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THEOLOGICAL BELIEFS, JURISPRUDENCE

Jewish dietary laws govern the way kosher
observe the dietary laws of Kashrut will eat

GUIDE TO JEWISH COMMUNITIES FOR POLICE

FACING ALL THE FACTS

Original version written by CST, adapted by CEJI

**This publication is part of the Facing All the Facts
online course on recognizing and identifying
antisemitic hate crime.**

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For observant Jews, all cooking utensils, crockery and dishes are kosher. Dairy food and meat foods must be prepared in different saucepans and dishes for each. Kosher shops can be the target of antisemitic hate crime. Police visits should be given to the protection of these shops.

Some supermarkets sell kosher products and almost every major European city, where there are Jewish communities, has a kosher shop.

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Facing all the Facts is a project coordinated by CEJI – A Jewish Contribution to an Inclusive Europe (Belgium) that takes a collaborative approach to unmask the full extent and nature of hate crime and hate speech working through a coalition of civil society organizations, policy leads, national law enforcement authorities and practitioners.

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Introduction

The original version of this guide was created by the Community Security Trust (CST) and later adapted to the framework of the Facing All the facts project, an EU funded initiative led by CEJI – A Jewish Contribution to an inclusive Europe in partnership with a diverse coalition of civil society organisations and national law enforcement authorities, aiming to unmask the full extent and nature of hate crime and hate speech through a collaborative approach.

Along with research and advocacy, training is one of the key activities of the Facing all the Facts project. This booklet stands as an important component of the new Facing Facts Online course on recognizing and identifying anti-Muslim bias indicators for civil society and law enforcement. The course was developed in close cooperation with partners and relevant experts in the field of disability hate crime. The course is available on the project's e-learning platform <http://www.facingfactsonline.eu> along with additional online courses on other bias motivations (antisemitism, anti-disabled, anti-Migrant, anti-LGBT, anti-Roma, anti-Black), three online courses on hate crime for police in UK, Italy and Hungary and an online course on recognizing and combating hate speech currently available in English, French, German and Italian.

This publication is adapted from "A Police Officers Guide to Judaism" published by the Community Security Trust (CST) – UK, also one of the founding partner of the Facing Facts initiative.

Lead partner: CEJI-A Jewish contribution to an inclusive Europe

Facing All the Facts partners:

- Community Security Trust (CST)
- Dutch Centre for Documentation and Information Israel (CIDI)
- ENAR Ireland
- European Network on Independent Living (ENIL)
- European Roma Information Office (ERIO)
- Movimiento Contra la Intolerancia (MCI)
- National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC)
- National University of Public Service (NUPS)
- Osservatorio per la sicurezza contro gli atti discriminatori (OSCAD)
- Praxis

Jews and Judaism

We often refer to Jews through the religion; Judaism. However, not all Jews are religious and follow Judaism, yet they will identify themselves as Jews. We will discuss the diversity of the Jewish community more in depth in the next activity and for this guide, we will focus on Judaism.

Judaism is the religion of the Jewish people and, at almost 4,000 years old, is one of the oldest religious traditions still practised today. Its values and history are a major part of the foundations of Christianity and Islam. There are approximately 15 million Jewish people (Berman Jewish Data Bank, 2017) in the world, six million of whom live in Israel.

Denominations

Orthodox Jews believe the Torah (the primary source of Jewish law and ethics) was given to Moses by God on Mount Sinai nearly 4,000 years ago. The Torah is part of the Tanakh (which consist of the Torah + Prophets + Writings), which Christians refer to as the Old Testament. Orthodox Jews are also guided by a corpus of legal literature, including the Talmud, which is the source from which the code of Jewish Halakhah (law) is derived. While all Orthodox Jews observe the Shabbat and religious traditions, Haredi Jews (Strictly Orthodox) are easily identifiable due to their distinctive clothing.

Modern Orthodox Jews tend to dress in a more contemporary manner. They often are more integrated into mainstream society and would not be as easily identifiable as a distinctive group, although many men wear a small kippah (skull cap) as headwear.

Conservative (Masorti), Reform and Liberal Members of these movements do not observe the faith in the same way as Orthodox Jews. For example, Orthodox Jews usually wear a head covering that they believe shows respect for God. Conservative, Reform and Liberal Jews do not believe this is always necessary, and may also have a different interpretation of Shabbat observance or the dietary laws. In addition, women can become Rabbis and men and women may sit together in the synagogue.

There are also many people who are not affiliated to any denomination or do not observe any of the traditional laws, but who still identify as Jews.

