

# Antisemitic incidents in 2022

Study of the experiences  
of the Jewish community

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of the Jewish community

**Kraków 2023**

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In the times of growing extremism and nationalism, hate speech and hate crimes pose a threat to democracy and social security. Counteracting hate-motivated activities eliminates the feeling of threat and empowers the groups exposed to such attacks. However, the implementation of effective solutions is only possible when we learn the scale and the size of the phenomenon.

Therefore, using good practices and solutions of international scale, Czulent Jewish Association has undertaken to develop an antisemitic hate crime and hate speech reporting and monitoring system. We have initiated these actions together with the Warsaw Jewish Community, but other Jewish organizations have joined us over time.

IHRA antisemitism definition implementation, cooperation with the Jewish community and usage of the accurate data gathered are necessary elements of counteracting hate crimes motivated by antisemitism. Such actions will allow the law enforcement authorities to understand the scale of the problem, enable the patterns and trends to be seen, as well as allow for appropriate resource allocation and more effective resolution of cases. As a result, the local- and state-level decision makers will be able to use data to make adequate decisions as part of shaping a uniform hate prevention policy.

We hope that this report will be an important element for initiating the discussion on preventing antisemitism, not as an abstract idea, but as a phenomenon which poses a threat to the Jewish community. A phenomenon which is used to radicalize and increase the polarization of the Polish society.

**Piotr Kwapisiewicz**

President of Czulent Jewish Association

Poland and Warsaw are exceptional places for Jewish history. Before the Second World War, Poland had been one of the countries inhabited by the largest number of Jews in the world. A community of over three million people, both religious and secular, developing the Jewish culture and enriching the Polish one. At the beginning of the 1930s, the Jewish community in Warsaw counted over 350 thousand people, constituting approximately 30 percent of the citizens of the capital city. The interwar Warsaw was the world's center of the Jewish diaspora. The purpose of the felonious machine of Holocaust was the total annihilation not only of the Jewish culture and civilization, but of Jews in general. The number of Polish Jews dropped to 45 thousand. Warsaw was the place where the Nazis and their associates created the largest ghetto in the occupied Europe during the war.

Therefore, the reviving Jewish community in Warsaw is particularly sensitive to any sign of antisemitism, which has not yet disappeared despite the horror of the Second World War. It is just as harmful and dangerous as it was in the 1930s, as well as during and after the war. Any signs of antisemitism – verbal or physical, taking place in public or experienced by individual people in everyday life – should be described and documented in detail. I believe that annual reports, as well as the actions combating antisemitism, which are taken based on the conclusions from the reports, will have an educational value and will effectively impact the decrease of the number of antisemitic incidents in Warsaw and in Poland.

The Jewish Community of Warsaw has been involved in the project “Integrated system of help and support for the members of the Jewish community who have experienced hate crimes and hate speech – ToActResponsablyOnHC” and the creation of the platform zglosantysemityzm.pl from the very beginning. I believe that this project will also enable the development of systemic tools to react at the level of law enforcement authorities and, consequently, will facilitate the punishment of the offenders, so that all of us cherishing our Jewish identity can feel safe.

**Sylwia Kędzierska-Jasik**

President of the Board of the Jewish Community of Warsaw

## 1. Introduction

This report, which has been created at the initiative of Czulent Jewish Association and the Jewish Community of Warsaw, contains data on hate crimes, antisemitic incidents and hate speech motivated by antisemitism. The report has been supplemented with a description of the trends observed based on the data gathered in 2022 and the research methodology applied in our activities.

During meetings and conversations, we observed fears and concerns amongst the members of the Jewish community in relation to the discrimination experienced by them in respect of reporting the antisemitic incidents. This phenomenon, called underreporting, which means low reporting of crimes, also occurs amongst other minorities in Poland, which was observed in research conducted by the Commissioner for Human Rights together with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe in 2018<sup>1</sup>. Therefore, when implementing the project, we built relationships based on trust by increasing the awareness about antisemitism and hate crimes. We also presented reasons why antisemitic incidents need to be reported. However, this is a continuous and long-term process, with results appearing very slowly. Based on the conversations with the members of the community, we have prepared a list of the reasons of not reporting antisemitic incidents, which we have identified. The most frequently repeating ones are<sup>2</sup>:

1. Lack of faith in the law enforcement authorities – *This will change nothing*;
2. Fear of being identified by the offenders and of retaliation, especially present in the cases where the offenders were neighbors, co-workers, pupils/teachers – *Why should we stand up? If they don't see us, they won't hurt us*;
3. Desensitization<sup>3</sup> to antisemitism of the Jewish community – *I didn't know this is antisemitism*;
4. Resignation – *Antisemitism has always been and will always be there*.

<sup>1</sup> “Badanie charakteru i skali niezgłaszanych przestępstw z nienawiści wobec członków wybranych społeczności w Polsce. Raport z badania” [“Research on the Nature and Scale of Underreporting of Hate Crimes against Members of Selected Communities in Poland. Study Report.”], Warsaw, December 2018 <https://bip.brpo.gov.pl/sites/default/files/Badanie%20charakteru%20i%20skali%20niezg%C5%82aszanych%20przest%C4%99pstw%20z%20nienawi%C5%9Bci.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> This is consistent with the reasons of not reporting included in the results of the research presented in the following report of Czulent Jewish Association “Analysis of the Experiences of Victims of Criminal Offences and Incidents Motivated by Hate.”, p.8 (Krakow 2022) <https://czulent.pl/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/experiences-of-victims-report.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Desensitization is a term which describes lowering body's sensitivity to a repeated stimulus.

## 2. Methodology/glossary of terms

In 2022, **566 reports** were analyzed with **78 not passing the verification**<sup>4</sup>, which led to 488 incidents being included in the final report. The data has been obtained through the cooperation and conversations with the Jewish community in Poland, as well as through the reports sent via the platform **www.zglosantysemityzm.pl**. A group of analysts trained for this purpose also monitored the Internet. In addition to their own research, they used the Internet monitoring tools, such as Brand24 and SentiOne, in their work. The research was conducted in publicly available online sources, such as websites, social media, information services, blogosphere and discussion forums.

