# ANTISEMITIC HATE CRIMES AND HATE INCIDENTS IN HUNGARY

### ANNUAL SHORT REPORT

JANUARY-JUNE 2020.



ACTION AND PROTECTION
LEAGUE

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**



One of the most important requirements for the struggle against antisemitism is an investigation of the actual prevalence of antisemitism. One of the aims of Action and Protection Foundation is to eliminate ignorance of this issue. Instrumental in achieving this objective is the continuous professional monitoring of hate crimes that occur public life. The community cannot really be protected unless current information on antisemitic acts and other hate crimes are collected and analyzed. Results of the monitoring are published, monthly by the Foundation.

The reports deal with two forms of behavior: antisemitic hate crimes, and hate-motivated incidents. The report refers to both types of behavior as "hate incidents". An antisemitic hate crime is distinguished

from other hate crime by possessing an antisemitic motive. Antisemitic hate crime is a violation of criminal law, yet not all hate-motivated acts are regarded as criminal. Nevertheless, a record of both types of hate incidents is necessary in order to gain a general overview.

For the monitoring to have the widest possible scope, it is required that a variety of sources are used simultaneously. Apart from registering the incidents, it is important to record their particular characteristics. Data recorded includes the incident's location, perpetrator, victim, consequences. Also the types of the various incidents are differentiated.

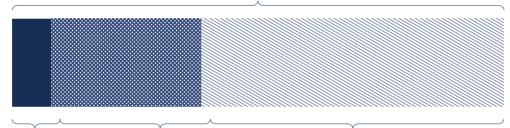
This half year report shows the data of the year 2020. monitoring activities from January to June. 3

# ANTISEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS - 2020. JANUARY - JUNE

Action and Protection Foundation (APF) identified 16 incidents of antisemitic hate crime in the first six months of 2020. Four incident was classified as damage to

property, and 11 hate speech, 1 incidents fell into the category of discrimination. There was no assault or threat.











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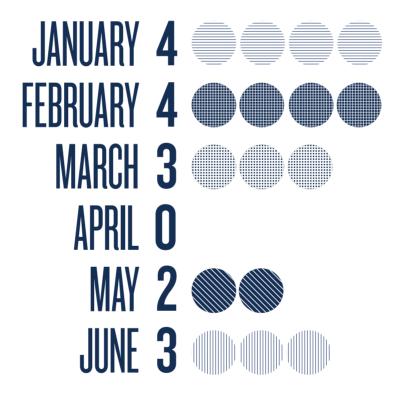
Compared to previous half year data, this shows a slight decrease in the number of incidents. APF identified 18 incidents in 2019, while the results of our monitoring activities in previous years were the following: we detected 19 incidents in 2018, 19 in 2017, 23 in 2016 and 26 in 2015. Compared to 2019 half year data, the damage to property incidents increased while the hate speech incidents decreased. In 2019 there were 18 incidents: 1-1 damage

to property and threat and 16 hate speech; in 2018 from the data of 19, there were 1 assault, 6 damage to property and 12 hate speech. In 2017 there were also 19 incidents, 5 damage to property and 14 hate speech. In 2016 we collected 23 incidents which were 8 damage to property, 1 threat and 14 hate speech. In 2015 we identified 26 incidents. Over all we can say here in Hungary the hate speech is the most common antisemitic hate incident.



As far as the monthly distribution of cases is concerned, there was no outstanding month in this half year. There were cases in every month except April. It is important in this period that the COVID-19 pandemic ruled the news during spring.

There were several conspiracy theories about it contains antisemitic meaning but we can say that this term was calm. We have to add that there was no incident in April 2019.



Most incidents identified were committed spontaneously. Some preparation could be presumed in certain cases – including, for example, the cases of graffiti classified as dam- age to property, but none of the cases were detected as previously organized offenses.

There were 7 incidents in Further Hate Incidents. We classified them as hate incidents but we would not include it in our most recent statistics due to its insignificant nature, the lack of clear antisemitic motive or because the time of the incident is unknown. This number of these cases similar to previous data.

