



Antisemitic incidents in 2023.

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Antisemitic incidents in 2023.
Study of the experiences of the Jewish community.

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Krakow 2024

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Warning:

This report contains content that may be considered violent and uncensored. We recommend that vulnerable or younger people view the material with caution. We encourage you to do the same. Our aim is not to offend but to educate and provide information.

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In the face of rising extremism, nationalism, and increasing social polarisation, hate speech and hate crimes are becoming a real threat to democracy and social security.

This report highlights the need to treat antisemitism as a significant threat to public safety that aims to disinform, generate inter-group conflict, and spread unrest in communities. Countering such phenomena reduces the sense of insecurity and strengthens groups vulnerable to such attacks.

However, effective counteraction is only possible if we understand the scale and nature of the problem. In this context, the Czulent Jewish Association, drawing on international good practices and solutions, has undertaken to develop a system for internal reporting and monitoring of antisemitism and hate-motivated incidents.

Implementing the IHRA definition of antisemitism, working with the Jewish community, and using reliable data are essential steps in combating crimes motivated by antisemitism and building a sense of shared responsibility for the security of the Jewish community in Poland.

Such actions will enable law enforcement agencies to understand the scale of the problem, identify patterns and trends, and more effectively allocate resources and prosecute perpetrators. This will allow decision-makers at local and national levels to make adequate decisions in formulating coherent anti-hate policies.

We hope that this report will become an important element in the discussion on countering antisemitism not as an abstract phenomenon but as a real threat to the Jewish community and those associated with it. Antisemitism provides a basis for radicalization, spreading disinformation and reinforcing divisions in Polish society. Antisemitic content has the character of mobilizing fringe groups to arouse hostility and strong resentment. Can we afford to ignore this problem and not react immediately?

Piotr Kwapisiewicz

President of the Jewish Association Czulent

1. Introduction

This report, created at the initiative of the Czulent Jewish Association, contains data on hate crimes, antisemitic incidents, and hate speech motivated by antisemitism reported to the Czulent Jewish Association in 2023 via the platform www.zglosantysemityzm.pl, as well as data from the organization's internal internet monitoring. This report is an example of underreporting rather than an official crime statistic. Although the number of reports collected may seem small, it should be noted that it represents Poland's most extensive statistics on antisemitic hate crimes. This is particularly relevant in the context that this report is only an example of underreporting of crime and not an official crime statistic.¹ The available web content collection tools do not recognize the nuances of language, context, and intent in published content, so each comment was individually assessed by trained team members. The analyzed Polish-language online content, including social networks, was public and aggregated by social listening tools SentiOne and other publicly available online sources.

¹ Underreporting of hate crimes remains a significant problem in the Polish context, distorting the true extent of discrimination and violence against groups exposed to hate-motivated violence. Despite existing legislation and increased public awareness, a significant proportion of hate-motivated incidents remain undocumented or unreported. According to data from the Polish Commissioner for Human Rights Office, only 5% of such incidents are reported to the police. (<https://bip.brpo.gov.pl/pl/content/jak-mierzyc-przestepstwa-z-nienawisci-seminarium-u-rpo>) Most victims choose not to report hate crimes for fear of reprisals, lack of trust in law enforcement and systemic obstacles to accessing justice. (accessed:29.03.2024)

This year, for the first time, we are publishing three thematic chapters in addition to information on research findings and reports:

1. An analysis of the specific manifestations of antisemitism online that were observed in the aftermath of the coordinated attack on Israel by the terrorist group Hamas (7 October 2023) and the subsequent armed conflict, providing a breakdown of content according to the examples provided in the operational definition of antisemitism International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA).
2. A chapter on individuals running social media profiles dedicated to publishing antisemitic content, which we refer to as „wholesalers”.
3. The Association’s activities and interventions are based on the information collected on incidents and crimes of an antisemitic nature.

Similar to 2022, we observe low reporting of incidents and hate crimes among members of the Jewish community.²

² For more information, see our report 2022: Antisemitic incidents in 2022: A study of the Jewish community experience. pg. 8 <https://czulent.pl/antysemickie-incydenty-w-roku-2022/> (accessed:29.03.2024)

2. Methodology

General Principles

In 2023, **1033 antisemitic** incident reports were analyzed, with **139 not passing the verification**³, and **894 incidents being included in the final report**. There was an 82.5% increase in the number of incidents reported compared to 2022 and a 91% increase in the number of incidents included in the 2023 report. The data has been obtained through cooperation and conversations with the Jewish community in Poland, as well as through the reports sent via the platform www.zglosantysemityzm.pl and internet monitoring by the group of analysts. In addition to our research, we used internet monitoring tools like SentiOne. We monitored publicly available online sources, such as websites, social media, information services, the blogosphere, and discussion forums. It includes all possible forms of expression by internet users, such as videos, graphics, and statements.

The incident categories were adapted from the British methodology of the Community Security Trust (CST), which was adjusted to the Polish context by the experts from the Czulent Jewish Association in partnership with the Research and Information Centre for Antisemitism (RIAS Berlin), a German monitoring organization. Using incident categorization, which is coherent and unified at the basic level, allows for comparing data and observing the trends of antisemitism in Europe.

The antisemitic incidents presented in this report only include those that happened or persisted in 2023. The project employees, along with the informants, verified the incoming data and systematically recorded and categorized it. This procedure enables the forms and trends of antisemitic incidents in Poland to be described. The methodology applied when analyzing the reports is described below.

This report contains quotations from publicly available content. The original spelling has been retained; however, the words have been censored to protect personal information or remove uncensored words.

Methodology

The primary condition met by the incidents registered in 2023 is the presence of antisemitic prejudice. Therefore, the classification of antisemitic incidents concerning content is based on the working definition of antisemitism by the International

³ These were reports that were repetitive, unverifiable or did not fulfil the definition of an antisemitic incident as defined in our methodology.

Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA)⁴. An additional element of verifying antisemitic prejudice is a differentiation of the antisemitism expressed by negative statements concerning Israel and the critique of the Israeli government – we use Natan Sharansky's 3D Test to support this assessment⁵.

We introduced aggrieved person category groups and incident type differentiation for the methodology when recording antisemitic incidents. For categorization, we refer to criminal law. Two key provisions defining hate crimes are Articles 256 and 257 of the Polish Criminal Code, which prohibit promoting totalitarian political systems, including fascism, inciting hate based on national, ethnic, or racial differences or the lack of religious affiliation, and introduce a qualifiable form of the criminal offenses of insult and breach of bodily integrity.

The qualifying characteristic is the motivation of the offender based on the aggrieved person's actual or implied national, ethnic, racial, or religious affiliation or lack of affiliation.

Incident types

Antisemitic incidents, which are not considered criminal offenses under Polish law, are also systematized and analyzed per the categories below. Six types of incidents can be distinguished based on the kind and severity of the event⁶.

Physical violence is defined as a physical attack or assault which can result in death or serious bodily injury. **Attacks** are situations where people are physically attacked but in a way that does not pose any threat to life or result in severe bodily injury. This category also includes a physical attack attempt. **Property damage** is understood as damaging or painting a Jewish property with antisemitic symbols or sticking posters or stickers on it. It also includes graffiti, damaging commemorative plaques and

4 Definition adopted by Poland in 2013 as part of membership in the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA). (<https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/pl/resources/working-definitions-headers/robocza-definicja-antysemityzmu-przyjeta-przez>) (as of:29.03.2024)

5 Test of Antisemitism is a set of criteria formulated by Natan Sharansky, an Israeli politician, in order to distinguish between a reasonable critique of Israel and the one resulting from antisemitism. The three D letters mean Delegitimization, Demonization and Double Standards, each of which indicates antisemitism according to the test.

6 These types have been originally developed by the Community Security Trust (CST) in the United Kingdom, then adapted by RIAS Berlin to the German conditions. We have adjusted the categories to the Polish reality.

memorials⁷, as well as seats of Jewish institutions or institutions considered to be Jewish.

The threat is any express, written, or verbal threat of violence addressed directly to a person or institution. **Abusive behavior** is any antisemitic statements towards Jewish or Israeli people or institutions⁸, but also antisemitic insults or comments towards other people or institutions. This also applies to the antisemitic statements made or disseminated online if they are addressed directly against a specific person or institution. Finally, there is an antisemitic correspondence addressed to a larger group of people, described as **mass propaganda**, which usually takes the form of mass mailing.

We also record demonstrations where antisemitic contents occur. This includes observing their course and conducting context analyses. If any antisemitic content is found in the speeches, slogans, on the banners carried, or in the calls, the entire gathering is recorded as a case of abusive behavior. If antisemitic attacks or threats occur during or around such meetings, they are recorded as separate antisemitic incidents.

Antisemitic incident targets

In our methodology, we distinguish the people and institutions as targets of antisemitic incidents. In accordance with the IHRA working definition of antisemitism, which is described in the following subchapter, in addition to Jews, antisemitism can affect the people who are perceived as Jews. An antisemitic incident can involve several people at the same time. In the report, we precisely record the number of people affected by the incident. However, there are incidents to which we do not attribute any direct victims – these are situations that affect a larger group of specifically unidentified recipients, such as, for example, antisemitic graffiti, stickers, posters in the public space, or meetings of antisemitic nature, as well as hate speech present at public websites.

⁷ Memorials are physical areas that play an important role in shaping collective memory and identity. They include cultural creations that influence individual and collective understanding of the past and the construction of individual and group identity.

