



Sub-National Efforts to Combat Antisemitism

The Combat Antisemitism Movement's (CAM) Antisemitism Research Center has compiled the following document for the Office of the US Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism, which outlines programs and initiatives intended to combat different forms of antisemitism on the local level. Several programs address antisemitism as a part of wider efforts to combat all forms of hatred, and others specifically address anti-Jewish hatred. All of the highlighted initiatives represent prominent sub-national efforts in Europe and North America intended to combat contemporary forms of antisemitism.

Belgium:

Initiative: Action Plan Against Racism and Antisemitism

Location: Brussels, Belgium

Description: In May 2023 the Brussels City Council adopted an "Action Plan Against Racism and Antisemitism," which is based on the principles of the European Convention on Human Rights. The plan sets out a two-year timetable after which the results of the effort will be evaluated and altered. The overarching objective is to train city staff and raise awareness on racism and antisemitism among the different generations of Brussels society. The plan sets out several parameters including having schools pay special attention to the history of colonialism, immigration, and discrimination. The city will also advertise the plan on city-owned vehicles, adopt a code of ethics regarding racism and antisemitism to be signed by civil servants, and order the employment, housing, and policing agencies to address bigotry.

[Source](#)

Canada:

Initiative: This Toronto for All Campaign

Location: Toronto, Canada

Description: The city launched the program in response to antisemitism being the most reported category of hate crimes for the previous five years. The city paid for 3 educational posters campaigns about antisemitism to be placed around the city. All three included images of old newspapers with headlines about antisemitism. Each contained the tagline "Antisemitism only seems like old news. This happened in 2021." They also included a call for action: "Stop antisemitism now," and a scannable QR code with educational resources. The campaign sought to raise public awareness of the prevalence of antisemitism in Toronto, and encourage residents to "Become Educated, Support Victims, Report Hate Crimes, [and] Create Inclusive Spaces."

[Source](#)

Initiative: Province's Plan to Fight Racism, Hate, and Prejudice in the Classroom

Location: Ontario, Canada

Description: As part of the province's plan to fight racism, hate, and prejudice in the classroom, the Ontario government is allocating \$327,000 from its "Safe Return to Class" fund to produce two summer learning programs. The first program, "Unpacking Intolerance: Equity and Diversity Training for Educators," will provide professional development sessions to help educators learn about dismantling systems of antisemitism. The second program, "Tour for Humanity Virtual Summer Camp," will help



students learn about human rights, dealing with injustice, and encourage ideas for creating positive change.

[Source](#)

Initiative: Community Plan

Location: Guelph, Canada

Description: The Community Plan guides the work of Guelph's municipal government and gives community organizations and residents a shared road map to monitor progress and share what is learned. The Community Plan has three key components: "Listening" to communities and stakeholders, "Strategic Plan Scan," and "Research and trends." The "Research and trends" resulted in the creation of the "Village of 100 People data project" that helps the city understand the dynamics of minority communities better so they can more effectively respond to the challenges they face.

[Source](#)

Initiative: Hate Prevention and Mitigation Initiative

Location: Hamilton, Canada

Description: The initiative culminated in the adoption of 18 recommendations, categorized into four groupings: Proactive Leadership, Centering Communities, Education and Early Intervention, and Regulations and Enforcement. These recommendations led the local government to work directly with the District School Boards to offer proactive education to school-age children and a public relations campaign to educate residents about the prevalence of intolerance. They have also continually collaborated with local organizations in this effort to revise and adjust the program as needed.

[Source](#)

Germany:

Initiative: Appointment of Municipal Antisemitism Commissioner

Location: Bamberg, Germany

Description: The city of Bamberg created the position of antisemitism commissioner, which is unique at this municipal level in Germany, albeit limited until 2024 for now. In working closely with the Jewish community, the commissioner addresses all issues related to Jewish life, remembering the past, and policy actions related to antisemitism. Among key responsibilities of the Commissioner are promoting workshops for various forms of contemporary antisemitism, involvement in promoting interreligious dialogue, promotion of educational programs concerning Jewish traditions and holidays, and monitoring antisemitic incidents while working closely with the city's police and public prosecutor's office.

