

A person wearing a black and white striped concentration camp uniform and a cap with the number 881688 is holding a sign that reads "Maske macht frei" (Mask makes free). The person's face is blurred. The background is dark and out of focus, showing other people in similar uniforms.

# HOLOCAUST TRIVIALIZATION REPORT:

A Burgeoning Threat  
in 2021-2022



COMBAT  
ANTISEMITISM  
MOVEMENT

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## INTRODUCTION

Between July 2021–July 2022, the Combat Antisemitism Movement (CAM) compiled a database of 214 total public manifestations of trivialization of the Holocaust -- or the purposeful obfuscation of the distinctive nature and scope of the Nazi genocide of the Jews during World War II.

The incidents span 29 countries, over six ideological motivations (COVID-19 Restrictions, Israeli-Palestinian conflict, General Political Opposition and Rhetoric, Russia-Ukraine Conflict, Sports, and Climate Change), and various mediums (In-person, Traditional and Social Media, Acts of Vandalism, and Other).

Of the 214 incidents, 43.46% (93 incidents) were seen in traditional forms of media and social media, 35.05% (75 incidents) took place in-person, 14.95% (32 incidents) were acts of vandalism, 4.21% (9 incidents) transpired in other online venues, and 2.34% (5 incidents) occurred at academic institutions.

The trivialization of Nazi Germany's crimes against humanity fuels Holocaust deniers who seek to downplay Nazi transgressions for nefarious purposes. Allowing Holocaust trivialization to flourish unchecked has regrettably created sanctuaries for antisemitic conspiracies, outright Holocaust denial, and other extremist ideologies to spread. These trends have created a perfect storm, by minimizing Holocaust remembrance and Jewish concerns for safety during an already-resurgent wave of global antisemitism.

Holocaust trivialization is an affront to the memory of the victims and the dignity of survivors. Actual victims of the Nazi atrocities who are still alive are cruelly being forced to witness the common appropriation the symbols, rhetoric, and facts of their suffering to score points in political and cultural battles that have nothing to do with the horrors they experienced.



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# Global Appeal to Top Leaders and Influencers

Top global leaders and influencers have the power to take a stand against Holocaust trivialization. In many parts of Europe, Holocaust denial is an illegal act, codified in both law and policy. Decision-makers worldwide can look to the European Union as an example on how to combat this dangerous issue. Leaders have the necessary influence to diminish and stigmatize this type of rhetoric by both not engaging in Holocaust trivialization themselves as well as publicly denouncing it whenever and wherever it takes place.

With Holocaust trivialization on the rise around the world amid the Covid-19 pandemic, and in an increasingly polarized political environment, good people of conscience from all backgrounds are encouraged to join the collective call on governments, legislators, social media companies, and the public at large to take concrete steps against this threatening form of hate speech.

Every individual can make a difference by committing to the “Never Again” mantra through personal action. They can help teach their communities about the Holocaust, and the dangers of trivialization and rising antisemitism. Holocaust education is a first step, but individuals should also learn about contemporary antisemitism and Jewish life, as well as pre-Holocaust Jew-hatred. Everyone can also elevate their own discourse so that perceived forms of victimhood do not desecrate the memory of the Holocaust and their rhetoric cannot be used as a tool by bad actors to propagate antisemitic ideas.



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# Breakdown of Manifestations of Holocaust Trivialization Incidents by Ideology

Ideologically, Holocaust trivialization incidents occurred most frequently in the realm of COVID-19 Restrictions and Vaccine Regulations. Of the 214 reports, 125 are categorized as relating to Covid-19 pandemic-related health measures implemented by governments around the world – or 58.4% of the total number of incidents. The comparison of contemporary health policies to the systematic persecution and extermination of Jews by the Nazi regime not only minimizes their suffering, but also disregards the uniqueness of the transgressions that Jews and other victims of the Nazis endured during the Holocaust.

