

Motion

Combating antisemitism & fostering Jewish life: Young people's responsibility

signed by: European Union of
Jewish Students (EUJS)

Antisemitism remains a grave challenge in Europe, posing threats to the fundamental principles of human dignity, equality, and freedom. The latest findings from the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)¹ highlight the severity of this issue. In their most recent survey, **96% of Jewish respondents reported encountering antisemitism within the past year, and 80% believe it has worsened in recent years.** Alarming, half expressed concerns about their personal safety and that of their families, while **over 70% admitted to concealing their Jewish identity.**

Antisemitism and its manifestations contradict fundamental values as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights², the European Convention on Human Rights³ and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union⁴. Antisemitism reflects deep rooted prejudice in society against Jews, which will only be overcome by increased awareness-raising efforts among the population and strong political condemnation. Historically, manifestations of antisemitism have shown how prejudice and intolerance can lead to systematic harassment, discrimination and ultimately mass killings and genocide. Still today, persisting stereotypes, insults and physical violence are experienced on a daily basis by members of the Jewish community across Europe.

These worrying trends are mirrored in the Jewish community's perception of antisemitism, as shown by the 2019 EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) Survey: Young Jewish Europeans: perceptions and experiences of antisemitism.

The survey makes it clear: **45% of young Jews 16-34 have experienced antisemitism.** This means that one young Jew out of two has experienced antisemitism. That is more than all age groups in the Jewish community.

This gives young people all across Europe the responsibility of being core allies to Jewish Students and young Jewish Europeans.

Moreover, in October 2021, the European Commission published the EU Strategy on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life. It is the first time that an international organisation releases a broad strategy to be implemented by its member states and itself on combatting antisemitism, fostering Jewish life, and promoting Holocaust remembrance. This document lays out concrete policy actions, holds the EU and Member States accountable, **stresses the importance of civil society organisations and targets the youth with specific measures on education.**

The European Youth Forum acknowledges:

- A. That antisemitism is a form of discrimination that is under no circumstances acceptable;
- B. B. That the fight against discrimination is a core mission and responsibility for European youth;
- C. That fighting antisemitism is the matter of all citizens and should never be the matter of the Jewish community exclusively;
- D. The Council of Europe resolution on Renewed commitment in the fight against antisemitism in Europe⁵ as a starting point for action **in 2016**;
- E. The European Parliament Resolution on combating antisemitism⁶ as a starting point for action **in 2017**;
- F. That the Council of the European Union adopted a Declaration on the fight against antisemitism⁷ in 2018, stating that *"Jewish citizens are, always have been and always will be, an integral and inseparable part of our European societies, as*

1 Fundamental Rights Agency July 2024, Jewish People's experiences and perceptions of antisemitism

2 Universal Declaration of Human Rights

3 European Convention on Human Rights

4 Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union

5 Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly: Renewed Commitment in the Fight Against Antisemitism in Europe, 20 April 2016

6 European Parliament: Resolution on Combating Antisemitism, 1 June 2017

7 Council of the European Union: Declaration on the Fight Against Antisemitism and the Development of a Common Security Approach to Protect Jewish Communities and Institutions, 6 December 2018

full citizens with a right to a sense of security and wellbeing”;

- G. That the European Union became a permanent international partner⁸ to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance **in 2018**;
- H. That the Council of the European Union adopted a Declaration on mainstreaming the fight against antisemitism⁹ across policy areas **in 2020**, which stated that: *“The fight against antisemitism needs to be considered consistently in the measures and decisions taken by the institutions of the European Union and in particular be reflected in the measures tabled by the European Union.”*
- I. The publication of the EU Strategy on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life,¹⁰ which sets out the path for the EU and member states to effectively combat antisemitism and ensure a future for Jewish life in Europe;
- J. That 14 EU Countries have developed national strategies on combating antisemitism, in line with the EU Strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life;
- K. That the Council of the European Union adopted Conclusions on combating racism and antisemitism, endorsing the aforementioned Strategy;
- L. That the European Commission, on the 6th December 2023, adopted a Communication on “No place for hate: a Europe united against hatred”¹¹ as a call for action to all Europeans to stand up against hatred and speak up for tolerance and respect;
- M. That the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) adopted and revised

its General Policy Recommendation No. 9¹² in July 2021, which offers guidance on combating antisemitism in Europe. ECRI also encourages the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism as a non-legal tool to identify and understand antisemitism, while making clear the distinction between legitimate criticism of Israel and antisemitic hate speech;

- N. That the Council of the EU adopted a declaration on fostering Jewish life and fight against antisemitism¹³ on the 15th of October 2024;
- O. That the number of antisemitic incidents in Council of Europe Member States has risen significantly in recent years as reported by the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)¹⁴ and the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)¹⁵, among other bodies;

The European Youth Forum resolves

- I. To reaffirm its commitment to tackling antisemitism in all of its forms;
- II. To adopt and apply the legally non-binding working definition of antisemitism, including all the examples included therein,¹⁶ already adopted by 43 States, including 32 European States.¹⁷
- III. To encourage Member Organisations to adopt and apply the IHRA working definition of antisemitism with its examples;
- IV. To endorse the EU Strategy on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life and take note of the measures that target the youth and civil society organisations.

⁸ [EU steps up its international cooperation to tackle Holocaust Denial and Antisemitism](#)

⁹ [Council of the European Union: Declaration on Mainstreaming the Fight Against Antisemitism Across Policy Areas, 2 December 2020](#)

¹⁰ [EU Strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life \(2021-2030\)](#)

¹¹ [Communication on “No place for hate: a Europe united against hatred”, 6 December 2023](#)

¹² [Council of Europe: ECRI General Policy Recommendation No. 9 \(Revised\) on Preventing and Combating Antisemitism, 30 June 2021](#)

¹³ [Council of the European Union: Declaration on Fostering Jewish Life and Combating Antisemitism, 15 October 2024](#)

¹⁴ [Antisemitic Hate Crimes in 2020, OSCE](#)

¹⁵ [Overview of antisemitic incidents recorded in the European Union 2010-2020](#)

¹⁶ [European Commission: Combating Antisemitism – Definition of Antisemitism](#)

¹⁷ [IHRA Definition: Adoption in Europe - ELNET](#)

- V. To take appropriate disciplinary action when instances of antisemitic speech or action occur among its lay Leadership, Secretariat, volunteers and Member Organisations;
- VI. To provide spaces and times for opportunities of educational training on antisemitism designed and led by Member Organizations (MOs);
- VII. To publicly denounce actions that are antisemitism based on the aforementioned definition;
- VIII. To advocate with European Union and Council of Europe Member States to take appropriate action against antisemitism;



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