The incident categories were adapted from the British methodology of the Community Security Trust (CST), which were adjusted to the Polish context by the experts from Czulent Jewish Association in partnership with 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 the occurrence of antisemitism in Europe.

The antisemitic incidents presented in this report only include the events which happened or persisted in 2022. The incoming data was verified by the project employees with the informants, then it was systematically recorded and categorized. 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.

### Methodology

The primary condition met by the incidents registered in 2022 is the presence of antisemitic prejudice. Therefore, the classification of antisemitic incidents in respect of contents is based on the working definition of antisemitism by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA)<sup>5</sup>. An additional element of verifying the antisemitic prejudice is 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 assessment.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>4</sup> These were repeated reports, unverifiable reports or reports which did not meet the antisemitic incident definition in our methodology.

<sup>5</sup> 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-charters/robocza-definicja-antysemityzmu-przyjeta-przez>

<sup>6</sup> The 3D 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.

For the purposes of the methodology, we introduced aggrieved person category groups and incident type differentiation when recording antisemitic incidents. For categorization, we refer to the 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, as well as inciting hate based on national, ethnical or racial differences, or the lack of religious affiliation, and introduce a qualifiable form of the criminal offences of insult and breach of bodily integrity. The qualifying characteristic is the motivation of the offender based on actual or implied national, ethnical, racial or religious affiliation or lack of religious affiliation of the aggrieved person.

### Incident type

Antisemitic incidents which are not considered to be criminal offences pursuant to the Polish law are also systematized and analyzed in accordance with the categories below. Six types of incidents can be distinguished based on the kind and severity of the event. 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.

**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 which does not pose any threat to life or result in a serious bodily injury. This category also includes a physical attack attempt. **Intentional 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 plates and memorials, as well as seats of Jewish institutions or institutions considered to be Jewish.

**Threat** is defined as any express written or verbal threat of violence addressed directly to a person or institution. **Insulting behavior** is considered to be any antisemitic statements towards Jewish or Israeli people or institutions, but also antisemitic insults or comments towards other people or institutions. This also applies to the antisemitic statements made or disseminated on the Internet if they are addressed directly against a specific person or institution. The destruction or placing of antisemitic symbols, posters, stickers, etc. on non-Jewish property is also considered to be insulting behavior. Finally, there is an antisemitic correspondence addressed to a larger group of people, described as a mass propaganda, which usually takes form of mass mailing.

We also record the gatherings where contents of antisemitic nature 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 insulting behavior. If antisemitic attacks or

threats occur during or around such meeting, 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 next subchapter, in addition to Jews, antisemitism can affect the people who are perceived as Jews. An antisemitic incident can affect 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 which 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.

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 particular society of the majority culture. **Anti-Judaism** disseminates religion-based stereotypes, such as blaming Jews for Jesus' death. Attributing special political or economical power to Jews, for example in the context of conspiracy theories, falls into the category of **modern antisemitism**. **Post-Shoah antisemitism** refers to the way of presenting and describing the Holocaust, for example, when the number of the Jewish victims of Nazism is questioned. This category also includes the "Jedwabne lie", which is denying that Poles are responsible for the murder of their Jewish neighbors in the village of Jedwabne. Israel-related antisemitism are antisemitic statements directed against the Jewish State of Israel, for example, denying its right to exist. An incident often contains various elements of antisemitism. For the reason of such multiple attributions, the number of forms is usually larger than the number of antisemitic incidents.

## Glossary of terms

**Antisemitic incident** – every event including discriminatory elements based on the offender's antisemitism.

**Antisemitic hate crime** – the Polish legal system does not include the definition of a hate crime. However, this concept has been defined by ODIHR – OSCE (Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of – Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe). According to that definition, “hate crime is any act prohibited by the criminal law, targeted at people or their property, as the result of which the victim or another target of the criminal offence is selected on basis of their actual or alleged connection with or support for the group distinguished [...]” The basis of such distinguishing is so-called antisemitic ideology.

“Hate speech is, in particular, the advocacy, promotion or incitement, in any form, of the denigration, hatred or vilification of a person or group of persons, as well as any harassment, insult, negative stereotyping, stigmatization or threat in respect of such a person or group of persons and the justification of all the preceding types of expression, on the ground of „race”, color, descent, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, language, religion or belief, sex, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation and other personal characteristics or status.”<sup>7</sup>

According to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) definition –

“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 facilities.”<sup>8</sup>

**Holocaust denial and Distortion** – “Holocaust denial is discourse and propaganda that deny 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 shooting, starvation and torture) or the intentionality of 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

<sup>7</sup> There is no single, generally accepted definition of hate speech. Our assessments are based on the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe's definition, modified and updated in 2015 by the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (General Policy Recommendation, s.3)

<sup>8</sup> Find out more about the definition in our publication entitled International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition of antisemitism. A study. <https://czulent.pl/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/definicja-antysemityzmu-ihra-omowienie.pdf>

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 an explicit antisemitism and the promotion of political ideologies and conditions suitable for the advent of the very type of event it denies.

### **Distortion of the Holocaust refers, *inter alia*, to:**

- a) Intentional efforts to excuse or minimize the impact of the Holocaust or its principal elements, including collaborators and allies of Nazi Germany;
- b) Gross minimization of the number of the victims of the Holocaust in contradiction to reliable sources;
- c) Attempts to blame the Jews for causing their own genocide;
- d) 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 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”;
- e) 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.”<sup>9</sup>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/pl/resources/working-definitions-charters/robocza-definicja-negacjonizmu-i-zniekształcania-prawdy>

### 3. Summary: antisemitic incidents reported via the platform in Poland in 2022

In 2022 we documented **488** antisemitic incidents in Poland, including **1** incident of physical violence, **4** incidents of attack, **20** instances of threats, **34** cases of damage to Jewish property and places of remembrance. We also registered **68** cases of mass mailing and **372** cases of insulting behavior.

