



A DATA-DRIVEN LOOK AT ANTISEMITISM IN 2023

Far-Left and Far-Right Incidents of Antisemitism
Reach Parity for the First Time in 2023



COMBAT
ANTISEMITISM
MOVEMENT

PUBLISHED BY THE **COMBAT ANTISEMITISM MOVEMENT**
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Following Hamas' October 7th massacre in Israel,

instances of discrimination, harassment, and violence targeting Jewish communities around the world have surged. Large-scale demonstrations celebrating the attack erupted across the [Middle East](#), [Australia](#), [Europe](#), [Canada](#), and the [United States](#), drawing tens of thousands of participants. Amid Israel's ongoing self-defensive military campaign against Hamas in the Gaza Strip, protesters in major European, Canadian, and American cities have defended the kidnapping, rape, and murder of Israeli civilians as "legitimate resistance."

This had significant implications for global levels of antisemitism.

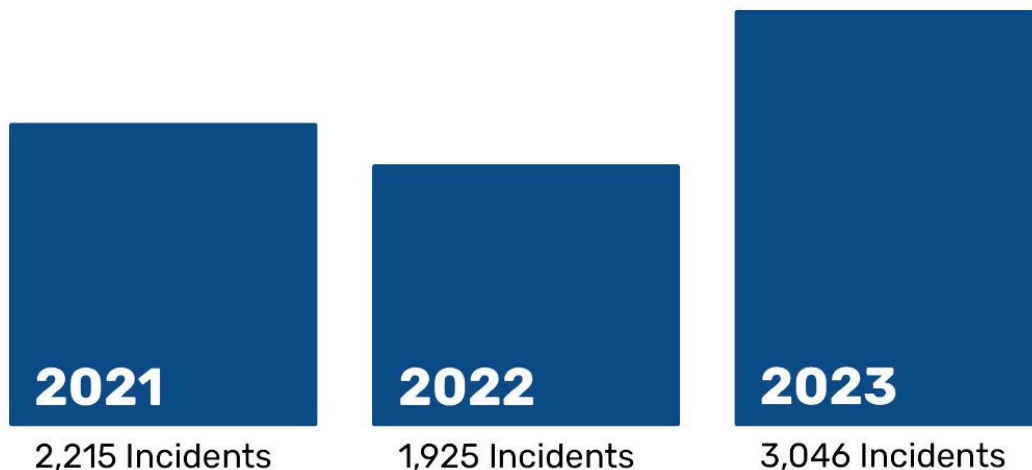


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In 2023, there was a 58.2% increase in monitored incidents compared to 2022,

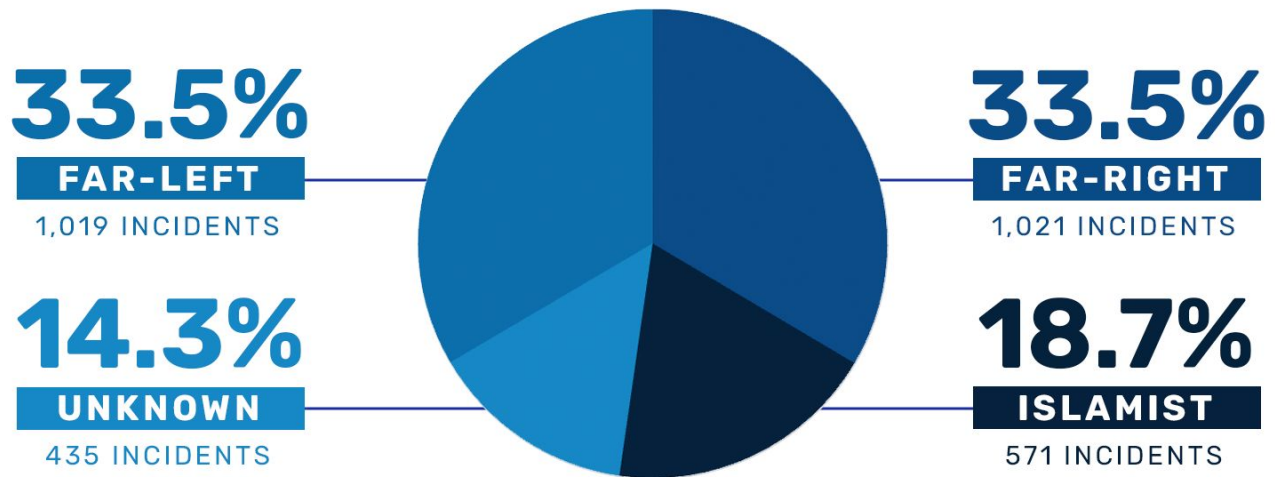
with the Combat Antisemitism Movement's Antisemitism Research Center (ARC) recording 3,046 incidents globally, compared to 1,925 the previous year and 2,215 in 2021. This highlights a concerning international increase in levels of antisemitism.