A total of **29 reports** fall within the category of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, constituting 13.6% of the total number of incidents. Manifestations included comparisons of the Zionist movement and State of Israel to Nazi Germany, as well the slandering of Israel to an “apartheid” state. These tactics are employed by anti-Israel activists to distort the history of the Holocaust by falsely comparing it to the Jewish state’s treatment of the Palestinians today.

Some **14 reports** are categorized as having to do with Political Opposition and Discourse, making up 6.5% of the total number of incidents. Politicians equated rivals to Adolf Hitler and made comments comparing government initiatives to Nazi policies.

Next, **12 reports** are categorized as having to do with the Russia-Ukraine conflict, making up 5.6% of the total. Most incidents involved Russian political figures comparing Western governments to the Nazi regime, as well as statements about Russia’s goal of the “de-Nazification” of Ukraine.

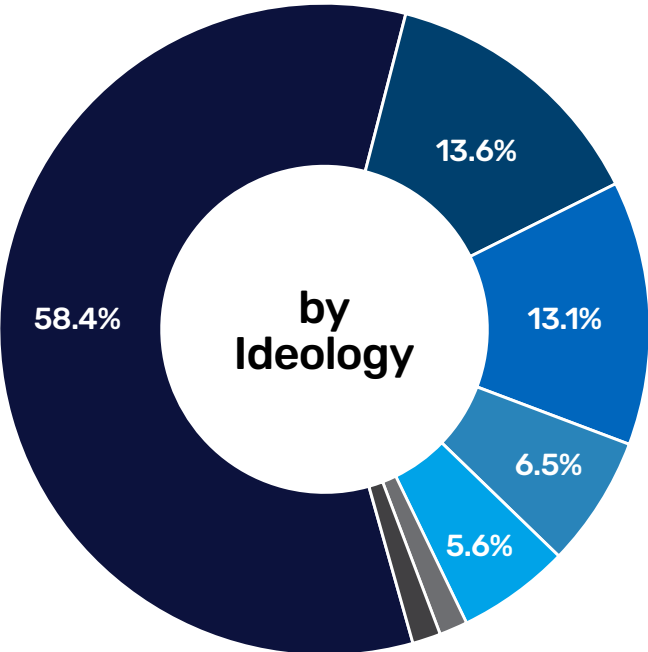
In the Sports and Climate Change categories, there were three reports, or 1.4% of the total, apiece.

A total of **28 reports** were listed in the Other category, ranging from teachers forcing students to reenact scenes from the Holocaust to the vandalization of storefront mannequins with Nazi symbols.

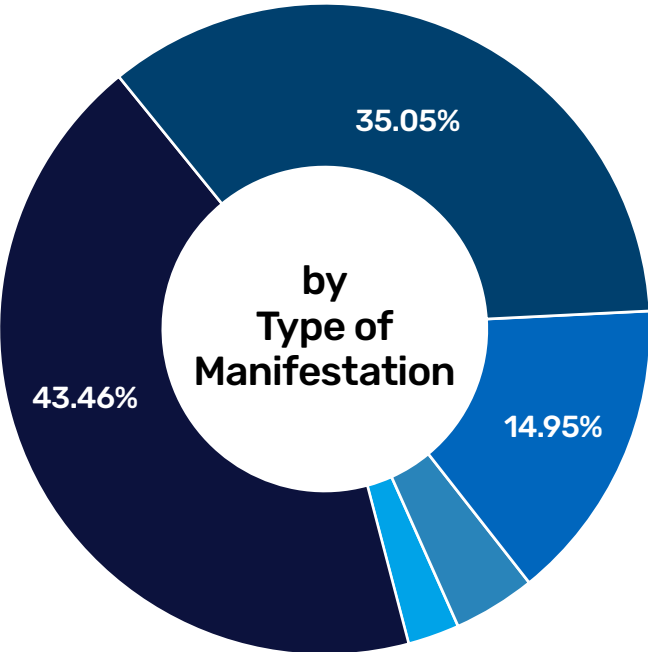
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# Statistical Breakdown of Manifestations of Holocaust Trivialization Incidents by Ideology



reports	% of total
COVID-19 Restrictions	125   58.4%
Israeli-Palestinian Conflict	29   13.6%
Other	28   13.1%
Political Opposition	14   6.5%
Russian-Ukrainian Conflict	12   5.6%
Sports	3   1.4%
Climate Change	3   1.4%



reports	% of total
Traditional and Social Media	93   43.46%
In person	75   35.05%
Acts of vandalism	35   14.95%
Other online sources	9   4.21%
Academia	5   2.34%