Collective memory: the impact of the Holocaust

Even though decades have passed since the Holocaust took place, the Jewish community and its culture is still strongly impacted by it. It has affected tradition, culture and general feelings but also reporting attitudes. Some Jews think of minor or even severe incidents in comparison to the Shoah – that nothing can be worse – and are likely to avoid reporting it to the police.

On 27 January every year, commemorates International Holocaust Remembrance Day. It is very likely that Jewish communities and public authorities in your area will organize public events on that day such as exhibitions and dedicated events to raise awareness.

The Shabbat

The Shabbat or Shabbos (Yiddish), is one of the most important parts of the Jewish faith. Some Jews refrain from various acts of “work” on the Shabbat, in commemoration of God’s cessation of work on the seventh day of creation. Jews traditionally attend synagogue services with family on the Shabbat and celebrate the day in the company of family and friends with festive meals.

Practical policing issues

Non-emergency crimes will not usually be reported until after the Shabbat or the festival has ended because:

- Orthodox Jews will be unwilling to write statements or sign their names; and
- Orthodox Jews will not use the telephone.

What is considered “work”?

Taken in a modern context, on Shabbat, Orthodox Jews generally refrain from activities such as:

- All types of business transaction (shops and businesses are closed);
- Driving and travelling;
- Using electronic equipment (including telephones, computers, radio and TV);
- Handling money;
- Writing; and
- Carrying anything outside of the home in areas without a religious boundary marker (Eruv).

For observant Jews the Shabbat laws are binding in all circumstances except in the case of danger to life.

The timing of the Shabbat

The Shabbat starts on Friday about one hour before nightfall, or 15 minutes before sunset. Therefore, Orthodox Jews need to leave work or school in sufficient time to arrive home before the onset of the Shabbat.

Life-threatening emergencies

Where there is danger to life either through a medical or other emergency, Shabbat laws must be disregarded in order to save lives. The emergency services should be called in this instance as on any other day.

Jewish festivals

Practical policing issues

Festival laws are almost indistinguishable from Shabbat laws, and exactly the same policing issues will apply:

- Many people who do not usually attend services during the rest of the year will do so for festivals. The synagogues will therefore be full and the nearby streets will often be very busy.
- Each festival may have specific policing requirements. The Jewish calendar has a number of festivals and special days, either commemorating major events in Jewish history or celebrating certain times of the year.

Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year)

Rosh Hashanah takes place over two days either in September or October, and is considered one of the most important periods in the Jewish calendar. It is an opportunity for reflection on the previous year.

Practical policing issues on Rosh Hashanah

- Many synagogues will have additional overflow services either on the premises or nearby.
- Members of Reform and Liberal communities will often drive to synagogue services, and there may be significant congestion and parking issues. Even in Orthodox communities there may be an increase in traffic.
- On the afternoon of the first day (or the second day if the first falls on the Shabbat), many Jewish people will walk to a river to symbolically "cast away" their sins. This ceremony is called tashlich.

Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)

This festival is the most solemn day in the Jewish calendar and involves praying for forgiveness for sins committed in the past year and demonstrating repentance. Every Jewish person, except children and those who are ill, is expected to abstain from food and drink for 25 hours from sunset on the previous evening until nightfall the next day.

Practical policing issues on Yom Kippur

- Synagogues are open all day and are extremely busy, especially for the evening services.
- Many people will walk home during the day for a short break from prayers. There is likely to be a continuous flow of people on the streets throughout the day.
- Since most Jewish families will be in synagogue for the opening and concluding services of Yom Kippur, their homes may be more vulnerable to burglars.

Sukkot (Tabernacles)

This festival begins five days after the end of Yom Kippur and commemorates the temporary booths that the Israelites constructed in the wilderness after their exodus from Egypt. During this eight-day festival, observant Jews may eat and sleep in a similar booth, known as a sukkah. The intermediate days of this festival are regular working days.

Practical policing issues on Sukkot

- Many Jewish people will carry long boxes containing palm tree leaves to and from synagogue. These are ritual items used as part of the holiday.
- Synagogues will have a sukkah on their premises.

Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah

(Rejoicing of the Law)

Immediately following Sukkot are Shemini Atzeret (Eighth Day of Assembly) and Simchat Torah, one of the most joyous festivals in the Jewish calendar. Many synagogues hold parties after the service.

Practical policing issues on Simchat Torah

- Many families and children will attend synagogue services on this day, and there will often be outdoor festivities.
- Synagogue services will usually last a lot longer during the day, and many communities will also hold a communal luncheon. Therefore, synagogues may not close until mid-afternoon.