A comprehensive analysis of the 2023 data showed a significant development:

incidents of antisemitism from far-left (1,019) and far-right (1,021) sources reached parity. This marked the first-ever occurrence of such an alignment, with each ideology contributing 33.5% to the total monitored incidents. Additionally, Islamist incidents (571) accounted for 18.7% of all recorded antisemitic events, while 14.3% were categorized as unattributable (435), indicating unclear motivations of the perpetrators.

3,046 INCIDENTS OF ANTISEMITISM MONITORED GLOBALLY IN 2023



Guided by our data, four key global trends on antisemitism were detected in 2023:

- 1** Increased global antisemitic incidents.
- 2** Sharp rise in far-left incidents.
- 3** Surge of antisemitism on American college campuses.
- 4** Persistence of far-right incidents of antisemitism.

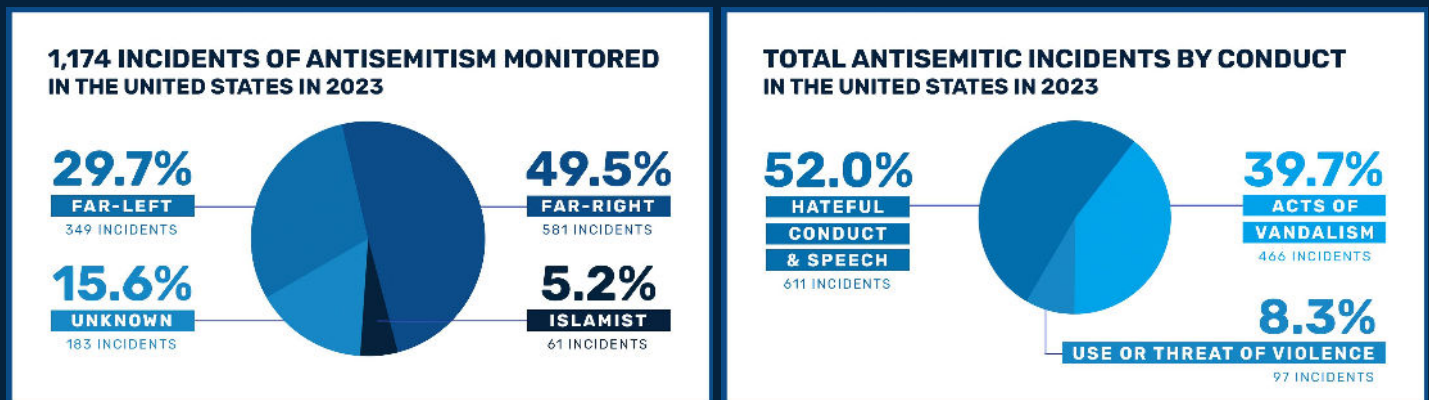
These will be broken down in-depth in the subsequent sections of this report.