Each documented incident can be attributed to at least one form of antisemitism. One of the most frequently appearing forms is the **modern-day antisemitism**, alleging special position, political or economic power, which occurred in **49.1%** of incidents. We can see it, among others, in offensive speech about widely known persons of Jewish origin, criticism of the government, but also spreading conspiracy theories of all sorts – whether concerning COVID vaccines or the war in Ukraine. Another relatively widespread conspiracy theory concerns the alleged Jewish plan to take over Poland (certain extreme groups already talk about Jewish occupation of the country) in order to transform it into a Jewish state of Polin. This theory finds its expression in the slogan “this country is Poland, not Polin”. 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.

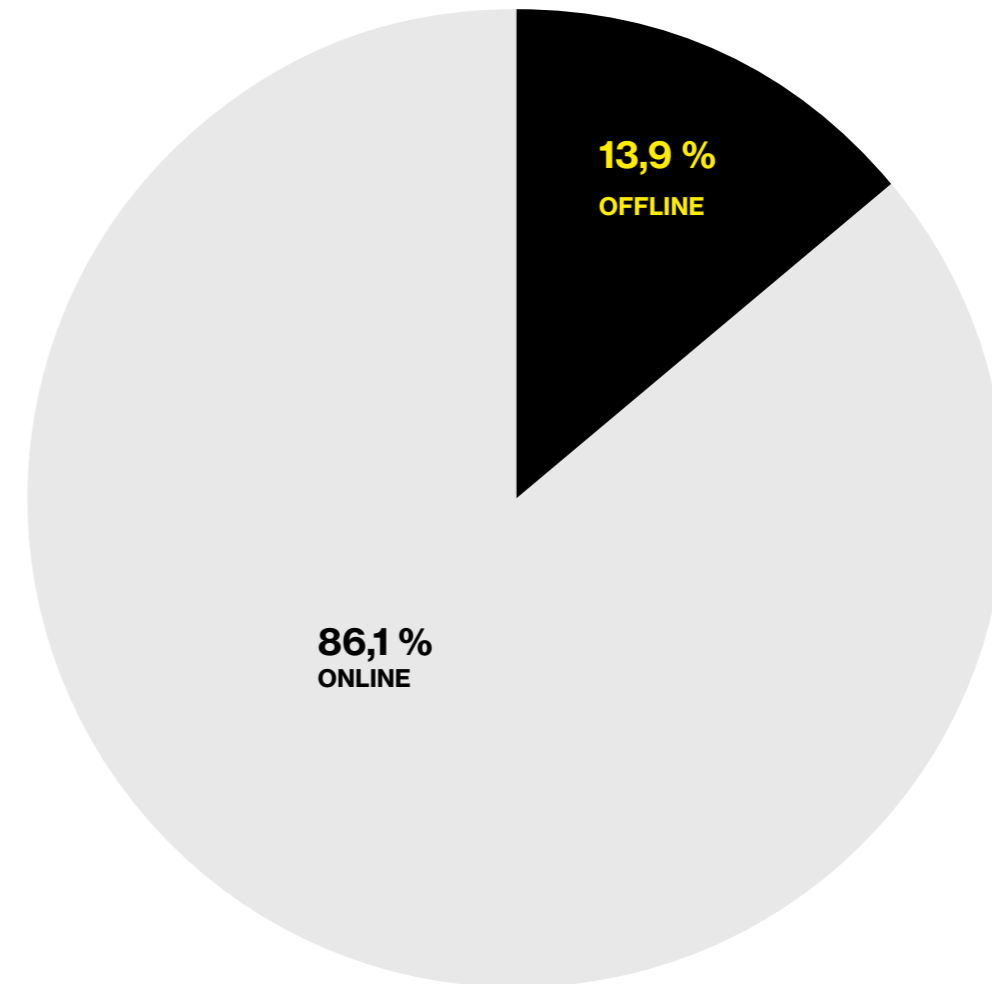
**67** documented incidents were directed against institutions. **63** instances involved Jewish institutions, **8** cases involved places of remembrance. **14** incidents occurred in ordinary locations – like living quarters, a synagogue or catering facilities. **415** happened online.

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 **84** instances. The war between Ukraine and Russia was used to legitimize attacking the Jews more openly. Antisemitism is therefore used as a tool for polarizing the public about helping the refugees from Ukraine or about Poles’ attitudes towards the war in Ukraine and government involvement in various forms of assistance to Ukraine.

### 4. Graphical presentation of statistical data

#### 4.1 Incident type

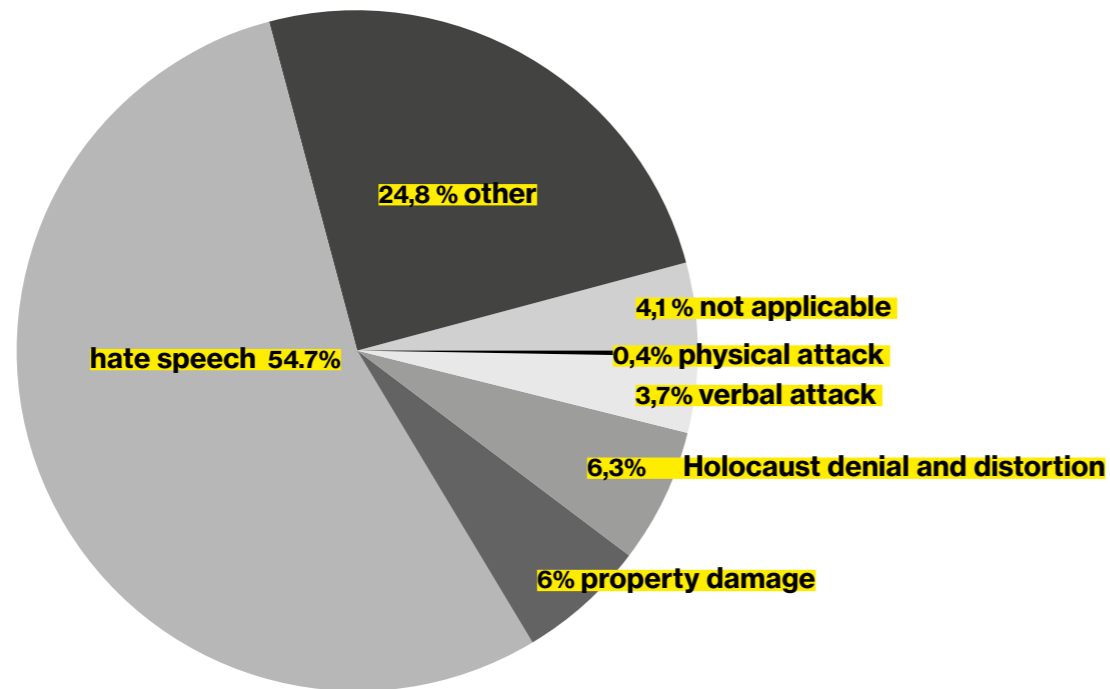
Incidents are generally categorized into physical events and those occurring online. In 2022, we recorded 68 offline incidents and 420 online.



