**Combatting Antisemitism in the European Union**

**ENAR plans 2017 for implementation by person of reference**

**Updated June 2016**

***What is the problem and what is the impact of the problem?***

While data on antisemitism in Europe provide heterogeneous results (increase of antisemitism attitude and opinions, or decrease of such attitudes), the number of violent attacks across Europe seems to have increased. This is in particular the case in France, the UK, and Denmark.

The Community Security Trust (CST) in the UK reported an increase of 60% of violence committed against Jews in the EU between 2008 and 2014. The evolution is not linear though. There have been important spikes in 2009, when 722 incidents were noted, in 2012, with 406 acts, and in 2014 with 1,179 attacks against Jews. 2015, with 924 antisemitic incidents nationwide, was a 22 per cent fall from 2014’s record, which had been caused by antisemitic reactions to the conflict in Israel and Gaza during July 2014 (316 incidents) and August 2014 (228 incidents). In Belgium, the equality body reports that complaints received for antisemitic incidents have increased from 83 in 2013 to 130 in 2014.[[1]](#footnote-1)

The Paris and Copenhagen attacks in particular have contributed to increase the perception of insecurity of European Jews, which was already high following the 2014 war with Gaza and the subsequent Antisemitic incidents in Europe.

In 2014, in particular during the war in Gaza over the summer, a worrying number of violent acts were committed against Jews and/or synagogues across Europe.

* In the UK, the [Community Security Trust (CST)](mailto:http://www.thecst.org.uk/) reported around 100 Antisemitic incidents in July 2014, double the usual number.
* A [synagogue](mailto:http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/world/europe/article4162394.ece) was targeted by firebomb in Germany in July 2014.
* Racist slogans invoking "death to the Jews" were heard during protests against the war in Gaza in several European cities, especially in France and Belgium.
* Numerous [shops were defaced with Antisemitic graffiti throughout the historic Jewish quarter in Rome](http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/gaza-crisis-romes-historic-jewish-quarter-daubed-swastikas-anti-semitic-posters-1458682).
* Many Jewish organisations and representatives received threats and many have been under police protection and [ENAR has called for action over the summer.](mailto:http://www.enar-eu.org/Escalation-of-anti-Semitism-in)

Security – and the perception of insecurity - seems to be the number one concern on which depend the enjoyment of other human rights such as freedom of religion, freedom of movement and the enjoyment of economic and social rights as a visible Jew. According to a FRA survey, Jews in Europe feel that Antisemitism has increased in the country they live in over the past five years (76%) and that they are increasingly afraid of being verbally harassed (46%) or physically attacked (33%). Online Antisemitic hate speech, especially on social media, is also exploding across Europe.

Antisemitism has always strived in Europe through the spreading of myths, such as the blood libel. Re-appearance of Antisemitism after the Holocaust has shown it is still very much present, across all society spheres. While the majority of recent Antisemitic violent attacks in Western Europe have been perpetrated by violent Muslim extremists, far-right ideologists and groups in Eastern Europe are still an important source of Antisemitic hate speech and incidents.

Antisemitism has remained vastly outside of the anti-racism movement, which has contributed to gaps in communication, strategies and mobilisation. The Durban conference in 2001 marked a moment from which organisations working on combatting racism and organisation working on combating Antisemitism have grown apart. Some Jewish organisations have shown consistent suspiciousness towards the anti-racism movement. This is partly due to the growing mistrust between groups, and no community as been immune to either racism, Islamophobia or Antiseitism.

***What is ENAR aiming to achieve in response to the problem? What is the change we want to see? Outcomes (1. Change in law, policy and standards 2. Change in practices and accountability 3. Change in mobilisation  all of which to impact change in people’s lives)***

ENAR’s long-term goal is to ensure that the level of Antisemitic attitudes and incidents decreases over the EU, thanks to coherent European, national and local policy commitments to tackle Antisemitism in all areas of life. ENAR also works to deliver a Europe in which Jewish people, like all other EU citizens and residents, will be fully recognised and empowered as part of the community.