Geographic Breakdown

United States

A total of 1,174 incidents of antisemitism were monitored in 2023. The majority were attributed to the far-right with 581 incidents (49.5%), followed by the far-left with 349 incidents (29.7%). Incidents with Islamist motivations accounted for 61 cases (5.2%), while 183 incidents (15.6%) were unidentifiable in nature.

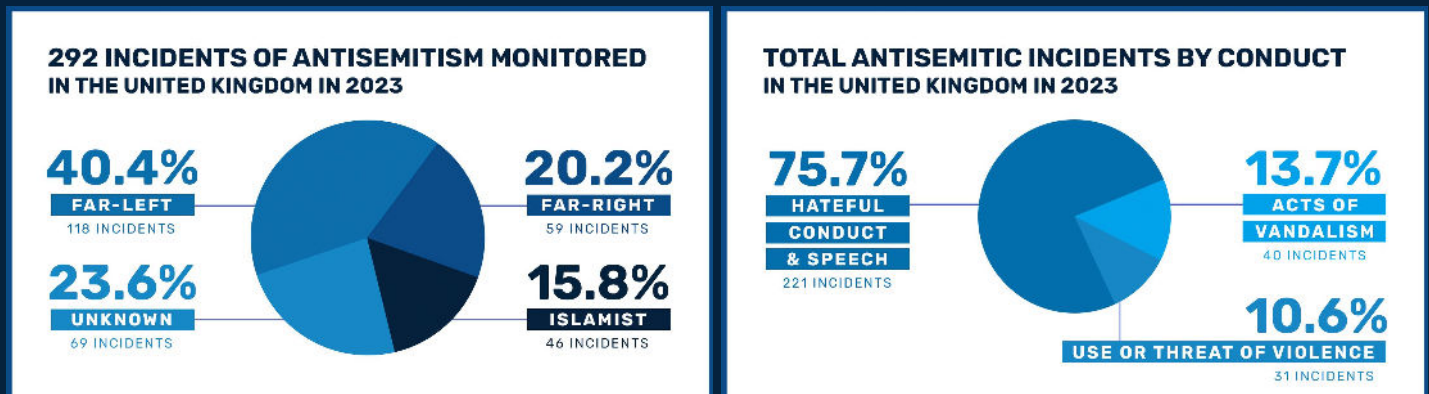
In terms of conduct, 52% (611 incidents) involved hateful conduct and speech, 39.7% (466 incidents) were acts of vandalism, and 8.3% (97 incidents) included the use or threat of violence.



United Kingdom

A total of incidents of 292 antisemitism were monitored. Out of these, 118 incidents (40.4%) were attributed to the far-left, 59 (20.2%) to the far-right, 69 (23.6%) were unidentifiable in nature, and 46 (15.8%) had Islamist motivations.

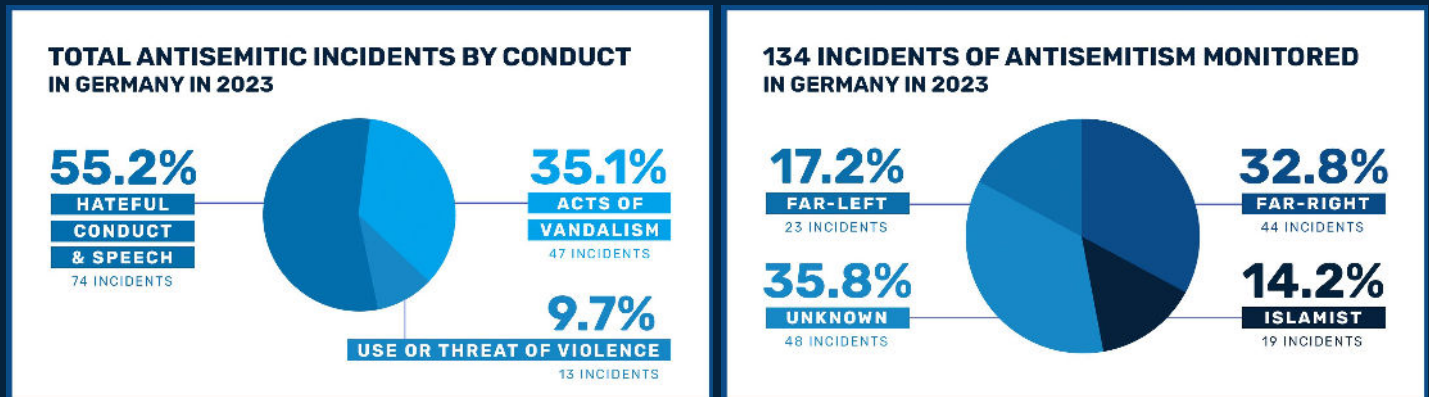
Of these 292 incidents, 221 (75.7%) involved hateful conduct and speech. A further 40 (13.7%) accounted for acts of vandalism and 31 (10.6%) involved the use or threat of violence.