Pesach (Passover)

This eight-day festival, which often coincides with the Easter weekend, recalls the freedom of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt. To remember the haste with which they escaped, no leavened food such as bread, cereals or beer may be consumed or owned during this festival.

Shavuot (Pentecost)

Shavuot takes place seven weeks after Pesach (usually around late May/early June) and celebrates the Jewish people receiving the Torah. The festival lasts for two days and it is traditional to eat dairy products.

Practical policing issues on Shavuot

- It is traditional to study through the night on the first evening of this festival and there may be many people on the streets and in synagogues.

Chanukah (Festival of Lights)

This joyous festival is celebrated by lighting a candelabra (called a chanukiah) every night for eight nights. Other traditions include eating food cooked in oil such as dough-nuts and potato pancakes, giving presents and holding parties.

Practical policing issues on Chanukah

- It is traditional for families to display the (sometimes expensive) candelabra in their front windows. Therefore burglaries and fires can occur, and the community leaders should be given the appropriate advice.

The display of the candelabra in the front windows makes Jewish families more identifiable. This can expose these families to higher risks of being targets of antisemitic attacks such as objects and stones thrown at their windows. Police should always ask the victim(s) of such attacks happening during this time of the year, if there were visible religious symbols which could lead the perpetrator to the assumption that the victim was Jewish.

- Some Jewish communities will hold Chanukah ceremonies in public places.

Purim (Festival of Lots)

This one-day festival recalls the story of Esther, a Jewish queen in Persia who foiled a plot by one of the king's advisors to kill all the Jews. As well as the story being read in synagogue from a special scroll called a megillah, it is a day for parties and communal celebrations.

Practical policing issues on Purim

- This is a day of joy and fun, and fancy dress costumes are traditionally worn, even in public places.
- It is traditional for many people to walk through the local neighbourhood collecting for charity and delivering food parcels to friends.
- This is one of the few occasions in the year in which the consumption of alcohol is encouraged. This can lead to isolated instances of antisocial behaviour.

Jewish festival dates

| FESTIVAL | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------|----------------------|------------|
| PURIM | 28 Feb - 1 Mar | 20-21 Mar | 9-10 Mar | 25-26 Feb | 16-17 Mar |
| PESACH | 30 Mar - 7 Apr | 19-27 Apr | 8-16 Apr | 24 Mar - 7 Apr | 15-23 Apr |
| SHAVUOT | 19-21 May | 8-10 Jun | 28-30 May | 16-18 May | 4-6 Jun |
| ROSH HASHANAH | 9-11 Sept | 29 Sept - 1 Oct | 18-20 Sept | 6-8 Sept | 25-27 Sept |
| YOM KIPPUR | 18-19 Sept | 8-9 Oct | 27-28 Sept | 15-16 Sept | 4-5 Oct |
| SUCCOT | 23 Sept - 1 Oct | 13-21 Oct | 2-10 Oct | 20-28 Sept | 9-17 Oct |
| SIMCHAT TORAH | 2 Oct | 22 Oct | 11 Oct | 29 Sept | 18 Oct |
| CHANUKAH | 2-10 Dec | 22 - 30 Dec | 10-18 Dec | 28 Nov - 6 Dec | 18-26 Dec |

Source: CST, 2017

Food

Jewish dietary laws govern the way kosher food is manufactured and served. Jews who observe the dietary laws of Kashrut will eat only food, manufactured or cooked, which bears a reliable seal of approval by a rabbinical authority. This includes meat products, baked foods and dairy foods.

For observant Jews, all cooking utensils, crockery and cutlery must only be used for kosher foods. Dairy food and meat foods must be kept separate and cooked and served in different saucepans and dishes for each. Observant Jews will eat only in restaurants that are supervised by a recognized Kashrut authority.

Some supermarkets sell kosher products and there are also dedicated kosher shops in almost every major European city, where one can only find kosher items.

Kosher shops can be the target of antisemitic attacks. Therefore particular attention should be given to the protection of these shops, such as patrolling and occasional police visits.

Jewish clothing and homes

Observant Jewish men cover their heads at all times, usually with a small skullcap known as a yarmulke or kippah. Some may also wear a tasselled garment, called tzitzit, as an undergarment and this may be visible below their waist. Married Orthodox Jewish women cover their hair or wear a wig at all times as a sign of modesty. They will only wear modest clothing and many will not wear rousers, short skirts or short sleeves.