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# Breakdown of Manifestations of Holocaust Trivialization Incidents by Country

The United States had the largest amount of incidents recorded within the past year. A total of 80 incidents, or 37.38% of the overall figure, took place there. Within the U.S., 54 of the incidents that occurred, or 67.50% of the total amount in the country, manifested themselves in relation to COVID-19 regulations and policies.

The United Kingdom had the second most number of reported incidents (24, or 11.21% of the total), most of which were related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Israel-related incidents (9) totaled 37.50% of all reports from the United Kingdom. COVID-19 was the second most prevalent ideological category for incidents, with a total of 6, or 25% of the overall figure.

In Russia, all seven reported incidents were related to the Ukraine conflict.



# Statistical Breakdown of Manifestations of Holocaust Trivialization Incidents of the Top 10 Countries



**The United States**

**80** | **37.38%**  
reports | of total



**United Kingdom**

**24** | **11.21%**  
reports | of total



**Germany**

**21** | **9.81%**  
reports | of total



**Australia**

**14** | **6.54%**  
reports | of total



**Canada**

**12** | **5.61%**  
reports | of total



**France**

**9** | **4.21%**  
reports | of total



**Russia**

**7** | **3.27%**  
reports | of total



**The Netherlands**

**5** | **2.34%**  
reports | of total



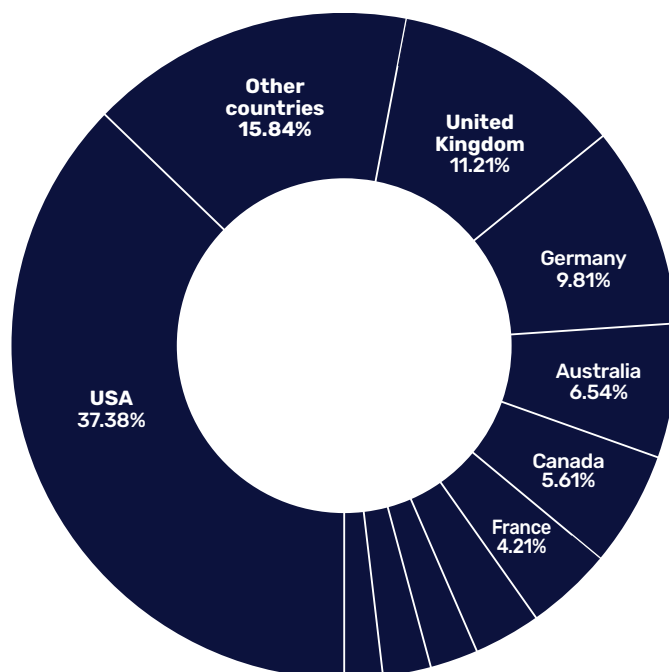
**Italy**

**5** | **2.34%**  
reports | of total



**Israel**

**4** | **1.87%**  
reports | of total



**In total, the top 10 countries make up 84.6% of the total incidents.**

## **Other Countries & Entities amount to 15.84%:**

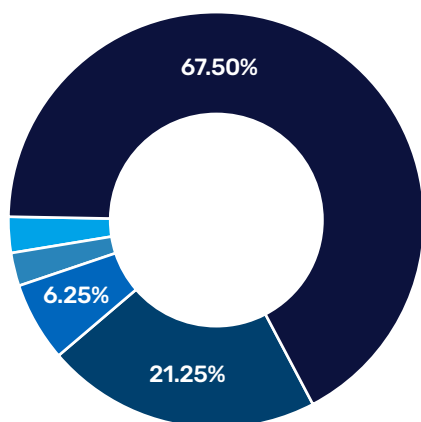
Argentina, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Chile, Estonia, Greece, Hong Kong, Jordan, Lithuania, Mexico, New Zealand, Palestinian Authority, Poland, Romania, Ukraine, Senegal, South Africa, Spain.



