

# Report on Antisemitism 2025

for the German, Italian and  
Romansh language areas  
of Switzerland



Stiftung gegen  
Rassismus und  
Antisemitismus

Fondation contre le racisme et l'antisémitisme  
Fondazione contro il razzismo e l'antisemitismo  
Foundation against racism and antisemitism

SIG



FSCI

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Website

# Foreword

In 2025, the war in the Middle East was once again a defining trigger for antisemitic incidents in Switzerland. The number of incidents remains at a level well above that seen prior to the terrorist attacks of 7 October 2023.

For the Jewish community in Switzerland, this has been a constant strain for more than two years. While 2025 saw the number of real-world incidents fall away from its peak in the final months of 2023 and the figure for 2024, there was a sharp increase in the number of online incidents.

The mood amongst Jewish people in Switzerland remains very tense. At times there were weekly pro-Palestine and anti-Israel demonstrations, some of which were associated with calls for violence and antisemitic slogans. The demonstration in Bern on 11 October 2025 stands out in particular because – just one day after the ceasefire in the Gaza war came into effect – there was a massive outbreak of violence. In the larger cities of Switzerland, offensive graffiti relating to the conflict in the Middle East is omnipresent. While only some of this graffiti can be interpreted as being anti-semitic, a good deal of it does call for violence or glorify violence and terrorism. Pro-Palestine activists are very active at Swiss universities. Their imagery and choice of words often have an escalating effect and are not aimed at promoting dialogue. Calls for an intifada, the demand for the annihilation of Israel, and the glorification of terrorists seem to have become largely socially acceptable at some state educational institutions. This is a cause of great stress to Jewish students.

Switzerland's democratic freedom of expression naturally includes the right to criticize the Israeli government. Even pointed, polemical or false accusations against Israel and its government fall within the scope of freedom of expression, as do verbal rants against the state and its political representatives. However, a clear boundary has to be drawn where anti-semitic stereotypes are reproduced, Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state is denied, Swiss Jews are held collectively responsible for Israel's policies or Jews are even held

partly responsible for antisemitism. This is a strong and unequivocal warning: if any level of antisemitism becomes accepted by politicians and society as "normal and unavoidable", we will be heading in a dangerous direction which will undermine the foundations of our democratic state.

It is up to civil society to take a firm stand against such a development. Government agencies must also resolutely oppose this impending normalization. The National Strategy Against Racism and Antisemitism presented by the Federal Council has an important role to play here. It aims to bring together existing resources and measures while identifying and implementing new steps to combat hatred and discrimination. However, the action plan which is key to the implementation of the strategy is still to be developed. The SIG and the GRA agree on the defined action areas of prevention, dialogue, monitoring and protection. Both organizations are prepared to support the federal government in its implementation and to contribute their expertise. The aim must be to effectively combat antisemitism – just like any other form of discrimination and hatred – in our society.

The results of the 2024 survey of the Jewish community conducted by the Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW) have not lost any of their relevance: Jewish people avoid publicly wearing signs of their religion and keep away from places and events where they might expect hostility. Many Jews feel displaced from social spaces as a result. This development should be a cause for concern – and not just for us.

Antisemitism in Switzerland continues to be at a significantly higher level than it was before 7 October 2023. The state and civil society will have to continue to work with a high level of commitment and sufficient human and financial resources to reduce antisemitic incidents and sustainably push back against antisemitism itself.

**Ralph Friedländer, President of the SIG, and Dr Zsolt Balkanyi-Guery, President of the GRA**



## Report an antisemitic incident



Have you experienced or witnessed an antisemitic incident?

Have you seen an antisemitic post on social media?

Contact us via

+41 43 305 07 77

[incident@swissjews.ch](mailto:incident@swissjews.ch)

[swissjews.ch/reportincident](https://swissjews.ch/reportincident)

[Report incident](#)

Any antisemitic incidents you have personally experienced or witnessed in the German, Italian or Romansh language areas of Switzerland can be reported to the SIG Office. These may include physical assaults, verbal abuse, offensive graffiti, letters and messages, or posts or comments seen on the internet or social media. The incidents will be analysed and classified by us, and counselling offered to those affected.

Please get in touch even if you are unsure whether the incident is antisemitic in nature or not. We will gladly help you with the classification.



## Overview

177

incidents  
(real world)

of which

5

Physical assault

42

Verbal abuse

80

Comments

28

Offensive graffiti

3

Damage to property

10

Public acts

9

Posters/banners

At least 37.3% directly related  
to the war in the Middle East

2185

incidents  
(online)

of which

42%

Conspiracy theories

39.3%

General antisemitism

12.4%

Israel-related  
antisemitism

6.3%

Shoah denial/  
trivialization

At least 24% directly  
related to the war in the  
Middle East



# 1. General analysis

## Antisemitism in the real world

The number of antisemitic incidents in the real world fell by almost 20% in 2025. A total of 177 incidents were registered (2024: 221). However, the level is still around three times higher than before the terrorist attacks of 7 October 2023 (2022: 57). In the reporting year, five physical assaults were reported (2024: 11). The number of incidents of verbal abuse remained unchanged at 42. In line with the drop in the number of incidents, the number of antisemitic comments fell to 80 (2024: 103). There was a more pronounced decline in offensive graffiti: 28 cases were registered in 2025 (2024: 44). The number of public acts (10) and posters and banners (9) remained unchanged. In addition, three cases of damage to property were reported to the SIG in the reporting year (2024: 2).

The war in the Middle East remained the main trigger for antisemitic incidents. In 37.3% of the incidents there was a direct connection. This proportion fell slightly compared to 2024 (44.8%). In many cases, the perpetrators' motivation is not known. The actual share could therefore be higher.

The narratives used in verbal abuse and comments remained largely unchanged compared to 2024. Firstly, there is the assertion that Swiss Jews are partly responsible for the war and for the actions and policies of Israel. Secondly, there is the demand that Jews must justify or distance themselves from this policy. Then there are remarks to the effect that if they do not do so, they should not be surprised at the rise in antisemitism. They are thus attributed a certain complicity in antisemitism. These statements are demonstrably false and reflect long-established antisemitic narratives.

As in previous years, it can be assumed that a number of allegations go unreported, particularly in the case of verbal abuse and verbal comments. Some incidents are probably still not reported to the SIG or the police. This problem affects all surveys based on voluntary reporting.

The SIG reporting office received more than 450 reports in the year under review. After checking for duplicates and on the basis of the IHRA's definition (see section 9.2.4), the reporting office recorded 214 clear antisemitic incidents. Of these, 114 took place in the real world and 70 online.

Upon examination, slightly more than half of the reports could not be recorded. There are two factors behind this: on the one hand, many people report incidents that they perceive as antisemitic, while on the other there are differences between subjective perception and the criteria the IHRA definition is based on. Particularly in connection with Israel, there have been numerous reports of offensive graffiti, flyers and slogans which are not considered antisemitic in terms of the IHRA definition.

Another 33 antisemitic incidents were recorded by the SIG itself. These were either messages sent by email or letter directly to the SIG, or they were taken from media coverage.

In more than half of the incidents, it is not possible to assign the perpetrators of antisemitic incidents in the real world to specific groups, or only to a limited extent. The incidents that can be attributed are distributed among well-known groups: far-right, far-left, Muslim or Islamist perpetrators, so-called "mainstream society" and the radically pro-Palestinian camp. There is still a clear focus on the radically pro-Palestinian camp, which includes radical left-wing and Muslim perpetrators.



## Antisemitism online

For two reporting years, the SIG has been using special search software for online monitoring. It searches publicly accessible social media outlets platforms and the comment sections of online media and websites for specific terms (e.g. well-known code words for “the Jews”) and detects whether articles originate from Switzerland. The results are then reviewed individually by SIG staff to determine whether they are considered antisemitic in terms of the IHRA definition. Thanks to this new method, it is possible to compare online incidents between 2024 and 2025. A comparison with earlier years, however, cannot be made. For platforms such as Instagram and TikTok which are purely image- and video-based, only the comments on the original posts can be monitored.

In the year under review, the SIG recorded 2,185 online incidents (2024: 1,596). This corresponds to an increase of 36.9%. Telegram accounted for the largest number by far: 1,445 incidents (2024: 890). The proportion of online incidents attributable to Telegram has thus increased significantly. Hate comments are still rarely deleted on Telegram. Coded and uncoded antisemitic conspiracy theories, as well as open hatred against Jews, are tolerated and disseminated, particularly in well-known groups of the anti-state, anti-society and conspiracy-theory subculture.