Further Hate Incidents: 2020: 7; 2019: 9; 2018: 8; 2017: 7, 2016: 6

In this half year period we filed a complaint for incitement against a community because the leader of Our Homeland Movement accused the Jews collectively and asked when they would talk about their crimes committed during the Hungarian Soviet Republic. The Police terminated the proceedings that was filed in 2005 against an unknown perpetrator due to a well-founded suspicion of a crime of public denial of the crime of the National Socialist system - as the act expired on 6 May 2020. The APF contacted the Equal Treatment Authority because of a doctor who had antisemitic statements during his visit.

## ANTISEMITIC HATE CRIMES - 2020. JANUARY - JUNE

Action and Protection Foundation identified 16 antisemitic hate incidents over the course of its monitoring activities in the first six months. The incidents are classified as damage to property, hate speech and discrimination. Here are the cases.

### DAMAGE TO PROPERTY

Swastika painted on memorial of the Volunteer Regiment of Buda

Source: nepszava.hu, merce.hu,

7 February 2020 It was first reported by the newspaper *Népszava* that the anti-Fascist World War II memorial erected on Vér-



source: nepszava.hu

mező in 1967 had been defaced with a swastika. The Nazi symbol had been sprayed onto the marble tablet placed under, and explaining the sculpture. The largest armed formation of the Hungarian anti-Fascist

resistance was formed of Hungarian soldiers ready to fight on the side of the Red Army in February 1945. 2,500 soldiers participated in the battle to liberate the Hungarian capital, and 600 of them perished. The Ministry of Defense organizes a wreathe laying ceremony at the memorial every February, a tradition that was continued even after the change of regimes, under both right- and left-wing governments.

Attila Vajnai discovered the banned symbol of a totalitarian regime and noted that one of the arms of the swastika was miss-



source: nepszava.hu

ing, so the culprit must have had to escape in haste. Vajnai immediately notified the mayor for District 1, and filed a complaint with the police, which

arrived at the scene immediately. (This was not the first time the memorial had been defaced, e.g. with an inscription in 2008

saying "TRAITORS!").

The date when the statue was defaced is probably not coincidental, with one of the most important annual events of the Hungarian right falling on 8 February, the Day of Honor and the attached Break-Out Memorial Hike.

A young person scratched swastikas in Kozármisleny

Source: bama.hu, police.hu

23 February 2020 Police apprehended a young person vandalizing cars in Baranya County. Reports came in to the police of a number of cars that had been vandalized on the morning of Saturday, 22 February. The police established on site that the rearview mirror of seven cars had been broken off, while spray paint was used to deface the wall of a bust stop and its bike stand, while swastikas had been sprayed onto the wall of a house and a garage door. The police identified and caught the 18-year-old local youth suspected of the violations the same evening. He was brought to the police station, interrogated as a suspect, and admitted his actions. The Pécs Police Headquarters is investigating him for disorderly behavior, vandalism and the use of banned symbols of totalitarian regimes.

A swastika was drawn on a poster of a Jewish high school in Budapest

Source: tev.hu, neokohn.hu, zsido.com, akibic.hu

9-10. June 2020 A note was received by our Foundation according to which the

13th district, corner Gyula Hegedűs and Miklós Radnóti Streets, a swastika was drawn on a poster advertising the Maimonidész English-Hungarian Bilingual Jewish High School.

Our foundation has signaled the vandalism to both the poster owner and

the advertiser and has filed a complaint



source: tev.hu

28 January 2020 Szabad Pécs published

KDNP Pécs spread Nazi propaganda on

that a picture was posted on the Facebook wall of KDNP's Pécs-Baranya organization, a picture which was originally designed to spread Nazi

their Facebook wall

Source: szabadpecs.hu



source: szabadpecs.hu /Facebook.com

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propaganda. The picture in question is attached below:

The article of Szabad Pécs presented that the original picture - with an SS bolt removed in this case - is believed to be the work of Harald Damsleth, most online sources state the same. There are Norwegian, English and German Wikipedia pages about the Norwegian illustrator, originally from Germany, who is mostly known for his Nazi propaganda posters. One of the archetypes of Nazi symbolism is a white man protecting his family and there are usually pithy messages written over it in fonts resembling the Gothic alphabet. The article also quotes from the Fundamental Law of Hungary, a part1 which is rather controversial and deemed discriminatory by its critics. The Gothic writing on the picture says that "Man is the protector of family, Woman is the heart of family. Children are the future of family. Man and woman, a union as nature intended."

