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Strategy for combating antisemitism in the Czech Republic for 2025–2030

Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic
Security Policy Department

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic
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Introduction

The Ministry of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the MoI), in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (hereinafter referred to as the MFA) and after consultation with the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic (hereinafter referred to as the FJC), has prepared this document, which contains recommendations for addressing prejudicial violence and hate speech directed against persons of Jewish origin, the Jewish community, or persons perceived as such. The aim of the document is that the measures recommended herein, together with other existing measures, will help in the fight against antisemitism.

The document was compiled to meet the recommendations of the European Union Strategy on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life,[1] which responds to the growing number of antisemitic incidents across the member states of the European Union (hereinafter referred to as the EU). At the same time, it builds on and develops the general policy of the national fight against all forms of prejudicial violence and hate speech, racism, xenophobia, and other forms of discrimination against minorities in the Czech Republic (hereinafter referred to as the CR), as described in the Policy on Combating Extremism, Prejudicial Violence, and Hate Speech and related action plans[2] and other national strategic and related documents, such as the Report on the Situation of National Minorities in the Czech Republic[3] or Strategy on Equality, Inclusion, and Participation of Roma (Roma Integration Strategy) 2021–2030.[4] We must also mention various related activities in this field, such as the Czech Republic's grant policy in relation to the activities of members of national minorities or the prevention of racism and discrimination.

The recommendations arising from this material should be flexible and capable of adapting to changing situations, not only during the period of this strategy's validity. Antisemitism is a complex phenomenon, and therefore the proposed recommendations have inter-ministerial implications.

Antisemitism, or hatred of Jews, is a very complex issue and must therefore be addressed in a corresponding manner. The fight against antisemitism involves a wide range of aspects, from security, preventive measures, education, and raising awareness to the consistent prosecution of perpetrators of crimes and offenses. The awareness of antisemitism and Jewish identity and other preventative measures must be coupled with the consistent application of restrictive measures that protect Czech citizens from those who do not accept social norms. A balance between prevention and repression is a fundamental condition for the successful fight against antisemitism.

The recommended measures also include ongoing monitoring of the situation. There is also an emphasis on better data collection and knowledge about antisemitism as such, particularly how it manifests itself today, how far it goes from words to deeds, and in which parts of society antisemitism resonates most strongly. Data collection, research, and support for training law enforcement agencies,

[1]See more at: https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/combatting-discrimination/racism-and-xenophobia/combating-antisemitism/eu-strategy-combating-antisemitism-and-fostering-jewish-life-2021-2030/about-eu-strategy_en

[2]See more at: https://mv.gov.cz/clanek/extremismus-vyrocni-zpravy-o-extremismu-a-strategie-boje-proti-extremismu.aspx

[3]See more at: https://vlada.gov.cz/cz/ppov/rnm/dokumenty/dokumenty-rady/zprava-o-situaci-narodnostnich-mensin-v-ceske-republice-za-rok-2022-213632/

[4]See more at: https://vlada.gov.cz/cz/ppov/zalezitosti-romske-komunity/aktuality/strategie-rovnosti--zacleneni-a-participace-romu-strategie-romske-integrace-2021_2030-188413/

support for reporting incidents with antisemitic motives and victims of such incidents, as well as support for teaching about antisemitism and, more generally, about prejudicial violence and hate speech, are a necessity and, in many ways, a major challenge.

The Czech Republic is significantly involved in addressing this issue at both the EU and international levels, because preserving security and the legacy of the Jewish minority, as well as its further development in Europe, should be a priority as part of the whole-of-society approach. The aim of this document is to draw attention to these priorities and to seek concrete and effective ways not only to preserve them, but more importantly to further develop them.

Antisemitism and its definition

This document is based on the non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism as adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (hereinafter referred to as IHRA).[5] This definition was adopted by the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic on January 25, 2019, and by the Senate of the Czech Republic on January 30, 2019. In addition to the Czech Republic, the working definition has also been endorsed by the parliaments of all European Union member states, Israel, Macedonia, Moldova, the United Kingdom, and others. The parliaments also recommended that national authorities be guided by it. The IHRA working definition is also the basic methodological basis for the EU Strategy on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life.

The IHRA working definition of antisemitism describes antisemitism as follows:

„Antisemitism is a certain way of perceiving Jews, which can be described as hatred towards Jews. Verbal and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed against Jewish and non-Jewish persons or their property, against institutions and places of worship of Jewish communities.

Following examples can serve as a guide for illustration purposes:

Statements may be directed against the State of Israel as a Jewish community. However, criticism of Israel that is similar in nature to criticism of any other country cannot be considered antisemitic. Antisemitism often accuses Jews of conspiracy with the intention of harming humanity and often blames Jews for "everything that goes wrong." It is expressed in words, writing, visual media, and actions, and uses malicious stereotypes and negative personality traits.

Current examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, workplaces, and religion, which must be viewed in their overall context, include, for instance:

Calls to kill or harm Jews, or to assist or justify such acts in the name of radical ideology or extremist religious views.

False, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical statements about Jews or about the collective power of Jews—including the myth of a global Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, the economy, the government, or other social institutions.

Holding Jews as a nation accountable for real or alleged crimes committed by Jewish individuals or groups, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.

[5]See more at: https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/cs/resources/working-definitions-charters/pracovni-definice-antisemitismu-ihra a https://www.psp.cz/sqw/text/text2.sqw?idd=154253.

Denying the existence, scope, mechanisms (e.g., gas chambers), or intentionality of genocide against the Jewish people committed by Nazi Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).

Accusing Jews as a nation or Israel as a state of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.

Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide than to the interests of their own countries.

Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, for example by claiming that the existence of the State of Israel is a fulfilment of a racist plan.

Applying a double standard in the sense that Israel is required to act in a way that is not expected or required of any other democratic state.

Using symbols and ideas associated with classic antisemitism (such as claiming that Jews killed Jesus or use Christian blood for ritual purposes) to describe Israel or Israelis.

Comparing current Israeli policy to Nazi policy.

Applying collective responsibility of Jews for the conduct of the State of Israel.

Antisemitic acts are criminal if defined as such by law (in some countries, for example, Holocaust denial or dissemination of antisemitic materials).

Criminal acts are antisemitic if the targets of the attacks, be they persons or property—such as buildings, schools, places of worship, or cemeteries—are chosen because they are Jewish or have a connection to Jews or are perceived as such.

Antisemitic discrimination is the practice of denying Jews opportunities or services available to others, and this practice is illegal in many countries. "

This definition is supported by a very useful guide for the practical application of the IHRA working definition, which provides specific examples of real incidents recorded in everyday practice.[6]

Antisemitism can therefore be understood as hostile behaviour towards people of Jewish origin or people considered to be Jewish based on stereotyped ideas about Jews. Antisemitism is similar in many of its manifestations to other forms of prejudicial intolerance (such as racism, antigypsyism, homophobia, etc.),[7] but it also has its own unique characteristics. Antisemitism is a very complex phenomenon that has been systematically built up by the majority society over many centuries. In addition to hatred towards a minority ethnic group, it also includes opposition to Judaism and its principles, which entails many ingrained lies and untruths.[8] It also includes resistance to and ignorance of the traditions and customs of Jewish life, and even factual historical events, which are relativized, denigrated, or flatly denied. This is also why states have taken steps to create separate materials aimed at addressing this phenomenon in a comprehensive manner.

