



The Malmö Pledges on Combating Antisemitism, Fostering Jewish Life, and Promoting Holocaust Remembrance

An Assessment After 17 Months

Pledges are relevant, but they do not tell the whole story

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Malmö International Forum on Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism, Remember-ReAct was held in October 2021. Governments in attendance made pledges related to combating antisemitism, fostering Jewish life, and promoting Holocaust remembrance. In this report, the World Jewish Congress has reviewed whether the pledges made have been implemented and whether they are relevant to the actual needs of the Jewish communities. This was done through interviewing Jewish community leaders and professionals and asking specific questions about their actual needs in areas such as the security of Jewish institutions, fostering Jewish life, combating antisemitism, Holocaust remembrance, and safeguarding Jewish heritage and religious freedom.

Studying the actions of governments in combating antisemitism, fostering Jewish life, and promoting Holocaust remembrance is crucial for several reasons. First, it creates awareness of these issues and encourages other governments to take similar action. Second, it can identify areas where more needs to be done and ensure that existing policies are enforced, or new initiatives are developed. Finally, it can hold governments accountable and ensure that they are following through on promises. Governments play a vital role in fostering Jewish life by supporting Jewish communities, preserving Jewish cultural heritage, and promoting Jewish education and religious practices.

Evaluating the actions of governments in fostering Jewish life can help ensure that Jewish communities receive the support they need in order to thrive. Holocaust remembrance is an essential aspect of combating antisemitism and promoting tolerance and understanding. Governments have a critical role in supporting education, preserving Holocaust sites and memorials, and promoting commemorative events and ceremonies. Ultimately, examining government actions in these three areas can improve Jewish life in the Diaspora.

This report discusses the expectations Jewish communities in different countries have of their governments in combating antisemitism and promoting Jewish life and culture. Jewish communities in smaller states tend to have lower expectations of their governments due to limited budgets and resources, making it difficult for governments to

take more proactive measures. In countries with larger Jewish populations, there is generally less reliance on government support. Many Jewish communities feel that society in general exhibits a lack of understanding of Judaism and Jewish life, and education is crucial in combating this problem. Finally, while preserving Holocaust memory is important, governments should also prioritize support for the Jewish communities currently living in their countries and the combating of discrimination and hate crimes directed towards Jews.

The implementation of government initiatives is crucial to the preservation of Jewish culture and history. The report found that while the pledges can be relevant, implementation and follow-up mechanisms are crucial. Continued support and cooperation are essential to fostering Jewish life, combating antisemitism, and promoting Holocaust education.

While the pledges made by governments at the Malmö International Forum on Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism are a step in the right direction, there are discrepancies between the expectations of Jewish communities and governments. Effective communication and collaboration are essential in order to bridge these gaps and build trust and foster stronger relationships. By engaging in open and honest dialogue, governments can better understand the needs of Jewish communities and develop effective policies and initiatives. Jewish communities, in turn, can provide valuable feedback and input to help shape those policies and initiatives. In this way, governments and Jewish communities can work together to create a more inclusive, supportive, and tolerant society.

INTRODUCTION

In October 2021, the Swedish government organized the Malmö International Forum on Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism, Remember-ReAct to promote and advance Holocaust education, remembrance, and research worldwide. During that gathering, the respective state delegations made pledges related to the Forum themes and areas of interest.

The purpose of this report is to review, from the point of view of the Jewish communities, the extent to which those pledges have been implemented and whether they are relevant to the actual needs of the communities.

To achieve this goal, the WJC interviewed Jewish community lay leaders and professionals in various countries about how relevant they consider the pledges to the needs of their particular Jewish community.

In addition, the WJC addressed specific questions to the Jewish communities regarding their actual needs in areas such as the security of Jewish institutions, fostering Jewish life, combating antisemitism, Holocaust remembrance, and safeguarding Jewish heritage and religious freedom.

