



The Fight Against Antisemitism

ECRI General Policy Recommendation No. 9: Key Topics

” Many Jews feel unsafe because of rising antisemitism across Europe, and large numbers of Jews have left as a result. Governments must take the fight against antisemitism seriously, enacting and enforcing robust legislation to tackle the problem and working closely with civil society to raise awareness and foster a positive change of attitudes. ECRI’s guidelines for combating antisemitism offer governments practical recommendations for addressing this serious form of racism.

SELECTED RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Enact and enforce robust antisemitism legislation, which penalises all intentional antisemitic acts against actual or “presumed” Jews, including:

- ▶ Public incitement to violence, hatred or discrimination;
- ▶ Public insults and defamation;
- ▶ The public denial, trivialisation, justification or condoning of the Holocaust; and
- ▶ The desecration of Jewish religious institutions and monuments.

2. Encourage victims of antisemitic acts to come forward, and put in place an effective data collection and monitoring system to ensure complaints are acted upon.

KEY MESSAGE

- Governments must develop effective policies to combat antisemitism at all levels of society.
- Intentional antisemitic acts are criminal acts and antisemitic discourse is hate speech.



3. Sanction organisations, including political parties, that promote antisemitism by:

- ▶ Withdrawing financial and other forms of support for such organisations from public bodies; and/or
- ▶ Prohibiting and dissolving such organisations.

4. Introduce anti-racist education into the national curriculum.

■ This should include content that addresses antisemitism, its history and current forms.

■ Ensure that teachers are provided with the necessary training to deliver this content with confidence.

5. Encourage the media professions, non-governmental and religious communities to play an active role in fighting antisemitism.

■ Support the positive role these will play in promoting mutual respect and countering antisemitic stereotypes and prejudices.

ECRI – USEFUL LINKS

ECRI General Policy Recommendation N. 9:
The Fight against Antisemitism
http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/activities/GPR/EN/Recommendation_N9/Recommendation_9_en.asp

ECRI General Policy Recommendation No. 7:
National legislation to combat racism and racial discrimination
http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/activities/GPR/EN/Recommendation_N7/default_en.asp

ECRI General Policy Recommendation No. 15:
Combating Hate Speech
http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/activities/GPR/EN/Recommendation_N15/default_en.asp

Working Definition of Antisemitism agreed by the member states of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance:
<https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/media-room/stories/working-definition-antisemitism>

FACTS AND FINDINGS

“The levels of antisemitism and antisemitic attacks in Europe have risen yet again in 2015, after they had already reached a peak in many countries during the preceding year.” ECRI Annual Report 2015.

“Attempts to rehabilitate or trivialise World War II collaborationist regimes and their actions, paired with revived sympathies for the extreme right, have been noticed in some countries. As a result, there is a growing trend of denying, or avoiding discussing publicly, occupation governments’ complicity in the machinery of the Holocaust.” ECRI Annual Report 2014.

“In many countries, growing antisemitic trends have been observed among Muslim immigrant communities, in particular the younger generation. Tensions rise in the wake of any renewed violence in the Middle East conflict and lead to sweeping generalisations against all Jews [...]. In the ensuing public discourse, insufficient emphasis was placed on the need to distinguish between criticisms of the actions of Israel – to the extent that the latter is held to the same standards as any other state – and the public expression of racism and hatred of Jewish people in general.” ECRI Annual Report 2014.



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