[6]See more at: https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/d3006107-519b-11eb-b59f-01aa75ed71a1/language-en

[7]By a resolution of April 10, 2024, the Czech government adopted the IHRA's legally non-binding definition of antisemitism after the Senate of the Czech Republic and two committees of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic endorsed this definition. For more information, see: https://vlada.gov.cz/cz/media-centrum/aktualne/vlada-dnes-jednohlasne-prijala-pravne-nezavaznou-definici-anticikanismu--212819

[8] Such as the murder of Jesus Christ, ritual murders, and the use of Christian blood during Jewish festivities etc.

Antisemitism has a long tradition throughout Europe, and its manifestations can be traced back to Antiquity. That is why it can be widespread in places where there are no or almost no Jews, as well as in places where a large Jewish population has lived for a long time.

The spread of antisemitism is often linked to the general mood in society; it is not only dangerous for the Jewish minority, but it is a major risk for society as a whole. Anti-Jewish prejudice, violence, and hate speech are an integral part of extremist attitudes that can turn into activities that have a destructive effect, either directly or in the long term, on the overall democratic political and economic system.[9]

Antisemitic attitudes are often based on the false assumption that Jews are a homogeneous group with specific characteristics (both physical and psychological) and, like other minorities who are subjected to racist or other prejudicial violence and hate speech, are considered inferior. At the same time, however, they are considered to be very influential and powerful, mostly disloyal representatives of covert dangerous forces that want to control or already control world affairs through finance, politics, and other important instruments of world power. Antisemitism can manifest itself in the thinking of individuals, in collective myths, ideologies, culture, and folklore, and can be promoted through politics, education, or individual, collective, or systemically controlled discrimination and violence.

Antisemitism is no longer the domain of right-wing, left-wing, or religious extremism. Currently, antisemitism is also finding its way into other anti-system ideologies and worldviews and can often be manifested in criticism of the State of Israel. It is also still present in society in its latent form and in the form of everyday stereotypes and expressions. Some phrases and expressions have become so normalized in society that the speaker or writer may not even realize that they are antisemitic.

Antisemitism, especially in the form of conspiracy theories circulated online, according to current findings[10] promotes radicalization leading to violent extremism and terrorism. Conspiracy theories are traditionally linked to antisemitism; they have the potential to polarize society, spread fear, incite hatred, and are often used as a tool of influence by countries and groups that do not respect the principles of pluralistic democracy. The increasing normalization of antisemitism has the potential to radicalize people, which can lead to violence. Conspiracy theories are nothing new, but they are currently gaining momentum again, and an increasing number of people, thanks also to their more or less unrestricted dissemination on the internet, are willing to believe them and share them further.

The internet is a tool that offers many opportunities for preventing and combating antisemitism, but at the same time it also poses a major challenge in terms of its expansion. The COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent Russian aggression against Ukraine, like the migration crisis in 2015, have given rise to a wave of conspiracy theories involving traditional antisemitic motives such as Jewish domination, control of international finance, politics, and the media, but also, more recently, responsibility for the deliberate spread of COVID-19 and vaccination as part of a Jewish conspiracy. In the shadow of the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine, other new conspiracy theories are emerging.[11]

[9]See more at https://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/extremismus-vyrocni-zpravy-o-extremismu-a-strategie-boje-proti-extremismu.aspx

[10]See more at: https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/networks/radicalisation-awareness-network-ran/publications/conspiracy-theories-and-right-wing-extremism-insights-and-recommendations-pcve-2021_en

[11]See more at: https://english.tau.ac.il/sites/default/files/media_server/English/Antisemitism-Worldwide-2021.pdf

There is also a growing trend, in connection with issues such as vaccination and the war in Ukraine, to misuse terms such as "Holocaust" by comparing it to anti-pandemic measures, or "denazification" in connection with Russian aggression against Ukraine.

Following the Hamas terrorist attack on October 7, 2023, in several locations in Israel and the subsequent humanitarian crisis in Gaza caused by Israel's military operation in response to the attacks, there has been a massive increase in so-called new antisemitism, not only online but also in public spaces, particularly during demonstrations, protests, public debates, lectures, and violent attacks against people of Jewish or allegedly Jewish origin, etc.[12]

Similarly, the internet also helps spread Holocaust denial, trivialization, or accusations that Jews were the architects of the Holocaust to achieve their own interests (e.g., the establishment of the State of Israel), even though it is one of the most documented genocides in human history. This is generally perceived not only as an insult to Holocaust victims, but as a clear manifestation of antisemitism.[13]

Another trend is antisemitism disguised as criticism of the State of Israel. Legitimate criticism of states and their policies is a completely normal and healthy part of social life, public debate, and liberal formation in a democratic society. Even the State of Israel and its political representatives are not immune to such criticism, and expert debate based on facts and valid international law is the foundation of every democratic society. However, in relation to the State of Israel, antisemitic hate speech may sometimes be used, especially when Israel's actions are linked to negative characteristics that are considered universal Jewish traits. Such criticism is often presented as criticism of Zionism. However, Jewish minorities around the world are also held accountable for the acts of the State of Israel, as they can be and often are perceived as ambassadors of Israel who are more loyal to a foreign state than to the state where they live and of which they are citizens. Statistics published in the FJC report show that this trend is prone to intensify, especially during the escalation of the Israeli Palestinian conflict.[14] This assertion is currently confirmed by figures reported by the organization for 2023, when there was a massive increase in registered antisemitic incidents, particularly in the last quarter of the year. [15]

At the same time, it should be noted that antisemitism can be combined with other prejudices, discriminatory reasons, or prejudicial motives. Such multiplicity or intersectionality puts victims in an even more vulnerable position. For example, there may be a person of Jewish origin with a disability or women of Jewish origin working in the public sphere who are attacked for sexist and misogyny reasons simply because they are women of Jewish origin, etc.

[12]See more at: https://www.fzo.cz/6213/vyrocni-zprava-o-projevech-antisemitismu-v-ceske-republice-za-rok-2023/

[13]See more at: https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2019/young-jewish-europeans-perceptions-and-experiences-antisemitism

[14]Annual Report on Antisemitism in the Czech Republic for 2014, Prague: Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic, 2014.

[15]See more at: https://www.fzo.cz/wp-content/uploads/Vyrocni-zprava-o-projevech-antisemitismu-v-Ceske-republice-za-rok-2023.pdf

Jewish Minority in the Czech Republic

Jewish minority[16] in the Czech Republic is not a homogeneous minority. It includes those who are religious and those who perceive Judaism more as a cultural and social heritage. However, there is also a large group of people who are of Jewish origin but do not identify with it either publicly or privately.