The second highest number of antisemitic incidents in the digital world was in the comments sections of online newspapers, where 380 incidents were registered (2024: 300) across 12 publications. The newspapers of the major media companies Tamedia and CH Media are combined, as the comments appear in all the titles of these media companies. The continued high number of antisemitic comments points to deficiencies in the existing moderation mechanisms. In some cases, openly antisemitic content was not removed until several hours after publication. This suggests

that existing checking and intervention processes are not consistently effective. For more effective moderation, earlier identification of clearly antisemitic content is required. In addition, consistent application of the moderation guidelines presupposes that moderators are familiar with antisemitic codes as well as with common antisemitic conspiracy theories.

Antisemitic posts and comments originating in Switzerland were found on almost all well-known social media platforms: on Instagram (2025: 138, 2024: 51), Facebook (2025: 65, 2024: 40), TikTok (2025: 27, 2024: 103), X (2025: 17, 2024: 94), in comments on YouTube videos (2025: 16, 2024: 34) and on various websites (2025: 90, 2024: 81). Amongst the latter, antisemitic content appeared primarily in articles in so-called “alternative media”. There was no obvious reason for the sharp drop in incidents on X and TikTok.

As in previous years, in 2025 the GRA and the SIG investigated whether the incidents had a direct link to long-term triggers (see section 2.3). 24% of antisemitic posts and comments had a direct link to the war in the Middle East (2024: 28.3%). However, there may be further incidents that are indirectly connected with this issue. The war is influencing public sentiment even in Switzerland. The diagram detailing the distribution of incidents by month clearly shows this correlation. As a result of the war between Israel and Iran in June 2025, almost half of all incidents that month were directly related to the Middle East conflict. Since the ceasefire in the Gaza Strip in October, this proportion has been steadily declining.

4.25% of incidents were directly related to the war in Ukraine (2024: 7%). This conflict received less media attention in 2025 than at the start of the war. However, it continued to lead primarily to the spread of antisemitic conspiracy theories. Covid is hardly an issue now: only 0.9% of incidents were directly related to it (2024: 1%).



Percentage of online antisemitic incidents with a direct connection to the Middle East conflict



In many cases, it is not possible to categorize the authors of antisemitic posts and comments in political terms. Clues may occasionally be found in user names or the content of the posts. The figures are therefore too low to allow statistically reliable conclusions to be drawn. However, the links that can be made still point to the known groups: right-wing extremists, left-wing extremists, Muslims or Islamists, so-called “mainstream society”, the conspiracy-theory and anti-state subculture and the radical pro-Palestinian camp.

### The conspiracy theories category

Antisemitic conspiracy theories continue to make up the largest proportion of the four content categories. 42% of online incidents fell into this category (2024: 42%). By far the most widely used conspiracy theory is the Khazar theory, which has gained momentum since 2022. It claims that Eastern European Ashkenazi Jews are not descended from the Jews

who were expelled from ancient Israel, but from a Turkic people called the Khazars. The Khazars founded an empire in the 7th century in the North Caucasus and converted to Judaism. A significant part of the Israeli population, and in particular the founding generation of the state of Israel, are of Ashkenazi descent. If they were not descended from the original population of ancient Israel, so the theory goes, they would not have the right to settle in that area. This line of reasoning attempts to delegitimize Israel and deny it the right to exist. The terms “Khazars” or “Khazar mafia” is also often used as a code word for “Jews”. In this context, it is claimed that the “Khazars” control governments, banks and the media. This reproduces the classic antisemitic idea of a “world Jewish conspiracy”. At the same time, this use of language serves to distance the commenter from accusations of antisemitism: the criticism is allegedly directed not against “Jews”, but against “Khazars”, who are presented as “false Jews”.



Another conspiracy theory states that “the Zionists” financed Adolf Hitler and the Nazis and incited them to carry out the Shoah. According to this narrative, their aim was to drive Europe into feelings of guilt and thus enable the later founding of the state of Israel.

A variant of this narrative claims that Adolf Hitler was in fact a member of the Rothschild family. In addition, “the Jews” and “the Zionists” are blamed for a multitude of other developments. They are believed to be behind everything that threatens the “traditional family”, such as feminism, “LGBTQ ideology” and pornography. Moreover, it is claimed that they directed “mass immigration” to Europe with the aim of the “extinction of the white race”. They are also accused of staging assassinations and attacks in order to secure their alleged rule.

## The Israel-related antisemitism category

12.4% of online incidents could be classified as “Israel-related antisemitism” (2024: 16.7%). However, more incidents are directly related to the war in the Middle East, namely 24%. Many cases can be assigned to other categories. For example, the “conspiracy theories” and “Shoah denial” categories also include those relating to the war in the Middle East. If Swiss Jews are held responsible for the war or Israel’s policies, or are generally described as Israelis, this falls into the category of “general antisemitism”. This is interpreted as an expression of the traditional prejudice that Jews are not “real” Swiss people, but that they are committed to a supposed “Jewish cause”.

Israel-related antisemitism was again evident in 2025, especially in depictions of Israelis shaped by classic antisemitic stereotypes. Israelis are portrayed as bloodthirsty and are accused of deliberately killing children. It is also claimed that Israelis can do what they want because “the Jews” or “the Zion-

ists” control governments in Europe and the United States. Western coverage of the war is also accused of bias. The reason given is that Israel, “the Jews” or “the Zionists” dominate the media. In addition, Israel and the Israeli government were frequently compared with National Socialism, and claims were made that Israel was committing a “new Holocaust” against the Palestinians.

The slogan “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free” continues to be chanted regularly at demonstrations and appears on banners, signs, flyers and graffiti. In many cases, however, the postulated “freedom” for Palestine has a problematic level of meaning that is often overlooked in public discourse. “From the river to the sea” is not only a critique of the state of Israel, it is usually also antisemitic, based on the IHRA definition. The key factor here is the implied meaning of the slogan and the demand it expresses. The “river” and the “sea” to which the slogan refers are the Jordan and the Mediterranean. In between the two lie the state of Israel, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The proposed state of Palestine “from the Jordan to the Mediterranean” is conceived without Israel – in extreme cases, through its extinction. This denies the Jewish state the right to exist. As a second step, the consequences of this demand must be taken into account. There are about seven million Jews living in Israel, whose safety is closely bound up with the state of Israel. Moreover, many Jewish people in the diaspora also regard Israel as a “safe haven” in which they can find refuge in an emergency. In view of its consequences for millions of Jews, the denial of Israel’s right to exist has an existential dimension and ties in with their history of expulsion and extermination. It is thus an implicit call to violence. The slogan is also used by Hamas. In its 2017 charter, it explicitly proclaims the annihilation of Israel.



It is important to note that not every criticism of Israel, the Israeli government or the military action against Hamas should be regarded as antisemitic (see section 9.2.4). As long as this criticism is similar in nature to criticism of other democratic states, it is not objectionable according to the IHRA definition. The slogan “Free Palestine” and vulgar insults directed against Israel are not considered antisemitic per se. As a rule, they are classified as antisemitic only if they serve the narrative “Jews = Israelis”, for example when the words “Free Palestine” are sprayed onto a synagogue or uttered to Jewish individuals. Similarly, accusations of apartheid and genocide against Israel and the call to “Globalize the Intifada” are not considered in isolation, but in the context of the comment in question.

Shoah denial and trivialization is primarily an online phenomenon. In the real world, only eight incidents were recorded in this category. This included two cases of offensive graffiti, three verbal comments and three emails/letters.

## The Shoah denial/ trivialization category

There were 136 incidents in this content category in the year under review (2024: 96). At 6.3%, it remains the smallest of the four content categories (2024: 6%). These posts denied for example that six million Jews were murdered and that extermination camps with gas chambers existed. In contrast to 2024, when the death of a well-known Shoah denier acted as the trigger, there was no comparable event in the reporting year. However, texts and videos that openly deny the murder of six million people continue to be distributed regularly, especially in Telegram groups.

Shoah trivialization includes comments and posts containing tasteless jokes or statements, such as the claim that the concentration camps were “not that bad”. The widespread statement that a Holocaust is taking place in the Gaza Strip is also seen as trivializing the Shoah.

Of the 136 incidents in this content category, 50 denied the Shoah and 86 trivialized it.