⁸ Jewish institutions in the Diaspora refer to a variety of organisations, religious, cultural, social or educational communities that bring together Jewish residents of given countries, usually other than Israel. These may include synagogues, cultural centres, schools, charities or research institutions related to Jewish culture, history or religion that operate outside of Israel. Israeli institutions in the Diaspora, on the other hand, are those that represent the interests of the State of Israel outside its borders. These include embassies, consulates, cultural organisations, educational institutions or charitable foundations that work to promote Israel's culture, history and policies in countries where Diaspora Jews are located.

The targets of antisemitic attacks can also be religious and secular institutions, Jewish associations, and Israeli institutions, as well as non-Jewish civil society organizations, political parties, media or educational institutions, and other institutions perceived or addressed as Jewish.

Forms of antisemitism

In respect of contents, we distinguish five forms of antisemitism. **The paradigm of antisemitic perception of Jewish otherness** describes Jews as strange or not belonging to the society of the majority culture.

1. Anti-Judaism (traditional antisemitism), resentment towards Jews justified by prejudice and religious stereotypes, e.g., the godricide, holding Jews responsible for the death of Jesus.

2. Modern antisemitism, referring to the 'group soul' stereotype, has to do with an alleged worldwide conspiracy and Jewish influence (on finance, the economy, the media, and politics), the secretiveness of actions, the special bond between Jews threatening the majority, the perpetuation of an alleged link to communism. It also includes conspiracy antisemitism, which combines modern antisemitism and the conspiracy stereotype ('group soul'), where group and intentional but covert Jewish action is indicated.

3. Post-Shoah antisemitism (secondary antisemitism) refers to the way the Holocaust is portrayed or described, for example, when the number of Jewish victims of Nazism is questioned. The Jedwabne lie, or the denial of Polish responsibility for the murder of their Jewish neighbors, also falls into this category.

4. Israel-related antisemitism (antizionism) is directed against the Jewish state of Israel, for example, by denying its right to exist⁹

It is common for an incident to contain various expressions of antisemitism. Because of these multiple attributions, the number of forms is usually greater than the number of antisemitic incidents.

⁹ The 3D test of antisemitism is a set of criteria formulated by Israeli politician Natan Sharansky to distinguish between criticism of Israel and that resulting from antisemitism. The three Ds stand for Delegitimation, Demonisation, and Double standards, each of which, according to the test, indicates antisemitism.

Glossary

As part of its activities and in the context of the methodology developed, the Jewish Association Czulent has adopted a working definition of antisemitism, denialism, and distortion of historical truth regarding the Holocaust under the guidelines of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA). In addition, the association refers to the definitions of antisemitic hate crimes developed by the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities¹⁰

Antisemitic incidents - every event, including discriminatory elements based on the offender's antisemitism.

Antisemitic hate crime - Polish criminal law does not define a hate crime. However, this concept has been described by ODIHR - OSCE (Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights - Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe). According to this definition, "hate crimes are criminal acts motivated by prejudice against a specific group of people. All hate crimes have two distinguishing characteristics: (1) they are acts that constitute a criminal offense under criminal law, and (2) in committing the offense, the perpetrator is motivated by prejudice".¹¹

Hate speech is, in particular, statements propagating, promoting, or inciting, in any form, slander or hatred towards a person or group of people, as well as any harassment, insult, negative stereotyping, stigmatization or threats about such a person or groups of people and justifying all previous types of statements based on race, color, origin, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation and other personal characteristics or status¹². The Polish criminal law system does use a definition of hate speech.

¹⁰ International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism. For more on the definition, see our publication Definition of Antisemitism by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. Elaboration. (<https://czulent.pl/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/definicja-antysemityzmu-ihra-omowienie.pdf>) (as of:29.03.2024)

¹¹ Understanding Anti-Semitic Hate Crimes and Addressing the Security Needs of Jewish Communities: A Practical Guide. OBWE/ODIHR 2017, p. 5 (<https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/b/d/371116.pdf>) (as of:29.03.2024)

¹² There is no single and universally accepted definition of hate speech. We base our assessments on the definition of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, which was modified and updated in 2015 by the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (General Policy Recommendation, p.3)

Holocaust denial is discourse and propaganda that denies the historical reality and the extent of the extermination of the Jews by the Nazis and their accomplices during World War II, known as the Holocaust or the Shoah. Holocaust denial refers specifically to any attempt to claim that the Holocaust/Shoah did not take place.

Holocaust denial may include publicly denying or calling into doubt the use of principal mechanisms of destruction (such as gas chambers, mass shootings, starvation, and torture) or the intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people.

Holocaust denial in its various forms is an expression of antisemitism. The attempt to deny the genocide of the Jews is an effort to exonerate National Socialism and antisemitism from guilt or responsibility for the genocide of the Jewish people. Forms of Holocaust denial also include blaming the Jews for either exaggerating or creating the Shoah for political or financial gain, as if the Shoah itself was the result of a conspiracy plotted by the Jews. In this, the goal is to make the Jews culpable and antisemitism once again legitimate.

The goals of Holocaust denial often are the rehabilitation of explicit antisemitism and the promotion of political ideologies and conditions suitable for the advent of the very type of event it denies¹³.

Distortion of the Holocaust refers, inter alia, to:

- Intentional efforts to excuse or minimize the impact of the Holocaust or its principal elements, including collaborators and allies of Nazi Germany;
- Gross minimization of the number of the victims of the Holocaust in contradiction to reliable sources;
- Attempts to blame the Jews for causing their own genocide;
- Statements that cast the Holocaust as a positive historical event. Those statements are not Holocaust denial but are closely connected to it as a radical form

¹³ The definition adopted by Poland in 2016 as part of its membership in the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA).
(<https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/pl/resources/working-definitions-charters/robocza-definicja-antysemityzmu-przyjeta-przez>) (as of: 29.03.2024)

of antisemitism. They may suggest that the Holocaust did not go far enough in accomplishing its goal of “the Final Solution of the Jewish Question”;

- Attempts to blur the responsibility for the establishment of concentration and death camps devised and operated by Nazi Germany by putting blame on other nations or ethnic groups.¹⁴

¹⁴ The definition adopted by Poland in 2016 as part of its membership in the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA).
(<https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/pl/resources/working-definitions-charters/robocza-definicja-antysemityzmu-przyjeta-przez>) (as of: 29.03.2024)

3. Overview: antisemitic incidents reported to the platform in Poland in 2023

In 2023, we documented 894 antisemitic incidents in Poland, including 1 incident of physical violence, 3 incidents of attack, 36 instances of threats, 36 cases of property damage, and places of remembrance. We also registered 90 cases of mass mailing and 758 cases of abusive behavior.

Each documented incident can be attributed to at least one form of antisemitism. One of the most frequently appearing forms is modern antisemitism, alleging special position - political or economic power, which occurred in 49.5% of incidents. We can see it, among others, in offensive speech about public persons of Jewish origin, criticism of the government, but also spreading conspiracy theories. Another relatively widespread conspiracy theory concerns the alleged Jewish plan to “take over Poland or Ukraine” (certain extreme groups already talk about “Jewish occupation” of the country) to transform it into a Jewish state of Polin. This theory finds its expression in the slogan “This country is Poland, not Polin” or “Stop Judaization of Poland.” The theory frequently appears in the context of the war in Ukraine, alleging that the Ukrainian Jews – the Khazars – are taking Poland over to create ‘Ukropolin’. For more on conspiracy theories, see the report on the 2023 general election¹⁵.

138 documented incidents were directed against institutions, 104 instances involved Jewish institutions, 4 incidents took place in a synagogue or the immediate vicinity, and 810 happened online.

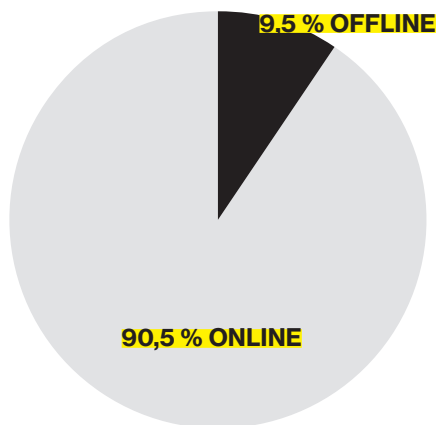
We also recorded cases of cross-discrimination, involving not only antisemitic bias but also other forms of discrimination. Among the most frequently recurring motives were anti-Ukrainian statements, which occurred in as many as 86 instances. The context of the Ukrainian-Russian war and political tensions over the import of Ukrainian grain to Europe was used to attack Jews. It spread conspiracy theories aimed at disinforming social media users. Antisemitism was used as a tool to polarise attitudes among Poles. We also noted numerous instances of sexist and racist content.