graph 1  
Online vs. offline incidents

The categories attributed by the reporting persons already at the platform level, allowing for the initial grouping of incidents.<sup>10</sup>

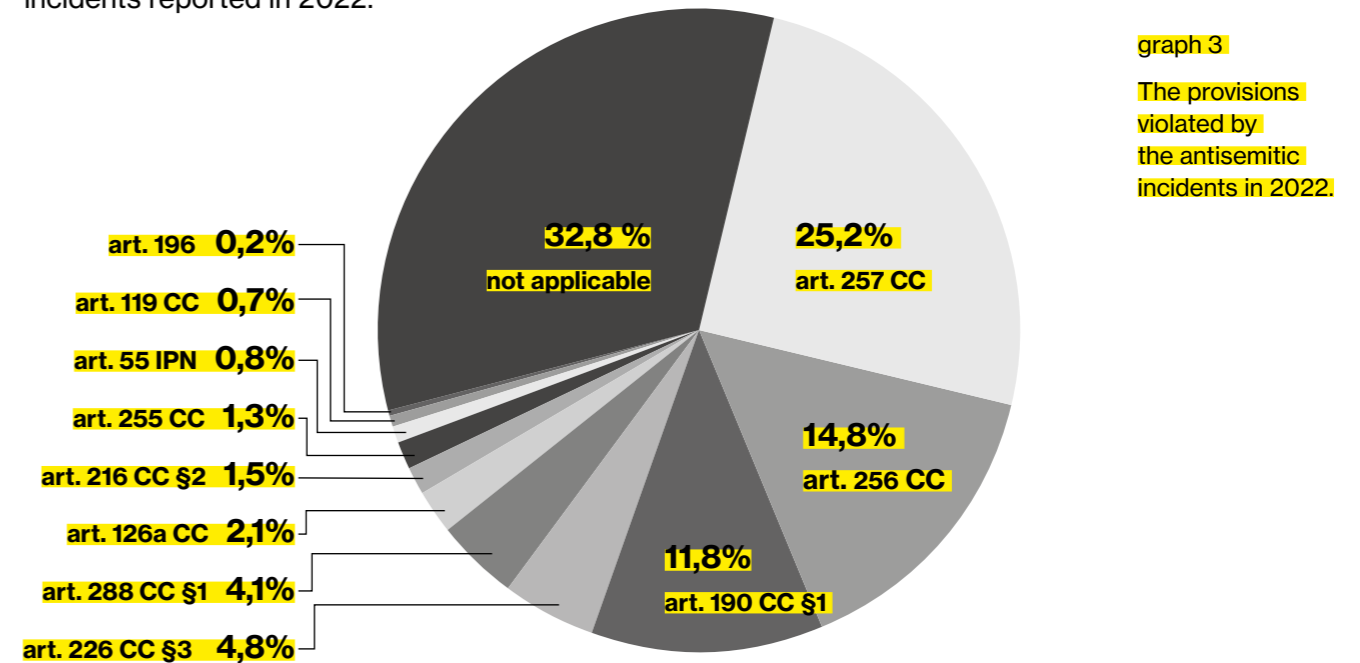
category	the number of incidents
physical attack	2
verbal attack	20
Holocaust denial and distortion	34
property damage	32
hate speech	293
other – not corresponding to the factors outlined in the methodology	133
not applicable	22



graph 2  
The categories of antisemitic incidents.

<sup>10</sup> Each reported incident is verified by a team of experts.

Another stage of incident analysis involves attribution of legal qualification, e.g. determining what violations of Polish law occurred. Legal qualification is determined by a group of experts. The following graph illustrates the legal provisions violated by the incidents reported in 2022.



graph 3  
The provisions violated by the antisemitic incidents in 2022.

The most frequent crime, that occurred in 154 cases involved Article 257 of the Polish Penal Code stating that “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”.<sup>11</sup>

Second comes the provision of Article 256 of the Criminal Code, which was violated in 90 cases, and which states that: “Anyone who publicly promotes a fascist or other totalitarian system of state, or incites hatred based on national, ethnic, race or religious differences or for not being religious, is liable to a fine, the restriction of liberty or imprisonment for up to two years”.<sup>12</sup>

The third most frequent Article 190 paragraph 1 of the Criminal Code, which was violated in 72 cases, and which states that: “Anyone who threatens to commit an offence to the detriment of another person or his or her next of kin, where there is a justifiable fear that the threat will be carried out, is liable to a fine, the restriction of liberty or imprisonment for up to two years”.<sup>13</sup>

Importantly, the criminal incidents often violated more than one provision of the Criminal Code.