[Source](#)

Initiative: Berlin Plan to Advance Antisemitism Prevention

Location: Berlin, Germany

Description: Berlin's plan has a multi-dimensional approach covering five areas: The areas include education, the judicial system (with a special envoy to the State Attorney since 2018, a best practice mentioned by the European Commission in 2021), Jewish life in the urban culture, science and research, and prevention of discrimination. The Berlin model is based on integrative cooperation between state agencies and civil society actors. The aim is to integrally link the plan's three central pillars of fighting antisemitism – prevention, intervention, and suppression. Experts from academia, the Jewish community and civil society partners work together. In addition to the group of experts, the plan also aims to



systematically network the administrative units of the Berlin state government, with a similar body at the district level to coordinate and expand antisemitism prevention measures within each of Berlin's twelve city districts. The plan has a permanent contact person (Samuel Salzborn), who coordinates all activities and writes regular reports.

[Source](#)

Initiative: Action Plan against Antisemitism From the Commission on Democracy

Location: Munich, Germany

Description: The Commission coordinates with five areas of activity: administration, education, remembrance culture, security and justice, working with civil society. The commission is the central contact to the municipality on antisemitism issues and gives counseling on the matter of antisemitism and provides training for the administration's staff. Lastly, it helps the administration implement the policies regarding antisemitism and Jewish life. The Commission on Democracy (Fachstelle für Demokratie) serves as "the contact for the Jewish communities and institutions in Munich and to further optimize the contact between the Jewish communities and institutions and the Munich city administration."

[Source](#)

Initiative: Mobile Counseling Against Right-Wing Extremism

Location: Berlin, Germany

Description: The Mobile Counseling Against Right-Wing Extremism program has been the point of contact for anyone interested in learning how to deal with extreme right-wing populist, racist and antisemitic situations in their private or professional lives. The advice service involves local people and is based on their needs, local possibilities and conditions.

[Source](#)

Initiative: Net Olam

Location: State of Lower Saxony, Germany (with national expansion)

Description: The program is dedicated to creating an overview of attacks on Jewish cemeteries from the Weimar era to the present day, with a focus on the federal state of Lower Saxony. The true extent of cemetery desecrations throughout Germany is being assessed for the first time using a comprehensive data collection, with a focus on the years after 1945. This information will build a foundation for further research and also help to develop recommendations for interventions and concrete strategies for protecting endangered objects (i.e. tombstones, cemetery fences and buildings).

[Source](#)

Initiative: The Otto Hirsch Award

Location: Stuttgart, Germany

Description: This program was established in 1985 on the occasion of the 100th birthday of the Ministerial Councilor and Jewish Nazi victim Otto Hirsch. It is awarded annually by the City of Stuttgart together with both the Society for Christian-Jewish Cooperation Stuttgart e. V. and the Jewish Religious Community to personalities who have rendered outstanding services to Christian-Jewish cooperation.

[Source](#)



Poland:

Initiative: The Wrocław Teacher Training Centre (WTTC)

Location: Wrocław, Poland

Description: The project is aimed at students of primary and secondary schools in Wrocław. Its goal is to shape the attitude of tolerance and respect for other religions, nations and beliefs and, at the same time, to make people proud of their history. The project includes educational activities focused on building everyday school life based on mutual respect. The main assumption of the project is to influence children, youth and adults that will be conducive to shaping the attitudes of open and empathetic people caring for others.

[Source](#)

Romania

Initiative: “Words into Action to Address Intolerance”

Location: Bucharest, Romania

Description: The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) organized a workshop for policymakers, teacher trainers, and educators across Romania in partnership with the Romanian Ministry of Education. The workshop aimed to examine effective practices, key policies, and pedagogical approaches that policymakers, teacher trainers, and educators can adopt and promote to ensure that education systems build young people’s resilience to antisemitic bias and all forms of prejudice.

[Source](#)

Sweden:

Initiative: Amanah

Location: Malmö, Sweden

Description: The organization stemmed from the personal relationship that existed between the leader of the Malmö Jewish community, Rabbi Moshe David HaCohen, and the leader of the Malmö Muslim community, Imam Salahuddin Barakat. From their interfaith dialogues and their personal friendship, they formed this organization, which serves as an official collaboration between the two communities, with the support of the municipal government. Amanah acts as a vessel for interfaith dialogue and collaboration, and offers educational seminars at local schools, universities, libraries, and elsewhere in the public sphere. Additionally, they lobby, interact with, and seek to educate local elected officials and bureaucrats about the plights of both communities.

[Source](#)