Germany

A total of 134 incidents of antisemitism were monitored. Out of these, 48 (35.8%) were unidentifiable in nature, 44 (32.8%) were attributed to the far-right, 23 incidents (17.2%) to the far-left, 19 (14.2%) had Islamist motivations.

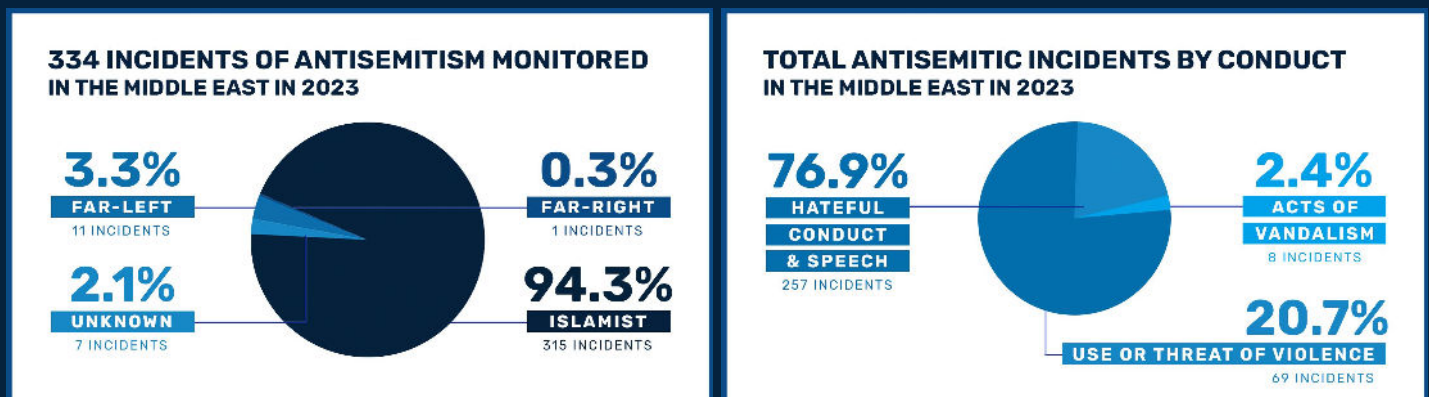
Of these 134 incidents, 74 (55.2%) involved hateful conduct and speech. A further 47 (35.1%) accounted for acts of vandalism, and 13 (9.7%) involved the use or threat of violence.



The Middle East

A total of 334 incidents of antisemitism were monitored. Out of these, 315 (94.3%) had Islamist motivations, 11 incidents (3.3 %) were attributed to the far-left, 7 (2.1%) were unidentifiable in nature, and 1 (0.3%) to the far-right.