BACKGROUND

During the Malmö International Forum on Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism, Remember-ReAct in October 2021, the various states represented at the gathering pledged to advance the struggle against antisemitism and to promote Holocaust education, remembrance, and research. As part of those pledges, the states committed to supporting many initiatives dealing with combating antisemitism, fostering Jewish life, and promoting Holocaust remembrance. Assessing the actions of governments in those three areas is crucial to understanding the situation for Jewish communities in each country. In this report, we will explore each of the topics in turn and explain why reporting on the actions of governments in those areas is essential.

Combating Antisemitism

Antisemitism is a persistent and pernicious phenomenon that has plagued societies for centuries. It is manifested in many ways, including hate speech, acts of violence, and discrimination in education, employment, and housing. Governments have a crucial role to play in combating antisemitism, for example, by enacting and enforcing laws against hate speech and discrimination, promoting mutual respect and understanding, and supporting Jewish communities.

Examining the performance of governments in the struggle against antisemitism is important for several reasons. First, it helps raise awareness of the problem and the efforts being made to address it. This can help build public support for these efforts and encourage other governments to take similar action. Second, it can be useful in identifying areas in which more needs to be done, whether in enforcing existing means or in developing new policies and initiatives. Finally, reporting on government actions can aid in holding them accountable and ensure that they are following through on promises.

Fostering Jewish Life

Governments can play a vital role in fostering Jewish life by offering support to Jewish communities, preserving Jewish cultural heritage, and promoting Jewish education and religious practices. This can include funding for synagogues, Jewish schools, and cultural institutions, as well as initiatives to promote tourism and cultural events.

Evaluating the actions of governments in fostering Jewish life is important, because it can help ensure that Jewish communities receive the support they need to thrive. This can be particularly important in countries in which Jewish communities are small or face significant challenges, such as discrimination or a lack of resources. By shining a light on efforts in this area, support for these initiatives and the encouragement of other governments to take similar action can lead to the flourishing of Jewish life.

Holocaust Remembrance

Holocaust remembrance is an important aspect of the struggle against antisemitism and the promotion of tolerance and understanding. Government involvement is crucial when it comes to educating the general public about the Holocaust as well as the preservation of

Holocaust sites and memorials and the promotion of commemorative events and ceremonies.

The study of existing actions aimed at promoting Holocaust remembrance is important in order to safeguard the historical singularity of the Holocaust and could enhance future generations' appreciation of the perils of prejudice and discrimination. Moreover, it can help identify areas in which a greater level of intervention is needed, such as the development of new educational resources or the preservation of Holocaust sites. Ultimately, reporting on government actions can enable to hold them accountable and ensure that they are following through on promises.

In conclusion, examining government action in combating antisemitism, fostering Jewish life, and promoting Holocaust remembrance is critical to the continuity of these efforts, as well as to the identification of areas where more action is needed and to government accountability. This exposure can help to improve Jewish life in the Diaspora and ensure that Jewish communities receive the support they need to thrive.

METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATIONS X

METHODOLOGY

Selection of Questions

The European Union's strategy for combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life was used as the foundation for the questions about the country pledges, which were developed to measure progress, relevance, and implementation in relation to combating antisemitism, promoting Jewish life, and Holocaust remembrance in 37 different states. The questions, although based on EU recommendations for member states, were developed to be applicable to non-EU member states as well. For example, countries were asked whether they have implemented educational programs to raise awareness about the history and consequences of antisemitism; whether they have taken steps to prevent and counteract different forms of antisemitism; about their efforts to protect Jewish communities and individuals from antisemitic discrimination; whether they have established mechanisms to enable victims to report incidents; and whether they have cooperated with other countries and organizations, including through the sharing of best practices.

By using this approach, countries can assess their progress and identify areas in which additional action is needed.

Interviews with Jewish Communities

Measuring the implementation and effectiveness of the pledges made by the 37 countries might present a challenge. One way to assess progress is to interview local Jewish leaders in each country who can provide valuable insights into the level of support as well as the status quo for Jewish life in their country, the effectiveness of government measures, and the impact of those measures on the Jewish community.

Such interviews can provide valuable data that can be used to assess progress in various countries and identify areas in which additional action is needed. The data was compiled and analyzed to provide a comprehensive picture of the current situation in each country, as well as to compare progress across the states Included in the study.

