

Report and follow-up on the CDADI Exchange of views on Antisemitism and other forms of intolerance and hatred based on religion

1. This summary report is based on submissions from Council of Europe member States and other organisations both during the exchange of views during the CDADI meeting on 04 December 2023 and in written contributions following the exchange of views.

Antisemitism and other forms of intolerance and hatred based on religion

2. Quite a number of CoE member States, but not all, noted an increase in antisemitic acts after the terrorist attack of Hamas against Israel on 7 October 2023. In some cases, data was still being collected and analysed. Such acts ranged from hate speech to threats against Jewish institutions such as schools and synagogues, to physical attacks against Jewish students at universities, and violent clashes at demonstrations. Several member States had enhanced security and protection of Jewish institutions. The majority of incidents which had been flagged concerned online hate speech in social media, where perpetrators could post anonymously, spreading fake news and disinformation aimed at creating hostility and provoking further violence against Jewish populations. The increase in attacks against the Jewish population in several CoE member States had created great uncertainty among Jewish communities. In such circumstances, Jewish people often refrained from wearing religious symbols in public, which could identify them as being Jewish. It was also noted that online hate speech against ethnic and religious minorities was widely underreported and that there was a lack of data.
3. Several CoE member States also noted an increase in anti-Muslim racism, mainly from right wing extremist groups. In some member States, data related to hate speech and hate crime was not disaggregated in relation to ethnic or religious minorities, which made it difficult to distinguish between different ethnic or religious minorities. Some anti-Muslim insults and threats took place as a reaction to demonstrations but also online via social networks. Anti-Muslim incidents in the workplace had also been reported. A resurgence in anti-Muslim stereotypes and a lowered threshold for expressing anti-Muslim opinions had also been noted, especially online.

Council of Europe standards in this area

4. The recent standards prepared by the CDADI on combating hate speech ([CM/Rec\(2022\)16](#)), combating hate crime ([CM/Rec\(2024\)XX](#)) and on intercultural integration ([CM/Rec\(2022\)10](#)) provide comprehensive guidance for preventing and combating racism and intolerance, including on the ground of religion.

The recent General Policy Recommendations [No. 5](#) and [No. 9](#) of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance on combating anti-Muslim racism and discrimination and on combating Antisemitism provide more detailed guidance for preventing and combating those specific forms of racism.

Measures taken by member States

5. During the exchange of views and through written contributions, member States reported on a wide variety of measures that they have taken to prevent and combat Antisemitism and other forms of intolerance and hatred based on religion. A large number of these are documented in the separate compilation of written contributions.
6. The measures include the enactment of legislation against hate crime, hate speech and religious extremism, the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of Antisemitism as well as of national strategies and action plans dealing with Antisemitism and other forms of intolerance and hatred based on religion. Member States have also established structures for the implementation of such action plans, reporting platforms for hate speech and hate crime and advice networks for victims. In several member states, solidarity manifestations took place. The level of funding for security measures for synagogues, Jewish organisations and also mosques and Muslim faith schools has been increased, and the police have taken measures to prevent religiously motivated hate speech at public gatherings. Several member States have set up fora for inter-religious dialogue, and in one member State, the relevant forum held an extraordinary session immediately after the terrorist attack of Hamas. Also, awareness raising campaigns promoting cohesion instead of hatred among the general population, support for civil society projects and training activities on the Holocaust and human rights for all members of the police of one member State were being organised.

Follow-up

7. The CDADI encourages its members, participants and observers to continue to be inspired by the practices shared during and after the exchange of views on 4 December 2023 and to make use of the relevant standards, reports and tools developed by the CDADI. In addition to the standards cited in § 4 above, specific mention is made of the recent [CDADI Study on preventing and combating hate speech in times of crisis](#). In its ongoing work, the CDADI will pay specific attention to Antisemitism and other forms of intolerance and hatred based on religion, for example in its work on artificial intelligence, equality and discrimination, and on intersectional discrimination.
8. The CDADI encourages other Council of Europe bodies, including ECRI and the Special Representative of the Secretary General on antisemitic, anti-Muslim and other forms of religious intolerance and hate crimes, to continue their important action in this field. Based on § 28 of CM/Rec(2022)16, the CDADI calls on public officials in leadership positions to publicly promote a culture of human rights and highlight the unifying elements among religions. The further development of such discourse bears a great potential to prevent Antisemitism, Anti-Muslim racism and other forms of religious intolerance and hatred. The CDADI finally encourages political parties and their leaders to sign the [Charter of European political parties for a non-racist and inclusive society](#), to refrain from disseminating hate speech and to condemn hate speech firmly and promptly, while respecting freedom of expression.