Szabad Pécs wrote it was possible that those who manage the Facebook page did not know about the source and style elements of the picture but it was also added

against the use of a prohibited dictatorship symbol in a criminal case with the relevant authority.

Huge swastika in Debrecen Source: tev.hu

19 June 2020 A notification was received on the hotline of our foundation that in

S S ti st A A tu tu w

Debrecen, Rákóczi St. 41, a huge swastika was painted by strangers on a fence. According to the pictures, they may have tried to smear it off, with partial success. Our foundation filed

a complaint with the police for the use of a 20th century totalitarian symbol and signaled to the municipality of Debrecen to ensure the disappearance of the swastika.

### HATE SPEECH

Antisemitic writing at a tram stop in Budapest Source: Tett és Védelem

17 January 2020 APF received a notifi-



source: Action and Protection Foundation

cation that an antisemitic writing had appeared on an empty advertising hoarding at one of the tram stops in Fővám tér, Budapest. With black marker pen, unknown individuals wrote "homo coksucker [sic] Jewish Momentum" on the glass surface.

Volunteers of APF removed the writing.

that timing was rather unfortunate since the picture had been posted a day after Holocaust Memorial Day – and KDNP's local organization had posted in relation to that, too.

However, since the individual who manages that page simply deleted the picture without any comments soon after the Szabad Pécs article was published, it is plausible they had known its origin.

"Hungary is an Israeli firm registered in New York"

Source: index.hu; youtube.com

29 January 2020 An antisemitic conspiracy theory and an individual well-known for his or her extremist views are linked to a couple from Dusnok, who were not willing to register their child at birth – the case was broadly covered by Hungarian press.

As is known, with the help of the police, the guardianship authority took a four-month-old child from his or her parents in Dusnok, Bács-Kiskun County. This happened because the parents were not willing to register the newborn at birth, the infant did not receive the mandatory vaccinations and the parents refused to cooperate with authorities.

The support group that helps the family consists of members of the so-called MAG movement (MAG stands for 'Mintaként Alkalmazott Gondviselés' - 'Care Applied like the Standard') and some radicals in connection with the movement. MAG's ideologies are based on subsistence agriculture and a spiritual worldview with nationalistic tendencies, on building small communities and finding possibilities to partially withdraw from society. However, some more radical views not recognizing the state are also present in the network. According to such views, newborns receive a registration number when they are registered at birth so they become properties of a foreign firm. Hungary does not even exist, it has lost its sovereignty and it is now nothing more but an Israeli firm registered in New York. If registered at birth, children will be the slaves of this firm.

An article presented that Imre Posta, well-known for his extreme antisemitism, also appeared in relation to the case. Posta has military background, he used to be a psychologist at the Republican Guard. He and his supporters are now trying to help the couple from Dusnok to get their child back and they believe taking away the infant from the parents was an "international, armed kidnapping".

Posta took video recordings<sup>2</sup> of his attempts to get the infant back. There are antisemitic statements and threats audible in the recordings, like: "We should show these police bastards that we could step on the c\*ck any time. Obviously, the message goes to the synagogue of the Parliament and to all the other mobs for what they do in Judapest."

Imre Posta has a blog on *postaimre.mag-yarnemzetikormany.com*. He writes about various conspiracy theories daily using antisemitic statements and language, he uses expressions like "Jewish Masonic conspirators".

The Day of Honor in Budapest

Source: merce.hu, akibic.hu, nepszava.hu, atv.hu, neokohn.hu, 168ora.hu, magyarnarancs.hu, azonnali.hu

1-3, 5, 7 and 8-10 February 2020 Mérce.hu reported that the police had issued prohibitions for two extreme right public events

organized for 8 February on Kapisztrán Square in Buda in advance. One of the events would have been a procession from Clark Ádám Square to Kapisztrán Square. (The first of these Day of Honor



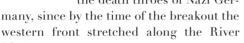
source: 168ora.hu

processions was organized on 11 February 1997 by the radical nationalist neo-Nazi Hungarian National Front, under the leadership of István Győrkös who later became a police murderer.) The organizers filing for the public assembly intended to hold a me-

morial in tribute to the German and Hungarian military formations breaking out of Buda Castle beginning on the evening of 11 February 1945, while under Soviet siege during World War II. Breakout day, or the Day of Honor is one of the major annual events of the Hungarian far right.

