

ANTI-SEMITIC  
HATE CRIMES AND INCIDENTS  
IN HUNGARY

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2019. ANNUAL  
SHORT REPORT



ACTION AND PROTECTION  
FOUNDATION



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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# One

of the most important parts of the fight against anti-Semitism is precise information about the causes and extensiveness of anti-Semitism. For this reason, the main aim of the Action and Protection Foundation is to provide more information about this issue. Monthly, the Foundation observes public events and the press and records any incidents. Analyzing the information

gained by monthly monitoring activity is of great help in protecting the community. We have summed up our 2019 monitoring this annual report.

The report covers two kinds of actions: anti-Semitic hate crimes and incidents motivated by hate, both of which we will now refer to as a “hate crime”. In both cases, anti-Semitic motivation must be proven.

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## METHODOLOGY<sup>1</sup>

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The report deals with two types of offence: hate crimes and hate motivated incidents. These are defined by OSCE as follows<sup>2</sup> (OSCE/ODIHR 2009b, 15–16):

- hate crime: a crime as defined by the criminal code, which has been motivated by prejudice against a certain group of people<sup>3</sup>
- hate-motivated incident: an offence, also based on prejudice against a certain group of people, but not reaching the level of criminal conduct.

The report presents hate crimes and hate incidents motivated by anti-Semitism, wherever perpetrator, target, means or message of a case suggest it. The target may be a person, a group, an event, a building, a monument or other property. It is impor-

tant however, that anti-Semitic motivation can only be spoken of if the perpetrator chose the given target expressly because it was assumed to belong to Jewry. In this context it is not finally relevant whether the assumption is correct: the belief of the target's connection to Jewry is sufficient.

Placing hate incidents in context is also a priority. These actions do not exist in empty space and are by no means independent of the social and cultural environs in which they occur. The dynamics of these incidents is also of importance: often processes, rather than separately occurring events can be spoken of (Perry 2001, 8). Apart from the static data, short descriptions of each event are also published, which aid understanding of the environment surrounding the incident.<sup>4</sup> In presenting time lines, attention will always be given to showing the dynamics of the events.

<sup>1</sup> Our methodology remains the same since we started our monitoring in May 2013. The methodology was elaborated by Ildikó Barna, her text was integrated in this chapter. Small modifications are marked separately.

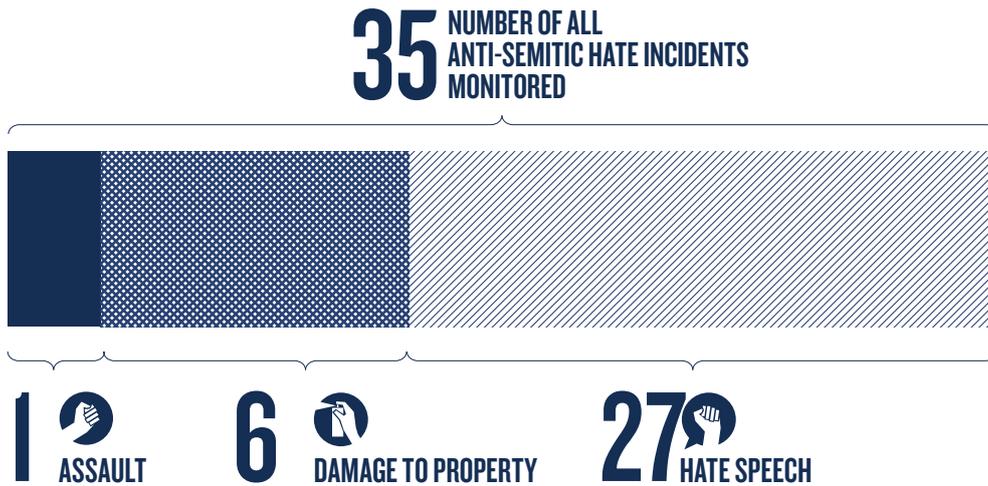
<sup>2</sup> The scientific definition of hate crimes is extremely contradictory and divergent (for more on this, see Chakrabarti and Carland 2009, 4–7). These definitions can serve as important agenda to an understanding of these crimes, however they are difficult to apply in practice. This is what made the creation of simpler, more practical definitions necessary.

<sup>3</sup> For example, on these grounds the OSCE does not consider hate speech a hate crime, since the given behavior would not count as criminal without the motive of prejudice (OSCE/ODIHR 2009a, 24). For our approach in dealing with this, see below.