The history of Jewish settlement in the territory of the present-day Czech Republic can be traced back to the 10th century. Jewish communities affiliated with the FJC currently have approximately 3,000 members. However, unofficial estimates suggest that up to 20,000 people of Jewish origin live in the Czech Republic. As in the rest of Europe, the Holocaust was a major blow to the Czech Jewish minority, with 80,000 Jews losing their lives in what was then Protectorate Bohemia and Moravia. During the communist era, the totalitarian regime continued its antisemitic policies, and many Jewish citizens were further persecuted and oppressed because of their origin. Among the most notorious cases in which the totalitarian regime demonstrated its hostile attitude towards the Jewish population was the fabricated political trial of the so-called leadership of an anti-state conspiracy centre headed by Rudolf Slánský in 1952 and the so-called Operation Spider, which took place during the normalization period in the 1970s and 1980s, when the files of the then Czechoslovak State Security Service monitored and kept approximately 20,000 files on Czechoslovak citizens of Jewish origin.

Since the revolution in 1989, Jewish life has been gradually restored in the Czech Republic. The FJC has become the official authority overseeing Jewish organizations in the country. There are currently nine independent Jewish communities in Brno, Děčín, Karlovy Vary, Liberec, Olomouc, Ostrava, Plzeň, Prague, and Teplice.

Since 2003, an Annual Report on Manifestations of Antisemitism in the Czech Republic has been published, which has been sponsored by the FJC since 2015. Based on an analysis of data collected in recent years, this report highlights a continuous increase in the number of antisemitic manifestations involving threats, approval, justification, or incitement to physical aggression. Every year, the report draws attention to the bleak environment on the internet, especially on social networks, where antisemitism is spread daily. It also points out that this is a threat that cannot be underestimated.[17] At the same time, it points out, as does the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (hereinafter referred to as FRA), that most incidents remain unreported for many different reasons.

EU and other international cooperation

At the EU level, the agenda of antisemitism has been a long-term priority. Within the European Commission, the agenda is administered by two Directorates-General: The Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (hereinafter DG JUST) and, in terms of radicalization, extremism, and terrorism, The Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (hereinafter DG HOME).

In response to the increasing number of antisemitic incidents, the European Commission established the position of the European Coordinator for Combating Antisemitism under DG JUST in 2015.[18] At the same time, a working group on antisemitism was set up, involving representatives of each

[16]The Jewish minority is, i.e., a national minority under Act No. 273/2001 Coll., on the Rights of Members of National Minorities and on Amendments to Certain Acts.

[17]See more at://www.fzo.cz/projekty-fzo/forum-proti-antisemitismu/vyrocni-zpravy-o-projevech-antisemitismu-v-ceske-republice/

[18]See more at: https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/combatting-discrimination/racism-and-xenophobia/combating-antisemitism/coordinator-combating-antisemitism-and-fostering-jewish-life_en

of the member states and representatives of Jewish communities. The joint discussions resulted in the publication in 2021 of the above-mentioned EU Strategy for Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life.[19] This document summarizes the current situation at the EU level, which, like this document, provides specific recommendations for European institutions and member states. One of these recommendations for Member States is to develop their own national strategies and actively use subsidy programs from European funds. On the date of the compilation of this document, national strategies and/or action plans to combat antisemitism were adopted in 23 Member States.[20]

The EU Council has included antisemitism in the agenda of the Working Party on Fundamental Rights, Civil Liberties and Free Movement of Persons (FREMP). During the Czech Presidency of the EU Council, representatives of the Ministry of the Interior's Security Policy Department pushed for this topic to be streamlined within the Council. This group was chosen as the appropriate platform, and antisemitism has become a regular item on its agenda. As a result, cooperation has become more effective and systematic.

Together with the 2018 Council Declaration on combating antisemitism and developing a common security approach to improve the protection of Jewish minorities and community facilities in Europe,[21] the 2020 Council Declaration on stepping up the fight against antisemitism across relevant public policies [22] and the Council conclusions on combating racism and antisemitism from 2022[23] provide a set of materials that not only gives support to member states and other relevant institutions, but also identifies specific shortcomings in EU and national policies and recommends specific measures that cannot only improve but also develop the lives of Europe's Jewish population. These documents address both security aspects and propose steps for improvement in education and research. They also promote policy harmonization across member states.

The European Commission's efforts to better target individual measures and adapt them to the specific and often unique needs of individual Member States have led to the publication of recommendations to also create national strategic materials. Another aim was to establish or improve existing contacts between states and the leadership of Jewish organizations, which is one of the key factors for success.

Many other projects and initiatives in the European Commission focus on antisemitism. One example is the EU Knowledge Hub.[24] As part of the Project Based Collaboration (PBC), with the support of the European Commission and the participation of some Member States, including the Czech Republic, a project collaboration was implemented in 2024 and 2025 aimed at improving data collection on

[19]See more at: https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/combatting-discrimination/racism-and-xenophobia/combating-antisemitism/eu-strategy-combating-antisemitism-and-fostering-jewish-life-2021-2030/about-eu-strategy_en

[20]First progress report of the EU Strategy on combating antisemitism and Fostering Jewish life: https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/combatting-discrimination/racism-and-xenophobia/combating-antisemitism/eu-strategy-combating-antisemitism-and-fostering-jewish-life-2021-2030/first-progress-report-eu-strategy-combating_en

[21]See more at: https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2018/12/06/fight-against-antisemitism-council-declaration/

[22]See more at: https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/12/02/antisemitism-council-declaration-on-fighting-antisemitism/

[23]See more at: https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-6406-2022-REV-1/cs/pdf

[24]See more at: https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/internal-security/counter-terrorism-and-radicalisation/prevention-radicalisation/eu-knowledge-hub-radicalisation-prevention-20_en

antisemitism, combating antisemitism online, and more effective training for law enforcement authorities.

The PBC results are available for use by all Member States. In addition, there are other initiatives at the Member State level that address antisemitism. These include, for example, the European Conference on Antisemitism, the Vienna Declaration [25] and Terezín Declaration.[26]

Analysis of the current situation

In recent years, there has been an increase in the number of violent attacks against Jewish minorities and individuals; examples include attacks in Toulouse (2012), Brussels (2014), Paris (2015), Copenhagen (2015), and Halle (2019). Furthermore, the attack in Bratislava (2022) against the LGBTQ+ minority, accompanied by an extensive antisemitic manifesto on the internet, demonstrates the ways in which hateful attitudes towards different minorities are interconnected and escalated. This clearly confirms and illustrates that antisemitism is not only a distinct phenomenon but often manifests itself in broader ideological contexts that can have far-reaching security, social, and political consequences.

