

National Synthesis

There are two reports on antisemitism in Switzerland: one covering the country’s German, Italian and Romansh language areas and one for the French-speaking part. This reflects Switzerland’s federal structure and its multicultural nature, as well as the organisational structure of its Jewish community. The present synthesis summarises the most important trends and presents numbers for the whole of Switzerland.

When analysing the similarities and differences in the individual language areas, it must be remembered that people in the French-speaking parts of Switzerland are culturally influenced by France, while in the German-speaking areas, influences from Germany are noticeable, albeit to a lesser degree.

The Hamas attack against Israel on October 7 2023, and the following war was a big trigger for antisemitic incidents in all parts of Switzerland. As a result, the numbers of incidents rose up massively in the last three months of the year at a national level.

	German, Italian and Romansh language areas		French language area		Switzerland overall	
	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
Antisemitic incidents (assaults, verbal abuse, vandalism)	155	57	145	28	300	85
Antisemitic incidents on digital platforms	975	853	799	534	1774	1387
Total registered incidents	1130	910	944	562	2074	1472
Distribution across categories						
Conspiracy theories	447	498	128	114	575	612
Israel-related antisemitism	227	58	229	35	456	93
Shoah denial/ trivialization	53	46	175	280	228	326
Traditional antisemitism	403	308	412	133	815	441

Synthese
Synthèse
Sintesi

Geneva/Zurich, 21.03.2024

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Physical violence, verbal abuse, and vandalism

All over Switzerland, we observed a strong increase in antisemitic incidents, such as physical violence, antisemitic verbal abuse, graffiti, and public statements. The German-speaking part registered over 10 cases of physical assault, while in French-speaking region there were mostly cases of verbal abuses. These incidents occurred nearby Jewish sites, but also at school. After October 7, many Jewish kids in French-speaking Switzerland became the target of their classmates.

Moreover, around the year, 98 antisemitic graffiti were reported in French-speaking Switzerland. This is mostly due to an antisemitic campaign led by the National Swiss Front during the Summer.

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Antisemitism on digital platforms

The number of antisemitic incidents on social media continued to rise in the German, Italian and Romansh language areas in 2023, but not as steeply as in the year before. Around half of the incidents occurred in October, November, and December.

In French-speaking Switzerland an increase of 49% was recorded. After October 7, the number of cases recorded online tripled compared to the previous months of the year. Known antisemites became even more active on social media, readers' letters, and instant messaging platforms. Moreover, new groups and internauts became very vocal by sharing antisemitic contents on social media such as X and Instagram.

In addition to the strong increase in Israel-related antisemitism, the category "traditional antisemitism" also increased throughout Switzerland. This clearly shows that the Middle East conflict serves as a trigger for antisemitism in all milieus and also with no direct connection to Israel.

Israel-related antisemitism

The biggest trigger was of course the Hamas attacks and the following war. Therefore, the percentage of Israel-related incidents in the German-speaking part of Switzerland was around three times as high as 2022. In French-speaking Switzerland, we observed the same phenomenon. Israel-related antisemitism is not only present online, but also during protests and events.



Shoah denial

Denial or trivialisation of the Shoah was around the same in the German, Italian and Romansh language areas in the year under review. The difference was that the Shoah-denier tried more to prove that they are right with supposed historic evidence. In the French-speaking region, Holocaust denial decreased. This is notably since the main Holocaust denier in French-speaking Switzerland was in prison for a few months

Antisemitic conspiracy theories

Conspiracy theories are still the biggest share of all categories of antisemitic incidents in the German-speaking part. The focus of the theories also shifted after October 7th. But Covid-19, the War in Ukraine and the traditional “Jewish world conspiracy” are still a major part of this theories.

Jewish conspiracy theories don't represent the main share of antisemitic incidents in French-speaking Switzerland anymore. Since the end of Covid-19 and because of the seemingly not ending war in Ukraine, conspirationists are not as preeminent. In the French-speaking region, antisemitic incidents mainly fall into the category of so-called “traditional” antisemitism and take the form of caricatures, traditional antisemitic insults or physical insults.

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This synthesis is based on the "Antisemitism Report 2023 for German-, Italian- and Romansh-speaking Switzerland" by the Swiss Federation of Jewish Communities SIG and the GRA Foundation against Racism and Antisemitism and the "Rapport Annuel Antisémitisme en Suisse Romande 2023" by the Coordination intercommunautaire contre l'antisémitisme et la difamation CICAD.