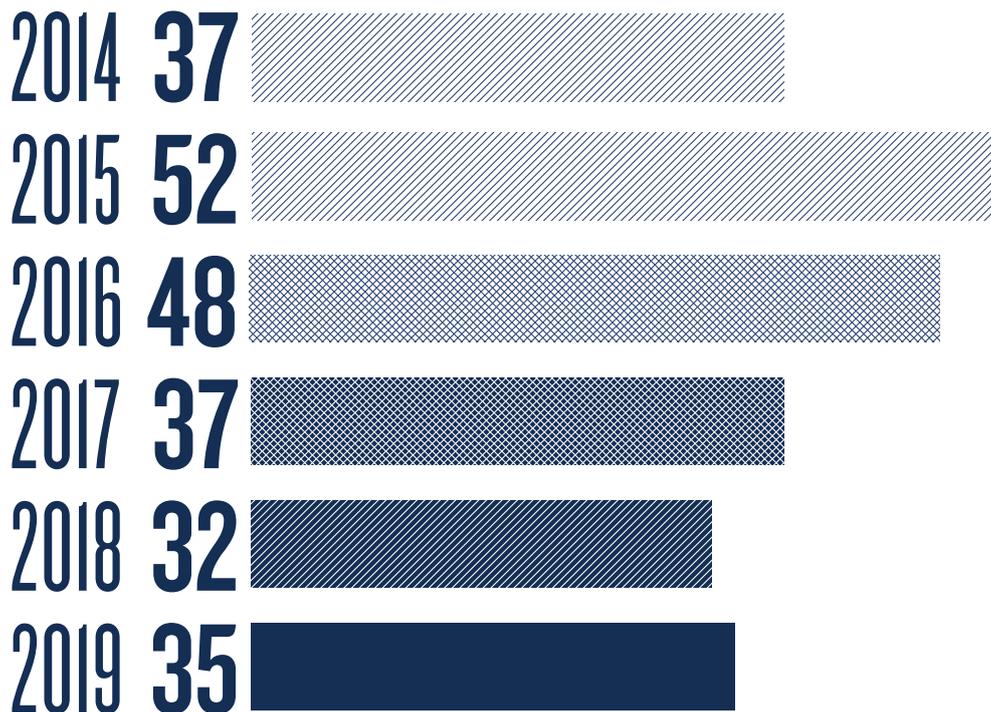
<sup>4</sup> These descriptions in particular are held to be a most positive aspect of the Anti-Defamation League reports by Perry (2001, 18).

## DATA

Action and Protection Foundation (APF) identified 35 incidents of antisemitic hate crime in 2019. One incident was classified as assault, and 1 as threat, 6 incidents fell into the category of damage to property, and 27 were identified as hate speech.



Compared to previous years, this shows a slight increase in the number of incidents. APF identified 32 incidents in 2018, while the results of our monitoring activities in previous years were the following: we detected 37 incidents in 2017, 48 in 2016, 52 in 2015 and 37 in 2014. It is important to note that APF started its suited monitoring activities in May 2013; therefore, we only started making year-on-year comparisons in 2014.



In contrast to previous years, we were notified of 1 assault in 2019. Compared to last

year, when there were 3 attacks, this is a significant decrease.

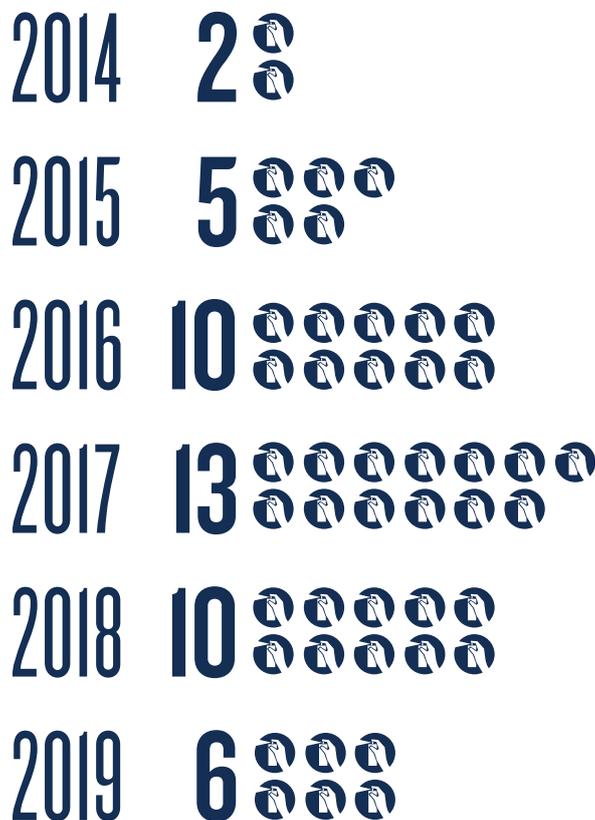
**1**  ASSAULT

**6**                       DAMAGE TO PROPERTY

**27**                                             HATE SPEECH

In cases of damage to property, there had been an increase in the number of incidents identified up until 2018, which then significantly decreased in 2019 – to the same number of cases as monitored in 2016. APF identified 5 incidents in 2015, 10 in 2016, 13 in 2017

and 10 again in 2018. In 2019, we reported 6 incidents of damage to property against the Jewish community or its institutions – mainly discriminatory, antisemitic graffiti and damage done with other surfacers.