## **Statistical Breakdown of Holocaust Trivialization Incidents From The Top Seven Countries**



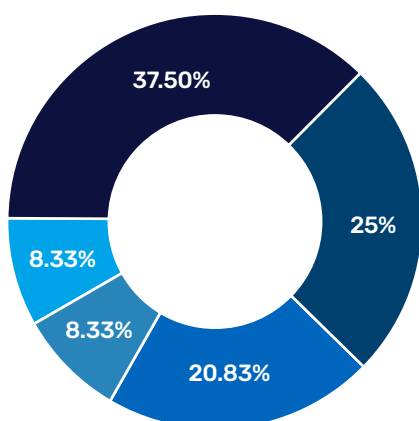
## United States



**Grand Total:**  
**80**  
incidents

COVID-19 Restrictions	54 incidents	67.50% of all incidents in the U.S.
Other	17 incidents	21.25% of all incidents in the U.S.
Political Opposition	5 incidents	6.25% of all incidents in the U.S.
Climate Change	2 incidents	2.50% of all incidents in the U.S.
Israeli-Palestinian Conflict	2 incidents	2.50% of all incidents in the U.S.
Russia-Ukraine Conflict	N/A	
Sports	N/A	

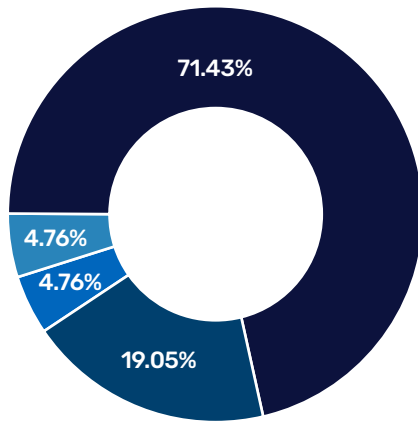
## United Kingdom



**Grand Total:**  
**24**  
incidents

Israeli-Palestinian Conflict	9 incidents	37.50% of all incidents in the UK
COVID-19 Restrictions	6 incidents	25% of all incidents in the UK
Political Opposition	5 incidents	20.83% of all incidents in the UK
Other	2 incidents	8.33% of all incidents in the UK
Sports	2 incidents	8.33% of all incidents in the UK
Russia-Ukraine Conflict	N/A	
Climate Change	N/A	

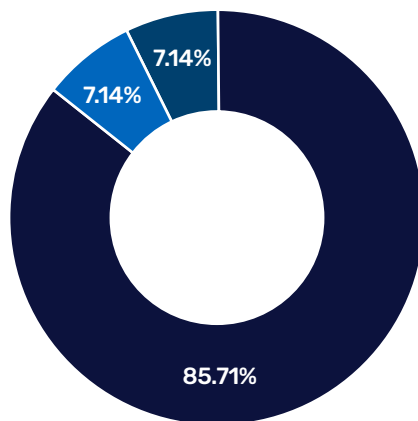
## Germany



**Grand Total:**  
**21**  
incidents

COVID-19 Restrictions	15 incidents	71.43% of all incidents in Germany
Israeli-Palestinian Conflict	4 incidents	19.05% of all incidents in Germany
Other	1 incidents	4.76% of all incidents in Germany
Russia-Ukraine Conflict	1 incidents	4.76% of all incidents in Germany
Political Opposition	N/A	
Climate Change	N/A	
Sports	N/A	