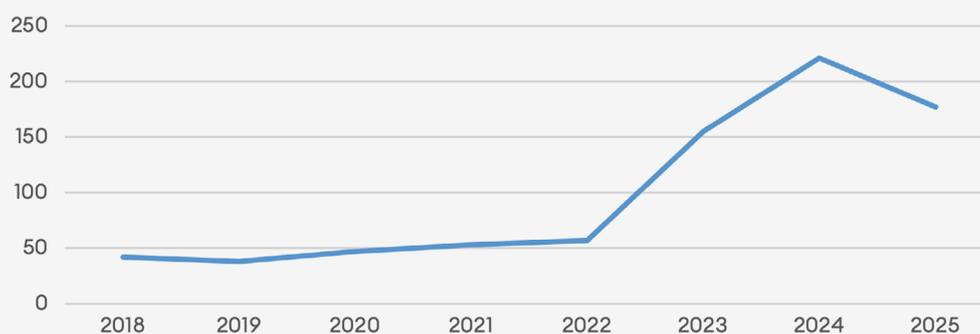


## 2. Statistics

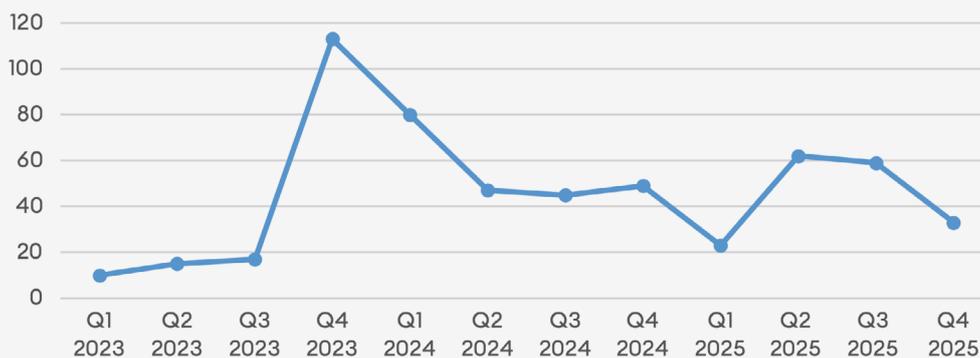
### 2.1 Incidents in 2025 in the German, Italian and Romansh language areas of Switzerland

#### Antisemitic incidents – trends over time

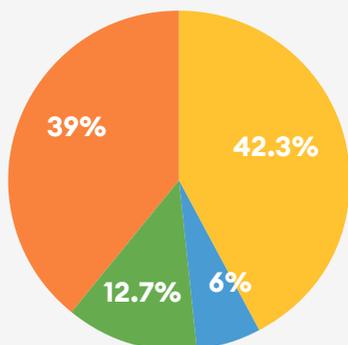
Change in the number of antisemitic incidents  
2018–2025 (real world)



Change in the number of antisemitic incidents  
2023–2025 by quarter (real world)



## Distribution of incidents by content

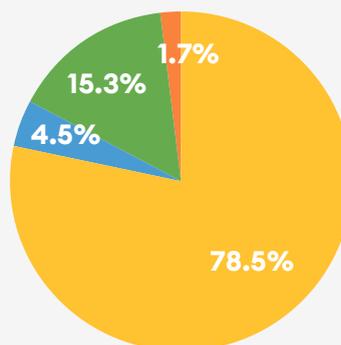


### Distribution by content (all incidents)

- General antisemitism **42.3%**
- Shoah denial/trivialization **6%**
- Israel-related antisemitism **12.7%**
- Antisemitic conspiracy theories **39%**

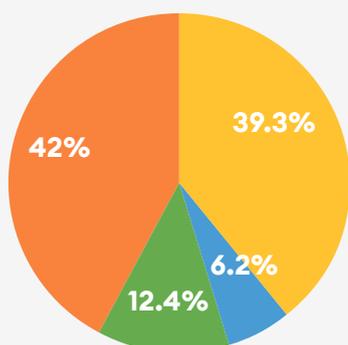
### Distribution by content (real world)

- General antisemitism **78.5%**
- Shoah denial/trivialization **4.5%**
- Israel-related antisemitism **15.3%**
- Antisemitic conspiracy theories **1.7%**

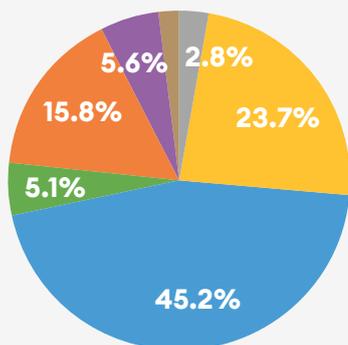


### Distribution by content (online)

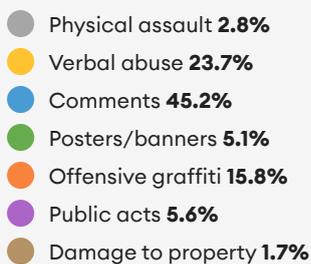
- General antisemitism **39.3%**
- Shoah denial/trivialization **6.2%**
- Israel-related antisemitism **12.4%**
- Antisemitic conspiracy theories **42%**



## Distribution of incidents by type

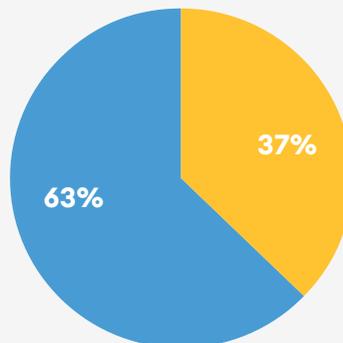


## Distribution by type (real world)

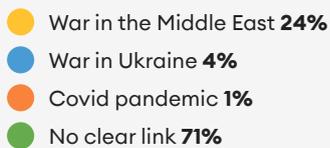
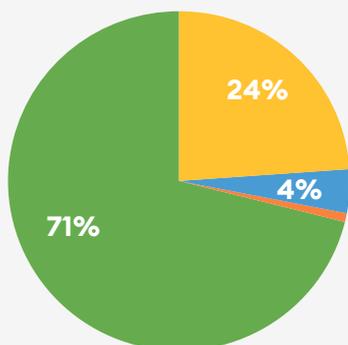