All traditional Jewish homes can be identified by looking for a mezuzah. This is a small box containing two biblical texts, which is affixed to the right-hand doorpost of most rooms in a Jewish home, including the front door.

The mezuzah affixed on the front door makes the property recognisable as a Jewish home. As a result, the building or apartment, as well as those inhabiting it might be exposed to antisemitic attacks, such as graffiti and vandalism or even physical attack in the vicinity of the apartment. Police should always ask the victim(s) of such attacks if there was any visible religious symbol that could lead the attacker to the assumption that he/she was Jewish.

Synagogue, prayer and community buildings

Practical policing issues

It is not necessary for male police officers to wear a hat when entering a synagogue, but the gesture of covering the head will nevertheless be appreciated as a sign of respect.

- Taking pictures, videos or using tape recorders is usually forbidden in orthodox synagogue. In liberal/reformed synagogue may be possible but discretion should be used and asking the synagogue personnel's consent is always recommended..

Traditionally, all men and boys over the age of 13 are expected to pray three times a day. While this can be performed individually, many men prefer to attend synagogue and pray with at least ten men present. Such a prayer group, called a minyan, is particularly important when a person is in a period of mourning.

- Daily morning prayers generally take place between 6:00 am and 9:00 am, and last about 45 minutes. Phylacteries (small leather boxes containing biblical texts known as tefillin) and a prayer shawl are worn during prayer.

Daily afternoon and evening prayers usually take around 15 minutes. Women also pray, but they are not required to wear phylacteries or shawls during prayer. Synagogue etiquette varies depending on the denomination of Judaism to which a person belongs.

- ❶ In Orthodox synagogues, women sit separately from men, either upstairs in the gallery or to the side of men. Men wear the traditional head covering. Married women cover their heads with hats, wigs or scarves and are expected to dress modestly.
- ❷ At Conservative, Reform and Liberal synagogues, men and women will usually sit together during the service.

Hebrew is the traditional language of Jewish prayer, and is used to varying degrees in the services and celebrations of each denomination.

There are usually Jewish community buildings in every city where there is a community, that is often called JCC (Jewish community center). They often host Hebrew and Torah classes, events for less or non-religious community members, celebrations, festivals etc. and are important part of the Jewish community life.

Jewish Schools

Depending on the size of the Jewish community living in the area, there might be one or more Jewish school. Jewish schools might be particularly sensitive targets of antisemitic attacks. Cooperation between law enforcement and Jewish communities is essential to guarantee the protection of Jewish schools and children. It is recommended that police officers patrolling Jewish schools establish a good relationship with the school's security staff/volunteers. Smooth communication with the school's security personnel can allow for a quicker identification of suspicious behaviour and a potentially risky situation that may need the police's intervention.



The Jewish life cycle

Birth

Jewish boys are circumcised in a ceremony called brit milah. This takes place when the baby is eight days old, or as soon as possible thereafter if there are medical reasons for a delay. The circumcision is performed by a mohel, a trained Jewish practitioner who may also be a registered medical doctor. The boy's name is frequently not announced until the circumcision. Girls are usually named in the synagogue, often on the Shabbat following the birth.

Bar mitzvah / bat mitzvah

With regard to many religious rituals, boys are recognized as full adult members of the community at age 13, when they celebrate their bar mitzvah (literally "son of the commandments"). Girls reach this stage at 12 when they celebrate their bat mitzvah. Both boys and girls have a period of intense study leading up to the occasion.

Weddings

Jewish weddings can occur any day of the week except the Shabbat, Jewish festivals and particular mourning periods in the Jewish calendar. A Jewish wedding may take place in any location, but is commonly held inside or outside a synagogue. It is traditional for the couple's friends and family to organise celebratory meals during the week after the wedding.

Burial and mourning

The body should never be left unaccompanied, and it is vital that there is as little interference with the body as possible:

- 🕒 Eyes and jaws should be closed and the body covered with a white sheet.
- 🕒 The funeral should take place as soon as possible following the death, often on the same day.

- In Orthodox communities, there may be large crowds in the streets to mourn the deceased.

When a Jewish person dies, it is crucial that the body is treated with care and extreme reverence at all times. There are special rules for the preparation of the body for burial, and the body should not be left unattended at any time. Post-mortems are not permitted in Jewish law except where required under civil law. Cremation is practised in some Reform and Liberal communities, but is strictly prohibited in Orthodox Jewish communities. After the funeral, the immediate family of the deceased mourn at home for seven days. This is known as the shiva period.

