

Updated Motion 0163-18

Combating Anti-Semitism: Young People's Responsibility".

submitted by European Union
of Jewish Students (EUJS)

Combating antisemitism & fostering Jewish life: Young people's responsibility!

Antisemitism and its manifestations contradict fundamental values as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights¹, the European Convention on Human Rights² and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union³. Antisemitism reflects deep-rooted prejudice in society against Jews, which will only be overcome by increased awareness-raising efforts among the population and strong political condemnation. Historically, manifestations of antisemitism have shown how prejudice and intolerance can lead to systematic harassment, discrimination and ultimately mass killings and genocide. Still today, persisting stereotypes, insults and physical violence are experienced on a daily basis by members of the Jewish community across Europe.

These worrying trends are mirrored in the Jewish community's perception of antisemitism, as shown by the 2019 EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) Survey: [Young Jewish Europeans: perceptions and experiences of antisemitism](#).

The survey makes it clear: **45% of young Jews 16-34 have experienced antisemitism**. This means that one young Jew out of two has experienced antisemitism. That is more than all age groups in the Jewish community.

This gives young people all across Europe the responsibility of being core allies to Jewish Students and young Jewish Europeans.

Moreover, in October 2021, the European Commission published the EU Strategy on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life. It is the first time that an international organisation releases a broad strategy to be implemented by its member states and itself on combatting antisemitism, fostering Jewish life, and promoting Holocaust remembrance. This document lays out concrete policy actions, holds the EU and Member States accountable, **stresses the importance of civil society organisations and targets the youth with specific measures on education**.

1 [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)

2 [European Convention on Human Rights](#)

3 [Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union](#)

The European Youth Forum acknowledges:

- a. That antisemitism is a form of racism that is under no circumstances acceptable;
- b. That fighting racism and fascism is a core mission and responsibility for European youth;
- c. That the [YFJ Policy Programme](#) stresses the importance of fighting discriminations online, offline and the need for raising awareness on all forms of hate;
- d. That fighting antisemitism is the matter of all citizens and should never be the matter of the Jewish community exclusively;
- e. The Council of Europe resolution on [Renewed commitment in the fight against antisemitism in Europe as a starting point for action in 2016](#);
- f. The European Parliament [Resolution on combating antisemitism](#) as a starting point for action **in 2016**;
- g. That the Council of the European Union adopted a [Declaration on the fight against antisemitism in 2018](#), stating that "Jewish citizens are, always have been and always will be, an integral and inseparable part of our European societies, as full citizens with a right to a sense of security and wellbeing";
- h. That the European Union became a [permanent international partner](#) to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance **in 2018**;
- i. That the Council of the European Union adopted a [Declaration on mainstreaming the fight against antisemitism](#) across policy areas **in 2020**, which stated that: "The fight against antisemitism needs to be considered consistently in the measures and decisions taken by the institutions of the European Union and in particular be reflected in the measures tabled by the European Union."
- j. The publication of the EU Strategy on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life, which sets out the path for the EU and member states to effectively combat antisemitism and ensure a future for Jewish life in Europe;

k. That the Council of the European Union adopted Conclusions on combating racism and antisemitism, endorsing the aforementioned Strategy;

heritage as well as the Jewish languages in Europe, such as Yiddish and Judaeo-Spanish, notably through the European Routes of Cultural Heritage.

l. That the number of antisemitic incidents in Council of Europe Member States has risen significantly in recent years as reported by the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)⁴ and the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)⁵, among other bodies;

The European Youth Forum resolves

I. To reaffirm its commitment to tackling antisemitism in all of its forms;

II. To adopt and apply the legally non-binding working definition of antisemitism adopted by the 34 States of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), including all the examples included therein. (Annex 1)

III. To encourage Member Organisations to adopt and apply the IHRA working definition of antisemitism with its examples;

IV. To endorse the EU Strategy on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life (Annex 2) and take note of the measures that target the youth and civil society organisations.

V. To take appropriate disciplinary action when instances of antisemitic speech or action occur among its lay Leadership, Secretariat, volunteers and Member Organisations;

VI. To provide opportunities for educational training on antisemitism;

VII. To publicly denounce actions that are antisemitism based on the aforementioned definition, in line with the objectives of the YFJ Policy Programme;

VIII. To advocate with European Union and Council of Europe Member States to take appropriate action against antisemitism;

IX. To advocate with Council of Europe Member States to protect and valorise the Jewish cultural

4 Antisemitic Hate Crimes in 2020, OSCE: <https://hatecrime.osce.org/anti-semitic-hate-crime?year=2020>

5 EU Fundamental Rights Agency: [Overview of antisemitic incidents recorded in the European Union 2010-2020](#)