

# Implementation Report 2022

Austria's National Strategy  
against Antisemitism





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Vienna, 2023

## Imprint

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On 21 January 2021, the Austrian Federal Government presented its **National Strategy to prevent and combat all forms of antisemitism (NAS)**. On **31 January 2023**, the second **implementation report** featuring an overview of the **employment of the NAS** was released. According to the NAS, a report of this type shall be submitted annually to the National Parliament. Austria was one of the first Member States of the European Union to adopt and implement a holistic strategy to prevent and fight all forms of antisemitism as foreseen by the EU Council Declaration on the fight against antisemitism and the development of a common security approach to better protect Jewish communities and institutions in Europe of 6 December 2018.

The NAS sets out a holistic approach to **prevent and combat all forms of antisemitism** and **foster Jewish life in Austria**. It aims to provide long-term prospects for Jews in Austria, and thereby safeguard Jewish life for generations to come.



- ✓ On 27 January 2022, the Austrian head of state commemorated the victims of the Holocaust at the Mauthausen Concentration Camp Memorial Site as well as in Vienna. During the commemoration ceremonies, former Foreign Minister of Israel, Yair Lapid, whose grandfather died in the Ebensee concentration camp, together with members of the Austrian government, laid a wreath for the victims of the National Socialist Regime. In his speech in Mauthausen, Federal Chancellor Karl Nehammer emphasised the importance of remembering victims' names and apologised to the former Foreign Minister on behalf of the Austrian Republic for the murder of Jews during the Holocaust.

- ✓ In May 2022, the first European Conference on Antisemitism (ECA) took place in Vienna. This international high-level meeting aims to strengthen the cooperation between EU member states and foster the EU-wide comparison of data on antisemitic incidents.







- ✓ Signing of the Declaration on enhancing cooperation in fighting antisemitism and encouraging reporting of antisemitic incidents (Vienna Declaration) by eight EU member states. By the end of December 2022, a total of eleven member states had signed the Vienna Declaration.



- ✓ The Working Group Documentation of Antisemitic Incidents (AG Dokustelle) was established in May 2022. It aims to improve the recording and registration of data on antisemitic incidents and hate crimes. The second session of the working group took place in December 2022.

- ✓ First-time award of the Simon Wiesenthal Prize for special civic engagement to combat antisemitism and promote Holocaust education by the National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism in May 2022.



- ✓ Since May 2022, the Federal Chancellery has been hosting a series of cultural events under the name Klangwelten Kanzleramt, which promote Jewish culture and artists. These cultural events are recorded and broadcast by the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation ORF. In 2022, three concerts took place at the Federal Chancellery.



- ✓ In May 2022, one year after the Federal Government's decision to purchase the remaining parts of the Gusen subcamp, an official act of remembrance took place at the site of the former concentration camp. The Republic of Austria purchased what used to be the parade ground of the subcamp as well as other pieces of land on the former concentration camp's grounds. In the coming years, these plots will be redeveloped with the involvement of international, national and regional interest groups and integrated into the existing Gusen Memorial.



- ✓ In May 2022, State Secretary Claudia Plakolm travelled to Israel and signed a Memorandum of Understanding on a cooperation in youth exchanges in order to promote networking between Austrian and Israeli associations.



- ✓ In June 2022, the first session of the National Forum against Antisemitism (NFA) took place in Vienna. Participants included representatives of the Jewish Community of Austria, the federal ministries, the federal states and municipalities, as well as representatives of science, civil society, sports, various NGOs and youth organisations.

- ✓ In July 2022, Federal Chancellor Karl Nehammer and former Prime Minister of Israel Yair Lapid signed a comprehensive strategic partnership in Tel Aviv. This cooperation comprises areas such as economic relations, security policy, counterterrorism, climate policy, youth exchange and Holocaust remembrance.