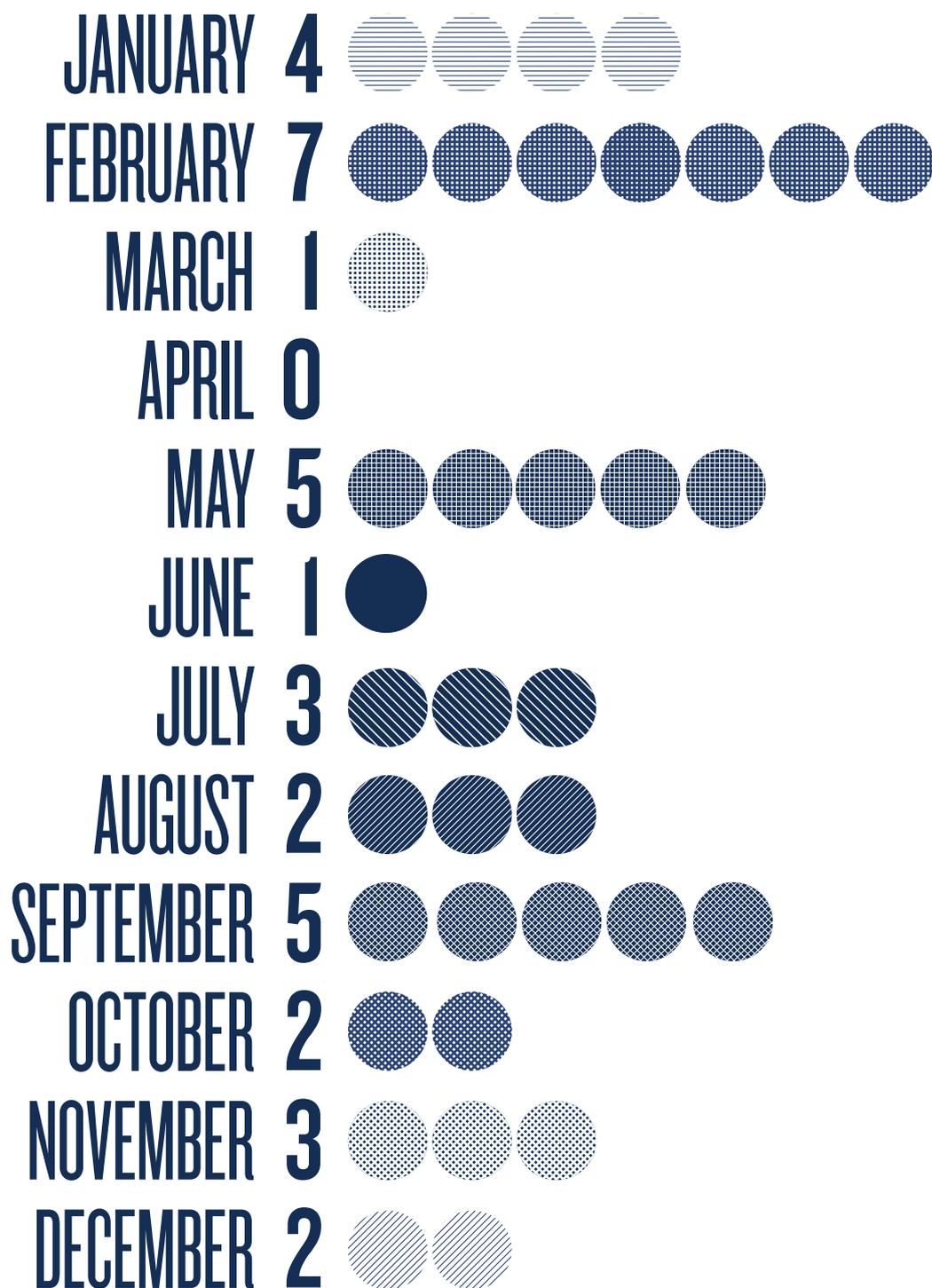
In 2019, we reported 26 incidents of hate speech which constitutes a significant increase as compared to the 19 cases identified a year before. The number of incidents categorized as hate speech has been on a

downward trend since 2015, but in 2019 the number of such cases has risen again above the 2017 level. Identified hate speech cases, despite rising last year, are on a downward trend over the last 6 years on average.