LIMITATIONS

Interview Method

While interviews can be a valuable method of information gathering, there are also some limitations to consider. Interviews are not always representative of an entire population or group being studied and may not provide a comprehensive view of the issue at hand. As such, when using interviews as a source of information, it is important to use a combination of approaches to ensure a well-rounded and objective analysis.

Scope

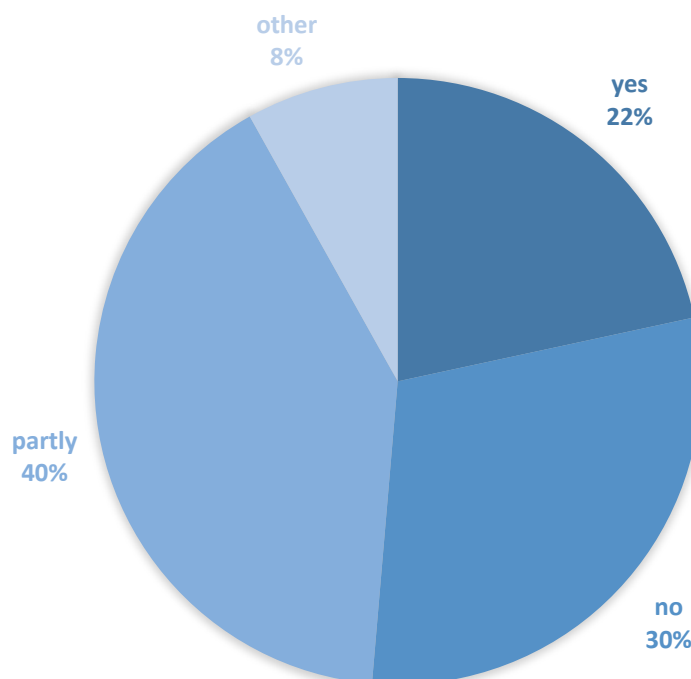
When conducting interviews for a report on governmental support for Jewish life, combating antisemitism, and Holocaust remembrance, there are limitations to the number and type of questions that can be asked. This may mean that the report is limited in its ability to provide a comprehensive analysis of the issues. It was important when creating this report to carefully consider the scope of the questions asked and to prioritize those that would provide the most relevant information.

Internal challenges to the Jewish communities were raised by interviewees, but are outside of the scope of this analysis and will therefore not be covered in the report.

STATISTICS AND TRENDS

PLEDGES

DO YOU THINK THAT THE PLEDGES MADE BY YOUR COUNTRY WERE RELEVANT FOR THE ACTUAL NEEDS OF THE JEWISH POPULATION IN YOUR COUNTRY?



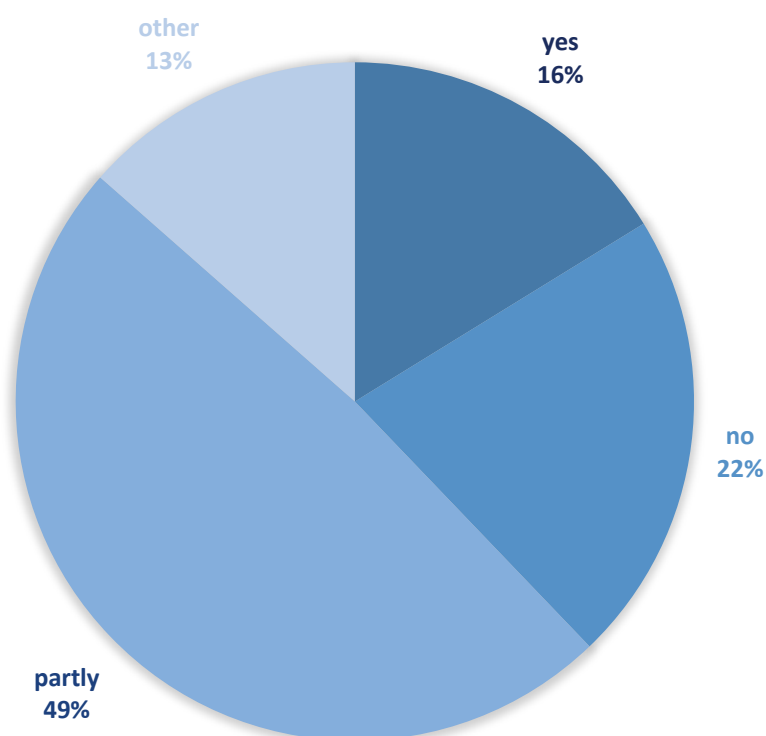
Three main themes become clear when examining the comments made by respondents:

- **Insufficient or narrow scope:** Several Jewish communities expressed concern that the pledges made by their governments are insufficient or have a narrow scope. For example, some countries are seen as not doing enough to combat antisemitism, foster Jewish life, or protect Jewish heritage.
- **Implementation and action plan:** Many respondents highlighted the importance of having a concrete action plan and implementation strategy for the pledges. Others felt that the pledges were just for show, without any true value or assessment mechanism.
- **Need for more comprehensive measures:** Some expressed the need for more comprehensive measures, such as including antisemitism originating from different

political and ethnical groups, anti-Zionism, adopting the IHRA definition with the eleven examples, and being more proactive in recognizing antisemitism.

In summary, community leaders suggested that while some countries' pledges are seen as relevant and helpful, there is a need for more comprehensive and concrete action to address the needs of the Jewish population. The lack of implementation and assessment mechanisms also raised concerns that the pledges may be just symbolic gestures without any real impact.

HAVE THE PLEDGES BEEN IMPLEMENTED?



Countries have made varying degrees of progress in implementing pledges to combat antisemitism. Some countries have made significant progress in fulfilling the pledges, while others have done little or nothing. In some cases, progress has been made but remains incomplete, such as partial fulfillment of specific pledges or delays in the implementation of certain initiatives. Additionally, some countries have accepted the IHRA definition and have taken steps towards promoting Holocaust education, but further efforts are needed. Finally, there are countries that have opened Holocaust museums or

made progress in perpetuating the memory of the Holocaust, but it is unclear how much progress has been made on related issues such as restitution. Thus, there is still much work to be done in combating antisemitism and fulfilling the pledges made by the countries evaluated.

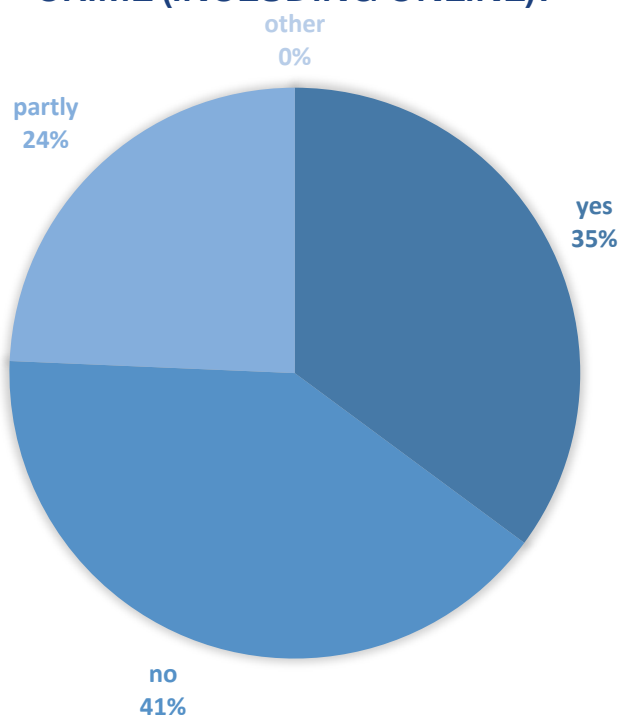
Main Takeaways

There are some communities that believe their governments have made weak pledges, without any real intention of enforcing them, or that they made pledges that were already in existence. They maintain that these governments are only interested in demonstrating that the pledge has been fulfilled without truly making any meaningful changes or improvements. This is frustrating for communities in need of real progress in combating antisemitism and promoting understanding of Jewish culture and history. Most expressed that it is important to continue advocating for stronger enforcement mechanisms and increased governmental support to ensure that the pledges are truly effective in creating positive change.