✓ In September 2022, Federal Chancellor Karl Nehammer and Chairman of the World Holocaust Remembrance Center – Yad Vashem Dani Dayan signed a Memorandum of Understanding for a perennial cooperation between the Republic of Austria and Yad Vashem. A subsequently conceived funding agreement grants Yad Vashem up to 1.5 million euros for the period of 2022 to 2024. A month earlier, Federal Minister Martin Polaschek and Chairman Dani Dayan had renewed the Memorandum of Understanding between the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research of Austria and Yad Vashem.



✓ In September 2022, the first bilateral workshop on antisemitic crimes in Bavaria and Austria took place at the attorney general's office in Munich. Experts from the police and judiciary discussed the various statutory laws and regulations in the field of antisemitic crimes. The workshop will be held annually with the aim of exchanging best practices and fostering a transnational cooperation. The next workshop is set to take place in September 2023 in Vienna.



- ✓ In honour of the Jewish New Year, Federal Chancellor Karl Nehammer and Federal Minister Karoline Edtstadler invited representatives of the Jewish Community and friends of Jewish culture to a reception at the Federal Chancellery.

- ✓ Intergenerational reception of a group of displaced Viennese Jews with the Jewish Welcome Service at the Federal Chancellery in November 2022.



- ✓ In November 2022, Federal Minister Karoline Edtstadler and President of the Jewish Religious Community of Austria Oskar Deutsch presented the first implementation report on the application of the Austrian-Jewish Cultural Heritage Act in 2020 and 2021.



- ✓ On the occasion of the International Human Rights Day, the Austrian Armed Forces held a memorial event for the victims of National Socialism. Defence Minister Klaudia Tanner signed a cooperation agreement with the Mauthausen Memorial – a unique initiative in Europe between military and concentration camp memorials.



#WeRemember





Memorial ceremony on the International Holocaust Remembrance Day on 27 January 2022.

## 38 measures against antisemitism

The NAS comprises **38 specific measures** at a societal level and within the fields of **education and research, security, law enforcement and integration**.

Since the presentation of the NAS in January 2021, **12 measures** have been **launched** and **26** have already been **fully implemented**, among them the establishment of a **platform for ongoing coordination across society** which aims to institutionalise discussions on current developments and present possible solutions regarding issues concerning antisemitism and Holocaust remembrance.

Another important milestone was the implementation of the **European Conference on Antisemitism**, held for the first time in May 2022, which brings together Special Envoys and experts in the field of antisemitic hate crime recording from all over Europe. Their goal is to give and receive input regarding **antisemitic hate crime recording**, exchange best practices and raise awareness on the need to **develop common methodologies** when it comes to collecting and analysing data of antisemitic incidents.

Additionally, **two new measures** within the field of integration have come into effect:

- **Expansion of educational opportunities for teachers**
- **Implementation of a set of measures aimed at supporting displaced Ukrainian Jews** (language, literacy and integration courses, mentoring programmes and more; established by the Austrian Integration Fund in collaboration with the Jewish Community of Vienna [IKG Wien])

## Projects and measures funded by the Federal Chancellery

The Federal Chancellery established the **Task Force Austrian-Jewish Cultural Heritage** in 2021 to i.a. coordinate the implementation of the National Strategy. The Task Force is also in charge of compiling the **implementation report** detailing the status of each measure.

Moreover, it is responsible for strengthening the coordination between individual actors in the fields of **remembrance, antisemitism prevention and Holocaust education**, and funds and coordinates various **projects**, including:

- **Two-volume publication on the Shoah Wall of Names Memorial** (programme of the inauguration on 9 November 2021, personal stories by relatives and complete list of names of the approximately 65,000 Jewish children, women and men from Austria who were murdered during the Shoah)
- **Memorandum of Understanding with Yad Vashem** (in September 2022, Federal Chancellor Karl Nehammer and Chairman of the World Holocaust Remembrance Center – Yad Vashem Dani Dayan signed a Memorandum of Understanding establishing a long-term collaboration between the Chancellery and Yad Vashem. Additionally, Austria issued a grant of up to 1.5 million euros to Yad Vashem, to be used for projects and initiatives combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life in the period of 2022–2024.)
- **Jekkes Museum** (in September 2022, Federal Minister Karoline Edtstadler announced a grant of 100.000 euros for the Jekkes Museum, which, alongside the Jekkes Archive, is to be incorporated into the University of Haifa in Israel)
- **Centropa Stories** (October 2021–March 2022; bilingual podcast series organised by the Austrian Centre for Research and Documentation of Jewish Life in Eastern and Central Europe)

- **Digitisation of the exhibition “Bertl and Adele”** (including the development of various blended learning experiences to prevent antisemitism and foster an awareness of democracy)
- **National Holocaust-Museum in Amsterdam** (in June 2022, the Federal Chancellery awarded a grant of 400.000 euros to the National Holocaust-Museum in Amsterdam)
- **Symposium “Jewish diversity throughout history and the present”** (in October 2022, a two-day symposium was held on the diversity of Jewish life and the various contributions Jewish people have made to the Austrian and European society)

## Antisemitic incidents in numbers

Statistics on antisemitic incidents in Austria provided by the registration office of the IKG Wien show an **unprecedented number of attacks in the year 2021**. Of the **965** instances registered, more than half were categorised as hateful behaviour, 27 percent were classified as hateful propaganda, while cases of property damage amounted to ten percent. Overall, 22 threats and twelve physical attacks were reported to the registration office.

### Classification of antisemitic incidents during the year 2021

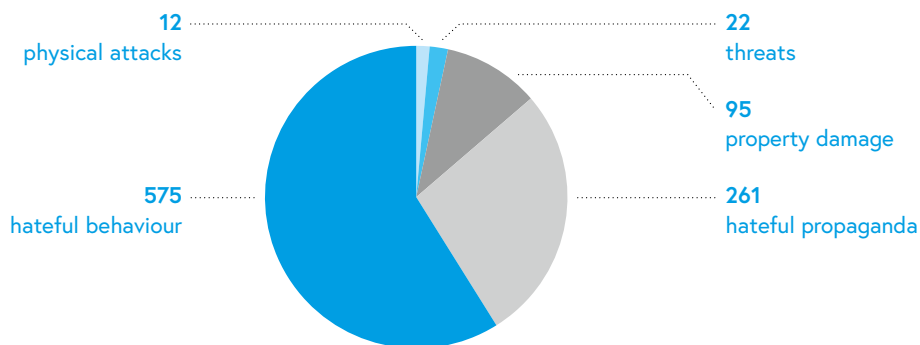


Fig. 1: classification of antisemitic incidents in 2021  
(source: IKG Wien registration office, annual report: 1.1.2021–31.12.2021)

Of these 965 incidents, **461** are deemed to have been **motivated by right-wing extremist thought**, 148 by left-wing extremist ideology, 103 by Islamist views, while the rest cannot be classified.

## Classification of antisemitic incidents in the first half of 2022

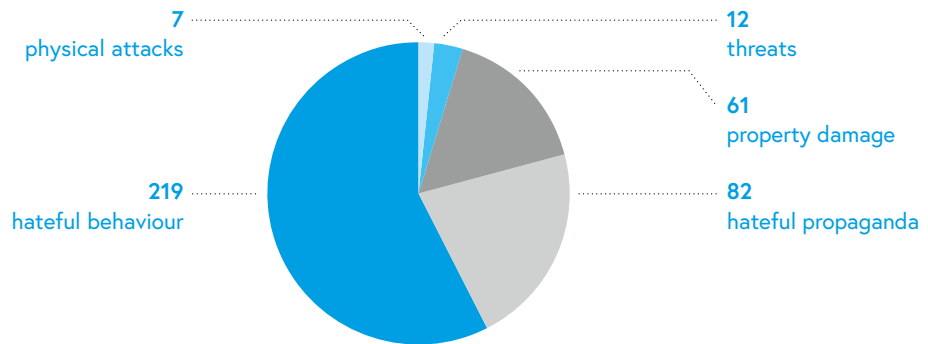


Fig. 2: classification of antisemitic incidents in the first half of 2022  
(source: IKG Wien registration office, semi-annual report: 1.1.2022–30.06.2022)