References to relevant legislation and surveys on victims perception of antisemitism

Modern Antisemitism appears in many different forms and is not always easy to unmask. Nowadays several European tools exist to better understand antisemitism and its impact on victims and Jewish communities.

- Holocaust denial and antisemitic hate speech inciting to violence and hatred is outlawed in Europe. The aim of the **Framework Decision on combating racism and xenophobia (2008)** is to fight against hate speech and hate crime by the means of criminal law.
- In May 2016, the **International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance** (IHRA) adopted a **legally non-binding working definition** of Antisemitism.
- On 1 June 2017, the European Parliament adopted its first ever **resolution** on combating Antisemitism, including the IHRA working definition on Antisemitism.
- In December 2018 the Council of the European Union approved a **declaration on the fight against antisemitism** and the development of a common security approach to better protect Jewish communities and institutions in Europe.

- 🕒 The EU's **Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA)** collects and analyses EU countries' data on antisemitic hate crime. An annual FRA report on antisemitic hate crimes compiles data submitted by international, governmental and non-governmental sources.
- 🕒 In 2018, the FRA conducted a **large-scale survey on experiences and perceptions of Antisemitism among European Jews** where, among the other things, is possible to understand directly from the voice of the victims reasons for underreporting and lack of trust in law enforcement and public authorities.

Key principles for interviews¹

When conducting an interview to assess the crime experienced by the victim and to collect the deposition, it could be useful to adopt some of these tips. They can help you offer a supportive and sensitive service and collect more information.

Objectivity

- 🕒 Remain as factual as possible (avoid basing information on perceptions).
- 🕒 Choose a neutral place for the interview.

Confidentiality

- 🕒 Offer to hide names and certain information.
- 🕒 Ask consent to use information, recording, etc.

¹ Source, Facing all the Facts, Guidelines on Roma Communities for Police, 2019

Respect for the interviewee (especially for victims)

- 🕒 Be aware of their trauma.
- 🕒 Respect their private life, offer confidentiality and the possibility to conceal/change their identity to protect their privacy.
- 🕒 Offer to take breaks during the interview.

Further advice:

- 🕒 Be clear about your objectives and clearly state your objectives to the interviewee.
- 🕒 Prepare various types of questions (background questions, open-ended questions, specific questions).
- 🕒 Allocate sufficient time for the interview.
- 🕒 Create a safe environment for the interviewee – let them know that the interview can be stopped at any time, and that they can stop if there is a question that they do not wish to answer.
- 🕒 Explain to the victim what she/he can expect as follow up of the report.

General observations to make during an interview:

Observe how the interviewee is behaving. Some of the behaviour enlisted below may trigger your reflection on how to guarantee the safest environment for the victim to report the antisemitic episode:

- 🕒 Signs of nervousness (e.g. tone of voice, eye contact, body language, etc.). Does the victim need a break? Does the victim need a helper, such as a family member or a Jewish community representative?

- ③ Signs of emotions/tears. Does the victim need professional support such as psychological support or medical assistance?
- ③ Responsiveness to questions (hesitation, difficulty in understanding, etc.). Does the victim need an interpreter? Is the victim not in the physical/emotional conditions to answer the question? Does the victim need a break?
- ③ Be aware of the settings of the interview: Who is present during the interview? Does the interviewee feel comfortable with everyone present? Please note that some orthodox Jewish men/women might feel uncomfortable to be alone in the room or to have any physical contact with people of the opposite sex.

Pay attention to special words (slur, insults, anti-Jewish derogatory language):

If during an attack or crime against a Jewish person the perpetrator pronounces derogatory words, or clear references to the holocaust (e.g. comparison to the Nazi concentration camps ovens) it is important that police officer writes down in the report these words, as they are key elements for prosecutor to assess if this is a hate crime, and for the judge to decide about the antisemitic bias of the crime.

In case of doubts or questions on how to proceed, the police may contact Jewish organizations/communities for suggestions or information. Usually available during working hours, Jewish communities can be contacted to explain the context of the problem and help the police to access places and facilitate communication. Jewish communities contacts details can usually be found online.

Pay attention to the victim's identity and privacy, be respectful and open-minded.