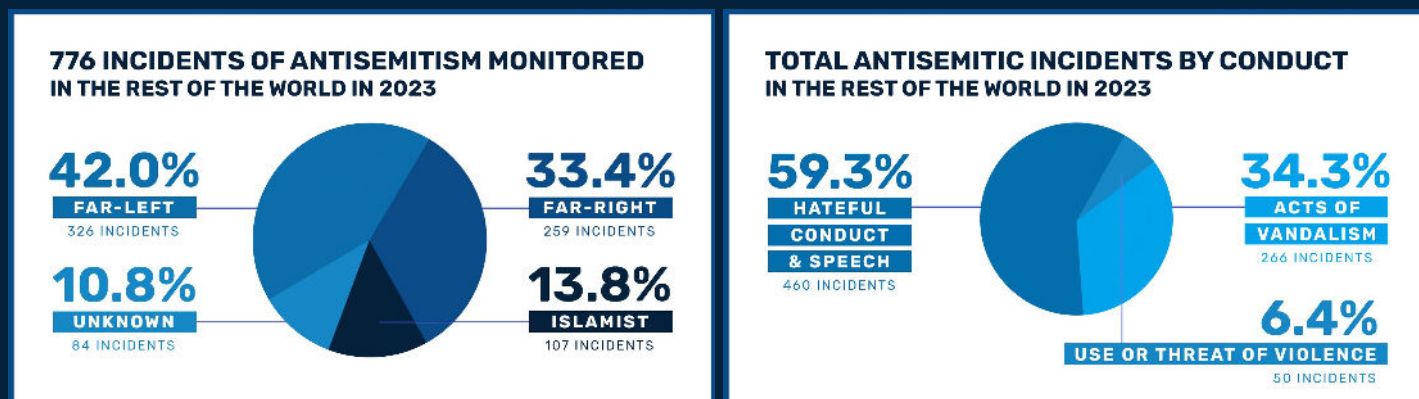
Of these 334 incidents, 257 (76.9%) involved hateful conduct and speech. A further 69 (20.7%) involved the use or threat of violence and 8 (2.4%) accounted for acts of vandalism.



Around the rest of the world

A total of 776 incidents of antisemitism were monitored. Out of these, incidents 326 (42.0%) were attributed to the far-left, 259 (33.4%) to the far-right, 107 (13.8%) had Islamist motivations, and 84 (10.8%) were unidentifiable in nature.

Of these 776 incidents, 460 (59.3%) involved hateful conduct and speech. A further 266 (34.3%) were acts of vandalism and 50 (6.4%) involved the use or threat of violence.



Four Key **Antisemitism Trends** in 2023



A woman holds a sign reading 'Well Done Israel, Hitler Would Be Proud' as people rally in Brooklyn, New York in support of Palestinians and against Israel in the wake of the October 7 Hamas terror onslaught, October 21, 2023 (KENA BETANCUR / AFP)

Trend #1 | Significant Rise in Reported Incidents of Antisemitism

In the wake of the October 7th attack, a notable shift occurred in the landscape of antisemitism. While pre-October 7th occurrences in 2023 were heavily weighted toward far-right ideologies, the incidents that followed primarily fell into the Islamist and far-left categories.

Guided by the 11 examples outlined in the widely-accepted International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism, the CAM Antisemitism Research Center aims to encompass the diverse manifestations of contemporary Jew-hatred. This includes traditional expressions of antisemitism, such as white supremacy and Holocaust denial, as well as modern forms such as denying the Jewish people's right to self-determination and assigning collective responsibility to Jews for the actions of the Israeli government.

The annual increase of 58.2% in monitored incidents of antisemitism can largely be attributed to the events of October 7th and the subsequent waves of hatred targeting Jewish communities globally. However, it is crucial to note that antisemitism in 2023 was already on the rise before the Hamas attack. In the first three quarters of 2023, pre-October 7th, the ARC monitored a total of 1,402 incidents of antisemitism. This represents a 3.9% increase compared to the 1,350 monitored incidents during the same time period in 2022.

Trend #2 | Sharp Rise in Reported Incidents of Far-left Antisemitism in 2023

Antisemitism has constantly evolved over the centuries to wrap itself in guises of acceptable discourse.

