

EU Strategy on Combating Antisemitism & Fostering Jewish Life:

Highlights of the EU Strategy

The Commission will engage in a regular dialogue with the European Parliament and with Member States' national parliaments to encourage action on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life. In full respect of national competences, **this strategy sets out the policy framework for the Commission for the period 2021-2030** and aims to support and encourage cooperation between Member States and all stakeholders.

- **The strategy comprises three pillars:**
 - **1 – Preventing and combating all forms of antisemitism**
 - **2 – Protecting and fostering Jewish life in the EU**
 - **3 – Education, research and Holocaust remembrance**

I. PREVENTING AND COMBATING ALL FORMS OF ANTISEMITISM

- Contemporary antisemitism can be found in radical and fringe groups espousing right-wing, left-wing or Islamist extremism, it can hide behind anti-Zionism, but it can also be found in the centre of society
- **Manifestations of antisemitism might include Israel-related antisemitism the most common form of antisemitism encountered online by Jews in Europe today**
- **The IHRA definition is the benchmark for promoting a rights-based and victim-centred approach**

1.1. Fighting antisemitism across policy areas and mobilising EU funds

The Commission will:

- Organise an annual civil society forum on combating antisemitism, bringing together representatives from the Commission and Jewish communities, civil society and other stakeholders to create links and maximise the effect of joint actions and EU funding.
- Support Member States' efforts in designing and implementing national strategies on combating antisemitism or discrimination, through the Technical Support Instrument and assess them by end 2023.

Member States are encouraged to:

- **Develop national strategies by end 2022 on combating antisemitism**, or include measures in their national action plans against racism, and provide sufficient funding to implement them.
- **Adopt and use the IHRA definition of antisemitism** and encourage local authorities, regions, cities, and other institutions and organisations to do the same.
- **Appoint special envoys/coordinators** on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life.

1.2. Combating antisemitic hate speech and hate crime

The Commission will:

- Support organisations and projects to combat and record antisemitic hate speech and hate crime through the CERV programme.
- Assist Member States in ensuring that integrated and targeted support services are available and accessible to victims of antisemitic hate crime, including through EU funding.
- Enhance support to training programmes and capacity-building activities on tackling antisemitism for justice and law enforcement professionals.

Members States are encouraged to:

- Swiftly complete the transposition/implementation of Framework Decision on combating racism and xenophobia; **prosecute antisemitic hate speech and hate crime** in line with EU and national legislation.
- Closely coordinate with the EJTN and CEPOL and cooperate with civil society organisations on training activities to tackle antisemitism.

1.3. Tackling antisemitism online

The Commission will:

- Strengthen the fight against online antisemitism by supporting the establishment of a Europe-wide network of trusted flaggers and Jewish organisations. It will also support the European Digital Media Observatory and its national hubs to increase the capacity of their fact-checkers on disinformation and will work with independent organisations to develop counternarratives, including in non-EU languages.
- Organise a Hackathon to facilitate exchanges between experts to develop new innovative ways to address antisemitism in the online and digital environment.
- Cooperate with industry and IT companies to prevent the illegal display and sale of Nazi-related symbols, memorabilia and literature online.
- **Conduct a comprehensive data analysis to better understand the spread of antisemitism online, how it travels and expands.**
- Address antisemitic hate speech in the upcoming updated Better internet for kids strategy.

Member States are encouraged to:

- Support, including financially, civil society organisations in combating antisemitic hate speech, disinformation and conspiracy myths online.
- **Strengthen capacity of national law enforcement & judicial authorities to prosecute online hate.**

1.4. Combating antisemitic discrimination

The Commission will:

- Propose binding standards for national equality bodies by 2022 and cooperate with Equinet and equality bodies to increase their knowledge about antisemitism.
- **Support Member States in designing and implementing reforms aimed at tackling discrimination in schools in general – and antisemitism in particular** – within the Technical Support Instrument, including on a multi-country basis in order to facilitate stronger cooperation and build on best practices.
- Include data related to antisemitism and Jewish people in the EU into the collection and use of equality data on the grounds of racial or ethnic origin and religion or belief.

Member States are encouraged to:

- Ensure that national equality bodies are adequately equipped to ensure that incidents of antisemitic discrimination are properly addressed and reported.
- Address antisemitic discrimination in all areas, including, education, employment, health and housing.