Good practices and tips against stereotypes and bias

In light of what seen so far, there are some useful tips that could be kept in mind when interacting with Jewish people, in particular when supporting and helping them in case of hate crimes:

- ❶ In case of identity checks, as mentioned earlier in this guide, some Jewish people may prefer to be treated by a same gender practitioner
- ❷ Make sure that the victim and the relatives are aware of their rights and of what the various procedures consist of.
- ❸ Avoid judging Jewish people based on stereotypes perpetrated by the media or by society (e.g. assuming the victim is wealthy because is Jewish, assuming his/her loyalty to and/or direct affiliation with Israel etc.)². Help and support the victims with an open mind and ask directly to them clarifications or curiosity.
- ❹ Work directly with Jewish communities in tackling daily issues, such as the security of the Jewish sites or less serious hate incidents.
- ❺ It is important for the police to reach out to the official local Jewish institutions. The assistance of civil society can be very helpful in identifying and encouraging victims to report and to provide further victim support if needed.
- ❻ The commitment for change must be expressed in practice through the establishment and maintenance of long-term partnerships between the police and Jewish communities (e.g. through the sharing of successful examples of partnership-based initiatives with other cities, regions, or EU countries).
- ❼ Where appropriate, make use of close partnership with Jewish communities/ organisations and/or international organisations, policy statements, codes of conduct, protocols for cooperation, practical handbooks and training programs to improve police responses to antisemitism.

² For a more exhaustive list of common myths and prejudice about Judaism and Jewish people read "Debunking Myths about Jews", ENAR, 2016 https://www.enar-eu.org/IMG/pdf/debunkingmyths_lr.pdf

- 🕒 Police officers should be made aware of history and contemporary manifestations of antisemitism in the course of their general training.

Useful links to educational resources on Judaism and antisemitism

- 🕒 **Online course on identifying and recognizing antisemitic bias indicators**, Facing Facts Online, CEJI – A Jewish Contribution to an Inclusive Europe, March 2019
- 🕒 **Guidelines for identifying & monitoring antisemitism online & offline**, CEJI – A Jewish Contribution to an Inclusive Europe, 2016
- 🕒 **Debunking Myths about Jews**, European Network Against Racism (ENAR), October 2015
- 🕒 **Addressing anti-semitism through education: guidelines for policymakers**, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (“OSCE”), Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (“ODIHR”), 2018
- 🕒 Holocaust denial on trial <https://www.hdot.org>
- 🕒 My Jewish Learning, <https://www.myjewishlearning.com>



Glossary

Anti-Zionism

The origin of the word comes from the refusal, in principle, to accept the existence of a Jewish State, independent of the Palestinian question. It included amongst its supporters, before the founding of Israel, many Jews, although this changed after the Shoah when the need for a safe haven for Jews was made clearly apparent.

Anti-Zionism refers to criticism of Israel that questions Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state. This form of antisemitism has been fed from the extreme right and the extreme left. In recent times, therefore, it has come to exist as an uncensored, almost "politically correct" form of antisemitism.

Antisemitism

Discrimination, prejudice or hostility towards Jews. Antisemitism may have a theological basis (eg Jews are damned because it is alleged they killed Christ), a racial basis (eg Jews were deemed inferior to Aryans under Nazism), or a political basis (eg Jews seek to dominate the world, or the media). It is most strongly associated with Nazism but it is not only a far-right phenomenon, and can originate within the Left and Islamist ideology. Anti-Zionism is sometimes employed as a mask for Antisemitism, where Israel is demonised, unfairly targeted or held to different standards than other countries. Antisemitism is spelled as one word, and not anti-Semitism as there is no such thing as Semitism which a person can be against.

A widely accepted working definition has been defined by the European Union Monitoring Centre (EUMC): "Anti-Semitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and / or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities". In addition, such manifestations could also target the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity.

Bar/bat mitzvah

With regards to many religious rituals, boys are recognized as full adult members of the community at age 13, when they celebrate their bar mitzvah (literally “son of the commandments”). Girls reach this stage at age 12, when they celebrate their bat mitzvah. Both boys and girls have a period of intense study leading up to the occasion.

Bias indicators

Objective facts that tell us whether an incident might be bias motivated such as victim perception, timing, location and demographic differences between victim(s) and offender(s). These criteria are not all-inclusive, and each case must be examined on its own facts and circumstances.

Bias motivation

The bias motivation is “the offender’s prejudice towards the victim based on a protected characteristic. A bias or hate crime or hate-motivated incident can be based on one of the following motivations: race/ethnicity, religion/faith, nationality, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or other grounds.

Blood Libel

The “blood libel” refers to a centuries-old false allegation that Jews murder Christians – especially Christian children – to use their blood for ritual purposes, such as an ingredient in the baking of Passover matzah (unleavened bread). It is also sometimes called the “ritual murder charge.” The blood libel dates back to the Middle Ages and has persisted despite Jewish denials and official repudiations by the Catholic Church and many secular authorities. Blood libels have frequently led to mob violence and pogroms, and have occasionally led to the decimation of entire Jewish communities.