When nationalism gained popularity, Jews were treated as foreigners with ulterior loyalties. For people who viewed the world through racial hierarchies, Jews were looked at as genetically inferior. More recently, when the victim-oppressor paradigm became common, Jews were deemed an oppressor.



Student Marie Andersen was pictured with this anti-Semitic banner and tried to defend it as about the 'Israeli government' during an interview. Picture: Alamy/Nexta

The victim-oppressor paradigm, rooted in a Marxian view of world events, is driven by a pathological need to view the State of Israel, and the Jewish people, as nefarious sources of societal injustice and the obstacle to Middle East and global peace.

Because this form of antisemitism presents itself as discourse or actions rooted in the pursuit of equality, liberty, and justice, it is most often found in fringe sectors of progressive politics and ideology. While most progressive politics exclude antisemitic content and discriminatory views, specific settings are hijacked with the intent to inject anti-Zionist discourse. Such incidents have occurred among discussions pertaining to racial injustice, police brutality, and LGBTQ rights.



(Courtesy of Fox News)

Following the October 7th attack, this type of antisemitism increased dramatically. For example, in Los Angeles, a 69-year-old Jewish man, Paul Kessler, [died](#) of a cerebral hemorrhage a day after being struck in the head with a megaphone by an anti-Israel demonstrator. In Australia, almost two hundred pro-Hamas demonstrators [verbally and physically harassed](#) Jews outside a Caulfield synagogue on Shabbat. In New York, a pro-Palestinian activist group shared a frightening map of New York City newsrooms, businesses, and landmark buildings – and [called](#) for “direct action” to “globalize intifada.” Also in New York, a man was arrested for firing a

weapon outside of an Albany synagogue, **screaming** “Free Palestine” as he was taken into custody by police officers. In a Paris suburb, a man broke into a nursery school and threatened the director while **wielding** a knife. “You’re Jewish, you’re a Zionist,” he said. “Five of us will come to rape you, cut you up like they do in Gaza.”

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In the aftermath of October 7th, far-left incidents did not just become more aggressive in nature, but inevitably intertwined with elements of Islamist antisemitism due to the perpetrator’s need to legitimize, condone, and even celebrate the actions of Hamas – an antisemitic, genocidal terrorist group whose founding charter **asserts** that the “Zionist” project is a threat to both international security and mankind.

Illustrating this merge in ideologies, police in three European countries – Belgium, Germany, and Denmark – **issued** warnings regarding threats to the Jewish community by individuals motivated by Israel’s military activities in Gaza. In Texas, a Jordanian national was arrested by the FBI for **planning** an attack on the Houston Jewish community.

This trend has been abetted by international media outlets parroting unfounded claims made by Hamas and its supporters, particularly regarding incidents involving the death of civilians in Gaza. Such irresponsible coverage serves as the basis for many of the anti-Israel narratives being heard worldwide, including baseless assertions accusing the Jewish state of genocide and ethnic cleansing.

Furthermore, numerous public figures and lawmakers at the international and national levels have fanned the flames of antisemitism with abominable rhetoric downplaying, rationalizing, or condoning Hamas’ actions on October 7th. Since Oct. 7, demonstrators in major cities across the globe have called for Israel’s destruction, often hiding their eliminationist intentions in social justice terminology.

The genocidal “From the river to the sea” chant has proliferated, with many who chant it claiming it represents a cry for “freedom” and “liberty,” when in reality it is a clear call for more violence against Jews. This language has been translated into real-life action, with Jewish synagogues, schools, and cemeteries, as well as Holocaust memorials, targeted by vandals.

The aftermath of October 7th witnessed a profound impact, particularly in the fourth quarter of 2023, where global far-left antisemitic incidents rising by a staggering 1,753%, reaching 871 incidents compared to the mere 47 incidents in the preceding third quarter. In a broader comparison, there was a 6.8% increase in monitored far-left antisemitic incidents compared to the third quarter of 2022 (44). The most dramatic spike, however, was seen in contrast to the fourth quarter of 2022, with a remarkable 1,513% increase, rising from 54 to the recorded incidents.