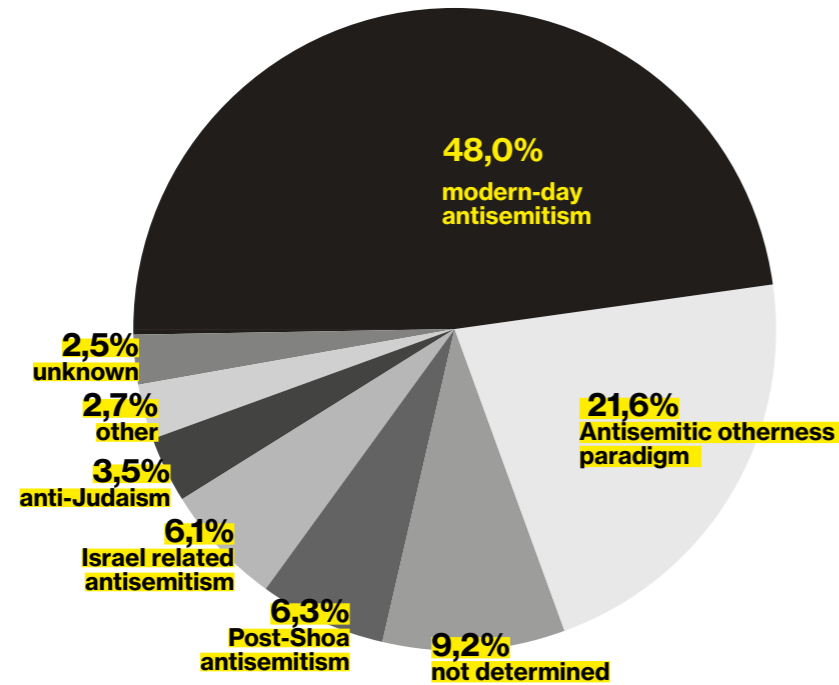
<sup>11</sup> Act of 6 June 1997 – Criminal Code (Polish Journal of Laws of 1997, no. 88, item 553)

<sup>12</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>13</sup> Ibidem.

## 4.2 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 description of various expressions of antisemitisms. One incident may contain many sub-types of antisemitic motives.



graph 4  
Forms of  
antisemitism

The staggering majority of 340 antisemitic incidents involved its modern-day form, expressing with conspiracy theories, insults or antisemitic bias. 153 cases involved antisemitic otherness paradigm, expressing in statements ostracizing Polish Jews as an alien and hostile element. Another category includes incidents where the form of antisemitism may not be determined, including e.g. harassment of Jewish institutions. 65 such incidents were recorded.

Our monitoring of antisemitism also involved cross-discrimination, present in 29% of the reported incidents. The group that we most broadly defined involved cases categorized as “other”, consisting of 93 events. The most frequent discrimination factor was anti-Ukrainism. The second most frequent incidents were those connected with sexism and anti-LGBTIQ+ bias – 15 incidents each. The third most frequent discrimination factor was racism. We recorded 10 incidents in this category.

## 4.3 Geographical location

The largest number of offline incidents in 2022 were reported in Mazowieckie Voivodship. 19 incidents were noted here, which is 28.4% of the reported incidents within the physical space, of which 17 took place in Warsaw.

voivodship	the number of incidents
podkarpackie	1
śląskie	1
warmińsko-mazurskie	1
dolnośląskie	2
wielkopolskie	3
kujawsko-pomorskie	4
podlaskie	4
lubelskie	10
małopolskie	10
łódzkie	12
mazowieckie	19

## 5. Examples

The following examples of incidents were chosen from all those reported in 2022, in order to show the broadest possible spectrum of the events submitted to the zglosantysemizm.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 Penal 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

- A male of Jewish origin, while walking down the street along with his friend, was verbally attacked by a group of men. The perpetrators called him “a pig” and “a camel-fucker,” and when the accosted party identified himself as a Jew, they assaulted both men. The event was reported to the police.

### Attack

- An orthodox Jew while travelling with his wife by train, was verbally attacked twice by a drunk man. The man would enter their car and shout: “Jude!”
- An unknown perpetrator threw a bottle of unidentified liquid at a group of Jewish youth who stopped by the memorial plaque while sightseeing. The event was reported to the municipal police.

### Threat

- LGBTQI+ student of Jewish origin was verbally attacked by another student. The perpetrator rose their arm in the Nazi salute and told jokes about the Holocaust during classes. He said: “Jews and fags should all be gassed.” Such harassment continued for several months. The victim required psychological assistance. The perpetrator was reported to the principal’s office.

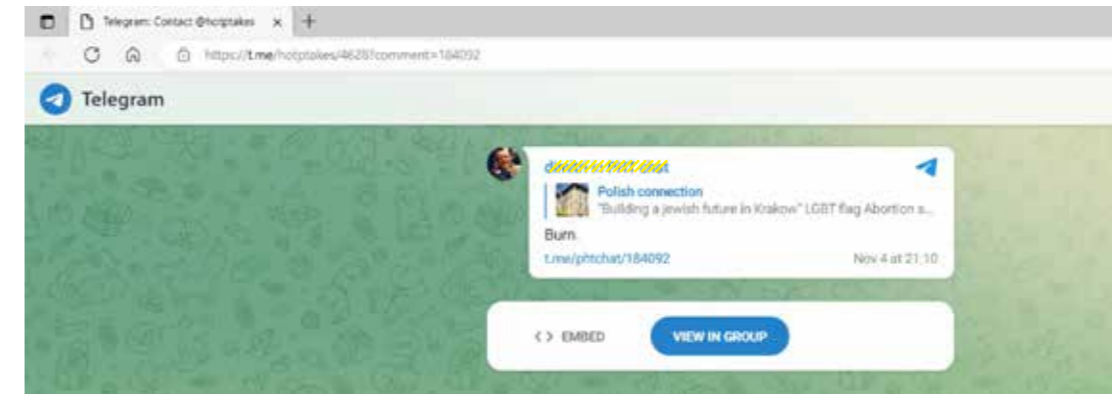


fig. 1

- A Telegram user posted a comment, which read: “Burn,” under a post with the picture of the front part of JCC Krakow building. The description of the picture reads: “Building a Jewish future in Krakow”.