¹⁵ Monitoring of hateful content during the parliamentary elections 2023: Report. edited by J. Grabarczyk - Anders, M.H.Winiewski, Krakow 2024 (<https://czulent.pl/monitoring-nienawistnych-tresci-podczas-wyborow-parlamentarnych-2023/>) (as of: 5.04.2024)

4. Graphical overview of results

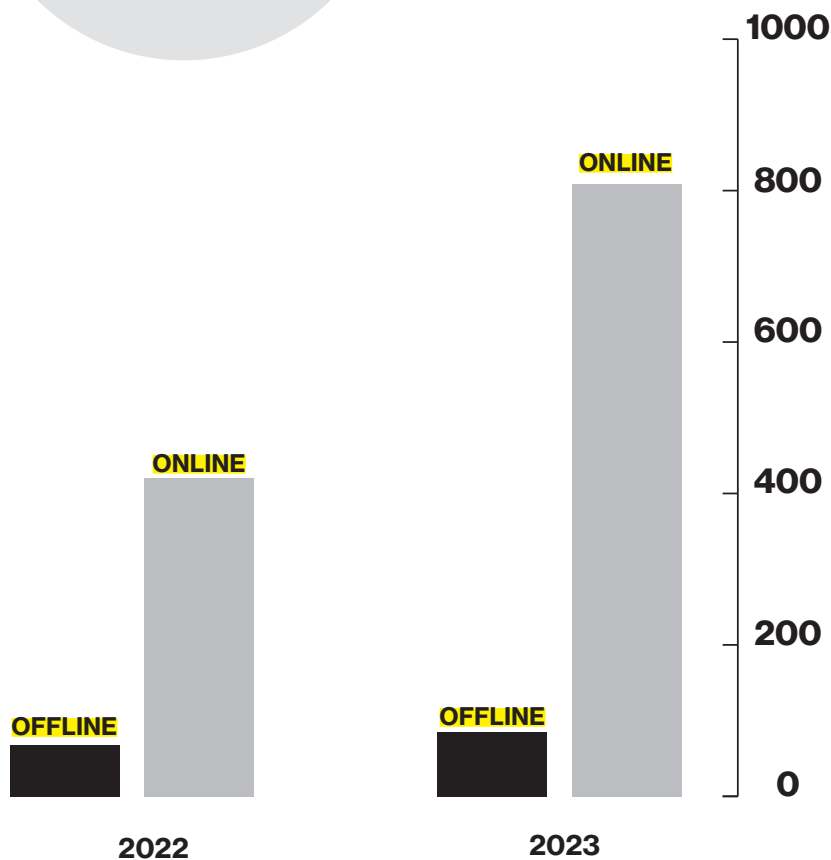
Incident type

Incidents are generally categorized into physical events and those occurring online. In 2023, we recorded **85** incidents offline and **809** online. In 2022, we recorded 68 incidents offline and 420 online.



Graph 1.

Incidents online and offline in 2023.



Graph 2.

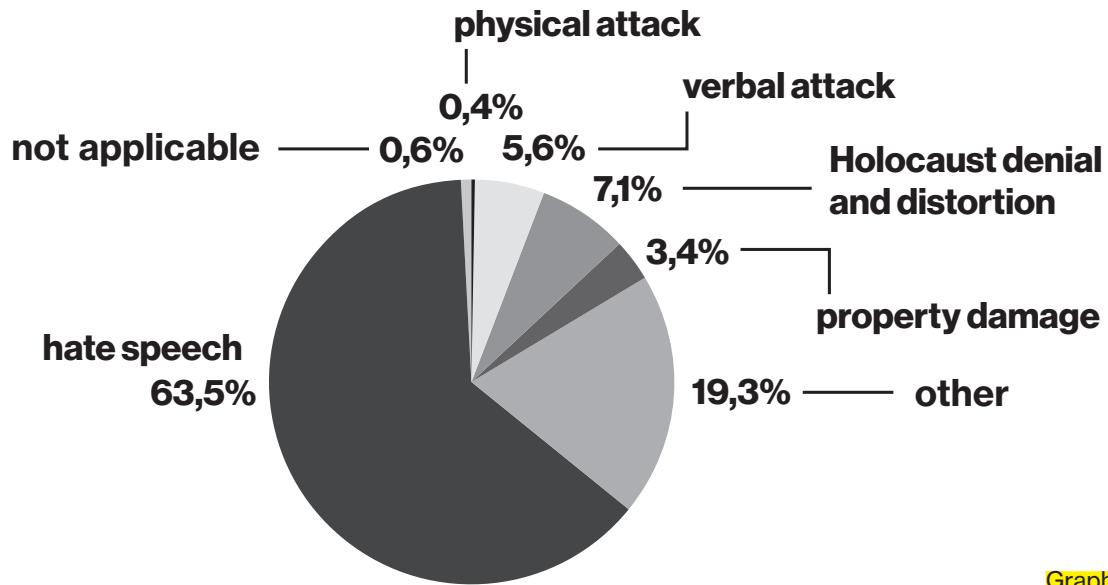
Comparison of the number of reports from 2022 and 2023.

The categories (adapted to the Polish legal system) attributed by the reporting persons are already at the platform level, allowing for the initial grouping of incidents¹⁶.

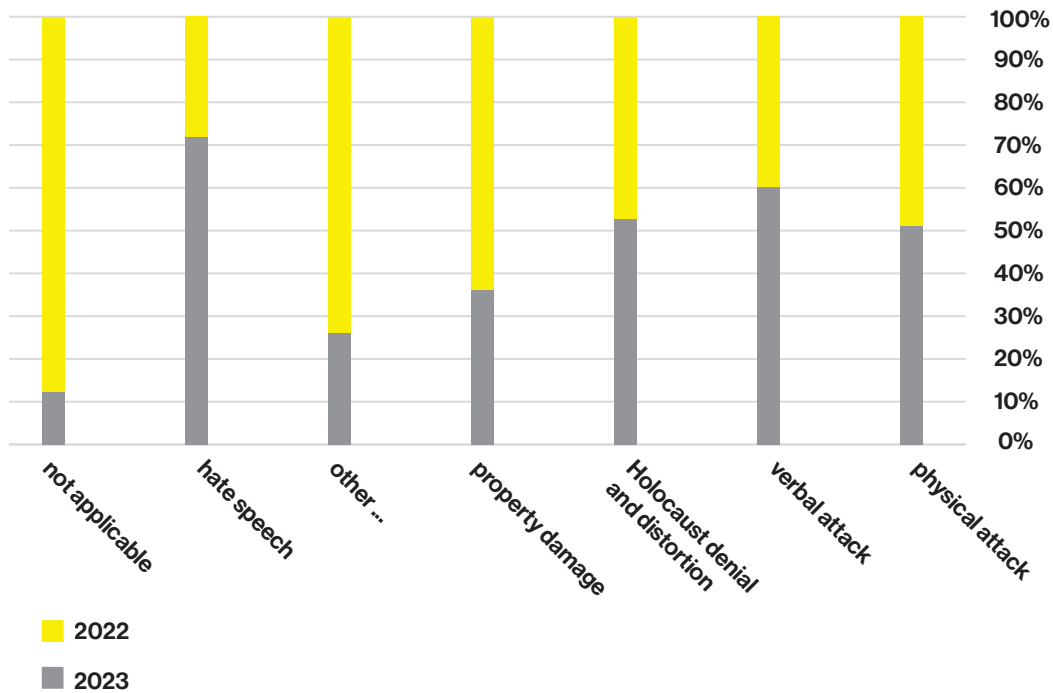
category	the number of incidents in 2023	the number of incidents in 2022
physical attack	4	2
verbal attack	58	20
Holocaust denial and distortion	73	34
property damage	35	32
hate speech	654	293
other – not corresponding to the factors outlined in the methodology	199	133
not applicable	6	6

Table 1. Quantitative comparison of antisemitic incidents in 2022 and 2023.

¹⁶ Each reported incident is verified by a team of experts.

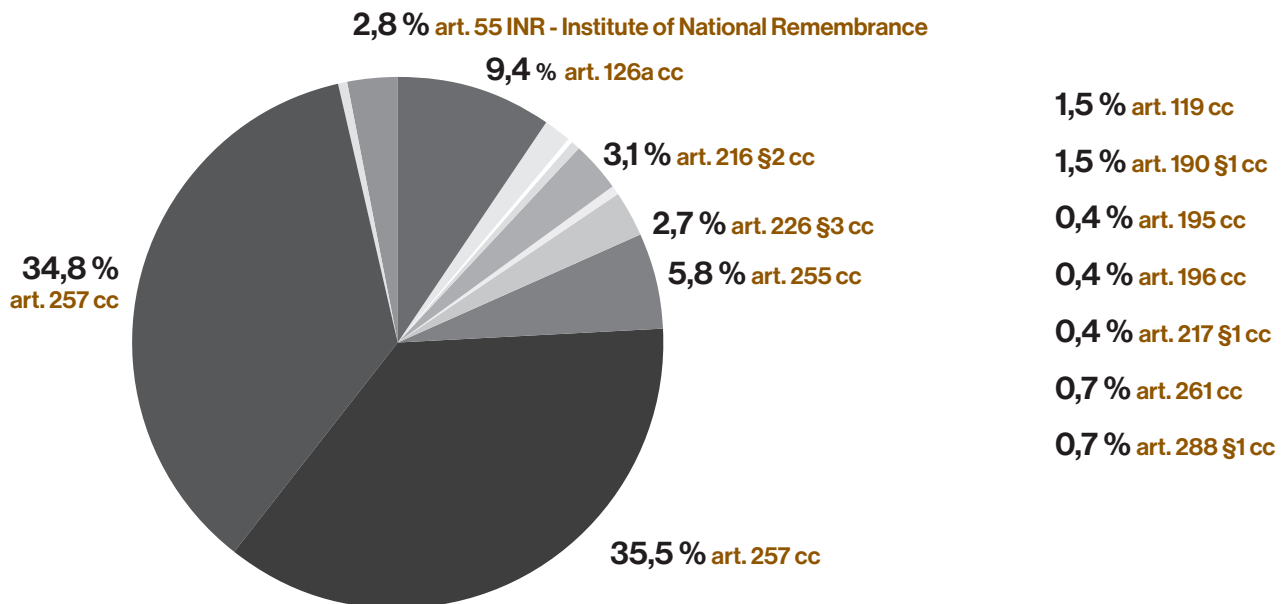


Graph 3.
Categories
of antisemitic incidents
in 2023.