The FRA study for 2023, which also included the Czech Republic,[27] confirms the deteriorated situation. Eight out of ten Jews surveyed in Europe report an increase in antisemitic sentiment in their neighbourhood. Alarmingly, 96% respondents have encountered antisemitism in both physical and online spaces over the past year. The results of the study, compiled before the attack on October 7, 2023, suggest that the terrorist incident has had a significant negative impact on the perception of safety of Jewish minorities and on the spread of hatred towards Jews. This development confirms that antisemitism is not just a problem in individual countries, but a global issue that requires a comprehensive solution. In addition, the FRA emphasizes in the introduction to the study that the survey results were compiled before the terrorist attack of October 7, 2023, in Israel, which had a significant impact on the further spread of antisemitism.[28]

Official data from surveys commissioned and processed by the European Commission, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights [29] and the Eurobarometer[30] just as unofficial data provided by Jewish organizations show that antisemitism continues to be a problem in all EU member states, including the Czech Republic.

The regularly published results of these surveys contain data that point to a continuous increase in the number of antisemitic incidents across EU member states. The surveys also report an increase in the Jewish population's perception of threat, which is linked to fears of being publicly identified as Jewish (e.g., by wearing symbols typical of Judaism, such as the traditional kippah head covering).[31]

[25] See more at: https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/en/topics/fight-against-antisemitism.html

[26] See more at: https://www.mzv.cz/jnp/en/foreign_relations/terezin_declaration/index.html

[27] Apart from the Czech Republic, the following EU member states were also included: Belgium, Denmark, France, Italy, Hungary, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, Austria, Romania, Spain, and Sweden. In total, approximately 96 % of the European Jewish population reside in these member states.

[28] See more at: https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2024/experiences-and-perceptions-antisemitism-third-survey

[29] See more at: https://fra.europa.eu/en/themes/religion-and-belief

[30] See more at: https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2220

[31] See more at: https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2019/young-jewish-europeans-perceptions-and-experiences-antisemitism. The report also states that 4 out of 10 respondents (people of Jewish origin aged 16-

Antisemitic incidents include violent and deadly attacks, vandalism, desecration, discrimination, hate speech, and harassment in both physical and online environments. The risks associated with the increase in such incidents are numerous and, as a result, can pose a significant security threat to society as a whole.

In the Czech Republic, data on antisemitic incidents are collected at both the official and unofficial levels. However, even these data show a significant year-on-year increase in the number of recorded incidents. Official data, which this strategy defines as data collected by law enforcement authorities, provide the number of recorded crimes motivated by antisemitism, which the Ministry of the Interior regularly publishes in its report on extremism and hate speech.[32] These data show that since 2011 there has been a progressive increase in the number of these crimes, which peaked in 2015.[33] This year saw a record high of 47 incidents. This number may be related to the migration crisis, which triggered antisemitic sentiment in society in connection with the spread of conspiracy theories about the background to the crisis. Statistics show a gradual decline between 2016 and 2018. However, since 2019, the numbers have begun to rise again. The increase in recent years can be attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic and the war against Ukraine.[34] Since October 7, 2023, we have also witnessed a sharp increase in the number of antisemitic incidents in various forms and manifestations around the world. The situation after October 7 has opened the door to so-called new antisemitism, which manifests itself in the form of delegitimizing the State of Israel, applying double standards in comparison with other democratic states, and dehumanizing Israeli citizens and, by extension, the Jewish population around the world.[35]

Recorded crimes motivated by antisemitism in the Czech Republic in 2011-2024:[36]

Year	Number of recorded crimes
2011	18
2012	9
2013	15
2014	45
2015	47
2016	28
2017	27
2018	15
2019	23

34) say they consider emigration because they do not feel safe as Jews in Europe, and more than 80 % say that antisemitism is a problem in their country.

[32]It should be noted, however, that no data are available on how these crimes are resolved by the courts (the Ministry of Justice does not keep statistics similar to those of the Ministry of the Interior).

[33]See more at: https://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/extremismus-vyrocni-zpravy-o-extremismu-a-strategie-boje-proti-extremismu.aspx

[34]See more at: https://english.tau.ac.il/sites/default/files/media_server/English/Antisemitism-Worldwide-2021.pdf

[35]These manifestations are described in more detail in the FRA survey. See more at: https://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2024/jews-europe-still-face-high-levels-antisemitism

[36]See more at: https://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/extremismus-vyrocni-zpravy-o-extremismu-a-strategie-boje-proti-extremismu.aspx

2020	27
2021	37
2022	25
2023	18
2024	33

Methodical data collection on antisemitic incidents is organized unofficially under the auspices of the FJC, which publishes it in its Annual Report on Manifestations of Antisemitism in the Czech Republic.[37] The data for the report is collected from Jewish organizations, the Czech Police (PCR), the general public and open sources, and the report form on the organization's website. When assessing incidents, the report is based on the IHRA working definition of antisemitism.

Since 2003, when data collection began, there has been a significant year-on-year increase. Most of these incidents involve antisemitic expressions in the online environment, particularly in the form of texts, videos, and images. The number of other incidents, such as physical attacks, threats, and harassment, has not changed significantly over the years, and their number in the Czech Republic is lower than in other European countries.

Number of antisemitic incidents recorded in the Czech Republic by the FJC between 2011 and 2023:

Year	Physical attack	Damage of property	Threats, insults	Harassment	Media, web	TOTAL
2011	1	5	4	7	26	43
2012	0	6	0	10	82	98
2013	1	3	3	6	162	175
2014	1	5	9	29	209	253
2015	0	4	3	31	193	231
2016	x	x	x	x	x	x
2017	x	x	x	x	x	x
2018	2	3	9	x	333	347
2019	0	3	6	x	685	694
2020	1	1	6	x	866	874
2021	1	3	5	x	1119	1128
2022	0	2	9	X	2266	2277
2023	0	6	18	X	4304	4328
2024[38]	x	x	x	x	x	x

There are several factors accounting for the differences between the number of incidents reported by official and unofficial data. Official data only contain incidents that have been classified as criminal offenses. Furthermore, not all crimes committed for prejudicial reasons are recorded, prosecuted,

[37]See more at: https://www.fzo.cz/projekty-fzo/forum-proti-antisemitismu/vyrocni-zpravy-o-projevech-antisemitismu-v-ceske-republice/
[38]The FJC report for 2024 had not been published at the time of drafting this document.

and convicted as prejudicial. This is because there are no effective mechanisms for recording the hateful motive of these crimes.

Less socially harmful illegal acts, such as misdemeanours dealt with by municipal authorities in administrative proceedings or acts that balance on the brink of criminal law, are not included in these statistics at all.

For unofficial data collected by FJC, there's a big difference between the number of incidents online and offline. These differences and the overall number of incidents reported could mean, according to FRA [39] the following:

- Most antisemitic incidents remain unreported, whether to law enforcement agencies or other institutions and organizations, as many victims do not trust security forces or state authorities in general.
- The difficulty of effectively monitoring and combating incidents in the online environment.
- Responsible institutions lack sufficient knowledge to clearly identify antisemitic motivation.
- Victims of crimes motivated by antisemitism or other forms of hatred have little confidence that their cases will be properly investigated and prefer not to report them at all.