* Decrease in anti-Semitic attacks, including online
* More involvement and cooperation between Jewish organisations and anti-racism organisations
* Increased awareness of contemporary forms of Antisemitism among anti-racism activists
* Meaningful antisemitism policies at EU and national level

***Why ENAR?***

ENAR’s activities related to combating Antisemitism have increased since 2014, as the consequence of both spikes of Antisemitic attacks in Europe and the re-positioning of anti-racism movement on the cause.

**Our role is to sustain commitment to include Antisemitism in the anti-racism agenda to:**

* **Increase leverage on process to combat different forms of racism**
* **Show mutual vulnerabilities when one form of racism spikes**
* **Share good practices and lessons learnt from the Jewish movement that could be useful to advance on other forms of racism**
* **Highlight contemporary forms of Antisemitism which is still a form of racism present in Europe**
* **Increase the pool of non-Jews voicing concerns over Antisemitism**
* **Build solidarity among groups and movements**
* **Jointly counter h rise of the far-right**

ENAR’s role is to:

* Focus on demands for national strategies at EU level;
* Support joint advocacy at national level in targeted countries;
* Ensure that the public’s and decision-makers’ attention paid to Antisemitism does not focus on Antisemitism in Muslim communities only, as this is both a failure to recognise the real extent of the problem, and an instrumentalisation of one community against another.
* Promote efforts to combat Antisemitism within its membership;
* Develop a multi-stakeholder approach.

***What are the main barriers from achieving the desired outcomes?*** Power analysis. What is your analysis of the key forces driving/blocking such a change? What economic or political interests are threatened/promoted by the change? Which groups are drivers/blockers/undecided? Is it visible (rules and force) or invisible (in people heads – norms and values) or hidden (behind the scenes influence). Who do the key players listen to (because that may help us decide on our alliance strategy).

* ***Sensitivity.*** Antisemitism, as Islamophobia and Afrophobia, strives both in majority society and within minorities as well. It is easy and dangerous to pit communities against one another. It is particularly challenging, while absolutely necessary, to engage in coalition building. Extra caution is required when dealing with the Israel-Palestine conflict which is emotional on both sides and has repercussions on Europeans' community building. Caution is also required on Holocaust remembrance and the lessons one can learn for all communities.
* ***ENAR membership***: ENAR membership is at the core of these tensions, while our mission is coalition building. There is a risk of mutual distrust, accusations, hierarchy of suffering, competition of victimisation and distraction from the greater cause.
* C***onservative Jewish organisations***: ENAR has been under attacks from some conservative Jewish organisations which have used political blackmailing to accuse us and our members (of links with the Muslim Brotherhood, of willing to downplay Antisemitism, etc.). While we believe there is a potential for common discussions, we have to constantly debunk their sterile positions. ENAR has clear red lines when it comes to its members and partners, but we can’t accept systematic vilification campaigns against Muslim organisations.
* ***Real political willing***. We operate under the assumption that Member States have not really shown concrete political will to combat Antisemitism. Not that all the efforts so far have been all vain, but that the approach often only tackles Antisemitism superficially (e.g student trips to Auschwitz) and confrontationally (e.g this is the only specific form of racism, the others don't deserve the same attention).

***What are the change hypothesis/assumptions***? Opportunities? How is the change we are discussing likely to take place? What alliances (e.g. between sympathetic officials or politicians, private sector, media, faith leaders or civil society) could drive/block the change? What would strengthen the good guys and weaken the bad – e.g. research and evidence, pressure from people they listen to (who are they?) or mobilisation in the street? Can you foresee any likely ‘critical junctures’: new governments; changes of leadership; election timetables when change is more likely to occur?