Graph 4.
Comparison of the
percentage of antisemitic
incidents in 2022 and
2023.

Another stage of incident analysis involves the attribution of legal qualification, e.g., determining what violations of Polish law occurred. A group of legal experts determines legal qualifications. The following graph illustrates the legal provisions violated by the incidents reported in 2023.



Graph 5.
Laws breached in antisemitic incidents reported in 2023.

The most frequent crime, which occurred in **256** cases, involved Article 257 of the Polish Criminal Code, under which “Anyone who publicly insults a population group or an individual because of national, ethnic, race or religious affiliation, or because of not being religious, or for these reasons breaches the personal inviolability of another individual, is liable to imprisonment for up to three years”¹⁷.

Second comes the provision of Article 256 of the Criminal Code, which was violated in 261 cases, under which: “Anyone who publicly promotes a fascist or another totalitarian system, or incites hatred based on national, ethnic, racial or religious differences or for not being religious, is liable to a fine, the restriction of liberty or imprisonment for up to two years”¹⁸.

The third most frequently breached article is Article 126a of the Criminal Code, which was violated in 69 cases and states that “Anyone who publicly incites others to commit an act specified in Articles 118, 118a, 119 § 1, or Articles 120 to 125, or who publicly commends the criminal acts specified in these regulations, is liable to imprisonment from three months to five years”¹⁹.

Notably, criminal incidents often violate more than one provision of the Criminal Code.

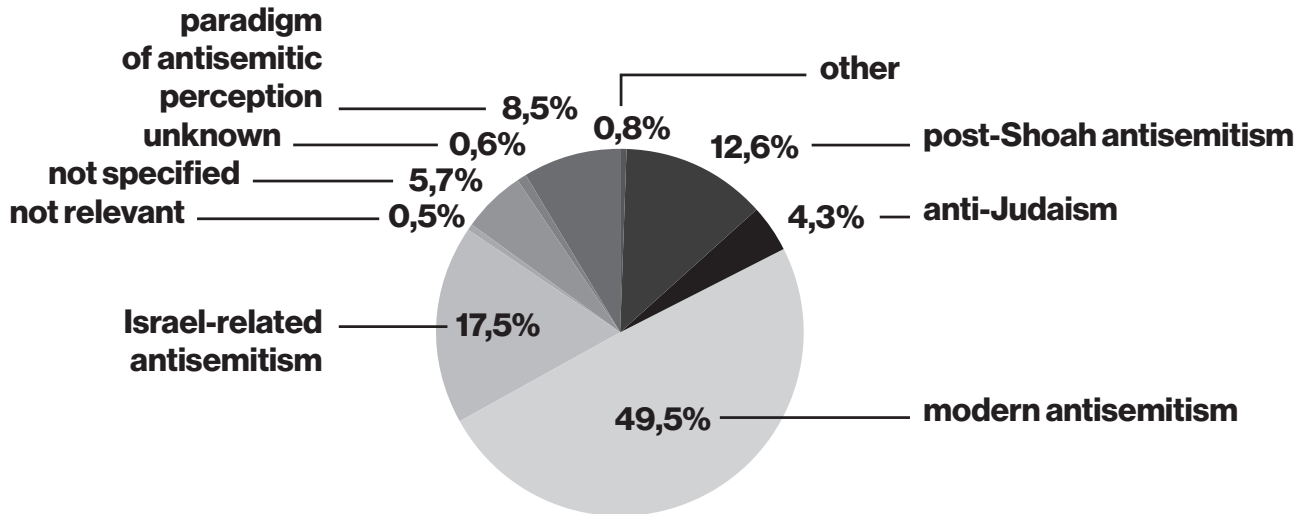
17 Act of 6 June 1997 – Criminal Code (Polish Journal of Laws of 1997, no. 88, item 553)

18 Ibid

19 Ibid

Forms of antisemitism

The incidents are reviewed in terms of their antisemitic nature according to the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism. This complex phenomenon, however, requires further analysis; the next step involves a description of various expressions of antisemitism. One incident may contain many sub-types of antisemitic motives.



Graph 6.

Forms of antisemitism

in antisemitic incidents in 2023.

The staggering majority of 626 antisemitic incidents involved modern antisemitism, expressing conspiracy theories, insults, or antisemitic bias. **221** cases involved Israel-related antisemitism (antizionism). **159** cases involved post-Shoah antisemitism (secondary antisemitism).

Our monitoring of antisemitism also involved cross-discrimination, which is present in **34%** of the reported incidents. The largest number fell within the “other” category, consisting of **86** events. The most frequent discrimination factor was anti-Ukrainian. The second most frequent incidents were those connected with sexism, with **46** incidents. The third most frequent discrimination factor was racism, with **32** incidents recorded in this category.

Location of incidents

The largest number of offline incidents in 2023 were reported in Mazowieckie Voivodship. **41** incidents were noted here, **48,24%** of the reported incidents within the physical space, of which **38** occurred in Warsaw.

voivodeship	the number of incidents
opolskie	1
śląskie	1
dolnośląskie	6
podkarpackie	2
pomorskie	2
podlaskie	3
lubelskie	2
lubuskie	2
małopolskie	23
mazowieckie	41
zachodnio-pomorskie	2

Table 2.

Locations of antisemitic incidents in 2023.

5. Examples of the incidents

The following examples of incidents were chosen from all those reported in 2023 to show the broadest possible spectrum of the events submitted to the zglosantysemityzm.pl platform. They were grouped as per the methodology categories described in the previous chapters. They show both hate crimes – which violate the provisions of the Criminal Code – and antisemitic incidents as well as hate speech, where described acts are not punishable by law, even though they still reflect the antisemitic views of their perpetrators.

Physical violence

- In the Sejm of the Republic of Poland, during the Hanukkah candle-lighting ceremony, a Parliament member (the Confederation Freedom and Independence party), Grzegorz Braun, violated the personal integrity of one of the members of the community who tried to stop him from extinguishing the candles of the hanukkah. There was a violation of personal integrity and a spraying of fire extinguisher powder in her face.²⁰

Attack

- A young man spat at a member of the Jewish community and shouted at her, “Kike.”
- A young man walking out of a supermarket had his kippah ripped from his head. The attacker started laughing. A group of other young men accompanied him.

²⁰ <https://warszawa.wyborcza.pl/warszawa/7,54420,30499847,grzegorz-braun-zgasil-gasnica-swiece-chanukowa-w-sejmie.html> (as of: 29.03.2024)

Threat

- X user, who is a candidate of the Freedom and Independence Confederation party, posted publicly, “A BOMB will explode tomorrow at 4:01 PM in @Chancellery of the Parliament. The hanukkiah will be blown into pieces with those lighting it. This will be a MEGA event. See you there! #PolishHamas”. This was one of four posts dated 13.12.2023 inciting violence published by him. The posts were posted the day after Grzegorz Braun put out the hanukkiah.
- In wpolityce.pl news service, in a comment, one of the users posted: “Maybe it’s time to burn down synagogues?”(Fig. 1)

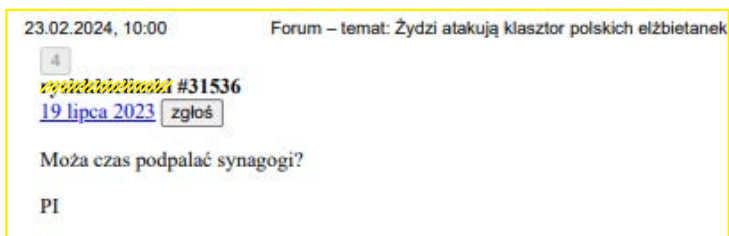


Fig. 1

Screenshot of commentary at www.wpolityce.pl.

- Using Facebook Messenger, a user sent a message to the Jewish Community saying: „Burn the Jews” (Fig. 2)

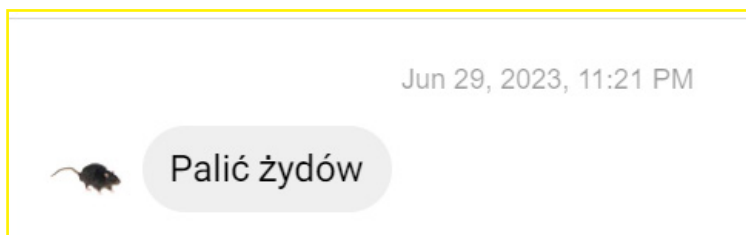


Fig. 2.

Screenshot of commentary from www.facebook.com

Property damage

- In Wrocław, several perpetrators overturned a hanukkiyah standing in a public space and set fire to an Israeli flag. The perpetrators were apprehended.



- Unknown perpetrators smashed a memorial plaque at the Jewish cemetery in Włodawa. (Fig. 3)

Fig. 3.