## Distribution by clear link to one of the major triggers

### Distribution by clear link to war in the Middle East (real world)



### Distribution by long-term trigger (online)

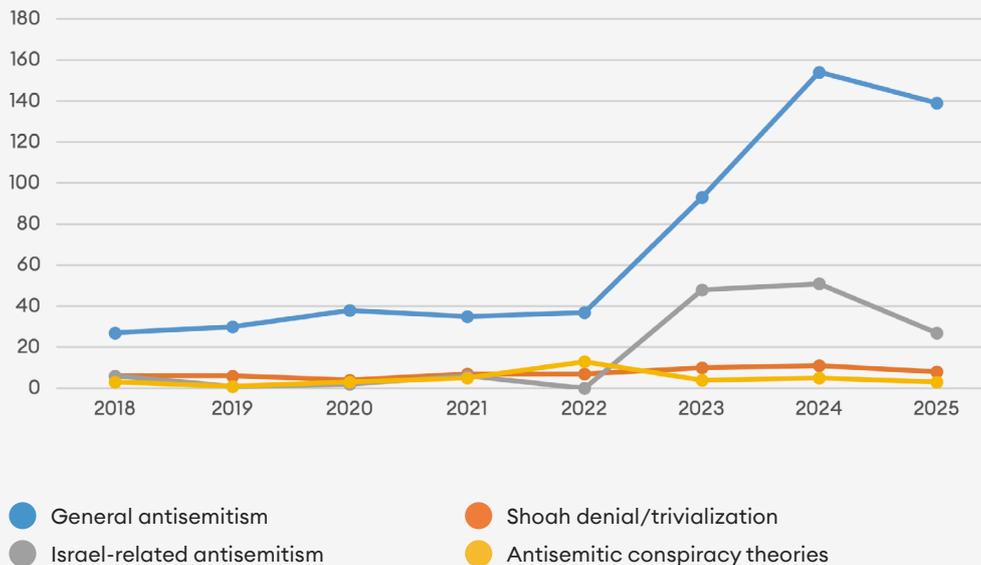


## Distribution of all incidents by month for 2024 and 2025

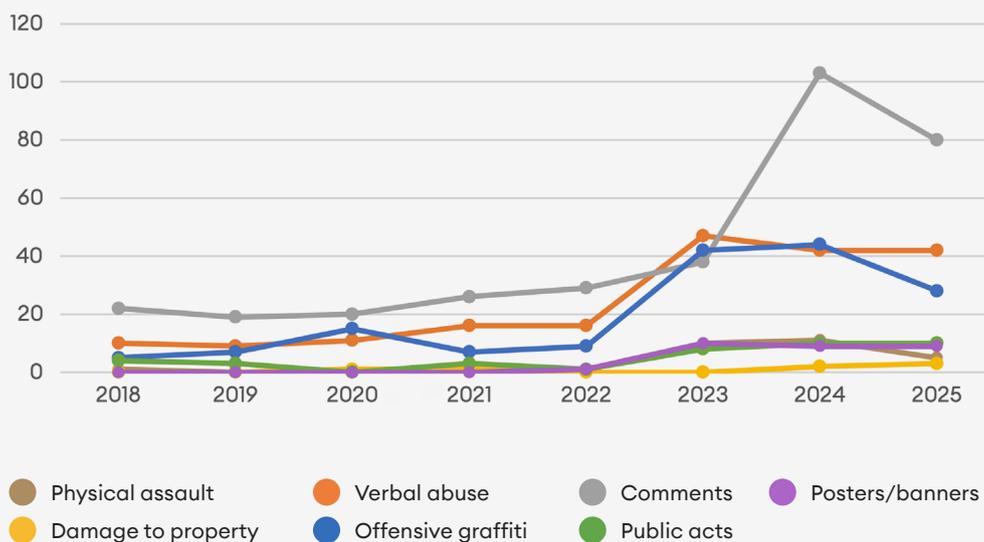
Month	Total incidents		Actions		Sent items		Online incidents	
	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024
January	166	180	3	16	4	5	159	159
February	174	162	6	16	0	18	168	128
March	213	129	6	15	4	10	203	104
April	165	140	8	3	7	4	150	133
May	240	167	16	11	9	12	215	144
June	266	136	16	11	6	6	244	119
July	163	115	13	11	17	3	133	101
August	240	142	16	10	2	3	222	129
September	187	124	4	10	7	8	176	106
October	167	209	6	13	1	9	160	187
November	186	171	9	11	1	2	176	158
December	195	142	14	14	2	0	179	128
<b>Total</b>	<b>2362</b>	<b>1817</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>2185</b>	<b>1596</b>

## Trends of incidents over time since 2018

### Trends by content (real world)



### Trends by type (real world)



### Distribution of incidents by canton (real world)



	Physical assault	Verbal abuse	Comments	Offensive graffiti	Damage to property	Public actes	Sent items	Posters	Total
Zurich	1	14	17	15	1	5	40	6	99
Basel-City		4		1		4	4	1	14
Bern		3	4	3		1		2	13
Grisons	2	1	4	2			1		10
Lucerne	2	2	1				3		8
St. Gallen				4					4
Aargau		1	1	1					3
Valais			2						2
Ticino					2				2
Schaffhausen		1							1
Schwyz			1						1
Thurgovia			1						1

It was not possible to place all incidents with geographical certainty. This explains why the sum total here is not the same as the total number of real-world incidents.

## 2.2 Online incidents

### Recording online incidents

Since the beginning of 2024, the SIG has been using special search software for online monitoring. It scans social media platforms, the comments sections of online media and websites for specific terms and detects whether posts have originated in Switzerland. The contributions that are highlighted are individually checked by SIG employees who assess whether they should be classified as antisemitic under the IHRA definition. This form of monitoring enables a more precise depiction of online antisemitism in Switzerland.

### Distribution of online incidents

The table below shows the platforms on which the online incidents were registered. Please note that in the case of media (“Weltwoche”, “Tamedia”, etc.) only incidents in the comments sections of the website in question are taken into account. Comments on articles on social media channels are assigned to the respective platform.

#### Distribution of online incidents by platform

	Telegram	Weltwoche	Instagram	Tamedia	Webseiten	Facebook	TikTok	Inside Paradeplatz	msn.ch	Twitter	YouTube	Blick	20 Minuten	Nau	Other	Total
January	109	13	10	1	6	6	5	0	3	1	1	0	0	3	2	160
February	124	16	3	4	8	4	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	167
March	145	9	9	5	9	5	1	1	0	1	0	6	3	1	8	203
April	108	14	1	7	5	4	8	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	150
May	132	14	21	12	9	5	3	10	4	0	0	0	0	3	2	215
June	173	27	3	13	7	1	2	5	3	0	4	0	3	1	2	244
July	72	12	2	18	9	2	0	2	4	3	0	0	5	0	4	133
August	80	16	77	16	10	7	1	1	0	2	7	0	1	1	3	222
September	105	29	2	6	13	6	0	0	0	2	1	5	3	2	2	176
October	99	8	5	7	5	18	0	0	2	6	1	2	0	3	4	160
November	151	2	2	3	5	1	0	0	2	1	0	5	1	0	3	176
December	147	9	3	5	4	6	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	179
<b>Total 2025</b>	<b>1445</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>2185</b>
Percentage share	66.1%	7.7%	6.3%	4.4%	4.1%	3.0%	1.2%	0.9%	0.9%	0.8%	0.7%	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%	1.6%	100.0%

“Other” includes comments from CH Media (13), Watson (11), WhatsApp (5), LinkedIn (2), Südostschweiz (1), tio.ch (1) and NZZ (1).

## 2.3 Triggers

Triggers are events that lead to a significantly increased number of antisemitic incidents over a limited period of time – usually a few days. They may relate to international events (e.g. in connection with the Middle East), national events (e.g. referendums, court cases, antisemitic incidents) or media reports about them.

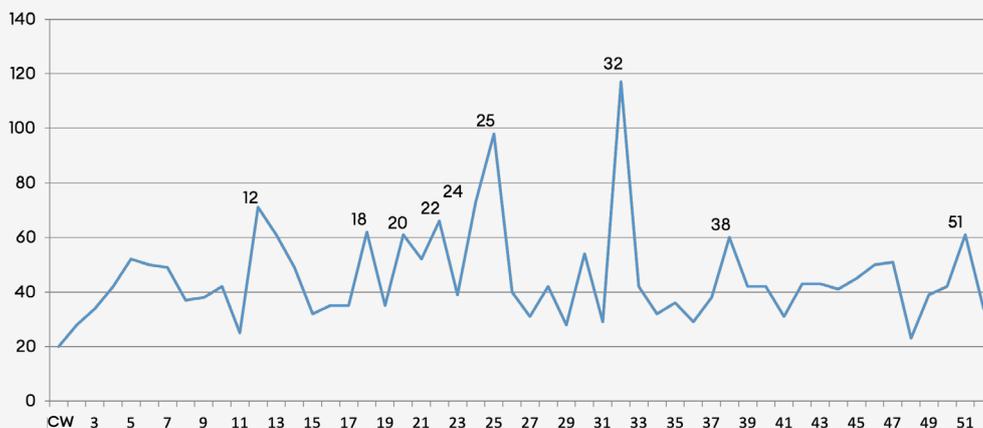
“Long-term triggers” have been gaining in importance in recent years. These have an ongoing effect and may lead directly or indirectly to antisemitic incidents. This trend started with the coronavirus pandemic, followed by the war in Ukraine and, since 7 October 2023, by the effects of the war in the Middle East. However, there are still smaller triggers which in some cases led to marked spikes in the graph, but were also sometimes lost in the general background noise. In 2025, these included Holocaust Remembrance Day on 27 January, an article about the planned Swiss memo-

rial for the victims of National Socialism, an antisemitic incident in Lucerne, the extremely tense pro-Palestine demonstration in Bern, an antisemitic incident in the Vatican and – as every year – 11 September.

- The uptick in calendar week 12 can be attributed to two triggers: the publication of the Report on Antisemitism 2024 and the release of files on the assassination of US President John F. Kennedy, which led to an increased spread of conspiracy stories.
- In calendar weeks 18 and 20, the Eurovision Song Contest in Basel and the associated protests against Israel’s participation led to an increased number of antisemitic incidents.



Total number of incidents per calendar week



- The uptick in calendar week 22 cannot be attributed to a specific trigger.
- In calendar weeks 24 and 25, the “Twelve-Day War” took place between Israel and Iran.
- A report published on Instagram by the newspaper Blick about three anti-semitic attacks on recognizably Jewish tourists in Davos led to 76 antisemitic comments, the biggest surge of the year, in calendar week 32.
- The spike in calendar week 38 cannot be attributed to a specific trigger.
- In calendar week 51, the attack on a Hanukkah celebration in Sydney led to an increased number of antisemitic comments.