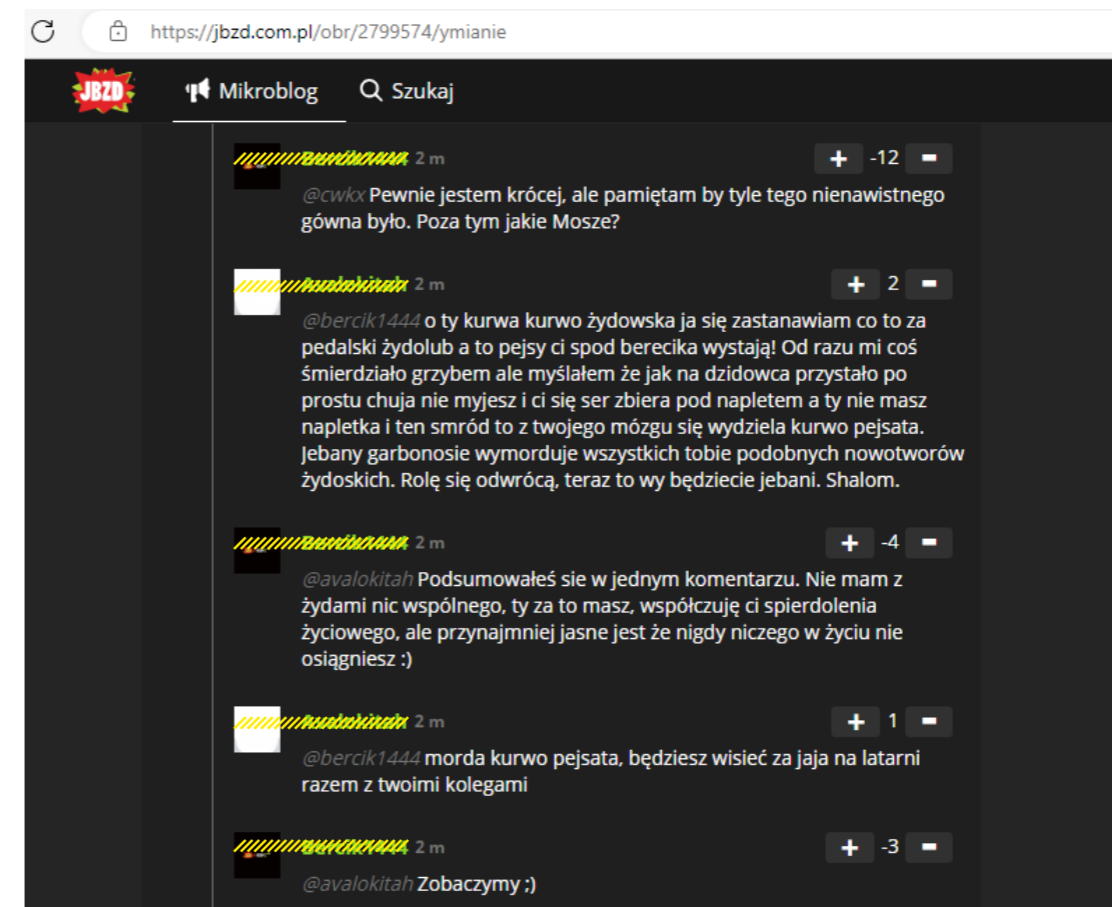


fig. 2

- A jbz.com.pl portal user, in their comments threatens and insults another participant of the discussion

## Property damage



fig. 3.

- Graffiti on the wall in Warsaw Żoliborz district presenting the numbers 1481<sup>14</sup> the symbol used by the ultra-nationalist groups.

<sup>14</sup> 1488 is the combination of two commonly used numeric symbols of the ultra-nationalists or white supremacists. The first one, 14, is a shorthand for “14 words”: “We must secure the existence of our people and a future for White children.” The other, 88, means “Heil Hitler” (H being the eighth letter of the alphabet). Put together, these numbers are an expression of the general support of white supremacy and ultra-nationalism. Szerzenie Nienawiści Konsekwencje. Przeciwdziałanie. Penalizacja. Podręcznik dla osób przeciwdziałających nienawiści i wzmacniających poszanowanie praw człowieka [Spreading Hate Consequences. Counteracting. Penalization. Handbook for People Who Counteract Hate and Reinforce the Respect for Human Rights.] Czulent Jewish Association. Kraków 2023. <https://czulent.pl/poradnik-dla-zglaszajacych-zbrodnie-z-nienawisci-definiowanie-symboli-domen-aspektow-psychologicznych-i-prawnych/>



fig. 4.

- The Celtic cross graffiti<sup>15</sup> on the wall of the building where a person of Jewish origin lives.



fig. 5.

- The attempt of setting a synagogue door on fire. A synagogue caretaker discovered the clear signs of fire on the door and the carpeting near it. The fire was set by an unknown perpetrator and made its way inside the staircase of the building. There are no eye-witnesses of the event. The event was reported to the police. The protocol was drawn up, and the testimony was recorded. The location was inspected, and evidence was gathered and secured.

<sup>15</sup> Celtic cross (also known as Odin’s cross, Sun Cross, Ringed Cross) – a cross symbol used by the neo-Nazi groups, skin-heads or other far right extremist groups. Since the early twentieth century, the symbol has been appropriated by extremist groups, and generally associated with fascism. Szerzenie Nienawiści Konsekwencje. Przeciwdziałanie. Penalizacja. Podręcznik dla osób przeciwdziałających nienawiści i wzmacniających poszanowanie praw człowieka [Spreading Hate Consequences. Counteracting. Penalization. Handbook for People Who Counteract Hate and Reinforce the Respect for Human Rights.] Czulent Jewish Association. Kraków 2023. <https://czulent.pl/poradnik-dla-zglaszajacych-zbrodnie-z-nienawisci-definiowanie-symboli-domen-aspektow-psychologicznych-i-prawnych/>



fig. 6.

### Insulting behavior

- A post by Ronald S. Lauder – President of the World Jewish Congress – which said: *Antisemitism must be called what it really is: Jew-hatred*; was commented with an insulting, antisemitic remark.

- An insulting comment under Jan Hartman’s tweet – the Jewish origin journalist which read: “A scab. A Jewish scab”.