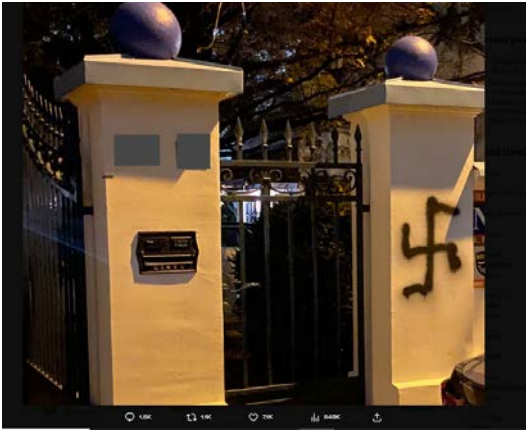
Photo of the destroyed plaque in the Jewish cemetery in Włodawa.



- Devastation of a memorial plaque in the Jewish cemetery in Bielsk Podlaski. A swastika was spray-painted on the plaque. (Fig. 4)

Fig. 4

Photo of the memorial plaque in the Jewish cemetery in Bielsk Podlaski.



- Senator and Speaker of the Senate, Ms. Kidawa Blonska, reported on her social media²¹ that a swastika had been painted on the fence of her house. (Fig. 5)

Fig. 5.

A screenshot of the photo is available at www.twitter.com.



- In Krynica Morska, at the pier a graffiti of a crossed-out Star of David next to the symbol of the National Radical Camp (ONR)(Fig. 6)..

Fig. 6.

Photo of graffiti in Krynica Morska.

²¹ https://twitter.com/M_K_Blonska/status/1724869445108093248 (as of: 21.03.2024)

Abusive behaviour

- On the wprawo.pl, the website run by Jacek Miedlar, a former priest convicted in the past for insulting and inciting hatred based on religious and national differences²², under the article about the return of Israeli tours to Poland under the Polish-Israeli agreement of March 2023, an anonymous user posted an entry: “Kikes cannot stop the machinery of so-called antisemitism in the Holocaust industrial plant. The plant which machines stop falls into ruin and bankrupts.” (Fig. 7).

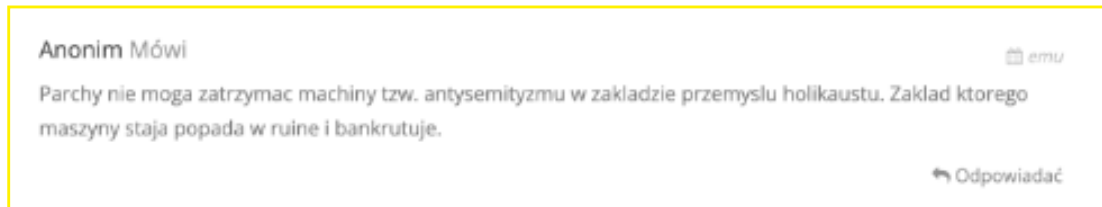


Fig. 7.

Screenshot of the commentary from the wprawo.pl.

- In front of a synagogue in Krakow, a middle-aged man shouted in the direction of a woman from the Jewish community: “Fucking Jewish who**s!”

²² Former priest Jacek Miedlar, dubbed the ‘pastor of nationalists’. After being banned from speaking in the media, he left the Congregation of Missionary Priests in 2016 and stepped down from the priesthood. He is now known for his media activity on his news portal and YouTube channel. Among other things, he was sentenced to one year of restriction of liberty for antisemitic statements, which the court found to be a manifestation of hate speech.

<https://www.newsweek.pl/opinie/ks-jacek-miedlar-kontrowersje-miedlar-u-pospieszalskiego/5lwlosm> (as of: 29.03.2024)

- Social media entry: “Kikes took away a swimming pool from Poznan residents to rebuild a synagogue with a hotel, and stupid goyim don’t understand they are the ones who will pay for it because of the holocaust of the scab nation.” (Fig. 8)

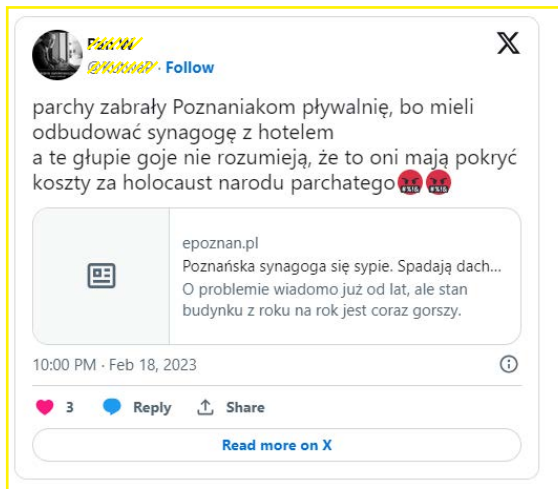
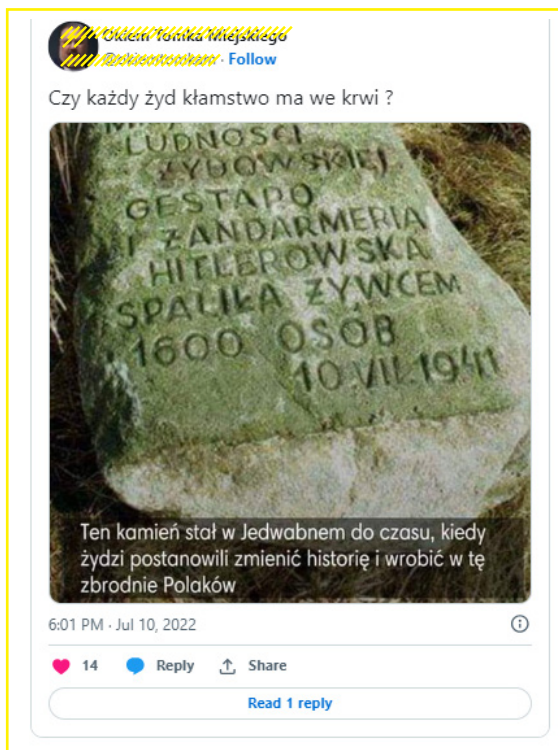


Fig. 8.
Screenshot of the entry from www.twitter.com.



- Reply to @Jewish_pl’s post on the anniversary of the Jedwabne pogrom:²³ “Is it in the blood of every Jew to lie? (Fig. 9)

Fig. 9
Screenshot of entry from www.twitter.com.

²³ „In Jedwabne, on 10 July 1941, local Poles burned in a barn and murdered in its vicinity almost all the local Jews, more than a thousand people in total. Among the many other murders committed in the Białystok and Łomża regions in the summer of 1941, this one stands out because of the number of victims and the number of people brought to trial after the war, either recognised as accomplices in the deaths of the Jews or exonerated from this charge. The entire body of evidence mentions as many as 102 inhabitants of Jedwabne and the immediate vicinity who either took part in the crime or were direct witnesses to it.”

More at:

<https://www.jhi.pl/artykuly/masowe-mordy-ludnosci-zydowskiej-jedwabne,661> (as of: 29.03.2024)

Mass propaganda

In 2023, we noted an increase in cases of mass propaganda in the form of mass mailings²⁴ to Jewish organisations in Poland and to the mailboxes of Jewish community leaders. We registered 90 incidents of mass mailings. Below is a graphic emailed to the Jewish Association Czulent on 23 February 2023. The photo caption is “medal for collaboration with the German occupying forces” (Fig. 10).



Fig. 10.

Graphic file sent by e-mail to Jewish Association Czulent.

²⁴ This category, according to the applied methodology, includes mass-produced antisemitic literature distributed in large quantities. It may involve a single mass mailing or multiple individual mailings, but it must entail the repeated use of the same text. It differs from isolated cases of hateful correspondence directed at individuals or organizations, which we classify as defamatory behavior or threats.

6. Summary

Antisemitism is a complex phenomenon not limited to specific environments or forms of manifestation. An analysis of reported incidents reveals a diversity of manifestations, including direct attacks, harassment, and acts of destruction of sites associated with the Jewish community. And hate speech offline and online. It targets individuals from the Jewish community but also individuals and organizations considered to be Jewish or identified with Jews. Public activism triggers accusations of Polish Jews being disloyal and ungrateful to „native Poles.” This is expressed by, for example, publishing the following posts: “Poland is not Jewish, but the Jews feel as if it is their private corporation, where the unfaithful goyim work, and whom they can smack with a credit whip! Raus. Jews must know their place”. (Fig. 11).



Fig. 11.
Screenshot of entry from
www.twitter.com.

Antisemitism is also used in mainstream public and political debate. In 2023, it was widely used during the Polish Parliament and Senate election campaign, as more fully discussed in the report „Monitoring of hateful content during the parliamentary elections 2023”²⁵. The significant increase in antisemitic content has translated directly into an increase in recorded incident reports.

Among the most frequently emerging trends, we have identified:

- use of the symbolic and stereotypical figure of the Jew;
- being Jewish or of Jewish origin is also presumed as an „abstract negative symbol” and the greatest insult;
- Holocaust denial and distortion;
- the use of substitution and other conspiracy theories.

A significant proportion of the social media incidents reported to us are misinformative content often published by accounts characterized as ‘troll accounts’, indicating their organized activity.