As can be seen in the pie chart above, the registration office of the IKG Wien recorded **381** antisemitic incidents in the period of January 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022. This shows a **decline** in incidents of more than 30 percent compared to the same period of the previous year (562 cases). Of the 381 instances registered, more than half were categorised as hateful behaviour, 22 percent were classified as hateful propaganda, while cases of property damage amounted to 16 percent. Overall, twelve threats and seven physical attacks were reported to the registration office.




Of these 381 incidents, **201** are deemed to have been **motivated by right-wing extremist thought**, 81 by left-wing extremist ideology, 34 by Islamist views, while the rest cannot be classified.

According to statistics provided by the Austrian security agencies, there were **53 antisemitic incidents in Austria in 2021**, 52 of which were motivated by right-wing extremist thought, while one was categorised as being the result of an imported extremist ideology.

It should be noted that the divergence in number of incidents between the reports issued by the IKG Wien and the Austrian security agencies is due to the fact that the IKG Wien records all types of antisemitic incidents while Austrian security agencies only record those that may ultimately result in a criminal investigation and/or conviction.

## Implementation table

The following table lists the measures set out in the NAS and the current status of their implementation.

-  the measure has been fully implemented
-  the measure has been partially implemented
-  with long-term measures: certain stages of the implementation process have been completed or implementation has begun

**1. Tripling of investments for the protection of Jewish institutions** and the promotion of Jewish life to **four million euros** each year as well as long-term legal protection.



**2. Preparing to establish a centre for research on antisemitism** on the part of the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research for the upcoming performance agreement 2021–2023 with the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW) and creation of a **research centre in the Documentation Archive of Austrian Resistance (DÖW)**.



**3. Creation of a platform for ongoing coordination across society.** This platform aims to institutionalise discussions on current developments and to present possible solutions between the federation, federal provinces, municipalities, corporations, civil society institutions and NGOs as well as sports and youth organisations and other institutions.



**4. Evaluation and—if necessary—legal revisions of the Prohibition Act, the Symbols Act and the Badge Act** with respect to domestic jurisdiction, in particular with regard to the offenses of Sections 3g and 3f of the Prohibition Act as well as closing of existing gaps in the law.





**5. Reviewing legal procedures for confiscating Nazi memorabilia** under the Prohibition Act, regardless whether or not an action that is subject to prosecution has been carried out and evaluation of the Badge Act.



**6. Monitoring of the domestic data situation** with regard to the recording of antisemitic incidents and coordination of that by the Federal Ministry of Interior and the Federal Ministry of Justice together with civil society organisations by the end of 2021.



**7. Preparation of a documentation centre** in connection with the prevention of and fight against antisemitism with the involvement of the antisemitism reporting office of the Jewish Community and other actors.



**8. Active cooperation at a European level to promote the comparability of the data** collected by the EU member states.



**9. Establishment of an Austria-wide coordinated consortium** to participate in the European research infrastructure **EHRI** (European Holocaust Research Infrastructure) with the involvement of all stakeholders.



**10. Strengthening of the coordination between individual actors in the field of antisemitism education and antisemitism prevention** in schools in order to be able to reach as many schools and young people as possible.



**11. Increasing protection against violence and hate speech/messages on the internet:** Implementation of a package of measures to combat hatred on the internet and other forms of digital crime efficiently.

**12. Invitation of specific institutions to the National No Hate Speech Committee** which are dedicated to education about and the fight against



antisemitism, in order to supplement the network with their specific expertise.