1.5. The European Commission leading by example

The Commission will:

- Continue zero tolerance approach to incidents of antisemitism within institution, using the IHRA definition.
- Provide training for targeted staff such as human resources to recognise antisemitism based on IHRA.
- Encourage the use of flexible working arrangements to accommodate religious holiday observances.
- Invite the European schools to ensure that all pupils learn about Jewish life in Europe, the Holocaust and antisemitism, and mark the annual International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

II. PROTECTING AND FOSTERING JEWISH LIFE IN THE EU

2.1. Combating violent extremism and terrorism targeted against Jews

The Commission will:

- **Provide EU funding in support of projects focused on the protection of public spaces & places of worship and map, existing national security/protection measures.**
- Continue to finance research and innovation activities, aiming at understanding the contemporary radicalisation trends, as well as the means/patterns to effectively prevent and respond to them.
- **Step up its operational support for Member States and Jewish communities by providing training on security measures. This will include EU protective security advisors' visits to Member States to set up a network of trainers on the protection of places of worship.**
- Identify through the Radicalisation Awareness Network the specific relevance and implications of antisemitism in its work on preventing and countering violent extremism.

- **Closely cooperate with Europol to combat online antisemitic terrorism.**
- Support the commemoration of victims of terrorist attacks, including through digital victims' wall.

Member States are encouraged to:

- **Adopt the necessary measures to ensure the security of Jewish premises and provide sufficient financial or other support, including with the support of the EU Internal Security Fund-Police national annual programmes.**
- Integrate and implement EU tools and guidance on protection of places of worship as part of their national strategies on antisemitism.
- Make use of Europol's support regarding counter-terrorism activities, both online and offline, including those linked to antisemitism.

2.2. Fostering Jewish life and freedom of religion or belief

The Commission will:

- Increase knowledge and understanding about Jewish life among the general public through an awareness-raising campaign in cooperation with Jewish communities.
- **Facilitate, the exchange of practices between public authorities and Jewish and Muslim communities regarding slaughter based on religious traditions, drawing on the experience of international organisations such as the UN, OSCE-ODIHR and the Council of Europe. (Kosher Slaughter)**
- Take action to combat antisemitism and foster Jewish life at regional and local level, including by mapping and developing good practices and training for organisations that operate locally.
- **Support the exchange through the European Integration Network of good practices on informing migrants on EU values, including on combating antisemitism.**

Member States are encouraged to:

- **Ensure through policy/legal measures that religious groups, including Jews, can live in accordance with their religious and cultural traditions (Brit Milah).**
- Raise awareness among the general public about Jewish life and traditions, including by publicly marking days relevant for Jewish people, and by funding projects and conducting campaigns.

2.3. Safeguarding Jewish heritage

The Commission will:

- Invite cities to address Jewish history, when applying for the title of European Capital of Culture.
- Use the European Heritage Days to draw attention to Jewish heritage across Europe.
- Pursue the Jewish digital cultural recovery project, aimed at developing a comprehensive database on Jewish-owned cultural assets plundered by the Nazis.
- **Launch a preparatory action on protecting the Jewish cemeteries of Europe.**
- **Promote visits of young people travelling around Europe to Jewish heritage sites.**

Member States are encouraged to:

- Encourage and support European Heritage Days, by highlighting Jewish heritage in the national context, including national museums, state-sponsored festivals and the arts.
- Support maintenance and safeguarding of Jewish heritage under the Faro Convention.
- Use EU funding opportunities, including the cohesion policy fund, to safeguard Jewish heritage.
- **Implement the Terezín Declaration of 2009. (Poland)**

III. EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND REMEMBRANCE

3.1. Education and research on antisemitism and Jewish life

The Commission will:

- Foster, in cooperation with Member States and research community, the creation of a European research hub on contemporary antisemitism, Jewish life and culture fostering multidisciplinary research.

- Support the development of a network of Young European Ambassadors to promote Holocaust remembrance in schools, universities and vocational and education training institutions.
- **Fund an EU-wide survey on antisemitic prejudices in the general population of all Member States, including among young people.**
- Support activities, through Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps, to promote European values and combating all forms of discrimination and intolerance, including antisemitism, by fostering civic education and youth participation in democratic life.
- Support educational professionals' training in cooperation with UNESCO and OSCE-ODIHR, based on their guidance on 'Addressing antisemitism through education'.
- Support Member States, through the Technical Support Instrument, in designing/implementing reforms in schools aimed at tackling discrimination, and antisemitism in particular.