The blood libel is particularly appalling in light of the fact that Jews follow the Hebrew Bible’s law to not consume any blood, which is found in the book of Leviticus. In order for an animal to be considered kosher, all its blood must have been drained and discarded.

Source ADL Glossary <https://www.adl.org/education/resources/glossary-terms/blood-libel>

Chanukah

Also known as the Festival of Lights, this Jewish holiday lasts for eight days in late November or December where the family lights the Menorah.

Conservative Judaism

Conservative Jews practice traditional Jewish laws, but have a positive view toward modern culture. This is also the understanding that Jewish law is not static, and it can be adapted and practiced according to modern life.

Hate Crime

Hate crimes are criminal acts motivated by bias or prejudice towards particular groups of people. This could be based, inter alia, on gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, age, or disability.

Hate incidents

An act that involves prejudice and bias but does not reach the threshold of a criminal offence. Such incidents often precede, accompany or provide the context for hate crimes.

Hate Speech

Speech or other expression including a gesture, writing, or display that involves prejudice and bias towards particular groups of people. This could be based, inter alia, on gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, age, or disability. Such incidents often precede, accompany or provide the context for hate crimes.

Holocaust

The Holocaust, also referred to as the Shoah, was a genocide during World War II in which Nazi Germany, aided by its collaborators, systematically murdered some six million European Jews, around two-thirds of the Jewish population of Europe, between 1941 and 1945. Jews were targeted for extermination as part of a larger event involving the persecution and murder of other groups, including in particular the Roma and "incurably sick".

JCC

Acronym for a Jewish Community Center, which are found in areas with a Jewish minority.

Jews

there are approximately 15 million Jews in the world, of whom approximately 8 million live in Israel and 1.2 million live in Europe.

Judaism

At approximately 4000 years old, the religion of the Jewish people is one of the oldest religions, and forms a major part of the foundations of Christianity and Islam

Kippah

Also known as a skull cap or yarmulke; a small head covering worn by Jewish men to show respect for God. Often worn by modern orthodox Jews.

Kosher / Kashrut

Jewish dietary laws which govern what food may be eaten and how it is manufactured and served. Only Kosher animals may be eaten, that is those which 'chew the cud' and have cloven (split) hooves. This includes cows, sheep, goats and most birds but not pigs. Kosher fish are those with fins and scales, such as cod and plaice, but not shellfish or octopus. Meat and milk are separated and most Jews delay eating one after the other. They also use separate cooking utensils, crockery and cutlery for meat and milk based foods. Kosher shops and restaurants are supervised by Kashrut (religious) authorities to ensure they comply strictly with the dietary laws.

Kosher Shop

The local kosher shop is a central location of Jewish Life where religious Jews who keep Kosher can purchase products suitable for them.

Modern Orthodox Judaism

Modern Orthodox Jews typically have increased integration with non-Jewish communities, and tend to wear modern, but modest clothing in line with Jewish principles.

Pesach/Passover

Also known as passover, Pesach is Jewish holiday that takes place in the spring in remembrance of the Exodus from Egypt, and lasts for eight days. On the first night, a ritual meal, Seder, is eaten. This holiday also serves as a reminder that all human beings are entitled to freedom from slavery of any kind.

Quenelle

Bent arm across the chest gesture created and popularised by French antisemitic activist Dieudonne M'Bala M'Bala in 2005 and since adopted by other European antisemitic extremists. It is used avoid the Sieg Heil salute used by Nazis and neo Nazis which is illegal in some European states.

Rabbi

Religious leader who may lead the prayers in synagogue, advise on religious and family law, and act as spiritual guide for a congregation of Jews. Among Modern Orthodox, Conservative, Reform and Liberal Jews it is common for Rabbis to have an advanced university education as well as religious training.

Reform (Liberal) Judaism

Reform Jews reject Jewish ceremonial law, and believe that individual Jews should exercise an informed autonomy about what to observe. While reform is still much more traditional than liberal Judaism, men and women can sit together during prayer services, and women have the opportunity to become a Rabbi.

Repeat Victimization

The process of being targeted more than once whether or not by the same person. Previous incidents may not have been reported to the police for a variety of reasons and as such, when an incident is reported, it may be the culmination of a lengthy course of victimisation.