We also noted with concern the incidents at the Polish Parliament during the Hanukkah candle-lighting ceremony, as well as the online harassment directed at the attacked member of the Jewish community and the community as a whole in Poland, supported by the use of the hashtag **#stopjudaizacjipolski (stopjudaizationofpoland).**

²⁵ Monitoring of hateful content during the parliamentary elections 2023: Report. edited by J. Grabarczyk - Anders, M.H.Winiewski, Krakow 2024 , (<https://czulent.pl/monitoring-nienawistnych-tresci-podczas-wyborow-parlamentarnych-2023/>) (as of: 5.04.2024)

Fig. 12. entry “THE JEWS have descended on Warsaw for a march for a last fight in an amok of herd DISGUST and VULGARISM, even their children are shouting militantly PIS to hell!, instead of political arguments vulgarisms, these Jews are terribly #primitivizing Poland. This is #Jewishness! #StopJudaisingPoland”



Fig.12. Screenshot of entry from www.twitter.com.



Fig. 13. Entry:” And so what? F**k the Jews, gas them”.

Fig.13. Screenshot of entry from www.twitter.com.

Fig 14. Entry:” he should f**king bonk her out cold, kike”.

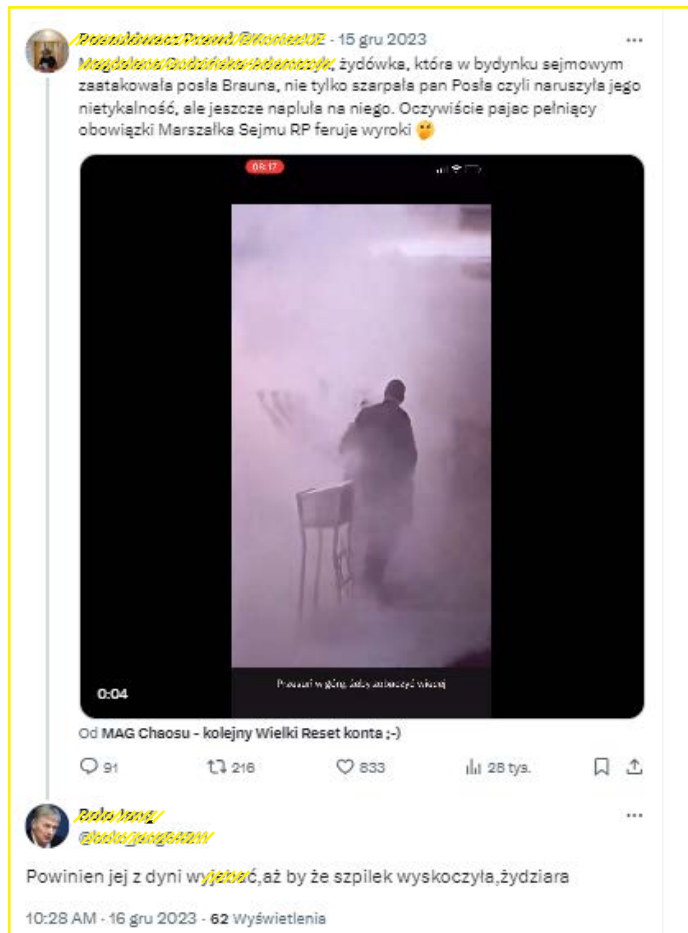


Fig. 14. Screenshot of entry from www.twitter.com.

The analysis of the reported incidents that took place in 2023 shows the image of a Jew as a symbolic “alien” who can be blamed for all experienced evil and misfortunes. This symbol is used to vent frustrations and express negative opinions and fears. What is being criticized is unimportant - an organized terrorist attack by Hamas on Israel and the escalation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the war in Ukraine, rising prices, European politics, migrants at the Belarusian border, COVID, vaccines - the same refrain of the symbolic evil is used as well as antisemitic calques and stereotypes that have been repeated for decades. (Fig. 15, Fig. 16)

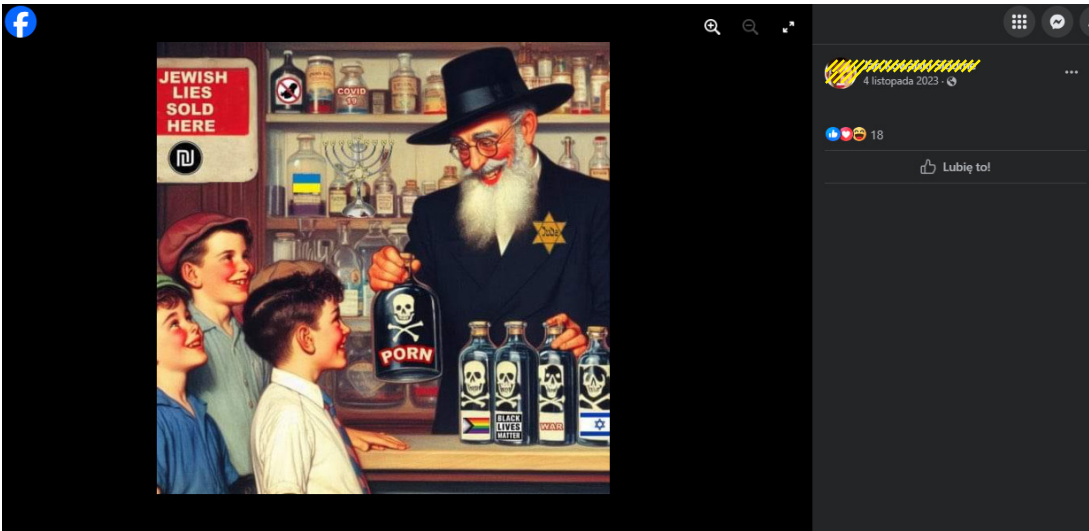


Fig. 15.
Screenshot of graphics from www.facebook.com.

Fig 16.
Entry: "The "independence" march is approaching, you pathetic nation."

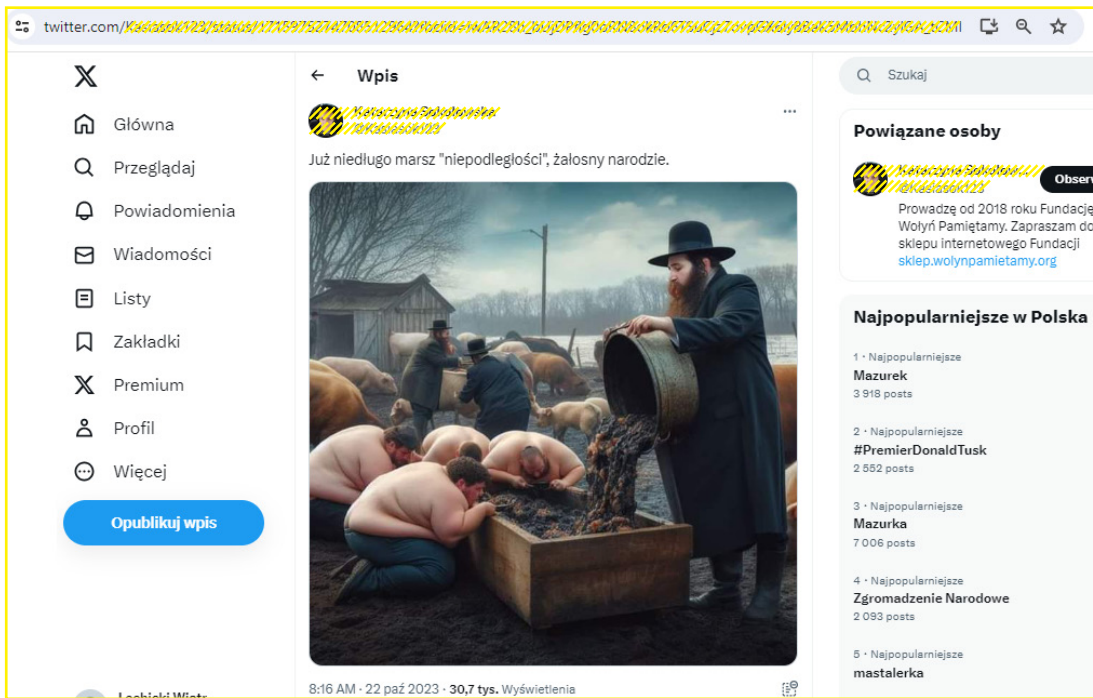


Fig. 16.
Screenshot of graphics from www.facebook.com.

We noted the word “Jew” is used as an offense, which leads to its usage in various contexts, including continuous “football antisemitism.” (Fig. 17)



Fig. 17. Graffiti on a building in Krakow.

We are concerned by the lack of response to antisemitic comments under posts by well-known politicians or public figures. (Fig. 18, Fig. 19). This content is not removed by the websites or by the moderators of the accounts, even after they have been reported. There is a definite lack of a negative response to antisemitism and hate speech in the public sphere. There is also insufficient awareness of what antisemitism is. Therefore, we believe it is advisable to popularise the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism and use it in formal and professional education.

Fig. 18. Entry: "Jews to gas"

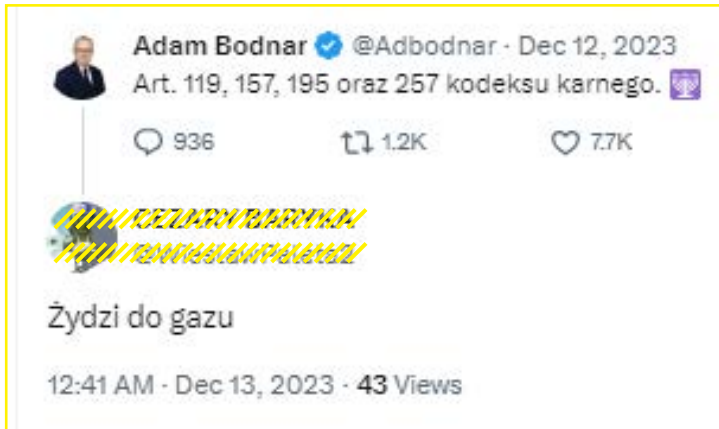


Fig. 18. Screenshot of graphics from www.twitter.com.