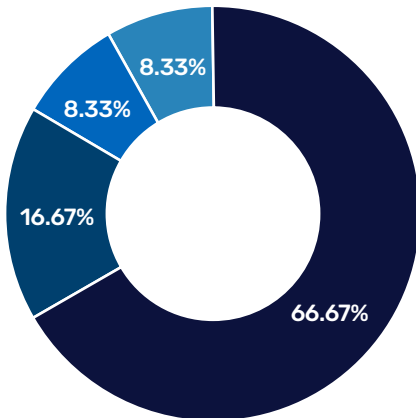
## Australia



**Grand Total:**  
**14**  
incidents

COVID-19 Restrictions	12 incidents	85.71% of all incidents in Australia
Climate Change	1 incidents	7.14% of all incidents in Australia
Political Opposition	1 incidents	7.14% of all incidents in Australia
Israeli-Palestinian Conflict	N/A	
Other	N/A	
Russia-Ukraine Conflict	N/A	
Sports	N/A	

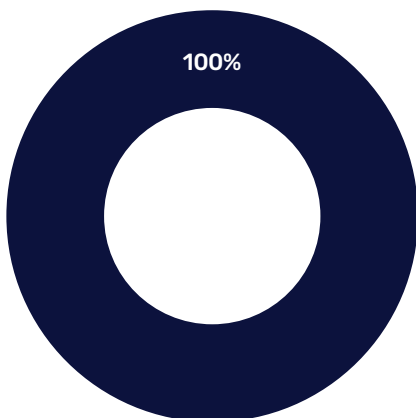
## Canada



**Grand Total:**  
**12**  
incidents

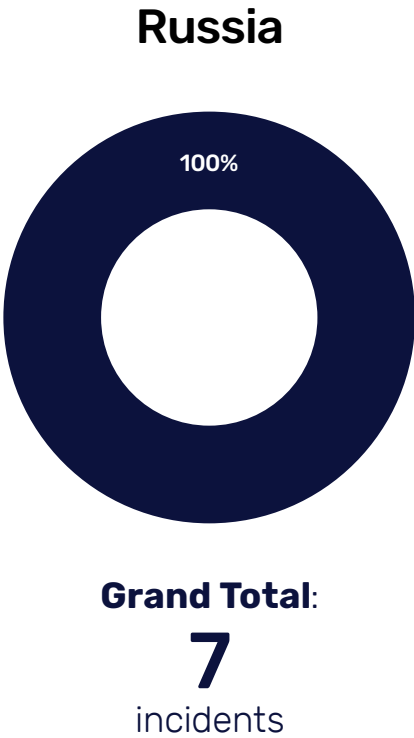
COVID-19 Restrictions	8 incidents	66.67% of all incidents in Canada
Other	2 incidents	16.67% of all incidents in Canada
Israeli-Palestinian Conflict	1 incidents	8.33% of all incidents in Canada
Political Opposition	1 incidents	8.33% of all incidents in Canada
Climate Change	N/A	
Russia-Ukraine Conflict	N/A	
Sports	N/A	

## France

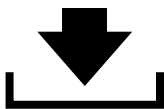


**Grand Total:**  
**9**  
incidents

COVID-19 Restrictions	9 incidents	100% of all incidents in France
Climate Change	N/A	
Israeli-Palestinian Conflict	N/A	
Other	N/A	
Political Opposition	N/A	
Russia-Ukraine Conflict	N/A	
Sports	N/A	



<b>Russia-Ukraine Conflict</b>	<b>7</b> incidents	<b>100%</b> of all incidents in Russia
Climate Change	N/A	
COVID-19 Restrictions	N/A	
Israeli-Palestinian Conflict	N/A	
Other	N/A	
Political Opposition	N/A	
Sports	N/A	



The full set of global  
Holocaust trivialization  
incident data is  
available [here](#).

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Maske an  
Gehirn aus

Freiheit  
Grundrechte  
Selbstbestimmung



COMBAT  
ANTISEMITISM  
MOVEMENT

SMILE BIGGER &  
BE AMAZING TODAY