As a result, unreported incidents are not properly investigated or prosecuted, which makes perpetrators feel that their hate speech is tolerated by society and that they can continue with impunity.

This material also reflects this shortcoming. The provisions of the law based on the Czech Criminal Code (hereinafter referred to as CC) concerning hate crimes are based on proving the motive that led to the crime. Law enforcement authorities must therefore objectively analyse the perpetrator's behaviour to determine whether it was motivated by prejudice, or whether it was motivated by the actual or perceived characteristics of the victim and their membership in a protected group. Although awareness in the Czech environment is at a good level, there is still room for improvement. Therefore, a thorough analysis of the current state of recording such acts and follow-up measures to help improve the situation is necessary. This will be achieved primarily through further raising awareness, education, and sharing good practices using available tools such as the IHRA draft definitions and its handbook mentioned above.[40] Such improvements may ultimately help to build greater trust among victims of such crimes and encourage them to report them. This may also lead to an improvement in the quality of data, which could be used in the future to better monitor the situation and set individual measures more effectively. Bearing these figures in mind, it is crucial that antisemitism be addressed comprehensively at the security, educational, and institutional levels. At the security level, it is necessary to ensure an effective response to crimes motivated by antisemitism, not only in the traditional physical space, but also in the online environment.

It is necessary to perceive the issue of antisemitism in the broader context of prejudicial violence and hate speech. From the perspective of institutional settings, tools, and processes, it is necessary to design a system that works for all groups experiencing prejudicial violence and hate speech. Measures specifically targeting antisemitism and assistance to victims of antisemitism must then be

[39] See more at: https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2021-hate-crime-reporting_en.pdf
[40] See more at: https://report-antisemitism.de/documents/IHRADefinition_Handbook.pdf

built on this system. As an example, the methodologies and information systems of the Czech Police must consider the file records of the fact that there is a suspicion of a prejudicial motive in each case. This applies to antisemitism as well as, for example, antigypsyism. However, the indicators of such a prejudicial motive may differ from one group to another, as may the needs of the victims, which the system must be able to reflect.

Regarding the fight against prejudicial violence and hate speech, reference can be made to the long-term activities of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (hereinafter referred to as OSCE/ODIHR), which publishes several expert publications and an annual report on prejudicial violence[41] containing valuable data and recommendations. Comprehensive international recommendations based on best practices of the Council of Europe member states also include the Committee of Ministers' recommendation on prejudicial violence [42] and hate speech.[43]

In the Czech Republic, more attention has long been paid to the issue of extremism than to prejudicial violence. One of the disadvantages of this approach may be that it does not adequately address cases of prejudicial violence that are not committed in connection with a specific political ideology. Therefore, the Human Rights and Minority Protection Department of the Office of the Government, together with the Government Commissioner for Human Rights, has been dealing with the issue of prejudicial violence. It has produced a set of strategic recommendations through a working group and, through the Partnership Initiative project supported by the European Commission, to promote the education of experts in the Czech Republic on effective international practices.

Education should focus on prevention and developing understanding between ethnic and religious groups. Awareness-raising programs, including teaching about the Holocaust and antisemitism, can help create a more inclusive and tolerant society. Sharing good practices and applying working definitions, such as the IHRA, which can help identify antisemitism in various forms and situations, also play an important role. Finally, it is necessary to provide Jewish and other minorities with sufficient opportunities to express their concerns and experiences, both in public and in the context of security policy. These issues should be part of a broader strategic framework aimed at combating hate speech, including antisemitism. Without this multifaceted response, antisemitism may continue to spread, with serious consequences for the security and stability of society as a whole.

Legal environment

An appropriate legal environment and tools are one of the key elements that are essential in the fight against antisemitism.

First and foremost, it is necessary to mention the corresponding penal sanctions under the criminal law, which is the reason why the Czech Criminal Code (Act No. 40/2009 Coll., as amended) includes hate crimes ("prejudicial crimes").

Prejudicial or hateful motives are dealt with on three levels in the Criminal Code.

[41]See more at: https://hatecrime.osce.org/
[42]See more at: https://search.coe.int/cm#{%22CoEIdentifier%22:[%220900001680af9736%22],%22sort%22:[%22CoEValidationDate%20Descending%22]}
[43]See more at: https://search.coe.int/cm#{%22CoEIdentifier%22:[%220900001680a67955%22],%22sort%22:[%22CoEValidationDate%20Descending%22]}

The first includes prejudicial motive as a condition for criminal liability in the form of a subjective element in the basic offences listed in Sections 352, 355, and 356 of the Criminal Code.

The second level focuses on a special aspect of the qualified offences of selected crimes, and the third deals with a general incriminating circumstance under Section 42(b) of the Criminal Code.

In the case of qualified offenses, this motive is specified in such a way that the characteristic feature of the offense in this case (the perpetration of the act) is "against another person or other persons because of their real or alleged race, membership of an ethnic group, nationality, political beliefs, religion, or because of being real or alleged non-believers".

In this regard, the amendment to the Criminal Code (currently being debated by the Czech Parliament as Chamber Print 861) is crucial, as it will take into account as a circumstance conditioning the application of a higher penalty for committing a crime against another person because of their real or alleged membership of any group of persons (a group of persons united by a certain unifying element). Examples of such groups, or prejudicial motives based precisely on this unifying element, contained in the Criminal Code today are thus complemented by further examples – the list of prejudicial motives is explicitly extended to include motives based on age, disability, sexual orientation, gender, and membership of a social group. The list of criminal offenses for which a prejudicial motive will be considered a circumstance warranting a higher penalty, is also extended.

In view of the adoption of this fundamental amendment to the Criminal Code, it is necessary to ensure that law enforcement authorities receive adequate training and that there is a uniform interpretation of the Criminal Code by law enforcement authorities.

The list of some of the most common and serious crimes:

<u>Crimes against life and life- or health threatening crimes:</u>

- Murder - Art 140 Section 3(g) of the Criminal Code
- Serious bodily harm – Art 145 Section 2(f) of the Criminal Code
- Bodily harm - Art 146 Section 2(e) of the Criminal Code
- Torture and other inhuman and cruel treatment – Art 149 Section 2(c) of the Criminal Code

<u>Crimes against freedom:</u>

- Deprivation of personal liberty - Art 170 (2) (b) of the Criminal Code
- Restriction of personal freedom - Art 171(3)(b) of the Criminal Code
- Abduction - Art 172(2)(b) of the Criminal Code
- Extortion - Art 175(2)(g) of the Criminal Code

<u>Crimes against property:</u>

- Damage to others' property – Art 228(3)(b) of the Criminal Code

<u>Other crimes:</u>

- Abuse of authority of a public official - Art 329(2)(b) of the Criminal Code
- Certain crimes against military subordination and military honour - Art 378-380, 382 of the Criminal Code

<u>Crimes affecting social harmony:</u>

- Violence against a group of people or an individual - Art. 352(2) of the Criminal Code
- Defamation of a nation, race, ethnic or other group of people - Art. 355 of the Criminal Code
- Incitement to hatred against a group of people or to the restriction of their rights and freedoms - Art. 356 of the Criminal Code

Hate crimes also include crimes against humanity:

- Genocide - Art. 400 of the Criminal Code
- Crimes against humanity - Art. 401 of the Criminal Code
- Apartheid and discrimination against a group of people - Art. 402 of the Criminal Code
- Establishment, support, and promotion of a movement aimed at violating human rights and freedoms - Art. 403 of the Criminal Code
- Dissemination of works promoting movements aimed at violating human rights and freedoms – Art. 403a of the Criminal Code
- Expressing sympathy for movements aimed at violating human rights and freedoms – Art. 404 of the Criminal Code
- Denying, questioning, approving, and justifying genocide – Art. 405 of the Criminal Code

For other crimes listed in the Criminal Code, the court also considers it an aggravating circumstance when determining the type and severity of punishment if the crime was committed based on national, racial, ethnic, religious, class, or other similar hatred.