Fig. 19. Entry: "F**k the Jews!!!! Jude raus!!!!!!!"

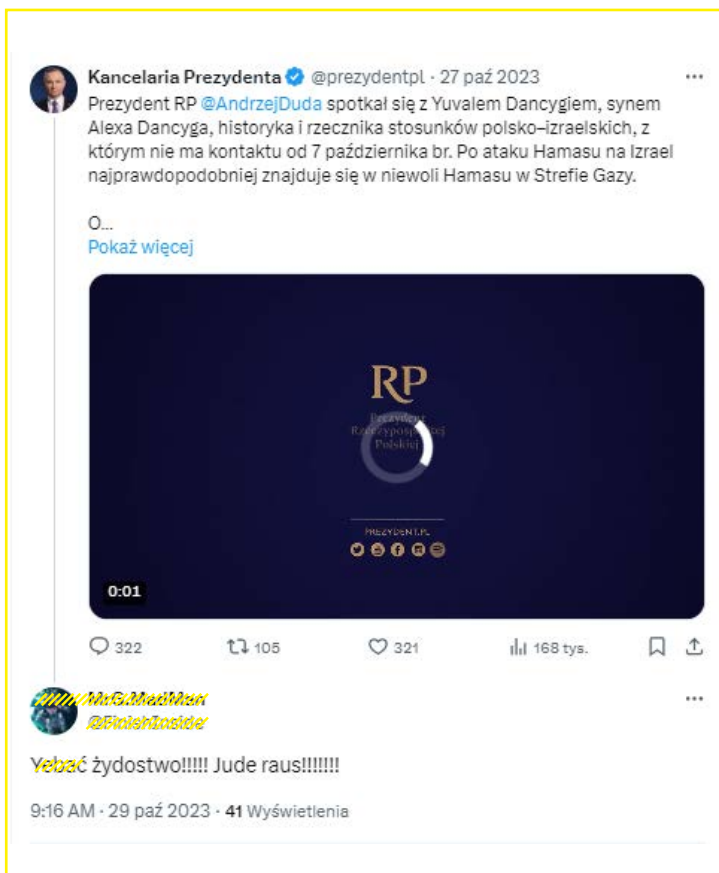


Fig. 19. Screenshot of a post from www.twitter.com.

- The most common form of antisemitism in the analysed incidents was modern antisemitism – expressed predominantly in the conspiracy theories that attribute special political or economic power to Jews and which is often combined with the paradigm of Jews being different, presenting Jews as alien and hostile towards the Polish society. Less common, but equally worrying, are other forms of antisemitism observed in the incidents, such as post-Shoah antisemitism (secondary antisemitism) – expressed in the Holocaust negation or misrepresentation, but also in the acts of glorifying Nazism. (Fig. 17, Fig. 18) Content explicitly denying the Holocaust in the 2022 report did not appear because it was not reported.
- Fig. 20. Entry:” The Jews used their own money to build a wall to separate themselves from the Poles, and they locked themselves in ghettos. They dreamt of autonomy. Let us write the truth”

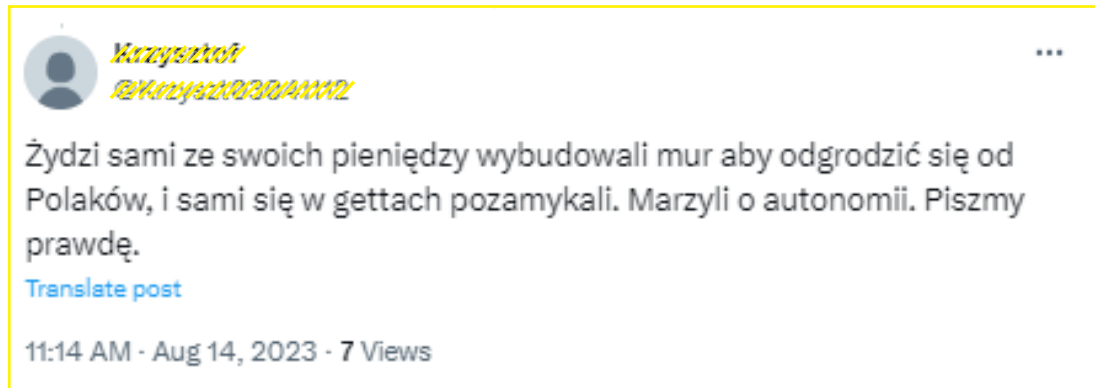


Fig. 20. Screenshot of a post from www.twitter.com.

- Fig. 21. Entry: "They financed the Holocaust; it was an enterprise to benefit them in the future, i.e., now...".

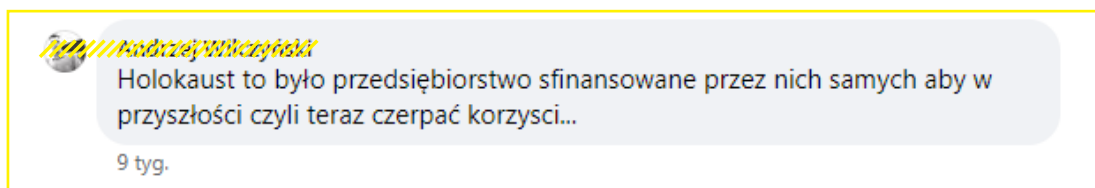


Fig. 21. Screenshot of a post from www.facebook.com.

In the times when the last eyewitnesses of the Holocaust pass away, it is of paramount importance to counteract any attempts to misrepresent the history of genocide, particularly the pseudo-scientific antisemitic publications, of what we are reminded by the words of professor Marian Turski – a Holocaust survivor – Auschwitz did not fall from the sky ²⁶.

The publisher 3DOM is considered by experts radical (it has more than 80 antisemitic publications on its offer). A similar publisher, Magna Polonia, encourages the purchase of publications on social media and sales portals. It is worth mentioning that the owner of the 3DOM publishing house was a Parliamentary candidate of the Confederation of Freedom and Independence Party.

The number of incidents related to a form of Israel-related antisemitism (antizionism) has increased significantly in 2023. The incidents recorded in 2023 appeared in the context of the actions of the State of Israel (Fig. 19), or the activities of the Israeli Embassy in Poland. Below is an example of a comment posted under the Jewish Community of Warsaw post giving an account of the ceremony of signing the declaration of adoption of the IHRA working definition of antisemitism by the President of Warsaw, Rafał Trzaskowski. (Fig. 20) We recorded the highest number of such incidents after the Hamas terrorist attack on the State of Israel. We devote a separate subsection of the publication to the trends and narratives that followed - Manifestations of antisemitism after 7 October 2023.

²⁶ Speech by Marian Turski on the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the former German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp Auschwitz-Birkenau (<https://tvn24.pl>), 27 January 2020, Oswiecim (as of: 5.04.2024) <https://fakty.tvn24.pl/zobacz-fakty/rocznica-wyzwolenia-auschwitz-przemawial-marian-turski-ra1002570-ls6308898> (as of: 5.04.2024)

- Fig. 22. Entry: “The Jews are the modern-day Nazis. Hating them and what they are doing in Palestine is a healthy reaction. With the approach to taxes I agree, stupidity. The Union will either return to its roots or go bankrupt. In Poland LGBT have never had problems. And t+’s place is in the loony bin/prison.”



Fig. 22. Screenshot of a post from www.twitter.com

- Fig. 23. Entry: “The fact that the Shabbat-goy decreed that kosher shit should be called chocolate does not change the fact that it remains shit and no amount of perfuming Jewish stench will help... The source of antisemitism is Jewishness. Since a toothache is treated with a cure or, when this is no longer possible, with a resection, the plague of the Egyptian plagues should be treated similarly”.

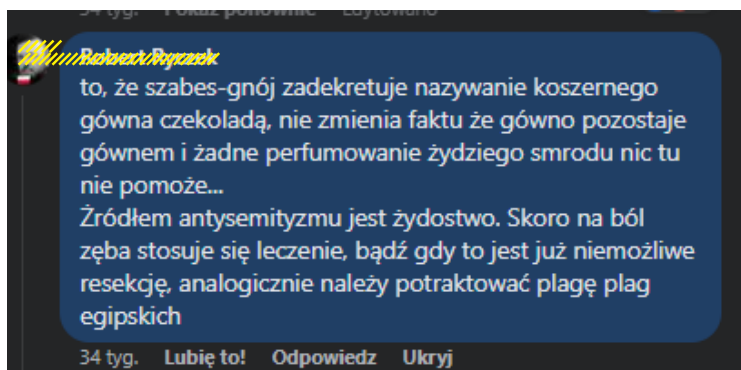


Fig. 20. Screenshot of entry from www.facebook.com

7. Manifestations of antisemitism after 7 October 2023

Jewish organizations are alarmed that following the Hamas terrorist attack on the state of Israel, reports of antisemitic incidents such as attacks, harassment, or expressions of hate speech in online spaces have seen a dramatic increase in Jewish communities around the world.

In Poland, reports of antisemitic incidents reported to the zglosantysemitizm.pl platform by the Jewish community have increased by 800% since October 2023 compared to the previous month's reports. In October and November, the Jewish community, which for various reasons does not report antisemitic incidents, sent us the most reports since the platform www.zglosantysemitizm.pl was established. These included offline and online incidents.