Among the reasons cited by the Budapest Police Headquarters is an article by

Krisztián Ungváry published a year ago on *Kibic-hu*. In this article the historian wrote that the Hungarian soldiers participating in the breakout were not heroes, because they were not defending Europe, but rather prolonging the death throes of Nazi Ger-



The police statement established: the memorials are tied to extremist groups and can be clearly linked to the so-called Day of Honor. The speeches and music that would be heard at the event, and the appearance of the participants were apt to create fear and a sense of threat in onlookers. If the event is held, it may take a significant toll on public order and public peace, which are at the core of democracy, and international treaties offer the state the possibility to restrict or ban such events.

A third event was also registered with the

police for the same day, to be held in Városmajor Park, also banned by the police initially. However, after an appeal the Budapest Municipal Court overruled this ban with justification involving complex legal grounds.

legal grounds.

Meanwhile, three local vor, rabbi P also came to the "Day of Honor" and together distanced themselves from the event announced by radical groups. The Local Government of Buda Castle reserved Kapisztrán Square to make it impossible for that after

the extreme right Day of Honor memorial hike to begin there. It was announced at the same time that the three municipalities would remember the 1944 siege of Budapest with a shared open-air exhibition.

This was the third time Városmajor Park was the site of the so-called Day of Honor commemoration, after 2017 and 2019. The extreme right, neo-Nazi, radical nationalist event with about five-hundred participants was organized by the Légió Hungária and the Hungarian Hammerskins, but members of the Outlaws' Army, the Hungarian Self-Defense Movement, and the Sixty-Four Counties Youth Movement also attended. Foreign far right organizations, Czechs, French, Bulgarian, Russian, and German were also represented at the demonstration. A German, Matthias Devda, representing the neo-Nazi group Die Rechte, even gave a speech at the World War I (and II) memorial. He called attention to how the family name of the enemy is not Müller, but Rotschild, Goldman and Sachs. At the end of his speech he quoted "the greatest German statesman": "(Es) genügt nicht die blosse Ablegung des Bekenntnisses: Ich glaube, sondern der Schwur: Ich kämpfe!" (Adolf Hitler). "For them, the mere pledge 'I believe' is not enough; instead, they will swear to the oath 'I will fight!'" To complete the commemoration the participants laid wreathes at the temporary memorial erected in remembrance of those fallen in the breakout, composed of a German military helmet placed atop a wooden and iron cross.

Five hundred anti-fascists protested continuously against the neo-Nazi demonstration, the two groups were separated by a metal fence and a line

of police.

The Holocaust survivor, rabbi Péter Kardos also came to the "Day of Honor" event. Responding to the question why he came to the event, he replied that after the Arrow



source: magyarnarancs.hu



source: magyarnarancs.hu

Cross had executed her, along with many others in the beginning of 1945, his grandmother's dead body was found in this park. And now, he said, "these people are marching here. I wanted to see them!".

There was also an endurance hike the same day, the Memorial Breakout Hike, in the same spirit as the "Day of Honor", and reported from the scene by *Azonnali.hu*. "The morale and organization are excellent on this hike", the hiking correspondent wrote. The hike's thematic checkpoints described as above sported a gentleman dressed in the uniform of the SS Death's Head Units, a German military march, the "über alles"



source: magyarnarancs.hu

version of the German national anthem, a mannequin with an SS uniform, a Nazi flag flying over Hárs-Hill and a portrait of the

swastika-adorned Adolf Hitler at Virágosnyereg.

So many banned symbols of totalitarian regimes in the name of preserving heritage? (Heritage is the cultural legacy of our ancestors. Heritages reflect the values and worldview of a given society.)

Threats and Jew-baiting at Budapest Ferenc Liszt Airport

Source: 24.hu

2 February 2020 The online news portal 24.hu published the video uploaded to You-Tube a day earlier, of a heated argument, loud exchange between a security guard in service at the airport and a taxi driver. In



source: 24.hu / youtube.com

the short video recorded by the taxi driver, nothing is revealed about the preceding events, but we do see the security guard first laughing at him, then threatening him for making the video, and finally Jew-baiting the taxi driver.

"Five thousand less! How will you now sleep, you Jew?" he shouts at him, to which the taxi driver takes offence: "Don't speak with such Jew hatred!" he keeps repeating.