At EU level, there is also Council Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA of 28 November 2008 on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law.[44]

Also, the directive on victims of crime is currently being revised, which will need to be followed by transposition. As part of the transposition process, it's a good idea to discuss practical suggestions for the current legal framework and its potential shortcomings. In relation to victims of prejudicial violence, it is particularly important to consider how the assessment of their vulnerability works.

Another legal instrument that sets out clear and harmonized due diligence obligations for online platforms, including procedures for reporting illegal content and products and taking appropriate measures, enabling users to easily and effectively report hate speech, is the Digital Services Act (EU Regulation No. 2022/ 2065, also known as the "DSA"). The DSA is an effective tool for addressing the problem of the spread of illegal content on the internet, including so-called hate speech or certain forms of prejudicial violence via online platforms, thereby protecting vulnerable groups. The effective implementation of the DSA at the national level is key.

We can also mention Act No. 84/1990 Coll., on the right of assembly, as amended, which allows for the prohibition or restriction of the right of assembly under certain conditions. One reason for prohibiting an assembly is, for example, incitement to hatred and intolerance towards religious groups.

Strategy objectives

The aim of this strategy is to coordinate existing measures to combat antisemitism and, where significant shortcomings are identified, to develop relevant new measures. At the same time, it seeks to create a systematic approach that treats antisemitism as a complex phenomenon involving multiple areas. The approach must therefore be systematic and effectively involve all relevant government departments.

Therefore, three basic strategy objectives and recommendations for their implementation have been defined. These are:

[44] See more at: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec_framw/2008/

1. Strategy objective: promoting safety for the Jewish minority and combating all forms of antisemitism by strengthening cooperation on issues of antisemitism, safety, and combating antisemitic crimes and hate speech.
2. Strategy objective: education, remembrance, and research on the Holocaust, raising awareness about antisemitism.
3. Strategy objective: promoting Jewish life.

1. Strategy objective: promoting safety of the Jewish minority and combating all forms of antisemitism by strengthening cooperation on antisemitism and security issues, and combating antisemitic crimes and hate speech

Most of the recommendations listed below are already included in general terms (i.e., as hate crimes) in the form of tasks in action plans to combat extremism and prejudicial hatred. These are mainly tasks focused on methodologies and training for police experts and prosecutors. However, the material complements these recommendations by stating that in practice, the tasks must be addressed in their individual aspects specifically. Thus, antisemitism should be addressed in its specific form, which should also be reflected in the content of training with experts. Additionally, it is necessary to consider how to use the working definition of antisemitism in practice etc.

a) Safety of Jewish minority

The state has a duty to ensure the safety of its citizens and their property. As regards particularly vulnerable persons, it is therefore necessary to take special measures beyond the scope of normal measures to ensure their safety and thus the safety of society as a whole. The Jewish minority belongs to this group of citizens, and the Czech state therefore cooperates systematically with Czech Jewish organizations in implementing these measures. In addition to incidents in the Czech Republic, this cooperation has also been driven by terrorist and other serious acts of violence, the number and severity of which have been increasing in Europe and around the world in recent years.

On this basis, a memorandum was signed in 2016 between the Ministry of the Interior, the Police of the Czech Republic, and the Prague City Hall on the one hand, and the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic, the Jewish Museum in Prague, and the Jewish organization Chabad Lubavitch – Czech Republic on the other, on ensuring safety of Jewish institutions. This resulted in the establishment of a Coordination Centre, the position of security coordinator, and a system of cooperation at the operational level between security forces and Jewish organizations to ensure security measures during events (such as Jewish holiday celebrations).

The recommendations listed below seek to develop and improve the current situation. To this end, it is essential to understand the current situation. Therefore, it is particularly important to gather more data on the current manifestations of antisemitism and its perception by Czech society.

This also involves sufficient funding to ensure the physical safety of members of Jewish communities in the Czech Republic.

Recommendations:

- Continue the existing cooperation between national security agencies and other relevant partners and Jewish organizations in ensuring security and other measures.
- Develop examples of good practice and standardize their application in individual regions and at the national level.

- Continue joint security exercises.
- Update the agenda of the Coordination Centre established by the Ministry of the Interior;[45]
- Continue to provide funding for security measures for Jewish organizations[46].
- Establish, as recommended by the European strategy, the position of a coordinator for combating antisemitism, who will be responsible for all national and EU agendas related to combating antisemitism, developing international cooperation, and monitoring developments in international organizations (such as the UN), continuously monitor the fight against antisemitism and the development of national strategies in other EU Member States and third countries with a view to strengthening cooperation in this area and facilitating the exchange of good practices.

b) Education

It is also necessary to focus on training law enforcement agencies, so they can correctly identify antisemitic motives leading to criminal offenses, properly record such acts, and prosecute them. Existing tools can be used to train and unify understanding of antisemitic motivations, in particular the IHRA working definition of antisemitism and its handbook. There should also be regular reflection on case law, educational activities focused on the prevention, identification, and prosecution of hate crimes with antisemitic motives, and communication with victims[47] and efficient handling and processing of evidence. It is also necessary to further continue cooperation with the academic and non-profit sectors as well as cooperation with the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN)[48] and the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training CEPOL.[49] Similarly, the filling in of police statistics should be standardized by amending police forms, updating the statistical code list, and setting appropriate statistical filters to enable better recording of antisemitic crimes.

Based on the research mentioned above, it is fair to assume that most crimes go unreported. Efforts to improve this situation may also lead to greater confidence among victims of such crimes and a greater willingness to report them to law enforcement authorities. This is also related to the task of seeking to improve access to victims of antisemitic crimes.