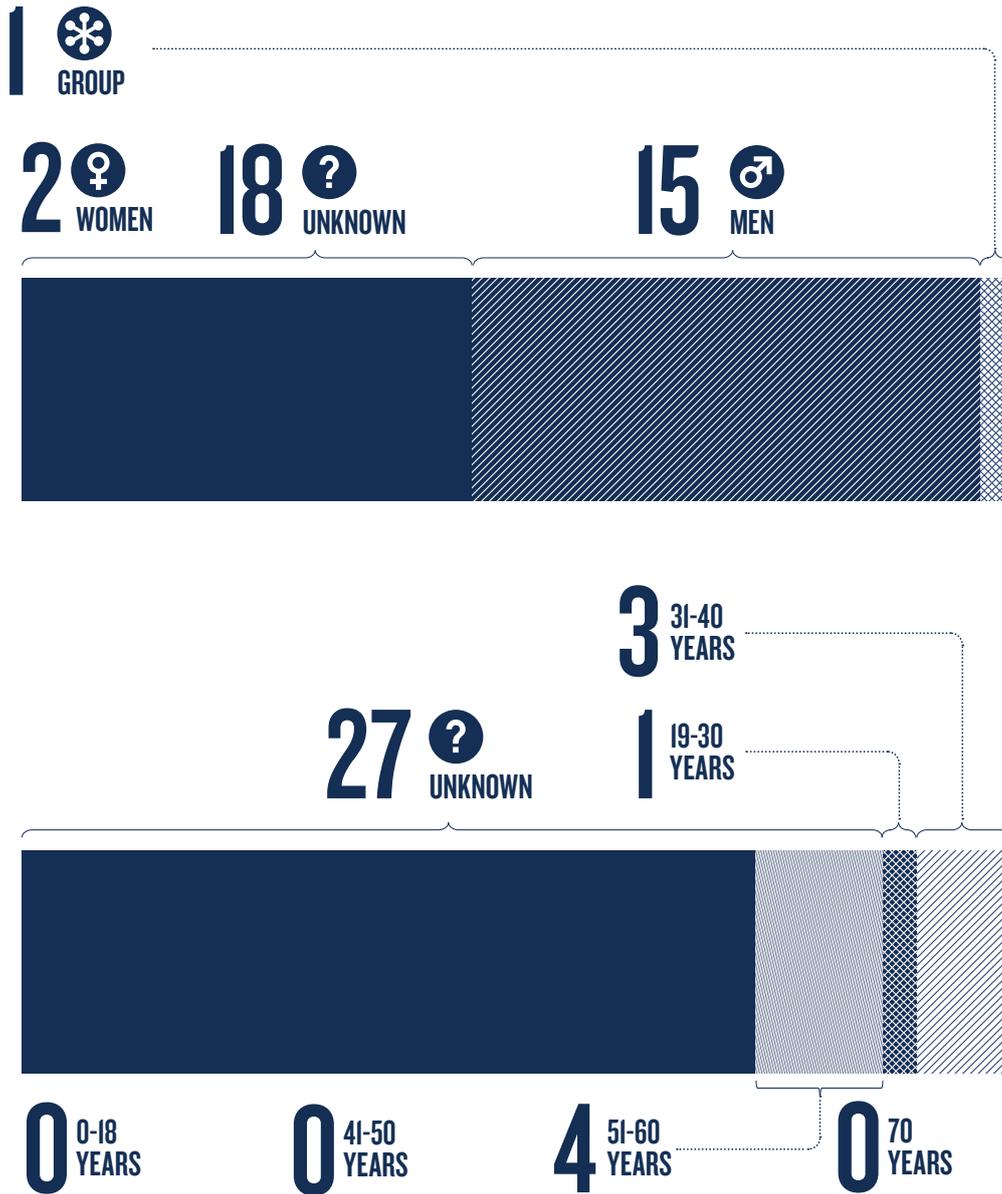
As far as the monthly distribution of cases is concerned, February was the most notable with 7 incidents, which is followed by May and September with 5 incidents in each month. The average was 3 incidents identified per month. The monthly breakdown was as follows: 4 incidents

identified in January, 7 in February, 1 in March, 5 in May, 1 in June, 3 in July, 2 in August, 5 in September, 2 in October, 3 in November, and 2 in December. There were no cases reported in April.