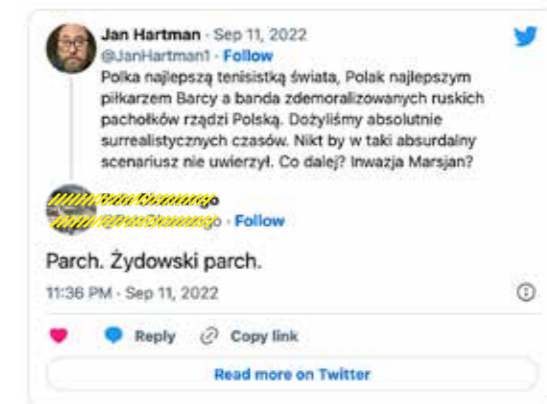


fig. 8



fig. 7.

- A tweet containing the elements characteristic to conspiracy theory, a modern form of antisemitism.

### Mass propaganda

In 2022 we identified as many as 69 cases of mass propaganda in the form of mass mailing to Jewish organizations in Poland, as well as e-mail inboxes of the Jewish community leaders. Below is a drawing which was sent to the Czulent Jewish Association email inbox on 15 November 2022.



fig. 9.

## 6. Conclusion

Antisemitism is a phenomenon present in a variety of forms in the entire society, and its prevalence cannot be limited to particular communities, or particular forms. It can be directed against the Jewish community, but also against people merely believed to be Jewish. Unfortunately it is accepted and used within the mainstream political debate, even by parties represented in the Sejm. Below you can find the example of the use of antisemitic rhetoric by the National Movement party

The analysis of the reported incidents which took place in 2022 shows the image of a Jew as a symbolic “alien” who can be blamed for the bad experiences and misfortunes. This symbol is used to vent frustrations and to express negative opinions as well as fears. What is being criticized is unimportant: whether it's the presence of Ukrainian refugees, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, growing prices, 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.

It is also clearly visible that the word Jew itself is treated as an insult and as such is used in many contexts: towards politicians, public figures, but also in the all-too-well-known “football arena antisemitism” .



rys.12



fig.13.  
Warsaw,  
Wilanow district



fig.10



rys.11

As a result, the conspiracy theories concerning “the Jewish clique that runs the world,” and which everyone the speaker currently disagrees with serves, find the fertile ground. The antisemitic hate speech is used as a way to discredit other people, which is present in political arguments and common in disinformation campaigns



fig.14

Interestingly, antisemitic comments under the posts by well-known politicians including the prime minister Morawiecki or president Duda, are often left there even after being reported to the moderators. Strong negative reaction to antisemitism and hate speech in the public sphere is missing. There is also little awareness to what antisemitism really is. It seems reasonable that the working definition of antisemitism by IHRA be propagated and used in the formal and professional education.



fig. 15



fig. 16

The most common form of antisemitism in the analyzed 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 – expressed in the Holocaust negation or misrepresentation, but also in the acts of glorifying Nazism.



fig. 17

In the times when last eye-witnesses 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.<sup>16</sup>

Radical right-wing publishing house 3DOM advertises the publication by Dariusz Ratajczak titled “Tematy niebezpieczne” [“Dangerous Topics”], where he denies Jews being killed during the Holocaust. In the late 1990s Ratajczak was sentenced pursuant to a valid court judgment for Holocaust denial. The publishing house has 81 antisemitic publications on offer. And “Tematy niebezpieczne” is also available on other retail platforms.

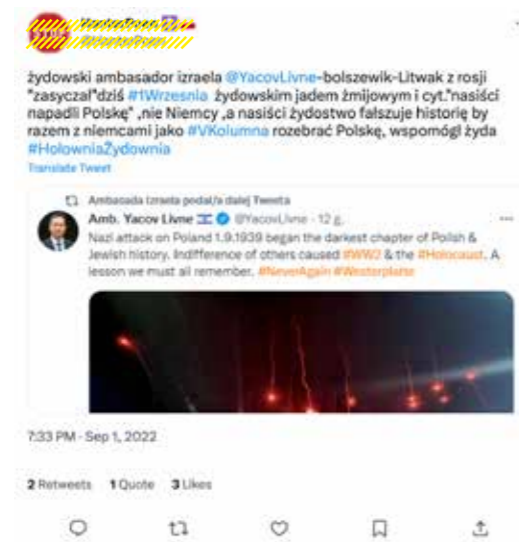
<sup>16</sup> The Address of Marian Turski at the 75th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Death Camp (<https://tvn24.pl>), 27 January 2020, Oświęcim (access on 18 April 2022) <https://tvn24.pl/magazyn-tvn24/nie-badzcie-obojetni-kiedy-jakakolwiek-wladza-narusza-przyjete-umowy,276,4844>

fig. 18



In the wprawo.pl e-store t-shirts with “Nie przepraszam za Jedwabne” [“I’m not sorry for Jedwabne”] slogan are available for purchase. The store is run by Jacek Międlar, who was convicted for hate-mongering. Pursuant to the verdict of the District Court in Białystok dated 19 September 2013<sup>17</sup> using the slogan “Nie przepraszam za Jedwabne” constitutes hate mongering. According to the verdict of the European Court of Human Rights, negating the crimes against humanity is one of the most drastic forms of insulting Jews due to the race and one of the most drastic forms of hate-mongering against them.