Many respondents value the pledges made by their respective countries as a crucial step towards combating antisemitism. However, while the pledges are important, some Jewish communities believe that more needs to be done to ensure their effective implementation. Specifically, they believe that the practicability and effectiveness of the pledges must be assessed and ensured. This could include providing training to law enforcement officials, tracking incidents of antisemitism, and acting against individuals or organizations that violate laws. Overall, the pledges are seen as an important tool in fostering Jewish life and in the fight against antisemitism, but implementation and enforcement will be crucial for success.

COMBATING ANTISEMITISM

DO YOU THINK THAT YOUR STATE HAS A STRINGENT AND ADEQUATE LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK TO PROSECUTE ANTISEMITIC HATE SPEECH AND HATE CRIME (INCLUDING ONLINE)?

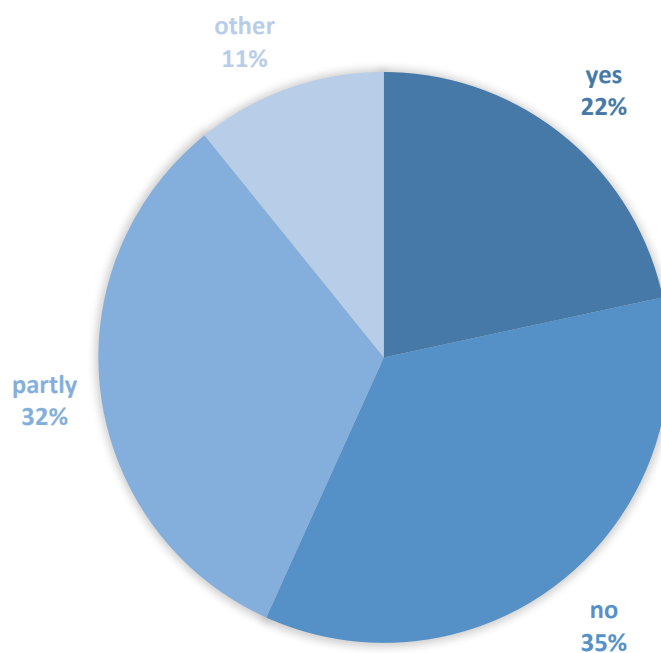


There is variation in the legislative framework for addressing antisemitic hate speech and hate crimes in different countries. Some lack adequate legislation to address these issues, while others have strong laws in place but need to improve their prosecution efforts. Some countries are in the process of updating their legislation, while others already have implemented new measures to combat antisemitism. Generally, continued efforts are needed to combat antisemitic hate speech and hate crimes worldwide. According to comments made by interviewees, several states need to expand the definitions of hate crimes and hate speech, as only incitement of violence is currently illegal.

Some countries have theoretically adequate legislative frameworks but need improvement in their enforcement. Others have no specific definition of antisemitism and have no exclusive legal framework within which to fight antisemitism separately, which creates tension for the Jewish communities of those countries.

In summary, the implementation of pledges is viewed as an effective way to prosecute perpetrators of antisemitic acts in today's society, including online. However, some countries have laws that need to be updated, while others have strong legislation against antisemitism but are still in need of improvement, and enforcement remains a consistent challenge.