It is conspicuous that antisemitic incidents in the real world become particular triggers for antisemitic comments on the internet. These often follow the narrative that “the Jews” are themselves responsible for physical attacks or verbal abuse because of their behaviour or the war in the Middle East.



### 3. The most serious incidents

#### Physical assault

- In February, a man in Lucerne assaulted a recognizably Jewish man in the street. The assailant insulted the victim and punched him in the face.
- In May, stones were thrown at a young Orthodox Jewish woman in Zurich.
- In July, the same perpetrator allegedly attacked Jewish Orthodox tourists in three different places in Davos. He pushed them, spat at them and insulted them.

#### Damage to property

- In December, Hanukkah menorahs on public display in two cities in the canton of Ticino were stolen and destroyed.

#### Verbal abuse

- In February, a man in Lucerne insulted a recognizably Jewish man in the street. The perpetrator also performed the Nazi salute several times.
- In March, a schoolgirl in the canton of Zurich called a female Jewish classmate a “fucking Jew”. She also claimed that Jews “make a big drama out of everything”.
- In March, two young people in the canton of Schaffhausen insulted a man with a kippah as a “fucking Jew” and spat on the ground in front of him.
- In October, at a school in the canton of Zurich, students repeatedly performed the Nazi salute in front of a Jewish classmate, shouted “Kill the Jews” and described themselves as “Jew hunters”.
- In November, a man shouted at two Orthodox Jewish men on the hiking trail on the Uetliberg mountain near Zurich. He shouted in Arabic and German: “Yahud” (Arabic for “Jew”), “You rat” and “Free Palestine”, among other things.
- In December, a cyclist shouted “Dirty Jews” at funeral attendees at the Jewish Cemetery in Basel.

#### Comments

- In June, during a tennis tournament in the canton of Zurich, a player from French-speaking Switzerland said: “I can’t stand the German-speaking Swiss any more; they’re a dirty race, like the Jews.”



- In July, the proprietor of a restaurant in the canton of Aargau told guests that he only accepted cash. He said he no longer took credit cards or Twint, as he didn't want to have anything to do with that "Jewish stuff".
- In August, a hotel in the canton of Graubünden turned away Jewish tourists. The hotel employee said openly, "We don't let out rooms to Jews."
- In September, a passenger on a regional train in the canton of Thurgau took over the train's announcement system and said twice over the loudspeakers: "Good evening, we hate the Jews."
- In November, the owner of a kosher grocery store received an anonymous phone call in which a young girl said: "Hitler still has enough gas left for you."
- The phrase "Free Palestine" was said many times in the street or on public transport to Orthodox Jewish people.

- In April, the toilet door on a train in Zurich was daubed with bomb threats against Jews.
- In June, a swastika was carved into a pillar at the entrance to a synagogue in Zurich.
- In June, "Burn the Jews!" was written on the door of a public bike store in Zurich.
- In December, the words "Swiss people fight back, don't buy from Jews!" were written on a station wall in Zurich.



## Sent items

- In July, a kosher hotel in Davos received a letter threatening to shoot two or three "Jewish pigs".
- In July, a Jewish community in Zurich received a letter with the accusation that it would be complicit in the murder and expulsion of civilians in the Gaza Strip unless it spoke out publicly against them.
- During the course of the year, the SIG received dozens of emails and letters with antisemitic insults and comments.

## Offensive graffiti

- In April, several swastikas and SS insignia, as well as the slogans "Heil Hitler", "Against Israel's crimes" and "Pro Palestine", appeared in an underpass in Basel.



## 4. Guest article by Monika Schwarz-Friesel: Why antisemitism cannot be equated with racism – and why doing so hinders the fight against hatred towards Jews

For years now, numerous institutional activities, projects, public discussions and political discourses have included the unacceptable statement that antisemitism is a form of racism, which is historically and empirically incorrect. As a result, many educational offerings feature combined topics and titles such as “The fight against antisemitism and racism”. But this approach is misleading and counterproductive because it blurs the true and unique characteristics of antisemitism. The principle that good therapy always relies on a good diagnosis is not only essential in medicine, it applies equally to research into antisemitism. A generalizing blanket definition of antisemitism such as “discrimination, prejudice and racism” hinders any educational work from the outset.

Antisemitism is not one prejudice amongst many; it cannot be equated with general misanthropy relating to a particular group; it is not just a phenomenon peculiar to extremists or marginalized groups; nor is it a variety of racism. Hostility to Jews is a unique collective belief system that has the status of an all-encompassing interpretation of the world

with an absolute claim to truth. At its core, it is based on the delusion that Jews are the evil, the scourge of the world, and that Judaism is the counter-concept to mankind (the “enemies of mankind”). Part of the conspiracy fantasy is the belief that Jews want to dominate the world and that in the background they are weaving the threads of finance, economics, politics and the media. Jews are demonized as extremely powerful, highly influential and pernicious creatures.

Racism, on the other hand, is an ideology that postulates a genetically determined division of humanity into “higher and lower races” and attributes inferiority in particular to people’s skin colour. Racism thus conjures up an image of certain people as biologically inferior, which supposedly legitimizes efforts to dominate, exploit and marginalize them on the basis of their assumed inferiority; antisemitism, on the other hand, imagines a Jewish peril and conspiracy through superiority. Historically speaking, hatred of Jews is much older than racism. While so-called “racial science” emerged only in the 19th century, particularly in the course of European colonial politics, anti-Judaism, which originated from a religious struggle over power and interpretation, has been poisoning the world for 2,000 years with its damning *Contra-Judaeos* rhetoric. The idea of deliverance plays a prominent role in this: the focus is not on the sufferance and exploitation of Jews, but rather on the physical or spiritual extinction of Jewish existence.

Today, racist ideas are mainly to be found in right-wing circles. Antisemitism, however, is a phenomenon that affects society as a whole. In antisemitism research we distinguish four faces of contemporary antisemitism: the right, the left, the Islamic and the educated centrist, of which only the far-right and neo-Nazis are also linked to racism. Representatives of the other three – dominant – forms reject any kind of racist attitude and present themselves as being decidedly anti-racist. Left-wing and



educated centrist, sham progressive anti-semitism, in particular, always emphasizes its pro-democracy, non-discriminatory and anti-racist attitude, but lets its anti-Jewish feelings run free, without restriction, in its Israel-related hatred of Jews.

Why are the two things so often considered as one? Because the 12-year Nazi period, which was characterized by ethnonationalist and racist antisemitism, is seen in the post-Shoah consciousness as a prototype for the hatred of Jews. Because many people still reflexively associate the hatred of Jews with right-wing ideologies and ignore the long history of anti-Judaism. In the Nazi period, hatred of Jews and racism were bound together, a symbiosis which created the race-based phantasm of worthless life whereby Jews were degraded to the status of an “inferior, non-Aryan race”. But the National Socialists, too, remained attached to the concept of a powerful world evil and the idea of deliverance associated with the old form of anti-Judaism. They saw “World Jewry” as a powerful danger that had to be eradicated “for the good of mankind”. This eliminationist antisemitism led to the mass murder known as the Shoah.

Antisemitism is a category of thought and feeling pertaining to the history of civilization, deeply rooted in collective consciousness and memory. Hatred of Jews stands out as a unique phenomenon in human history, and it must be diagnosed and treated as such; any other approach would be futile and a waste of resources. Subsuming antisemitism within racism levels out its social bandwidth and marginalizes its genuine characteristics, making it impossible to combat effectively.

**About:** Professor Monika Schwarz-Friesel is Chair of the Department of General Linguistics at the Technical University of Berlin. Her research focuses in particular on the verbal manifestation of current antisemitism.

## 5. Guest article by Christina Späti: Antisemitism in Switzerland: an assessment of developments since October 2023

The significant increase in antisemitic comments, offensive graffiti, insults and assaults since 7 October 2023 allows us to draw various conclusions. Firstly, that taboos are being broken, and secondly, that “normalization” is taking place, a process of habituation to certain antisemitic statements. Not all the phenomena described below are new. However, while before Hamas’ attack they seemed confined to fairly small, relatively clearly defined groups, such as those from the radical left or right, today they find popularity in broader social milieus, indeed in “mainstream society”.

### Breaking taboos

In most sections of the population, anti-Jewishness is no longer an integral part of a closed world view, as had generally been the case before 1945. This means that certain conditions must exist for antisemitic statements to be made at all. Since 1945, such contexts have typically arisen when Israel or the Shoah have been under discussion.