The news portal asked Budapest Airport, the airport operators for comment on the incident. The company said the security agency working for them had relocated the aggressive guard to another workplace as a consequence of the case. According to Budapest Airport, the subject of the altercation was the taxi driver "hunting" for passengers in a part of the airport where it was not allowed.

Horthy commemoration in Budapest Source: 168ora.hu, nepszava.hu, neokohn.hu, akibic.hu

1 March 2020 Hungarian far-right organizations, including Our Homeland Movement, Horthy Miklós Society, Trianon Society, Independent Smallholders Party, MIÉP, Outlaws' Army, Sixty-Four Counties Youth Movement and National Legal Aid Service held a joint commemoration on Sunday 1 March marking the 100th anniversary of Miklós Horthy's election as regent. Members of Délvidéki Magyar Polgári Szövetség (Southland Hungarian Civic Alliance) also attended the event, which took place with about 200 participants on Szent Gellért Square. People wore scarves and held flags of Greater Hungary and Horthy in the crowd, some marched in old guard uniforms. A bronze bust of Horthy was erected temporarily on Szent Gellért Square for the event. Deputy Leader of Our Homeland Movement Előd Novák opened the event and greeted participants. He mentioned in his speech that his party has requested several times that an equestrian statue of the former regent is erected on Szent Gellért Square and Budapest awards Horthy a posthumous honorary citizen. About 100 meters from the square and separated by a line of policemen, around 60 anti-fascists demonstrated against the farright marchers.

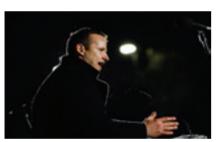
Participants of the commemoration then

source: nepszava.hu

marched to the Parliament. They were led by four traditional riders, three on white horses and one on a smaller brown horse. President of Horthy Miklós

Society Lóránt Hegedűs gave a speech by the Monument of National Martyrs at the Parliament. The number of participants grew from what was a few hundred in Buda to about a thousand by this time. Hegedűs called for Horthy's social political rehabilitation and the removal of the Hitler-henchman, fascist and nationalist stigmas.

President of Our Homeland Movement



source: MTI/Mohai Balázs

László Toroczkai also spoke at the event. He said people who attack Horthy, falsify history. "In the past few days and weeks, we have constantly had to explain (...) and talk about whether Horthy was liable for the exter-

mination of Jews. One immediately wonders then that how could those who are raising this question be survivors?" - this is how László Toroczkai started to challenge the Jewish community. He then said that Jewish community leaders have still not faced and begun to speak about why almost every single destroyer of Hungary and leaders of the Hungarian Soviet Republic were of Jewish origin. Toroczkai requested Jewish leaders to talk about the responsibility of Jewish leaders of the Hungarian Soviet Republic in the bleeding, disarmament and destruction of Hungary. When counter-protesters arrived from the direction of Nádor utca during Torockai's speech, he pointed at

them referred to them saying it was important to realize there are still such worms in Hungary's body.

Antisemitic poster in Budapest – APF had it removed – no police investigation

Source: magyarnarancs.hu, tev.hu

3 and 6 March 2020 A vulgar and antisemitic poster was spotted at a tram stop on 32-esek tere, at the crossroad of József Boulevard and Baross Street by a colleague of Magyar Narancs, who also took a photo of it. The black and white poster was made and placed on an electrical control panel by an unknown individual. The poster depicted American film producer Harvey Weinstein

with an antisemitic text. The Hollywood producer was accused of sexual violence; the jury found him guilty in February this year. Text on the poster



source: magvarnarancs.h

clearly implied that Weinstein committed his crimes against non-Jews because of his Jewish origin.

Colleagues of APF arrived at the scene

and removed the antisemitic poster.

A few days later, Magyar Narancs contacted the police and inquired about how the investigation was going. The Budapest Metropolitan Police Headquarters (BRFK) replied as follows:

"We hereby inform you that the Budapest Metropolitan Police Headquarters examined



source: tev.h

the content of the poster concerned. There have been no suspected offenses to be prosecuted ex officio." 13

source: TEV

Antisemitic comments shouted at Kazincbarcika–MTK football match

Source: rangado.24.hu, origo.hu, mlsz.hu

9 and 10 March 2020 The Kazincbarcika–MTK NB II football match was played in Putnok on Sunday 8 March. According to reports, antisemitic and racists comments were shouted in the spectator area. The Hungarian Football Association (MLSZ) published on their official Twitter site that they initiated disciplinary proceedings.

