservatorioantisemitismo.it/episodi-di-antisemitismo-in-italia/napoli-dipinto-murale-antigiudai-co/>

Classification of incidents according to the IHRA working definition

In the second quarter of the year, **Point 1** remained consistently at just over a third of the total incidents across all three months (specifically **37.5** per cent in June, **36.0** per cent in May and **42.3** per cent in April), confirming a high incidence of explicit displays of intolerance or justification of hostility.

The **collective blaming of Jews** for the actions of the State of Israel (**Point 11**, present in over **15.1** per cent of incidents) and the use of **double standards** (**Point 8**, 10.2 per cent) or **comparisons with Nazism** (**Point 10**, 9.7 per cent) form the core of the majority of the recorded incidents.

⁷ «All'ira del dio ebraico preferisco il perdono» <https://www.osservatorioantisemitismo.it/episodi-di-antisemitismo-in-italia/quotidiano-nazionale-pubblica-articolo-con-contenuti-giudeofobici/>

⁸ *Comunità di Napoli denuncia raffigurazione antiebraica* <https://www.osservatorioantisemitismo.it/episodi-di-antisemitismo-in-italia/napoli-dipinto-murale-antigiudaico/>

A significant proportion of the incidents (13.7 per cent) fall under forms of hate speech or criticism that go beyond the standard examples set out in the IHRA definition (**Point 12**).

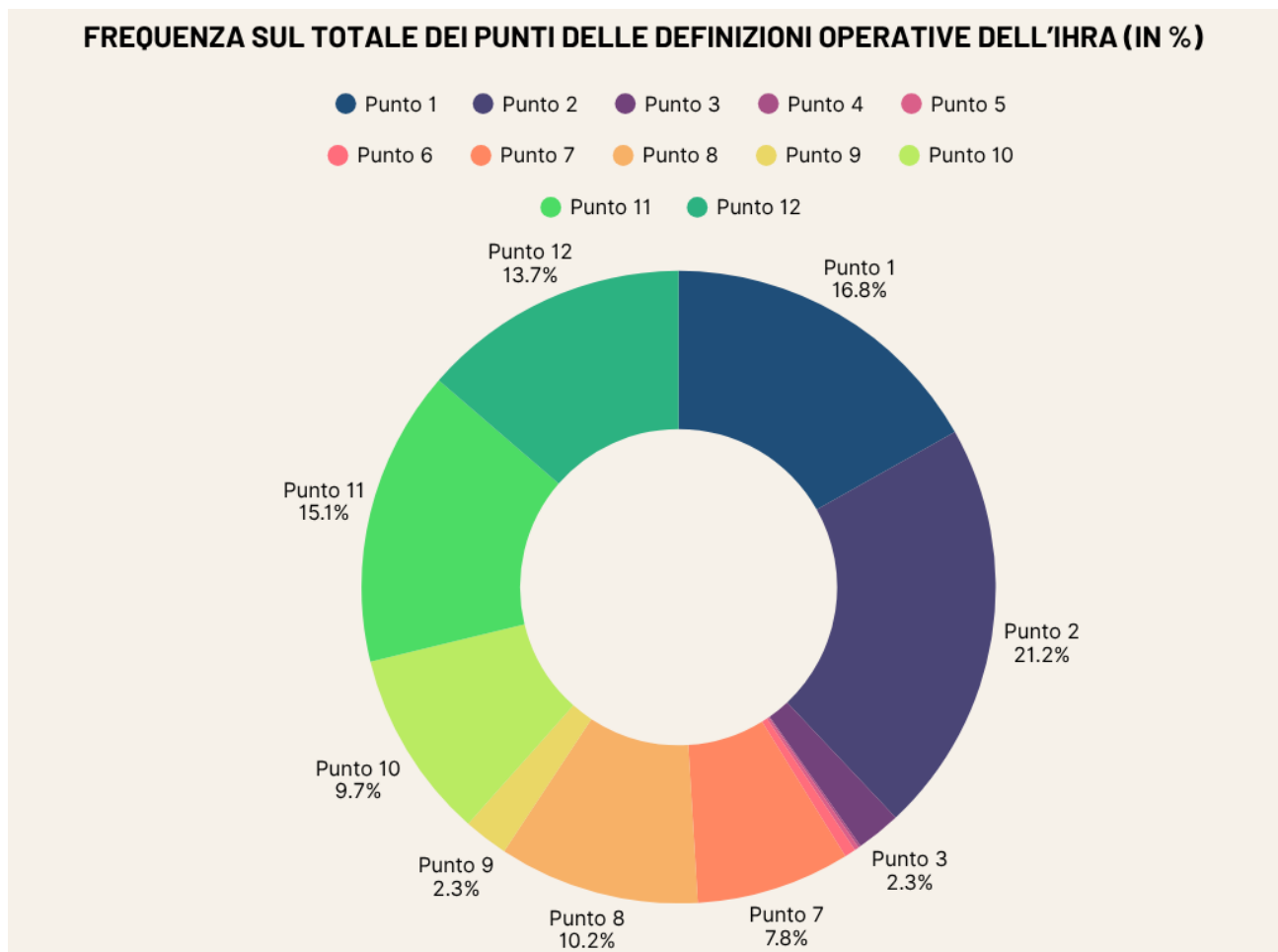


Figure 8. Percentage of recorded incidents (January and June 2026) that fall under each point of the IHRA's Working Definition of Antisemitism, from 1 to 11; under 12 are classified incidents that are not covered by IHRA's examples