Harvard has had a series of Israel-related controversies following Hamas' terrorist attacks. An explosive student group letter blamed Israel entirely for the attacks, setting off a firestorm on campus. (Amanda Sabga/Boston Herald)

Trend #3 | Significant Rise in Reported Incidents of Antisemitism in College Campuses, Mostly in the US

Over the years, anti-Israel campus groups have adopted rhetoric grounded in universal progressive ideals, effectively cloaking their criticisms in broader socio-political frameworks. The use of anti-colonialism and anti-imperialism narratives has been particularly notable and effective in providing a justification for acts of violence against Israelis.

Additionally, these groups have advocated for the dismantlement of the State of Israel, home to the world's largest Jewish population, by distorting international definitions, notably framing it as an "apartheid" state. The discussion extends further to challenge the democratic nature of Israel, asserting that it serves as a facade to oppress Palestinians while downplaying global criticism. University administrators have consistently defended the right to freedom of speech and expression, emphasizing campuses as arenas for the open exchange of diverse ideas.

The crimes against humanity carried out by Hamas on October 7th fueled a significant rise of antisemitism in higher learning institutions, specifically on American campuses. In 2022, 249 incidents of antisemitism were monitored on American campuses; the number of incidents rose to a concerning 336 in 2023. This marks a notable 34.9% increase in reported antisemitic incidents on U.S. campuses.

For example, at Harvard University, 31 student groups penned a letter alleging Israel was “solely responsible” for the atrocities perpetrated by Hamas. At the University of California-San Diego, Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) released a statement backing Hamas. At New York University, the president of the Law School Student Bar Association blamed Israel for the violence, and at Columbia University, twenty Palestinian “solidarity groups” issued a joint statement urging the university to end its ties with “apartheid Israel.”

The institutional roadblocks to addressing antisemitism on college campuses was further evidenced by the congressional testimony of the presidents of Harvard, MIT, and Stanford, who [claimed](#) that calls for the genocide of Jews could violate their respective codes of conduct but it “would depend on the context.”



A student protest about the war in Israel and Gaza takes place at Sather Gate at the University of California, Berkeley, on Oct. 16. (Michael Liedtke/AP)

The rise of antisemitism on American campuses underscores the intricate interplay between freedom of expression, diverse perspectives, and the imperative to maintain a safe and inclusive educational environment. While university campuses have long been bastions for the free exchange of ideas, recent trends suggest a need for vigilant examination of the rhetoric employed in discussions surrounding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.



People hold anti-semitic symbols and signs, as they protest outside the Tampa Convention Center where Turning Point USA's (TPUSA) Student Action Summit (SAS) is being held, in Tampa, Florida, U.S. July 23, 2022. REUTERS/Marco Bello

Trend #4 | Far-Right Antisemitism Persists

Despite the substantial increase in antisemitic incidents originating from the far-left, it is crucial to recognize that antisemitism also persists within the far-right. This dual presence highlights the multifaceted nature of contemporary antisemitism, where ideological differences do not preclude the existence of this form of hatred. Understanding and addressing antisemitic tendencies across the political spectrum is essential for fostering a comprehensive approach to combating this phenomenon.

In 2022, the ARC observed 1,015 instances of far-right antisemitism, reflecting a sustained level compared to previous year increases and a consistent presence when compared to the 1,021 incidents reported in 2023. Comparatively, in 2021, with 935 incidents of far-right antisemitism monitored, 2023 witnessed an 9.2% increase in reported incidents within this specific category. Throughout the past year, these incidents were manifested in various ways.