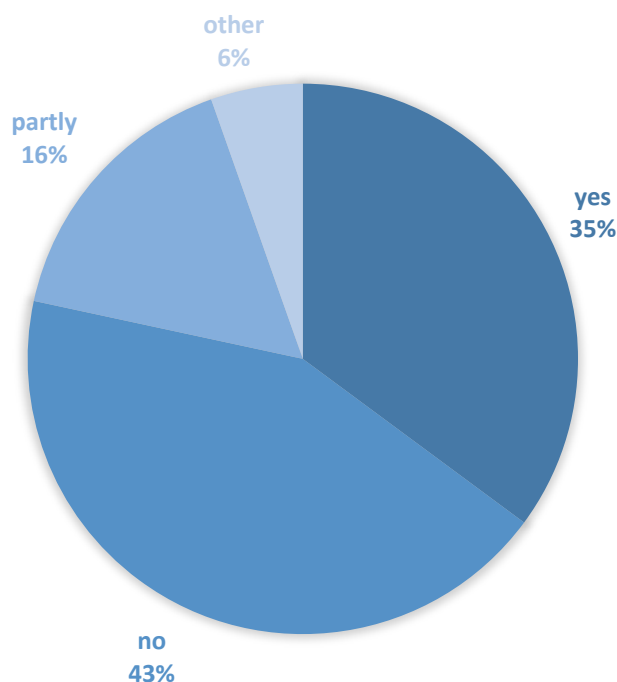
IF YOU OR ANYONE IN YOUR COMMUNITY REPORT ANTISEMITIC HATE CRIME OR HATE SPEECH TO THE AUTHORITIES, DO YOU THINK THEY HANDLE IT APPROPRIATELY?



There is inconsistency in how reports of antisemitic hate crime and/or hate speech are handled by authorities in different countries. In some cases, incidents may not be recognized or categorized as antisemitic, and therefore their perpetrators cannot be prosecuted. There are also concerns about the slow reaction time of police when antisemitic acts or speech are reported, and in some cases, incidents may not even elicit any reaction at all from authorities. However, in other countries, authorities handle severe hate crimes adequately, but may face resource constraints or other competing priorities that affect their ability to react. In some countries, complaints reported by the community are taken seriously, but not always those of private individuals. Furthermore, it appears that there is a need for clearer procedures and guidelines for handling antisemitic hate

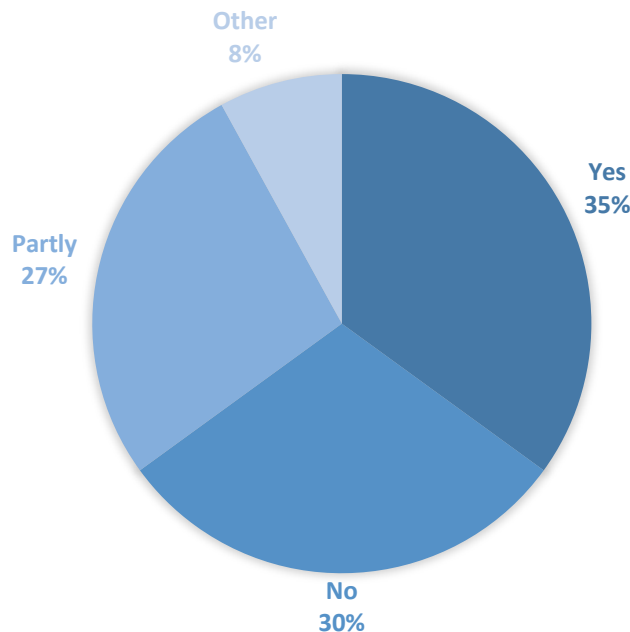
crime and hate speech, and greater consistency in how incidents are categorized and prosecuted in different countries.

DO YOUR COUNTRY'S LEGAL INSTITUTIONS ENSURE THAT DATA IS COLLECTED ON ANTISEMITIC HATE CRIMES BY COMPETENT AUTHORITIES?



The majority of those questioned believe that their state authorities should do more to counter antisemitic hate crime and hate speech. Suggestions include improving data collection, strengthening the legislative framework, appointing individuals specializing in combating hate crime and hate speech, providing training and education, developing guidelines on countering hate crimes and hate speech, and acknowledging that certain "critiques" of Israel constitute antisemitism. Additionally, there were calls for the state to be more aware of religious hate crimes; make good on its statements of zero tolerance via the implementation of policy, and legal and symbolic actions; and cooperate with the Jewish community in order to gain a greater understanding of the situation. However, there were also concerns about the state's capacity to fight online hate due to budget constraints and the lack of effective mechanisms in place to prevent, report, counteract, and sanction such manifestations.