[45]To continue regular meetings at the Coordination Centre level at lower operational and tactical levels in cooperation with the Police of the Czech Republic (e.g., before Jewish holidays). Cooperation with the Czech Police daily in ad hoc situations. The task continues following the 2016 Memorandum on Cooperation in Ensuring the Security of Jewish Institutions as Soft Targets. The Coordination Centre was established on the basis of the 2016 Memorandum on Cooperation in Ensuring the Security of Jewish Institutions as Soft Targets for the purpose of coordination in the event of major violent and terrorist attacks against Jewish communities in the Czech Republic and, in particular, as a platform for systematic communication between state and local government entities and the Jewish community. Based on developments, the agenda of this coordination platform must also be updated to reflect current needs that lead to ensuring the safety of communities. The Coordination Centre will focus more on monitoring antisemitism and analysing its current form in the Czech Republic. The Coordination Centre will also monitor and evaluate the implementation of this strategy.

[46] Funding is currently provided under the Security Program of the Holocaust Victims Foundation, based on Czech Government Resolution No. 757 of October 11, 2023. Funding is also available through the Internal Security Fund established by the European Commission, which offers a program for the protection of Jewish religious sites.

[47] Victims of these crimes may be particularly vulnerable victims in specific cases under Act No. 45/2013 Coll., on victims of crime, as amended.

[48]See more at: https://ejtn.eu/

[49]See more at: https://www.cepol.europa.eu/cs

Recommendations:

- Strengthen methodological support for the Police of the Czech Republic and public prosecutors concerning crimes motivated by antisemitism.
- Provide education and training to police specialists and prosecutors on prosecuting antisemitic hate crimes using existing tools (e.g., existing internal training for law enforcement agencies, CEPOL, EJTN, etc.), sharing best practices, and using e-learning opportunities.
- Establish a system for a consistent recording of potential prejudicial motives on the part of the Police of the Czech Republic, for the purpose of effectively investigating these potential motives, including the transfer of this information to public prosecutors.
- Make the statistical reporting of antisemitic crimes more accurate and make systemic changes to document antisemitic motives; in doing so, to report the gender of the perpetrator and victim in antisemitic crimes where possible.
- Use data from non-profit/non-governmental organizations.
- Focus on prejudicial violence and its victims in criminological research.
- Review and implement educational programs, also in the context of integration policy.

c) Online dimension

The online environment is a major challenge, not only in terms of antisemitism. The internet is an environment which, in addition to its undeniably positive tools and communication possibilities, also has negative aspects that provide space for the spread of hatred, which can have radicalizing potential leading to violent extremism and terrorism.

Antisemitism is a very visible part of the online environment. Despite all efforts, antisemitic comments, articles, videos, and images are shared not only on alternative or extremist websites, but also on mainstream websites and social networks. In particular, the COVID-19 pandemic has triggered an avalanche of conspiracy theories. Antisemitism takes various forms in the online environment, from explicit vulgar expressions of hatred towards Jews to more sophisticated expressions using implicit meanings. The use of AI to generate antisemitic content, including images, is no exception.

There are currently instruments at the EU level that seek to address this problem, primarily through cooperation with internet companies, but also through legislation, such as Regulation (EU) 2021/784 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021 on combating the dissemination of terrorist content online (TCO) and Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council of October 19, 2022 on the Digital Services Act (DSA). In the Czech Republic there are also many practical tools for responding to antisemitism in the online environment. However, these options need to be promoted more and better utilized.

Recommendations:

- Systematically use existing and new tools such as DSA, TCO, Code of Conduct,[50] EU Internet

[50]See more at: https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/combatting-discrimination/racism-and-xenophobia/eu-code-conduct-countering-illegal-hate-speech-online_en

Referral Unit of Europol,[51] the AI Act,[52] the so-called Trusted Flaggers,[53] etc.

- Collaboration with internet companies and non-governmental organizations to address borderline antisemitic content.
- Promote the possibility of using the form for reporting illegal hateful content online on the Citizen Portal.

2. Strategy objective: education, remembrance, and research on the Holocaust; raising awareness of antisemitism

Education on the contribution of Judaism to Czech and European history, awareness-raising of the Holocaust and antisemitism, and commemorating the victims of the Holocaust play a key role in combating and preventing antisemitism, racism, and xenophobia, while also countering the denial and distortion of the Holocaust. An important aspect in this field is inter-ministerial cooperation, particularly between the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (hereinafter referred to as MEYS), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Culture (hereinafter referred to as MoC), and the Department of Memory Agendas of the Human Rights and Minority Protection Division of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic with the FJC and memory institutions, and subsequently international cooperation, e.g., with the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (hereinafter referred to as UNESCO), and others. International cooperation is primarily managed by the Special Envoy for Holocaust Affairs, Interfaith Dialogue and Freedom of Religion at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

a) Education on the contribution of Judaism, on the Holocaust, and on antisemitism

The most important role in preventing these phenomena is the education of students in elementary and high schools, vocational schools, teachers, future teachers, university students (or higher vocational schools), academic staff, and the general public. An integral part of this is to emphasize the positive historical contribution of Judaism, to place historical events in context, to raise awareness of Jewish life, to draw attention to the consequences of institutionalized hatred, to contribute to the prevention of these phenomena in the future, and to promote intercultural understanding.

Education on the Holocaust and antisemitism in the regional school system is based on framework programs issued by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, which underwent a comprehensive review in 2024 aimed at their verification and phased implementation in 2025-2031. The topic is addressed in an interdisciplinary manner in cross-curricular themes and key competencies and is also part of some educational disciplines. The IHRA Methodological Material "Recommendations for Learning about the Holocaust"[54] sets out the following educational objectives: promote knowledge about the Holocaust, ensure proper individual understanding and accurate knowledge, and thus raise awareness of the possible consequences of antisemitism; create an engaging learning environment;

[51]See more at: https://www.europol.europa.eu/about-europol/european-counter-terrorism-centre-ectc/eu-internet-referal-unit-eu-iru
[52]See more at: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:e0649735-a372-11eb-9585-01aa75ed71a1.0002.02/DOC_1&format=PDF
[53]See more at: https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/trusted-flaggers-under-dsa
[54]The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports has provided a Czech translation of the Recommendations for Learning about the Holocaust: Recommendations for Learning about the Holocaust by the IHRA Alliance, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic (gov.cz)

promote critical and reflective thinking about the Holocaust, including the ability to confront its denial and distortion; contribute to education on human rights and the prevention of genocide.

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports plays an irreplaceable role in the above-mentioned areas of education.