These contextual conditions allow taboos to be broken. During the post-war period, when the extent of the Nazi crimes became clear and turned into an integral part of the collective memory, antisemitic statements and attitudes became taboo. However, if there is an opportunity, i.e. an instance of (apparent)



misconduct on the part of Jews, this could and still can be interpreted as “permission” to express oneself in an antisemitic manner.

## Code words

Another strategy to get around the taboo of antisemitism is the use of code words. Here, the terms “Jew” or “Judaism” are replaced by other terms in order not to avoid accusations of antisemitism. The term “Zionist” can be used as a cover to actually include a larger group of Jews – because the term “Zionist” is difficult to define has a long history and includes very different people with widely varying ideas about the state of Israel or Judaism as a nation. If “Zionist” is used as an insult, as is sometimes the case today, it is associated with an ahistorical concept of Zionism. Based on the current situation in the Middle East, a picture is being constructed of Zionism as an enemy alleged to have been genocidal in nature from the outset.

## Lack of differentiation between Israel and Jews

Since October 2023, another phenomenon has become increasingly apparent: the reluctance to make a distinction between Israel and Judaism/Jews. This manifests itself in various situations, in particular in the refusal to embrace Jewish cultural bodies for example, or in the transfer of accusations against Israel to Jewish institutions or individuals, as shown by the offensive graffiti on (supposedly) Jewish establishments. Equally, there is a similar expectation that Jews should distance themselves from Israel or Zionism. This is an expression of stereotyping and generalization, which are also typical of racism in its various forms.

## Normalization and habituation effects

It is precisely the increasing blurring of identification and the increase in stereotyping that testify to a certain “normalization” of patterns of reasoning that are classified as antisemitic by all definitions. There is a noticeable habituation effect; the limits of what can be said have shifted. Social media also plays an important role in this. Massive oversimplification, algorithms, the constant presence of the topic and also anonymity all contribute significantly to normalization. Social media creates a globalized collective sense of togetherness in which solidarity with Palestine is equated with “being on the right side of history”. Slogans are internationalized, and there is no longer any distinction drawn between the different contexts of the Gaza Strip, the West Bank or Europe.

## Physical exclusion

Physical mechanisms of exclusion are also a new phenomenon: many Jews no longer go to certain places, such as cultural institutions or demonstrations. There is a structural antisemitism here, which has a subliminal effect and – it appears – is not questioned by the responsible authorities. A similar process occurs when it is postulated that there is no place for “Zionists” in a certain place, such as a university. Another parallel to this is that antisemitic patterns of interpretation are not taken seriously when identified and thus the victims of antisemitism are denied legitimacy. A subliminal reversal of the perpetrator-victim roles is taking place: the attitude that, in view of the dire conditions in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, Jews in Switzerland do not have the right to regard certain comments or attacks as antisemitic.



## Lack of knowledge about antisemitism

Antisemitism is not given any significant consideration in the school or university curriculum; the number of experts in this field in Switzerland is extremely low. Nevertheless, since October 2023, there has not only been a noticeable rise in antisemitism, but also in interest in it. This is welcome, because only knowledge of the antisemitic patterns of interpretation, which can be latent, subliminal and hidden behind code words, can enable distancing from them.

**About:** Professor Christina Späti is a professor in the Department of Contemporary History at the University of Fribourg. Her research interests include the Holocaust and its aftermath, anti-semitism, anti-Zionism and the 1968 movement.

## 6. The atmosphere within the Jewish community after 7 October 2023

For many Jewish people in Switzerland, since 7 October 2023 antisemitism has become not just a statistical variable, but an everyday experience that affects their sense of security and participation in society. In addition to the statistically recorded incidents, numerous events occurred after those attacks that cannot be classified as antisemitic, but that, taken together, contributed to an atmosphere perceived as stressful or threatening. This development was particularly evident in university and cultural environments.

At universities, pro-Palestine and anti-Israel activists organized a variety of events. These were often accompanied by calls for the destruction of Israel, calls for violence, and

the glorification of terrorists. In university chat groups, activists mobilized campaigns and distributed flyers with problematic content. These activities created an atmosphere for Jewish students and professors that prevented many from attending the university when such activities were announced or carried out. Activists also targeted their campaigns at particular individuals and events. A Jewish professor was verbally attacked online, and a group of demonstrators were waiting for him after a lecture. Demonstrators caused massive disruption to a guest lecture given by an Israeli science professor. They also interfered with a lecture on antisemitism at the University of Zurich. At one university, activists published a pillory list with the names of university members who had academic contacts with Israeli universities. In several cases, activists threatened to continue their actions until all collaboration with Israeli universities, research institutes and professors was stopped. These activities put a strain on academic contacts and endangered academic freedom at Swiss universities.

In the cultural sector, too, activists created a similar mood for cultural professionals and visitors. Cultural professionals were repeatedly asked about their attitudes towards Israel, although in fact only one particular position was deemed acceptable. Activists insulted people who were perceived as “Zionists” – in other words, those who did not stand up uncompromisingly against Israel – and pushed them out of events and groups. Other creators often distanced themselves from these people or failed to show public solidarity. They acted out of fear that they themselves would be attacked as “too pro-Israel”. This dynamic affected both Jewish and non-Jewish creators. However, when those affected were Jewish, they in particular came under general suspicion if they did not actively distance themselves from Israel. For those interested in Jewish culture, it became increasingly difficult to attend concerts, theatre performances or readings. They



had to learn to always expect artists to make pro-Palestinian and anti-Israeli statements during or after events, some of which included calls for violence – without any direct connection to the content of the event.

These developments can only be recorded statistically to a limited extent and do not affect all Jewish people in Switzerland the same way. However, a survey conducted in December 2024 (no corresponding survey is available for 2025), along with a great deal of feedback from sources close to the SIG and GRA, show that many of those affected perceive this atmosphere as distressing. They conceal their Jewish identity, discard religious symbols and feel displaced from certain social spaces.

## 7. Safety of the Jewish community in Switzerland

Although there is currently a ceasefire in Gaza, the events of 7 October 2023 and the conflicts in the Middle East since then continue to have a major impact on the tense security situation. There can be no question of any easing in terms of security. Attacks such as those made on a Hanukkah celebration in Sydney and on a synagogue in Manchester particularly exemplify the vulnerability of the Jewish community to radicalized individuals and extremist groups.

At the same time, these actions represent a development that has been observed for more than a decade: in Europe, Australasia and the USA there were repeated targeted attacks on Jewish life and Jewish institutions. These include the attacks on the Jewish Museum in Brussels, a synagogue in Copenhagen, a Jewish school in Toulouse, a supermarket for kosher goods in Paris, and synagogues in Halle, Pittsburgh and San Diego. This series of incidents

makes it clear that this is not a temporary phenomenon, but a lasting and real security risk.

The situation in Switzerland must also be assessed against this background. The level of antisemitic violence has increased, and the impact of the highly charged dynamics associated with the conflicts in the Middle East is being felt right in the heart of Swiss society. The Swiss Federal Intelligence Service (FIS) classifies this dynamic as dangerous and considers Jewish and Israeli institutions and people in particular to be at increased risk. The near-fatal attack on a Jewish man in Zurich-Selnau in 2024 remains firmly in the memory. In addition, there have been repeated violations of Jewish institutions in Switzerland in recent years, including offensive graffiti and an attempted arson attack with petrol on a synagogue in Zurich.

The Jewish community in Switzerland has therefore also been faced with increased security requirements for decades. In response to the worsening threat, security measures have been continuously adapted and strengthened. These include structural security and the deployment of security personnel, as well as training opportunities at various levels. The associated costs have long been a heavy burden on Jewish communities. Many institutions have found themselves forced to make savings on key tasks such as education, culture or community life – the core of their religious practice.

After years of debates about accountability and responsibilities regarding safety and security, the unsatisfactory situation was acknowledged by the federal government in 2017. Finally, in November 2019, the Federal Council enacted the “Verordnung über Massnahmen zur Gewährleistung der Sicherheit von Minderheiten mit besonderen Schutzbedürfnissen” (Ordinance on measures to ensure the protection of minorities with special security needs, VSMS), which has since formed the central



framework for supporting security-related measures for vulnerable minorities. The ordinance is based on a security concept that was developed in a working group with the participation of the federal government, cantons, cities and the minority groups affected, including the SIG. It supports security-related projects in the areas of structural and technical measures, training, awareness-raising and information. The SIG has repeatedly welcomed this.