***Assumptions***

The success of the project is based on the following assumptions:

* Key partners are interested in collaborating to involve an anti-racism organisation in combatting Antisemitism. ENAR members (the large majority of which do not work on Antisemitism) recognise the need for coalition building. Within the next year, a critical mass of supporters can be reached inside and outside the membership.
* Advocacy targets are willing to meet and discuss Antisemitism and recognise ENAR as an organisation with an expertise on this – the idea is capitalising on momentum at European level and in a number of Member States
* Antisemitism seen as a form of racism. Perceptions and prejudice feeding the phenomenon.
* There is a structural form of Antisemitism as States have failed to redress a deeply rooted situation of violence and discrimination.

***Opportunities for efficient action:***

* ***Renewed political visibility***: Media and political visibility of the Paris and Copenhagen attacks have brought back the issue on the European agenda. Both the 2015 LIBE hearing and the EC colloquium on fundamental rights have focused on Antisemitism. Antisemitism triggers political reactivity across the political spectrum, although one can doubt as to whether these initiatives really want to address issues.
* ***Renewed partnerships***: ENAR was not in the centre of the topic until mid-2014, after the Gaza war. Since, we have tried to dedicated resources on advocacy and partnership with like-minded Jewish organisations. Our initial contacts with EJC, CEJI and EUJS have led to renewed and strengthened partnership with CEJI, CST, EUJS and some ENAR members working on Antisemitism.
* ***Open advocacy channels***: In 2014 and 2015, we have strengthened our access to the EC unit dealing with Antisemitism. Communication with EP working group on Antisemitism has been stable.
* ***Coalition building***. Strict and useless positions that only Jewish organisations can combat Antisemitism seem outdated. Actors of change are in demand of cross-communities initiatives and action towards the majority population. We operate under the assumption that the coalition building trend will continue to flourish unlike restrictive approaches.

***How will we respond to achieve the desired outcomes?* Activities. Actions**

1. Engage Jewish organisations and communities in the anti-racism movements.
   1. Target eastern European communities
   2. Include tis as objective in network development strategy
   3. Target coalition building organisaions (Jewish Muslims, SRT project)
   4. Raise awareness about ENAR’s work on Antisemitism
   5. Support national projects
   6. Be more mindful of accommodation needs for meetings and activities
2. Provide EU-wide data on Antisemitism (Shadow report, research?) including on online hate speech, diversity of forms and sources
3. Encourage more non-Jewish organisations to work on Antisemitism (making use of the debunking myth, promoting CEJI training?), workshop at our GA on drawing the red line
4. Develop and disseminate criteria on how to know when to engage with different organisations (which could be Antisemitic, homophobic, sexist, etc) – evidence based screening based on human rights, common values and objectives – link to far-right organisations, keep a victim centered approach, mutual will and respect
5. Propose existing hate crime, hate speech monitoring tools to members working on Antisemitism. Advice and training provided by ENAR’s secretariat can complement tools from other projects such as Facing Facts!, Get the troll out.
6. Mainstream Antisemitism in security portfolio and advocate for role of States within fundamental rights framework
7. Mainstream 1ntisemitism in community mobilization portfolio (jewish muslim cooperation) – way to build solidarity and common action
8. Comms – more visibility
9. Advocate at EU level for specific strategy on Antisemitism (building on definition efforts), include ARDI and EP WG Antisemitism, EC coordinator on Antisemitism
10. Hold meeting of the expert group launched in 2015, focusing on the identification of areas of work where ENAR’s nature and its internal diversity can provide a value added, in a complementary way with other actors representing Jewish communities and the fight against Antisemitism. Give flesh to its call on EU and national policy frameworks on Antisemitism (or explicit mainstreaming of combating Antisemitism in general antiracist or antidiscrimination policy plans), by listing practical actions to be undertaken or considered depending on the national situations.
11. Engage on rethinking education tools (eg on Holocaust) – commission research?

1. <http://www.diversite.be/antisemitisme-les-derniers-chiffres-confirment-une-nette-augmentation> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)