fig. 19

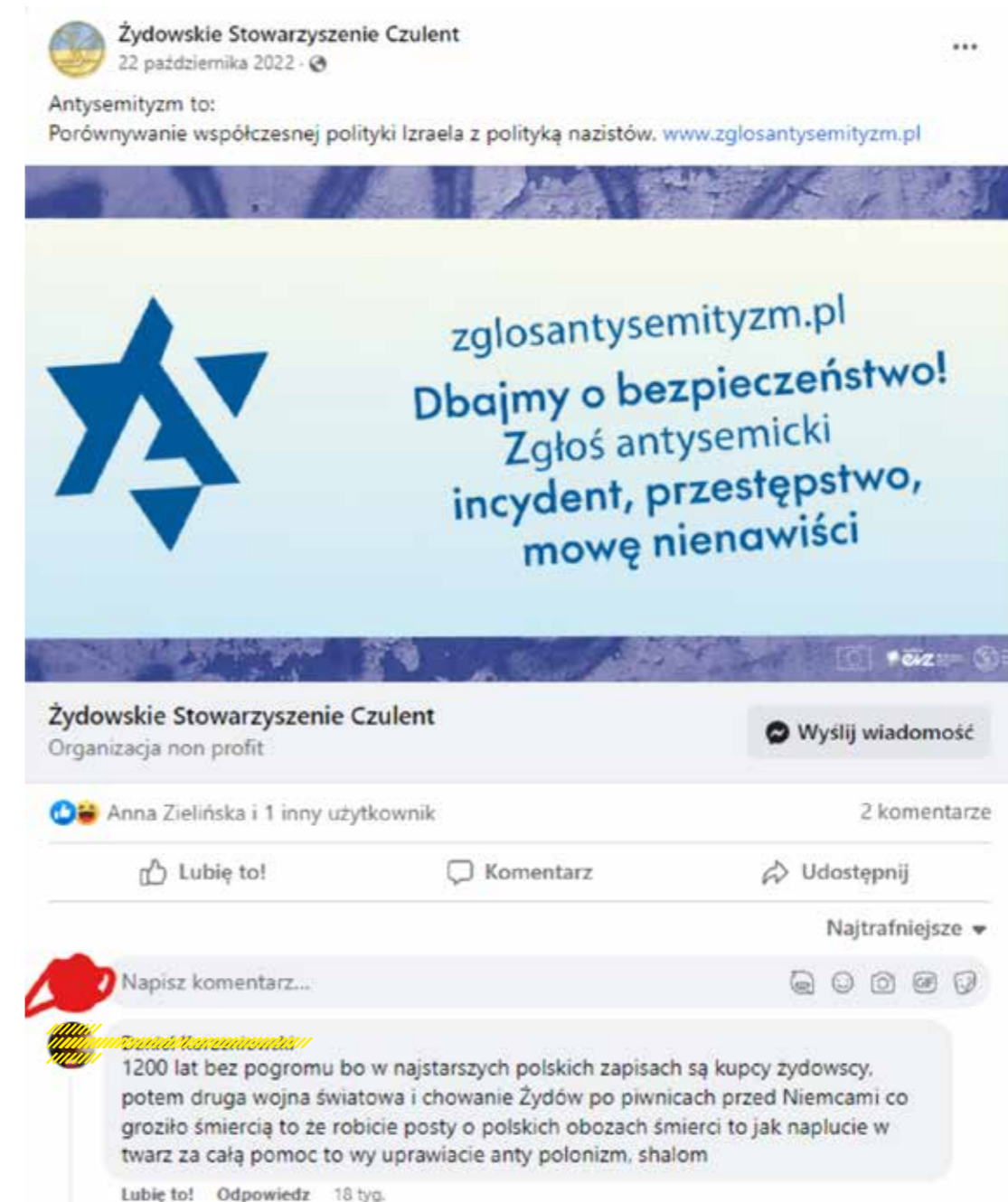


A less common form of antisemitism is the antisemitism connected with the state of Israel – it appeared in the context of the reaction to the activities of the Israeli embassy in in Poland. Below is the example of how Ambassador Livne was insultingly accused of presenting a false version of the World War II history.

<sup>17</sup> (case file reference number VIII Ka 422/13)

The mere mention of Israel resulted in the Polish Jews being accused of disloyalty and ungratefulness towards native Poles.

fig. 20



## 7. Project description

In the times of growing extremism and nationalism, hate speech and hate crimes pose a threat to democracy and society. Counteracting such acts helps reduce the feeling of danger and empowers any group that would be a potential target of such attacks. However, the implementation of effective solutions is only possible when we learn the scale and the size of the phenomenon.

Therefore Czulent Jewish Association, based on the best international solutions, decided to develop an integrated system of help and support for the members of the Jewish community who have experienced hate crimes or hate speech. In cooperation with the Jewish Community of Warsaw we created a system aimed at empowering the groups potentially targeted by hate-motivated attacks and at the support of the Jewish community members.

### **The stages of the implementation of an integrated system of help and support:**

1. The development of the methodology of reporting crimes, incidents and hate speech, based on good practices and solutions, which will allow for the implementation of the consistent and uniform system of reporting, realized on an online platform. The platform serves for gathering, analysis and management of the data, which allow for the publication of expert opinions and comprehensive periodic reports.
2. The creation of the Team of Local Activists whose job will be reporting, gathering, and analysis and management of the gathered data.
3. Running the platform of reporting crimes, incidents and hate speech, which will let those who experienced such incidents, hate crimes or hate speech report them online.
4. A system of help and support for those who experienced incidents, hate crimes and hate speech.

An important part of the “Integrated system of monitoring antisemitic crimes and hate speech” is the publication of annual reports presenting reported antisemitic incidents..

Reporting antisemitic hate crimes and antisemitic hate speech goes beyond the limits of this one project and it will be continued after it is completed. Along with our partners from RIAS Berlin we establish contacts with an increasing number of institutions that monitor antisemitic hate crimes and antisemitic hate speech, so that it is possible to gather comparative data sets from a larger number of European states.

The project has been financed from the funds of the European Union as part of the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Program for years 2014–2020 and of the Remembrance, Responsibility and Future (EVZ) Foundation.

## 8. Organizations implementing the project

**Żydowskie Stowarzyszenie Czulent** (Czulent Jewish Association) – an independent non-profit advocacy organization. It has the status of ethnic minority NGO. The Association gathers experts from the Jewish community in Poland. It's goals include the promotion of tolerance and openness towards ethnic or religious minorities, especially counteracting antisemitism and discrimination, also taking into consideration cross-discrimination and homophobia.

**[www.czulent.pl](http://www.czulent.pl)**

**Jewish Community of Warsaw** – The Warsaw Community along with its subsidiary in Lublin is the largest community of The Union of the Jewish Communities in Poland. It currently has around 700 members and this number is steadily growing. Everyone is welcome to the Community, no matter how religious they are, and its members have prayer meetings both within the traditional and progressive rites. The community is a moral and legal heir of the pre-war Jewish communities, and as such it pays special attention to material and non-material legacy of the Jewish people. It also conducts educational and cultural projects, and it provides care for the needy

**[www.jewish.waw.pl](http://www.jewish.waw.pl)**



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