In the first application cycles from 2020 to 2022, the federal government only provided up to CHF 500,000 per year. The large number of applications submitted – predominantly from the Jewish community – made the urgent need clear. A total of 27 applications were approved during this period, 23 of them from Jewish communities and institutions. However, the need significantly exceeded the available funds, meaning that many essential projects could not be considered. At the same time, it became clear that support with ongoing security costs was also urgently needed. The Federal Council increased the funds to CHF 2.5 million per year from 2023. Within this framework, for the first time, holistic security concepts were also taken into account, with the aim of cushioning the high ongoing security costs of at-risk facilities. However, demand remained high. In 2023, 34 applications were approved, 26 of which were from the Jewish community. In spite of the increase in funding, needs continued to exceed the available resources by a considerable margin.

Following the renewed tightening of the security situation after 7 October 2023, Parliament approved a further increase of CHF 2.5 million in December 2023. In 2024, 36 applications were approved, 34 of them from Jewish institutions. At the beginning of 2025, the number of approved applications rose to 44, of which 37 came from the Jewish community. In May 2025, the Federal Council concluded that a further temporary increase was necessary in

view of the continued high demand. A total of CHF 6 million per year is now available for 2026 and 2027. For 2026, the Federal Office of Police (fedpol) pledged support to 54 organizations, including 45 from the Jewish community. The approved measures include organizational measures (mostly ongoing security costs), the strengthening of structural and technical protection measures in the event of an attack motivated by terrorism or violent extremism, training in risk recognition and strengthening threat prevention, as well as awareness-raising and information measures.

At the same time, the federal government has repeatedly called on the cantons to contribute their own share of the costs. Today, almost all cantons and cities with substantial Jewish communities contribute accordingly. Particularly comprehensive and established solutions exist in the cantons and cities of Zurich, Basel-Stadt, Geneva and Bern. Further funding has been allocated in the cantons of Lucerne and Vaud and in the cities of Biel, Lausanne and Winterthur, amongst others.

The decisions made by Parliament and the Federal Council take into account the tense security situation. However, the financial relief will not be felt immediately: the approval and implementation processes will take time. Until then, Jewish communities and institutions will still have to continuously adapt to the security requirements needed to protect members, institutions, schools, etc. The SIG expressly welcomes the decisions taken, but is clear in its view that all cantons containing Jewish institutions must make a lasting and substantial contribution to the ongoing security costs. The aim remains sustainable financing for the security of Jewish life in Switzerland, supported jointly by the federal government, the cantons and the cities.



## 8. Recommendations and action areas

The annual Report on Antisemitism by the SIG and the GRA provides a systematic basis for assessing antisemitic developments in Switzerland. The documented incidents and their evaluation reveal the manifestations, scope and causes of antisemitic tendencies. Over the course of several years, patterns, changes and structural dynamics can be derived from this. These findings are not only relevant for the work of the SIG and the GRA, but also for policymakers, educational institutions, the media and stakeholders in society. They enable a differentiated assessment of the situation and serve as a basis for measures in the areas of prevention, awareness-raising and law enforcement. At the same time, it is clear that civil society organizations and Jewish associations are reaching their limits in terms of their human and financial resources. Against this backdrop, the SIG and the GRA see an increased need for action on the part of the state. The aim is to provide a regular, comprehensive 360-degree view of the topic of antisemitism in Switzerland. An important point of reference is the National Strategy Against Racism and Antisemitism adopted by the Federal Council in December 2025. The details of the action plan to be drawn up in 2026 will be decisive for their impact. The aspects outlined below are particularly important here.

### Financing and visibility

Adequate human and financial resources are needed for the strategy to be implemented effectively. The responsible bodies must be properly equipped to carry out their tasks sustainably and over the long term. Simply redistributing existing tasks within the current structures is not enough. There should also be greater clarity about the responsibilities of the

implementing bodies. It would therefore make sense for their responsibility for antisemitism to be reflected in their names to make it clear that the fight against antisemitism lies at the institution's core.

### Strengthening prevention: securing data and monitoring

Prevention is a key focus of the strategy. This requires a robust database founded upon wide-ranging monitoring. This is the only way to identify developments at an early stage and plan out targeted preventive measures. The continuation and further development of representative surveys such as “Coexistence in Switzerland” is therefore indispensable in the fight against racism and antisemitism. It identifies trends at an early stage and forms the foundation for evidence-based measures.

### Compulsory education programmes in schools

Education is a key lever in dealing with antisemitism. In-depth history lessons and targeted awareness-raising programmes are key to reducing prejudices and antisemitic attitudes in the long term. Antisemitism and the Holocaust must be mandatory components of the curriculum in all Swiss cantons. Effective prevention programmes to combat antisemitism are also needed. Critical training on media literacy aims to sensitize students to antisemitic stereotypes and conspiracy stories and to help them recognize and classify disinformation.

### The fight against online hate speech

Effective legal regulations are urgently needed for online platforms, along the lines of the European Union's Digital Services Act. Operators need to be made more accountable. This



includes, in particular, obliging social media platforms to maintain a domicile address in Switzerland so that law enforcement authorities have a clear point of contact. In addition, the platforms themselves should be required to significantly step up their efforts to curb antisemitic content. This applies in particular to Telegram. The new Platform Act (KomPG), on which the consultation was recently conducted, is a first step towards Swiss regulation. Finally, Swiss criminal law must be questioned over its ability to punish online hate speech in the same way that applies in the real world.

## National awareness campaign

In parts of Swiss society there is insufficient awareness of the origins and scope of antisemitism. However, antisemitism does not only affect Jews: in fact, it represents a threat to democracy. Antisemitic conspiracy myths about alleged Jewish control delegitimize democratic processes and undermine trust in the rule of law. Authorities should therefore take firm action against this. The public needs continuous education and awareness-raising on antisemitism – not only as a response to escalating incidents, but as an ongoing preventive measure.



## 9. Appendices

### 9.1 Data

Form	Phy.				Verb.				Com.			Pub.	Dam.	Graf.	PB.	Act.	Sen.	On.	Total
Content	A	A	S	O	A	S	O	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	Total	Total	Total		
General antisemitism	5	26	14	0	30	38	859	2	3	18	3	87	52	859	998				
Shoah denial/trivialisation	0	0	0	0	3	3	136	0	0	2	0	5	3	136	144				
Israel-related antisemitism	0	2	0	0	1	2	272	8	0	8	6	25	2	272	299				
Antisemitic conspiracy theories	0	0	0	0	0	3	918	0	0	0	0	0	3	918	921				
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>2185</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>2185</b>	<b>2362</b>				

**Key:** Phy. = physical assault / Verb. = verbal abuse / Com. = comments / Pub. = public acts / Dam. = damage to property / Graf. = offensive graffiti / PB. = posters/banners / Act./A = actions / Sen./S = sent items / On./O = online.



## 9.2 Methodology

### 9.2.1 How does the SIG find out about incidents?

**Reported incidents:** The SIG operates an anti-semitism reporting and advice centre. Incidents that have been observed or experienced personally can be reported via a contact form or by phone or email. These may include physical assaults, verbal abuse, offensive graffiti, letters and messages, or posts or comments seen on the internet or social media. By following up contacts and conducting research it is possible to verify whether the incident occurred as described and whether it was definitely a case of antisemitism. If necessary, the credibility of witnesses or other parties involved may be investigated. Only once the verification process is complete is the incident added to the list of antisemitic incidents for the year concerned.

**Media monitoring:** The SIG also carries out monitoring of the media and records antisemitic incidents which are reported upon there.

**Online research:** Since the beginning of 2024, the SIG has been using special search software for online monitoring. It searches social media platforms, comment sections of online media and websites for specific terms and also detects whether the posts originate from Switzerland. The posts received in this way are then individually assessed by SIG staff to determine whether they can be classified as antisemitic according to the IHRA definition. This new type of monitoring allows a more comprehensive picture of online antisemitism in Switzerland. The fact that a direct comparison with the figures in the earlier reports is no longer possible had to be accepted.



## 9.2.2 Geographical scope

This report lists antisemitic incidents which took place in the German, Italian and Romansh language areas of Switzerland in 2025. Incidents in the French-speaking part of the country are recorded by the **Coordination intercommunautaire contre l'Antisémitisme et la Diffamation (CICAD)\***. The incidents recorded have to have taken place in Switzerland or affect Switzerland in some way. Online incidents are of relevance if the author or recipient of a post is resident in Switzerland or if the organization operating the website is Swiss.