DOES YOUR GOVERNMENT OR OTHER OFFICIAL STATE INSTITUTIONS COOPERATE REGIONALLY AND GLOBALLY TO JOINTLY ADDRESS ANTISEMITISM THROUGH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING AT THE UNITED NATIONS AND AFFILIATED BODIES AND AGENCIES?



In the context of their membership in international organizations such as the United Nations, the European Union, and the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) several states have engaged in efforts to address antisemitism by appointing special envoys, sending high-level officials to international meetings, and supporting various initiatives to combat antisemitism.

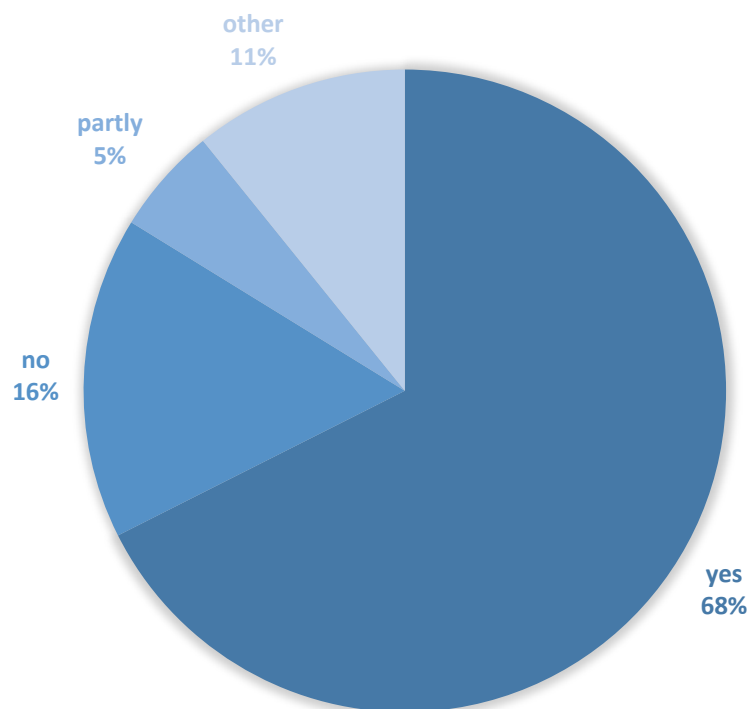
Additionally, some maintain a pro-Israel stance, and are therefore considered protective of their local Jewish population; they often stand up for Israel in various international forums.

While some countries speak up against issues of racism, including antisemitism, others do not effectively use their stature within these international bodies to promote the fostering of Jewish life and the struggle against antisemitism. Many countries still need to be persuaded to act in international forums.

Some states are joining efforts and collaborating with each other and various international organizations to raise awareness of antisemitism, online hate speech, and Holocaust remembrance.

Finally, the need for more proactive measures and joint efforts to combat antisemitism globally was highlighted during the interviews.

DO YOU THINK THE AUTHORITIES SHOULD DO MORE REGARDING ANTISEMITISM ONLINE? IF SO, WHAT



Many of those interviewed maintain that authorities should do more to combat online antisemitism. Suggestions include strengthening the capacities of law enforcement and judicial authorities to prosecute hate speech; holding social media platforms more accountable; increasing funding for the struggle against manifestations of antisemitism online; developing criminal law to make prosecution easier; and creating a unit dedicated to combating online antisemitism. Moreover, improving communication with the Jewish community and increasing education and training as to how to recognize antisemitic statements were also suggested.