In 18 out of 35 cases, we were unable to identify offenders. Among known offenders, there were 2 women and 15 men identified, and a group of offenders was identified in one case. Based on an age-wise distribution, the age of the

offenders remained unknown in the majority (27) of the cases. There was 1 offender identified who was aged between 19-30, 3 individuals of 31-40 years of age, and statistically there were 4 individuals identified between the age of 51-60,

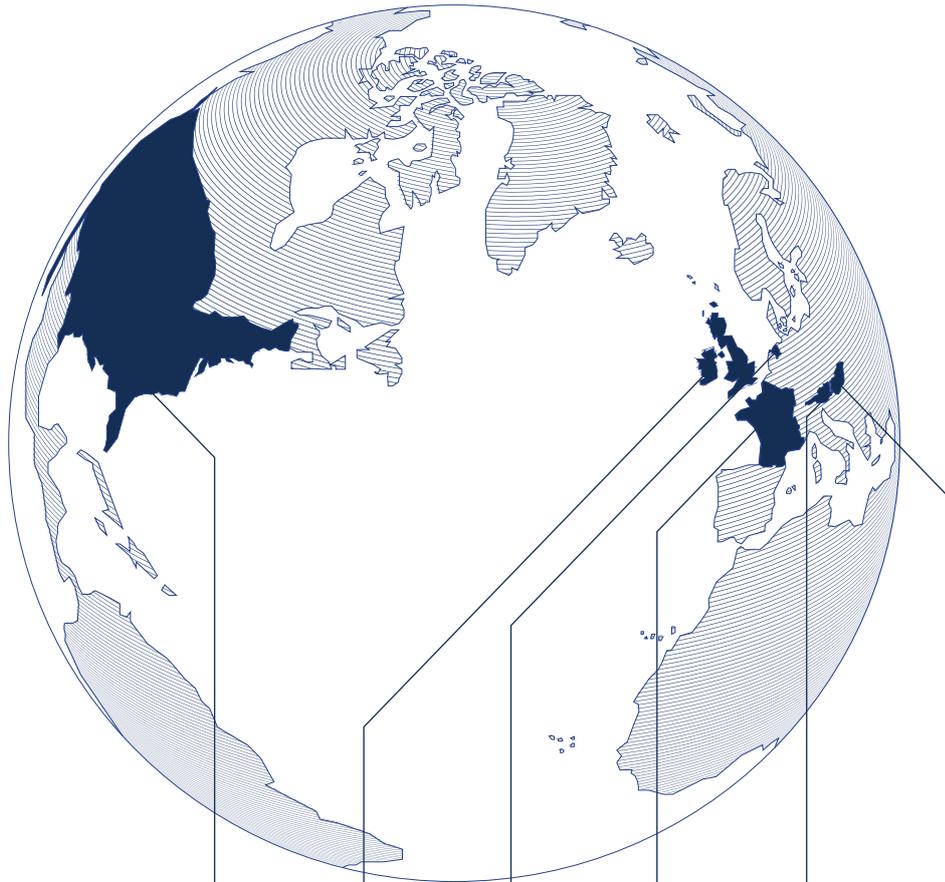


Most incidents identified were committed spontaneously. Some preparation could be presumed in certain cases – including, for ex-

ample, the cases of graffiti classified as damage to property, but none of the cases were detected as previously organized offenses.

Finally, we would like to present comparable data from countries which compile annual statistics on the number of hate incidents. The first part of the table below presents the number of cases, while the bottom part shows the number of incidents per million inhabitants. In Hungary, there were 35 incidents registered

in 2019, which means 35 cases per inhabitant. This figure is significantly lower than the same data in Western countries. It is the Jewish communities in France and Great-Britain which have become threatened in recent years.



	USA	GREAT-BRITAIN	NETHERLAND	FRANCE	AUSTRIA	HUNGARY
2013	751	535	100	423	n.a	n/a
2014	912	1182	171	851	255	37
2015	942	960	126	808	465	52
2016	1266	1346	109	462	477	48
2017	1986	1382	113	331	503	37
2018	1879	1652	135	541	547	32
2019	780*	1805	182	687	n.a	35

\* semi-annual measurement data

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## CONTACT AND SUPPORT

Action and Protection Foundation is the civil initiative of a number of Jewish organizations that is ready to take resolute steps to curb increasing widespread anti-Semitic manifestations.

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

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

**HOTLINE (+36 1) 5 1 00 000**

The website of Action and Protection Foundation: [www.tev.hu/forrodrot](http://www.tev.hu/forrodrot)

The Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/tev-tett-es-vedelem-alapitvany](https://www.facebook.com/tev-tett-es-vedelem-alapitvany)

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

**13597539-12302010-00057157**

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