**13. Forthcoming increase in the existing exchange between the advisory institutions** (Advisory Centre for Extremism, Advisory Centre for #GegenHassimNetz, Federal Office on Sect Issues) and focus on antisemitism.



**14. Implementation of Values and Orientation Courses by the Austrian Integration Fund** for persons entitled to asylum and subsidiary protection. The courses also deal with the dismantling of antisemitic prejudices.



**15. Implementation of an international research project** to develop a catalogue of qualifications and measures for appropriate training and further education of teachers in the areas of antisemitism prevention, Holocaust studies and National Socialism as well as anti-racist educational work. Implementation of the recommendations of the research group in the training curricula and in the further training of teachers.



**16. Evaluation and quality assurance of the current training curricula for educators** based on the results and recommendations of the international research project, in particular on the topics of antisemitism, the Holocaust and National Socialism as well as anti-racist educational work.



**17. Expansion of educational offers to educators** to include current challenges in dealing with antisemitism and racism as well as the promotion of collaboration and **exchange measures** with **international educational institutions**, including those in **Israel**.





**18. Preparation and use of the existing literature and scientific knowledge** for schools and school inspectors in order to be able to deal with antisemitic incidents in an appropriate manner.



**19. Revision of the existing teaching materials** to reflect current challenges on the subject of antisemitism.



**20. Supplementing and strengthening the basic training courses of the general administrative service, the executive service and the in-service training**, with specific teaching content on the subjects of “Antisemitism—Education against prejudice—Early detection—Awareness-raising”.



**21. Promotion of dialogue projects** that enable an exchange between young people from different backgrounds (different social groups, nationalities, religions).



**22. Active conveyance of the contributions of Judaism** to Austrian and European history in integration and educational formats.



**23. Increasing awareness and strengthening of Jewish culture** and Jewish community life in Austria.



**24. Consistent implementation and regular evaluation of the security plan** for Jewish institutions and communities.



**25. Ongoing implementation of training, education and further training measures** for security authorities, the judiciary and national defence with the aim of increasing awareness of the problem.

26. Implementation of **educational activities, events and visits to memorial sites** by the **Austrian Armed Forces** within the framework of the training principle of state and defence political education for the purpose of making a national contribution to the promotion of human rights and as measures against totalitarianism, antisemitism and racism.



27. Further intensification of the **collaboration between the security authorities and the Jewish Religious Community**.



28. Strengthening the **collaboration between the various stakeholders and the nationwide network for preventing extremism and deradicalization** (BNED).



29. Creation of a **“National Action Plan for the Prevention of Extremism and Deradicalization”** by the BNED, which should contain specific measures that focus on holistic extremism prevention in their implementation.



30. Implementation of **multiplier workshops by the Austrian Integration Fund** in cooperation with the **Israeli Religious Society** to improve prevention work.



31. Promotion of **youth projects in the field of integration**, which raise awareness about radicalisation, propaganda, antisemitism and the importance of peaceful dialogue between cultures and religions.



32. Implementation of a **“flag” (marking) for hate crime (prejudice motive)** in the **police logging system**. This marking is also transferred to the justice process automation system (VJ) through a common interface, through which reports of antisemitic crimes can be systematically recorded and evaluated.





33. Continuation of **scientific research on behalf of Parliament** and further extensive **empirical survey on antisemitism**.



34. Carrying out an **in-depth study on antisemitism** in the context of **migration and integration**.



35. Examination of the **expansion of existing training courses at the Extremism Advice Centre** for youth work, parent education and other areas to include a further module on the subject of antisemitism.



36. Sustainable support for **projects of the various religious communities** to promote the reduction of prejudices and the strengthening of social solidarity.



37. Further **development of school organisation and school culture** as well as the training and further education of teachers in order to meet the diverse challenges appropriately.



38. Preparation of an **evaluation report of the various measures employed** in 2024; submission of an **annual report** to inform the Austrian national parliament.