\* All French-speaking Jewish communities of the SIG and the SIG itself are members of CICAD.

## 9.2.3 Reporting behaviour

A fundamental difficulty associated with any quantitative analysis of antisemitism is that incidents can only be recorded if they are actually reported or become known by other means. In Switzerland as elsewhere, a large number of unrecorded cases must be assumed, which are neither reported nor prosecuted. There are various reasons for this: the victim may feel that there is no point in publicizing the incident or reporting it to the police, or the perpetrator may be a colleague or fellow student and the victim does not want to make their situation even worse for themselves.

It is almost impossible to estimate how many incidents go unrecorded. However, a study published in 2024 by the Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW), entitled “Erfahrungen und Wahrnehmungen von Antisemitismus unter Jüdinnen und Juden in der Schweiz” (“Experiences and perceptions of antisemitism among Jews in Switzerland”), gives some insights into the context of the unrecorded cases. For example, victims would often come to the conclusion that it was not worth reporting

an incident to the police or a specialist organization such as the SIG or the GRA – whether because of the time and effort involved, or the possible consequences, or for other reasons. It is of concern that these are often cases of verbal abuse and insults in public spaces and also in the workplace. The SIG therefore encourages members of the Jewish community to report antisemitic incidents to the SIG so that we can compile as complete a picture as possible.

## 9.2.4 Definitions: antisemitism and criticism of the state of Israel

### Antisemitism

#### Definition by the IHRA

The SIG uses the definition of antisemitism and illustrative examples provided by the **International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA)**. The definition is also recognized in most other European countries and used by most Jewish organizations in Europe: *“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”*

Examples are:

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion;
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as a collective – such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions;



- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews;
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust);
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust;
- Accusing Jewish individuals of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations;
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g. by claiming that the existence of a state of Israel is a racist endeavour;
- Applying double standards by requiring Israel to behave in a way that is not expected or demanded of any other democratic state;
- Using symbols and images associated with traditional antisemitism (e.g. the murder of Christ or blood libel) to describe Israel or Israelis;
- Drawing comparisons between contemporary Israeli policy and that of the Nazis;
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.

### **Recognition of the IHRA definition in Switzerland**

The IHRA definition of antisemitism is now recognized and applied by 30 countries along with various cities and organizations. The IHRA, of which Switzerland is a member, approved this definition in 2016. The European Parliament called upon its member states to adopt it in 2017.

In response to a postulate by Council of States member Paul Rechsteiner, the Federal Council published its report on the IHRA definition of antisemitism in June 2021. In it, the Federal Council acknowledged the value and practical relevance of the IHRA's working definition, which is not legally binding. The Federal Council further emphasized that the IHRA's working definition must be interpreted within the context of specific cases. All parties involved in this issue in the public and private sectors are therefore encouraged to familiarize themselves fully with this working definition and the debate surrounding it.

Of the major political parties in Switzerland, the Social Democratic Party SP officially recognized the IHRA definition in May 2019, the Free Democratic Party FDP in September 2021, the Green Liberal Party in November 2021 and The Centre in January 2022. In October 2024 and January 2025, the Young Liberals and the Young Centre also joined their parent parties.

### **Symbols**

The SIG only classifies daubed or sprayed Nazi symbols such as swastikas or SS insignia as antisemitic if their use is directly or indirectly connected to Jewish people or institutions. For example, they would have to be applied directly to a synagogue or other building belonging to a Jewish institution, or in conjunction with Jewish symbols, or be interpreted as being anti-Jewish (indirectly) through the context. The same applies to the Hamas red triangle, which has been used frequently since 7 October 2023.

### **Criticism of the state of Israel**

Criticism of the state of Israel or its politics is not generally antisemitic as long as the criticism is made in the same way that one would criticize any other country. Criticism of Israel is antisemitic if:



- double standards are applied by requiring of Israel behaviour not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation;
- equivalence is given to “Israelis” and “Jews”;
- symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism are used to portray or characterize Israel or Israelis, such as through the use of symbols and images traditionally associated with antisemitism (e.g. claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel);
- current Israeli policy is equated to that of the National Socialists;
- Israel’s right to exist is denied.

## 9.2.5 Incidents and their categories (with examples)

Reports submitted and the results of research are categorized as:

**Incidents:** Cases of obvious antisemitism.

**Cases** in which **no antisemitism** is present and which are therefore not included in the statistics.

**Incidents** are divided into the following sub-categories according to their content:

**General antisemitism:** These incidents involve classic antisemitic stereotypes, e.g. Jews are mercenary, Jews control the banks and the media or Judaism is the devil’s religion;

**Shoah denial and Shoah trivialization:** This category includes denying that the Shoah (Holocaust) happened, or trivializing or down-playing it;

**Israel-related antisemitism:** This is antisemitism linked to the state of Israel (see the section on “Criticism of the state of Israel” on page 30);

**Contemporary antisemitic conspiracy theories:** This category covers conspiracy theories that go beyond the classic “Jews rule the

world” idea and have proliferated in recent times, e.g.: “The Rothschild family and the entrepreneur George Soros are responsible for the waves of refugees because they want to manipulate European ethnicity. The aim is to create a stupid ‘Negroid mixed race’ which is easier to control by the elite Jewish bankers.” Or: “Jews invented the coronavirus so they can use vaccines to sterilize and kill people.”

There are also categories for the different type of incident:

**Physical assault, verbal abuse, comments, public acts, damage to property, offensive graffiti, and posters/banners.**

**Physical assault (Phy.):** physical attacks, motivated by antisemitism, on people who are Jewish or presumed to be Jewish.

**Verbal abuse (Verb.):** antisemitic abuse directly targeted at people who are Jewish or presumed to be Jewish, e.g. “Fucking Jew”, “Get in the gas chamber”, or “Shame Hitler missed you”.

**Comments (Com.):** comments with antisemitic content, not directly targeted at a specific person.

**Public acts (Pub.):** public demonstrations of antisemitic thinking, for example at demonstrations, or by aiming Nazi salutes at Jewish people.

**Damage to property (Dam.):** damage to synagogues, Jewish institutions, Jewish cemeteries or Jewish businesses where the motive can reasonably be assumed to be of an antisemitic nature.

**Offensive graffiti (Graf.):** graffiti, painted images or stickers with obvious antisemitic content.

**Posters/banners (PB):** posters or banners on public display with obvious antisemitic content.



For two of the incident types (verbal abuse and comments), a decision may be made as to whether they also belong in the sub-categories of action, sent item or online incident.

**Actions (Act.):** anything occurring as part of an interaction with people or buildings.

**Sent items (Sen.):** anything sent to a person, i.e. letters, packages, emails, text messages, etc.

**Online (On.):** anything occurring in the digital realm or on the internet, e.g. on a website, in the comments sections of online media or on social media such as X, TikTok and Instagram.

An incident is only assigned to one incident type category. There is therefore no double counting. Where an incident could be placed in more than one category, the most serious is selected. For example, damage to property would take precedence over graffiti, and physical assault over verbal abuse.

Examples of incident types:

**Physical assault:** In February, a man in Lucerne assaulted a recognizably Jewish man on the street. The assailant insulted the victim and punched him in the face.

**Verbal abuse:** In March, two young people in the canton of Schaffhausen insulted a man with a kippah as a “fucking Jew” and spat on the ground in front of him.

**Comments:** In August, a hotel in the canton of Graubünden turned away Jewish tourists. The hotel employee said openly, “We don’t let out rooms to Jews.”

**Public acts:** At a demonstration, a speaker called out an antisemitic slogan, which was loudly chanted by the participants.

**Damage to property:** In December, Hanukkah menorahs on public display in two cities in the canton of Ticino were stolen and destroyed.

**Offensive graffiti:** In December, the words “Swiss people fight back, don’t buy from Jews!” were written on a station wall in Zurich.

**Posters/banners:** At an anti-WEF demonstration, Israel was labelled with the antisemitic topos: “enemy of mankind”.





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## Publishing details

**Publisher:** Swiss Federation of Jewish  
Communities SIG and GRA Foundation Against  
Racism and Antisemitism, Zurich 2026

**Design:** SolitaireDesign

The report can be downloaded as a PDF free  
of charge from [www.antisemitismus.ch](http://www.antisemitismus.ch).