For example, prominent white supremacist and Holocaust denier Nick Fuentes [spoke](#) about his desire to expel Jews from the United States. He also [called](#) for his fellow white supremacists to wage “holy war” against Jews, adding that “the enemies of Christ have no future in this world.” In West Virginia, a man was arrested for [threatening](#) to murder jurors and witnesses in the trial of the 2018 Tree of Life synagogue shooting perpetrator. In Orlando, Florida, neo-Nazis [flew](#) Nazi flags outside of Disney World.

Elsewhere in the world, there were further instances of far-right antisemitism.

In Canada, a century-old Montreal synagogue had swastikas [spray-painted](#) on it. In the United Kingdom, an assailant screamed “Heil Hitler” at and then [assaulted](#) an 84-year-old Holocaust survivor. In May, hundreds of neo-Nazis [marched](#) through the streets of Paris, France. In Norway, an Oslo subway station was [vandalized](#) with a swastika and the perpetrator left a message saying “Hitler Started It - We Finished It.” In Melbourne, Australia, Jewish students were [threatened](#) with a knife on a bus by a self-described “Nazi.”

While antisemitism on the far-left has seen a sharp rise, antisemitism on the far-right also continues to be pervasive.



A white supremacist group gathered on the pedestrian bridge leading to Daytona International Speedway holding antisemitic banners. Daytona Beach Police Chief Jakari Young said the group is known to try to bait police into violating their speech rights so they can sue. Daytona Beach Police Department

Conclusion

Throughout 2023, Jews across the globe continued to face alarming incidents involving harassment, intimidation, threats, and instances of physical violence. But while antisemitism continues to be widespread, effective policy making can make a difference. Comprehensive measures, including education, legal actions, and diplomatic efforts, can address the diverse facets of this hatred. Proactive monitoring and intervention contribute to fostering inclusivity and tolerance.

Significant steps were taken before October 7th. In the U.S., for example, the White House released in May the first-ever National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism, which sought to establish a whole-of-government approach to combat the rise in antisemitism in the country. Among the many proposed policies, the plan embraced the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism. For more information about adoptions of the IHRA working definition, please read CAM's 2023 IHRA adoptions and endorsements report [here](#).

In the UK, the government has [increased](#) security funding for Jewish institutions also [allocated](#) £10 million to synagogues and schools while also addressing antisemitism in the education system. Additionally, the UK, in collaboration with the U.S., has [increased](#) sanctions targeting financiers associated with Hamas.

In Germany, steps have also been taken to respond to the post-October 7th surge in antisemitism. The state of Saxony-Anhalt, for example, implemented a law [requiring](#) those applying for citizenship to confirm in writing "that they recognize Israel's right to exist and condemn any efforts directed against the existence of the State of Israel." Similarly, the German federal government has taken action to [ensure](#) that citizenship will not be granted to applicants who engage in antisemitism. Furthermore, the German police have proactively [raided and disrupted](#) pro-Hamas networks that threatened the Jewish community.

Policymakers must prioritize legislation as a means of combating antisemitism in all its forms. By emphasizing legislation, policymakers not only act as a deterrent to antisemitic behavior but also contribute to a collective commitment to eradicating this age-old prejudice, working toward a world rooted in respect, understanding, and unity.

A Note to Our Readers

Even before October 7th, our analysts carefully monitored dozens of incidents around the world on a daily basis and recognized the growing overlap between different ideological motivations for antisemitism. Whether it was far-right members of the Goyim Defense League claiming that “Zionists” were “occupying” the U.S. government or anti-Israel activists engaging in Holocaust denial or distortion in efforts to delegitimize Israel’s right to self-defense, our researchers recognized the increasing difficulty in attributing specific incidents to any one particular ideological motivation.

At the start of 2024, the CAM Antisemitism Research Center (ARC) instituted a new categorization system for antisemitic incidents we track worldwide.

Anchored in the 11 examples of the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism, the new classification system offers more precise insights into the current global landscape of antisemitism. It regards Classical, Holocaust-related, Israel-related, and Islamist-related forms of antisemitism as the principal manifestations of antisemitism today. To learn more about the new classification system, [visit our website](#).



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