Member States are encouraged to:

- Promote knowledge of Jewish life, antisemitism and the Holocaust through education and research, and encourage exchanges with local communities.
- **Report and record incidents of antisemitic discrimination in schools and support school directors and teachers in addressing them.**

3.2. Holocaust education, research and remembrance

The Commission will:

- **Support, also financially, the creation of a network of sites 'where the Holocaust happened', in cooperation with local communities.**
- Make project funding available through the Remembrance strand of the CERV programme to commemorate Holocaust also through the digitalisations of archives & survivor testimonies.
- Continue presence in & support for Holocaust commemoration days/events, at EU and national level, in cooperation with Commission Representations in Member States & EU delegations.

Member States are encouraged to:

- **Commemorate the Holocaust publicly in close cooperation with the Jewish community, including with the involvement of the national parliaments.**
- Ensure that the universality of the Holocaust is reflected in education and **assess the effectiveness of how it is taught, including in a multi-ethnic classroom.**

3.3. Holocaust denial, distortion and trivialisation

The Commission will:

- **Promote the use of the IHRA definition of Holocaust denial and distortion for education and for awareness-raising purposes.**
- Develop a handbook on fighting Holocaust denial, distortion and trivialisation.
- Support/strengthen social media campaigns with UNESCO, the IHRA and other partners and civil society groups to raise awareness of Holocaust denial and distortion and actively combat it.

Member States are encouraged to:

- Actively engage in awareness campaigns against Holocaust denial, distortion and trivialisation.

IV. LEADING THE GLOBAL FIGHT AGAINST ANTISEMITISM

4.1. Use all instruments to address antisemitism through the EU's external action

- The EU will use all available tools to call on partner countries to combat antisemitism under the IHRA definition, in political and human rights dialogues and in broader cooperation with partner countries.
- The EU will actively cooperate with UN, the Council of Europe and the OSCE, as well as with regional organisations in joint actions to fight discrimination and antisemitism.
- The EU will step up actions in the education sector and continue to promote full compliance of education material with UNESCO standards of peace, tolerance, coexistence and non-violence, in its cooperation on education with partner countries.

- The EU Special Representative for Human Rights and the Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief outside the EU will continue to systematically address antisemitism in their work. The EU will strengthen global cooperation of special envoys and coordinators on combating antisemitism.
- Israel is a key partner for the EU, including in the global fight against antisemitism. The EU will seek to further reinforce the EU-Israel High-Level Seminar on combating racism, xenophobia and antisemitism, co-organised annually, with a focus on operational follow-up.

The Commission and the High Representative will:

- Promote the fight against religious and ethnic discrimination, including antisemitism in political and human rights dialogues and in broader cooperation with partner countries outside the EU.
- Ensure that EU external funds may not be misallocated to activities that incite hatred and violence, including against Jewish people.
- Strengthen engagement with Jewish civil society and religious organisations to address antisemitic acts and limitations on freedom of religion or belief, through the network of EU delegations and headquarters.
- Consider new EU-funded projects in the EU's neighbourhood and beyond to prevent and counter antisemitism and foster Jewish life.
- Encourage EU delegations to include reporting of antisemitic incidents in non-EU countries, in regular political reporting.

Member States are encouraged to:

- Closely cooperate at EU level to jointly address antisemitism through international organisations.
- **Incorporate the fight against antisemitism into all their human rights strategies and policies, taking into account the IHRA definition of antisemitism.**
- Support projects and organisations combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life worldwide.

4.2. Safeguarding Jewish cultural heritage and commemorating the Holocaust

The Commission and the High Representative will:

- Promote the safeguarding, rehabilitation, and revitalisation Jewish heritage, in line with its policies for international cultural relations and cultural heritage.
- Integrate intercultural and interfaith dialogue in cultural heritage interventions.
- Seek opportunities to include maintenance of Jewish heritage in programming in neighbourhood & beyond.
- Continue to organise and participate in high-level events around the remembrance of Shoah victims (commemorations, Holocaust Remembrance Day).

Member States are encouraged to:

- Contribute, together with the EU in the UN context, to the worldwide safeguarding of cultural heritage, including Jewish heritage.
- Mark Holocaust Remembrance Day in cooperation with EU delegations, through their embassies in third countries and in international organisations.

V. DELIVERING ON THE STRATEGY

- The Commission will actively support the implementation of the proposed policy measures through funding opportunities and invites Member States, Jewish organisations, as well the civil society actors, to make use of EU programmes.
- **The strategy will be implemented over the period 2021-2030.** Comprehensive implementation reports will be published in 2024 and 2029 based on the input from Member States, also with regard to the implementation of their national strategies and policies.
- With the support of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency, these reports will include monitoring of progress at national level.