Interestingly, the antisemitic slogans appeared immediately after the Hamas terrorist attack on the state of Israel, before the latter responded in any way.²⁷

²⁷ “(...) The level of hateful content is particularly noteworthy. This content correlates clearly with conflict-related content since the outbreak of open conflict. In addition, we can observe their sharp increase already on the first day, i.e. when Hamas terrorists carried out a terrorist attack, while the first information about more serious retaliatory actions (air strikes) appeared in the media only on Monday 9.10.2023.” Monitoring of hateful content during the 2023 parliamentary elections: Report, edited by: Joanna Grabarczyk - Anders, Mikołaj Henryk Winiewski. <https://czulent.pl/monitoring-nienawistnych-tresci-podczas-wyborow-parlamentarnych-2023/> (as of: 5.04.2024)

Among the most common narratives in the first weeks of the conflict are the following:

- Spreading the narrative that Jews went from being victims of the Holocaust to perpetrators. The slogan “Palestinian Holocaust” is used, publicizing the content of Israelis cheering the retaliatory attack on Gaza.
- Israelis provoked this conflict - “they are to blame.”
- Manipulation through false associations, such as equating Israel with the Nazis, Hamas with Palestine, and Palestinians with extermination by Jews. In addition, Holocaust images are used in an unrelated context, for example, by juxtaposing them with photographs and pictures of unidentified victims.
- Categorizing Jews as cowardly and selfish who always choose to flee rather than defend their interests.
- The practice of using and modifying conspiracy theories. The use of these narratives was intended to provoke strong emotions of resentment towards Jews to spread content of a misinformative nature and to polarise public attitudes.

We monitored the pro-Palestinian demonstrations that took place in many Polish cities. In 13 cases, we registered antisemitic content by way of using slogans on banners that copy the language of the terrorist organization Hamas. Antisemitism has permeated the public space and has also been noted on social media, often under cover of anti-zionist ideology, promoting, in effect, the eradication of the state of Israel. The best example is the slogan „From the river to the sea Palestine will be free.”

8. Wholesaler accounts

Since 2022, we have been monitoring and analysing content published and distributed by extreme organisations and user accounts whose main purpose is to spread hateful content or disinformation. For the purpose of the report, we call these wholesale accounts.

The owners of these accounts publish antisemitic content or/and they multiply the same content on various social networks, as well as on websites that declare that hateful content is allowed, such as www.banbye.com or gloria.tv.

For some users, publishing antisemitic content is a business that generates real income through donations or direct financial support by individual users..

We present several wholesale account entries. (Fig. 20, Fig. 21, Fig. 22)

- Fig. 24. Caption: “Antisemitism is the worst thing in the world right after the Jews”



Fig. 24.
Screenshot of entry from www.twitter.com

- Fig. 25. Entry: “i love him he is my idol ideologies survived!!!! fuck the jews they are a threat to the modern neo nazi world SIEG HEIL SIEG HEIL SIEG HEIL”



Fig. 25 Screenshot of entry from www.twitter.com

- Fig.26 Entry:” I wish you knew how much I hate those bloody Jews!!!!!!”

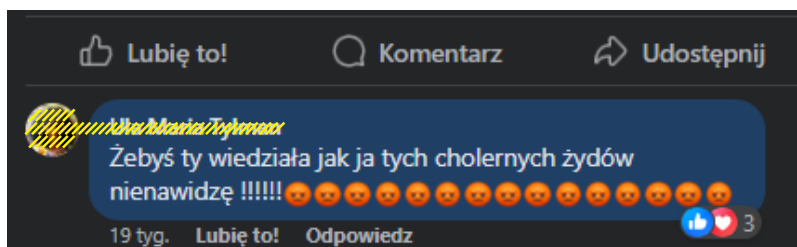


Fig. 26. Screenshot of entry from www.facebook.com.

9. Actions taken by the Association

In 2023, as part of the www.zglosantysemityzm.pl platform, we launched a hotline (tel. 12-400-00-08) and counselling for people experiencing antisemitic incidents. We have provided support and helped gather evidence for people experiencing hate crimes.

Based on incidents reported to us via the platform www.zglosantysemityzm.pl and through our monitoring, **we have filed notices of possible criminal offenses with the Public Prosecutor's Office in 8 cases, in which we identified 42 perpetrators of potential crimes motivated by antisemitism.**

10. Description of the project „Comprehensive Strategy Against Antisemitic Hate Speech in a Public Space”

The project, implemented by the Czulent Jewish Association, aims to create and implement a comprehensive strategy to counter antisemitic hate speech in public spaces. The initiative stems from the need to raise awareness of the harmfulness of hate speech motivated by antisemitism and to provide effective methods of responding to such behaviour.

As part of the implementation of this three-year project, the Jewish Association Czulent is pursuing key objectives:

- raise awareness in the Jewish community about hate speech and its effects;
- equip the community with tools to identify and report hate speech, including that disseminated online and that used for political purposes;
- create and implement support mechanisms for those who report a hate crime;

- undertake advocacy work to respond more effectively to incidents of hate speech,
- build alliances in support of countering antisemitism both online and offline;
- raise awareness among policymakers and local authorities of the dangers of hate speech.

The project strategy focuses on three main activities:

- **Legal aid** – providing professional legal support at every stage of criminal proceedings, from reporting the crime to trial, to minimize procedural errors and support victims.
- **Strategic litigation and educational activities** – educational activities, including the organization of conferences, seminars, and workshops and the promotion of good practices related to the practice of hate crime proceedings.
- **Advocacy and cooperation** - advocacy activities targeting political actors, local authorities, and the Jewish community, as well as creating a platform for exchanging experiences with NGOs and legal professionals.

This project aims not only to combat antisemitism but also to build a more united, aware, and safe community, ready to counter hate speech effectively.

The project was funded by the Remembrance, Responsibility and Future Foundation (EVZ).

11. About us

The Jewish Association Czulent is an independent non-profit organisation that works nationally and internationally, primarily in advocacy.

Czulent undertakes comprehensive initiatives to counteract antisemitism, which include analyses and reports on the phenomenon of antisemitism in the Visegrad countries, as well as activities in the area of strategic litigation. Operates the zglosantysemitizm.pl platform for reporting antisemitic incidents and crimes and providing legal support to those affected. Our platform brings together professionals from the Polish and international Jewish community. In the framework of international coalitions – European Network on Monitoring Antisemitism (ENMA), Coalition to Counter Online Antisemitism (CCOA), European Network Countering Antisemitism through Education (ENCATE), European Network Against Racism (ENAR) – we collect and promote good practices and recommend solutions at European level.

12. Bios:

Piotr Kwapisiewicz is a social activist, who has been involved in advocacy, community participation, and counteracting antisemitism, hate speech, hate crimes, as well as other forms of discrimination for over 17 years. Minorities Fellow of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR/UN) programme. Graduate of the School for Leaders of the Polish - American Freedom Foundation. As an expert in the area of hate crimes and hate speech, and antisemitism, he worked with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR/OSCE), European Judicial Training Network. Within the framework of cooperation with European institutions, he provided training to the police on the role of multilateral cooperation in security management.

Works to increase minority participation by training and initiating coalitions, partnerships, and cooperation of national, ethnic, and religious minority organizations with local and national administration. From 2016 to 2021, member of the Interdisciplinary Team for collaboration on the implementation of the „Open Krakow” program. Author of reports on the inclusion of minorities in decision-making processes, analyses of minority organizations, and training programs on advocacy and participation for activists of national and ethnic minority organizations. He currently serves as chairman of the board of the Jewish Association Czulent, a Jewish advocacy organization.

Anna Zielińska is an expert on tolerance and non-discrimination. Anna is a board member of the Jewish Association Czulent, which focuses on addressing hate crimes, hate speech, antisemitism, and advocacy. She is also a member of the Steering Committee of the ENCATE Network and a member of the Executive Committee of the International Council of Jewish Women (ICJW). She sits on the advisory board of the Centre for Combating Antisemitism and Intolerance in Belgrade, Serbia.

Anna has served as an anti-Semitism Advisor to the OSCE/ODIHR and an antisemitism advisor to the Jewish Community of Warsaw and graduated in law from the University of Warsaw and Cambridge British Law School. In addition, she completed postgraduate studies in Middle East politics and history at Tel Aviv University. Her advocacy work began with a fellowship at the American Jewish Committee DC office. She also managed two conferences on the Middle East held in Poland for AIPAC. Anna is also the author of international law and, tolerance and non-discrimination publications.

Joanna Grabarczyk-Anders is a social activist with 15 years of experience in hate speech, bias-motivated crime, and online safety. She is a co-founder of the Hejtstop campaign and currently works as an expert with the Jewish Association Czulent.

Her expertise includes researching, analysing, and reporting on the scale of hate-motivated incidents, the use of hateful content in election campaigns, the removal of illegal content by IT services, and disinformation phenomena in social media. She also specializes in issues relating to underreporting in minority organizations.

As a qualified trainer in online safety, hate speech, and bias-motivated crime, she provides training to various professional groups, including police, lawyers, content administrators, and minority organisations. Her areas of interest also include network administrators' responsibility for content, securing and collecting evidence, and identifying the perpetrators of crimes.

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zglosantysemityzm.pl

Let's prioritize safety!

**Report any antisemitic incident,
crime, or hate speech.**