Two days later, the disciplinary committee of MLSZ took a disciplinary decision and published it on their website:

"With regards to the Kazincbarcika–MTK match, the disciplinary committee orders Kazincbarcika to pay a fine of HUF 1,000,000 for the antisemitic expressions and the comments inciting hatred pronounced by their fans."

Abusive antisemitic sign on Fővám Square Source: Tett és Védelem

3-5 May 2020 Reported to Action and Protection Foundation on 3 May, a sign was placed in the tram stop in Fővám Square

in Budapest, abusing Tímea Szabó – referring probably the co-president of Dialogue for Hungary Party and independent Member of Parliament.

The following text could be read on the sign pasted on the stop:

"TÍMEA SZABÓ

IS THE MOST DISGUSTING JEWISH WHORE"

Arriving on the scene the day after receiving the report, members of our Foundation did not find the sign there anymore. Yet another sign inciting hatred found in Budapest, this time on Döbrentei Square

Source: Tett és Védelem

30 May 2020 The Foundation learned from a report lodged on the APF Hotline (+36 1 510 0000) that a writing inciting ha-

tred was found on a large photo advertisement.

The politician of Dialogue for Hungary was likely the target once again.

The vandalized advertising board can be found in a tram stop on Döbrentei Square. The following hate-inciting text was written on it:



source: tev.hu

"YOU LOOK BETTER THAN TÍMEA SZABÓ, SINCE SHE IS AN UGLY BITCH EVEN AMONG JEWS"

The Foundation contacted the agency responsible for running the advertising board immediately, asking that the abusive writing be removed. If the removal is not carried out by the owner within three days, APF volunteers will clean the abusive message off the advertising platform.

We suspect that the same person carried out the two antisemitic writings at the beginning and end of the month. The grounds for this suspicion are the similar way the letters were formed, the style of the writing, and the similar placement at tram stops.

Blackboard with anti-Jewish text at a protest in Budapest

Source: mandiner.hu, hvg.hu

20 June 2020 A protest was held in Budapest with the slogan "Opposition to racism" in

front of the American Embassy. The organizers of the demonstration expressed their solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement and their peaceful response to the extremism.



source: mandiner.hu

At the beginning of the demonstration, the far-right organizations of Légió Hungária and Hatvannégy-vármegye ar-



source: hvg.hu

rived on the scene and interrupted the first speaker with shouts, but no serious stroke occurred due to the rapid intervention of the standby police.

One of the far-

right protesters had the following text on the board: DOWN WITH JEWISH RAC-ISM FREE PALESTINE

In the opinion of our Foundation, the text of this board goes beyond acceptable anti-Israel political communication because it serves to incite traditional anti-Jewish stereotypes as it incites hatred against the Jewish community.

### DISCRIMINATION

Discriminatory case at medical institute Source: Tett és Védelem

27 Jamuary 2020 APF received a

notification about a discriminatory case. The notifier informed us that he or she visited a medical on-call service on 24 December 2019 because of having symptoms of guinsy. The doctor at the medical institute greeted him or her with the question "What do you want, you idiot?". After the notifier mentioned his or her health problems, the doctor further insulted him or her and pronounced an antisemitic message: "You wouldn't come here if you watched a film about Jesus, yet you wouldn't understand it since you apparently profess a different religion". Then after the medical examination, the doctor said loudly to the medical assistant when prescribing drugs "right, let's give this moron something!

Following the incident, the medical assistant apologized to the notifier via email for the doctor's behavior (on behalf of the doctor, too) and said he or she would take the necessary measures.

The notifier contacted APF to request help and our legal assistance services took the necessary steps. We also present this case in the section titled Action and Protection Foundation Legal Actions.

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### CONTACT AND SUPPORT

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

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

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

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

### HOTLINE (+36 I) 5 I 00 000

The website of Action and Protection League: The Facebook page:

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

### 13597539-12302010-00057157

Contact details for Action and Protection League Address: 1040 Brussels, Rue de Froissart 109, Belgium Phone:

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