Recommendations:

- Support educational activities about the Holocaust and antisemitism across the education system.
- Support grant calls for educational activities about the Holocaust and antisemitism.
- Use existing methodologies (Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, IHRA, UNESCO, and others) and model seminars organized in cooperation with memory institutions such as the Terezín Memorial, the Jewish Museum in Prague, and Yad Vashem, as well as specialized workshops such as Stereotypes, a workshop of the Jewish Museum in Prague dealing with historical and contemporary manifestations of antisemitism in the Czech Republic, based on annual data from the annual report on manifestations of antisemitism published by the FJC;
- Create model school education programs focused on highlighting the forms, content, and impact of antisemitism.
- Visit places of remembrance associated with the history of the Jewish population in the Czech Republic.
- Continue to involve Holocaust survivors (including online) and representatives of the so-called second generation (a project of the Czech Auschwitz Committee, the Terezín Memorial, the Jewish Museum in Prague, and the Foundation for Holocaust Victims) in teaching.
- Raise awareness of positive examples of opponents of the Holocaust and antisemitism, including audiovisual materials (e.g., on the work of Nicholas Winton).
- Use available materials, in particular the online database holocaust.cz, the online presentation of the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI), testimonies of survivors on the Memory of Nations portal, testimonies from the USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive (available at the Malach Visual History Centre at the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of Charles University), archives of the Jewish Museum in Prague and the Terezín Memorial, and others.
- Continue to implement the call for grants to support the organization of seminars for teachers and pupils and students of primary, secondary, and higher vocational schools.
- Continue to fulfil the tasks assigned by relevant previously adopted government resolutions, including Government Resolution No. 797 of July 28, 1999, on the proposal to convene the International Conference on the Phenomenon of the Holocaust.
- Continue the good practice of supporting institutions that have long been engaged in research, documentation, museological, and exhibition activities.

b) Commemoration of Holocaust victims

Commemorating the victims of the Holocaust is an active preservation of historical memory and it also serves as a means of preventing antisemitism, xenophobia, and racism. In the Czech Republic, public and community remembrance activities are held on two international days: January 27, International Holocaust Remembrance Day, which was proclaimed on November 1, 2005, by the UN General Assembly (known in the Czech calendar as Holocaust Remembrance Day and the Prevention of Crimes

Against Humanity) and commemorates the day on which the Nazi concentration and extermination camp Auschwitz-Birkenau was liberated; memorial services are also held on the occasion of Israel's Remembrance Day יום הזיכרון לשואה ולגבורה *jom ha-zikaron la-šoa ve-la-gvura* (Day of Remembrance for the Shoah and Heroism), which is held on the 27th day of Nisan in the Jewish calendar and commemorates the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. Other local commemorative activities take place in the Czech Republic, namely the National Memorial Ceremony in Terezín on the third Sunday in May to honour the victims of Nazi persecution, March 9, a commemoration of the largest mass murder of Czechoslovak citizens, the so-called Terezín family camp in Auschwitz-Birkenau, and the Kever Avot memorial service, held on the Sunday before the new Jewish year. It is also important to ensure the protection and preservation of memorial sites associated with the tragic events of World War II, particularly the former ghetto in Terezín, the former Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp, and other sites associated with the tragedy of Czech and Moravian Jews. Inter-ministerial cooperation (Ministry of Culture, memory institutions, Memory Agenda Department of the Human Rights and Minority Protection Division, Office of the Government of the Czech Republic, and other relevant actors) is important to ensure the protection and preservation of these memorial sites).

Recommendations:

- Support annual commemorative activities in public spaces.
- Raise awareness of the IWalk app.
- Support the preservation of memorial sites.

3. Strategy objective: promoting Jewish life

The Jewish minority and its traditions and customs have been an integral part of European and Czech society for many centuries. They contribute to the diverse and colourful mosaic of European communities, which is important for building a civilized, cultural, and inclusive society that can draw on its diversity and use it to its advantage. Awareness of cultural differences and building respect and understanding for the specific characteristics of individual minorities is essential for the development and security of society as a whole.

Therefore, this document also includes a goal that leads to the support and development of Jewish life in the Czech and international context. This goal is directed not only at the Jewish minority so that it can continue to develop, but also at experts, and particularly the general public, so that they could learn more about the specifics of Jewish life and better understand them.

Jewish communities[55] associated in the FJC ensure the spiritual, religious, and cultural life of their members and their social needs and education. They also care for cultural and religious monuments (synagogues, cemeteries, museums, memorials etc.). They actively stand up against all forms of antisemitism, racism, xenophobia, and discrimination, protect the memory of Holocaust victims, and share the Jewish experience with the general public.

The FJC is a religious society under the law on churches, and thanks to its legal and real status, it represents the Czech Jewish minority before state and local government authorities. Effective and meaningful support for Jewish life is inconceivable without the active involvement of the FJC.

The Foundation Fund for Holocaust Victims (hereinafter referred to as NFHV) was established by the FJC in 2000 based on a recommendation by the Joint Working Commission to mitigate certain property

[55]Legal entities registered under the Act on Churches.

injustices caused to Holocaust victims. The NFHV provides grants for social and health care with special regard to the needs of Holocaust survivors, as well as for the reconstruction, restoration, and preservation of Jewish monuments in the Czech Republic , projects serving as a dignified memorial to Holocaust victims, educational activities on Judaism, the development of Czech Jewish organizations, and, since 2024, ensuring the safety of Jewish communities and the FJC. The activities of the NFHV depend on financial support from public budgets. During its existence, the NFHV has become an example of effective cooperation between the Czech Republic and Jewish organizations.

Recommendations:

- Support the development of the Jewish minority, including its religious and cultural life.
- Create conditions for representatives of Czech Jewish organizations to participate in the formulation of policies, programs, and projects that directly affect their communities, particularly those related to culture, the Holocaust, and antisemitism.
- Maintain conditions for observing Jewish traditions, including circumcision and ritual slaughter, for the needs of the Jewish minority.
- Create conditions enabling the observance of Jewish holidays, including setting additional exam dates, negotiations with public authorities etc.
- Coordinate projects and activities on Jewish-related topics with the FJC[56] as an umbrella Jewish organization in the Czech Republic.
- Minimize the negative impacts of prejudicial violence and hate speech against the Jewish minority by educating the public about Judaism, Jewish customs and traditions, culture, history, and the present.
- Support the maintenance, reconstruction, and restoration of Jewish monuments, both immovable and movable.
- Continue to provide financial support to the NFOH.
- Support and co-initiate projects dealing with Jewish cultural heritage and promote the development of Jewish minorities in Central Europe through the activities of the Czech German Future Fund and the International Visegrad Fund.

Conclusion: Monitoring implementation and evaluation

The fight against antisemitism is a shared responsibility. An enlightened democratic society should not only reject expressions of hatred but should also work proactively towards minimising such expressions in society.

Therefore, the recommendations for achieving the strategic objectives contained in this document will be implemented from 2025 to 2030 as part of the action plans and specific tasks set out therein. The tasks will have clearly defined managers, indicators, and deadlines. When drawing up the action plans, existing tasks from individual action plans to achieve the strategic objectives of the Concept for Combating Extremism and Prejudicial Hatred 2021-2026 will also be considered.

Given that the extent and manifestations of antisemitism largely respond to current domestic and global geopolitical events that cannot be predicted, the implementation of strategic objectives will also be regularly evaluated during this period through the tasks set out in the action plans so that timely

[56]The FJC also cooperates, for example, with the Government Council for National Minorities, an advisory body to the Czech government.

action can be taken in the event of shortcomings. The Coordination Centre platform, among other things, will be used to monitor implementation.

The results of the monitoring will be included in an interim report to be published in the middle of the period, i.e., in 2027.

The final report will be published in 2031 and will form the basis for further strategic material. The reports will be submitted to the government for information.