Reporting

Can have two meanings:

- ① the act of reporting an incident to the police, a CSO or another organisation or
- ① disseminating information via press releases or published reports to people or organisations (government authorities, European/ international institutions, human rights institutions, etc.) who can take action.

Report on antisemitic incidents

Many Jewish organisations collect and analyse data on antisemitism which is usually published once a year in a public report. Police can benefit from acquiring the Jewish community's data as it can bring additional information to the official statistics and allow for better recognition of the problem of antisemitism and its specific manifestation in the area.

Risk Assessment

The process of assessing risks to the safety and well-being of victims witnesses and the person recording the incident and/or providing support to the victim at all stages, from initial notification of a hate crime/ hate-motivated incident to the conclusion of any investigation

Rosh Hashanah

This is the Jewish New Year, which is celebrated over two days and serves as a time to prepare for a better future.

Secondary Victimization

Where the response of the authorities or a CSO exacerbates the experience of victimization from the perspective of the victim. This could include a perceived lack of support or responsiveness or an openly hostile attitude.

Shabbath

The Shabbator Shabbos (Yiddish), is one of the most important parts of the Jewish faith. Some Jews refrain from various acts of "work" on the Shabbat, in commemoration of God's cessation of work on the seventh day of creation. Jews traditionally attend synagogue services with family on the Shabbat and celebrate the day in the company of family and friends with festive meals.

Shoah

The planned murder of approximately 6 million European Jews by the Nazi regime and its collaborators, also commonly referred to as the Holocaust.

Sieg Heil

German greeting meaning 'Victory hail' adopted by Nazis and neo Nazis based on ancient Roman greeting.

Swastika

The symbol of Nazi Germany and the Nazi Party based on the reversed religious icon common to Hinduism and other Dharmic religions.

Synagogue – Bet Kneset (Hebrew), Shul (Yiddish)

Building where Jews gather to pray, although they can also pray elsewhere. Communal prayers in Hebrew can take place three times a day (early morning, early afternoon and evening) and in Orthodox Judaism requires the presence of ten men. Synagogues contain an Ark, a large boxlike structure to hold the holy scrolls on which are handwritten the Five Books of the Old Testament. Synagogue etiquette varies depending on the denomination of Judaism. In Orthodox synagogues men and women sit separately (either upstairs or to the side of men), whereas in Reform or Liberal synagogues they sit together. Men cover their heads in all synagogues, and in Orthodox synagogues, women do likewise. Men wear prayer shawls (Tallit) when praying.

Third Party Reporting

An alternative point of contact, which is different from the police that allows victims and witnesses to report hate crimes and incidents anonymously. These can include Self-reporting schemes, allowing victims to make direct reports of incidents/crimes without having to speak to the police; Assisted reporting scheme, involving a third party such as a voluntary organisation (e.g. the Jewish Community), who take details of a incident or crime and pass the report to the police.

Yom Kippur

This is the holiest day of the year in Judaism. For a day, Jews partake in intense prayer and fasting in preparations for the coming year.

Lead partner



Full partners



Associate partners



Funders



Facing all the Facts is co-funded by the RIGHTS, EQUALITY AND CITIZENSHIP PROGRAMME (2014-2020) of the European Union

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rough the religion: Judaism. However, not all are Jews, yet they will identify themselves as Jewish. This community more in depth in the next section of the report.

of the Jewish people and, at almost 4,000 years old, its traditions still practised today. Its values and laws are very different from Christianity and Islam. There are approximately 14 million Jews (Jewish Data Bank, 2017) in the world, six million of whom are more integrated into European societies.

The Torah (the primary source of Jewish law, which was given to Moses on Mount Sinai nearly 4,000 years ago. It is the first five books of the Torah + Prophets + Writings), which Orthodox Jews are also guided by a second book called the Mishnah, which is the source from which the Halakha (the Jewish legal system)



Jews. Jewish dietary laws govern the way kosher foods are prepared. Anyone who observes the dietary laws of Kashrūt will eat kosher. A symbol on a product bears a reliable seal of approval by a rabbi. For example, a kosher symbol on a package of baked foods and dairy foods.

For observant Jews, all cooking utensils, including pots, pans and dishes, must be kosher. Some Jews, particularly those of Ashkenazi descent, use different saucepans and dishes for each type of food. Many kosher products are certified that are supervised by a recognized Kashrūt authority.

Some supermarkets sell kosher products and kosher restaurants are found in almost every major European city, where they are very likely that you will find them in your area.

Kosher shops can be the target of antisemitic attacks. It is very important that they should be given to the protection of these shops. Regular police visits are necessary to ensure their safety.