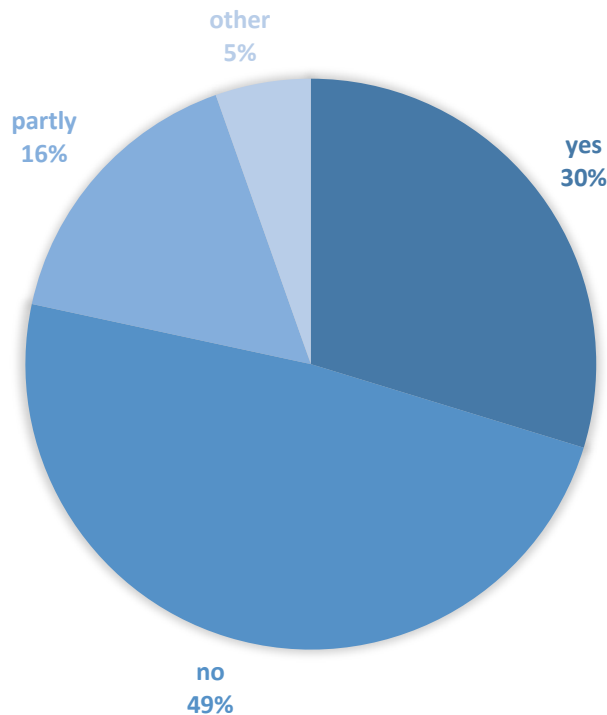
Government budget constraints were sometimes considered an acceptable explanation by certain respondents as a reason for lack of action, and they claimed that responsibility should be shifted to social media companies. Some expressed concerns about the implementation of existing policies and the lack of resources, while others said that the authorities were already doing enough.

Main Takeaways

Jewish communities in smaller and/or weaker states tend to have lower expectations of governments in terms of combating antisemitism. Expectations regarding the development of legislative frameworks and positive outcomes when cases are brought to the court system do exist; however, they are lower when it comes to deterring and monitoring. This is often due to factors such as limited budgets and other resource constraints, which make it difficult for governments to take more proactive measures. Instead, many in these communities believe that the responsibility for combating online hate should fall more heavily on social media companies. While the issue of antisemitism is no less serious in smaller states, the communities often hold their governments to a lower level of accountability than communities in larger states that enjoy more political clout and available resources. This is the case regardless of how the different communities perceive the seriousness of antisemitism in their state.

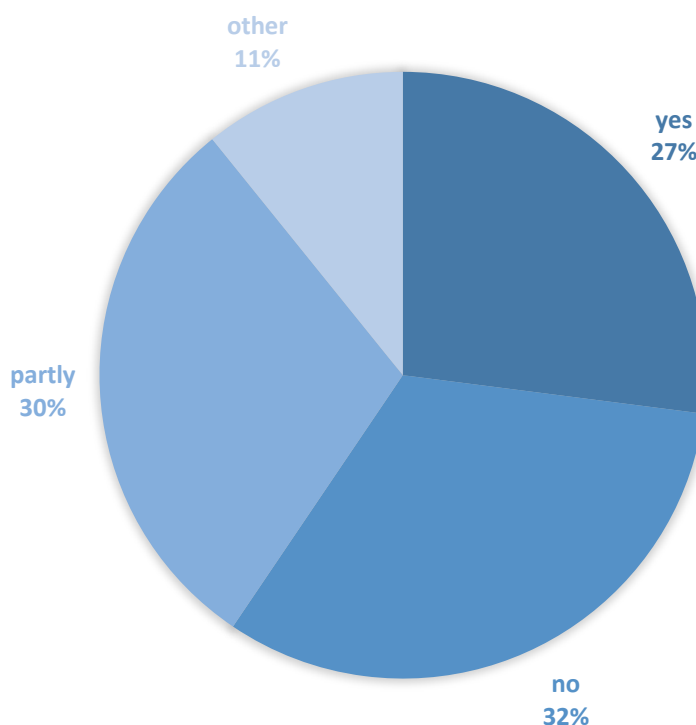
FOSTERING JEWISH LIFE TODAY

DO THE AUTHORITIES OF YOUR COUNTRY/THE STATE ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT HERITAGE DAYS BY HIGHLIGHTING JEWISH HERITAGE IN THE NATIONAL CONTEXT?



There are diverse attitudes towards the recognition and commemoration of and Jewish heritage in different states. Some have a strong commitment to the commemoration of Jewish heritage, with government support for events and programs. Others do not provide significant support or attention to Jewish heritage, and the Jewish community feels that the government only acknowledges Jewish history in relation to specific events such as the Holocaust, rather than recognizing the rich Jewish legacy in their country. In certain states, while there may be some support for Jewish heritage days, the government does not commonly take the lead in organizing these events. Instead, the initiative often comes from the Jewish community or other organizations. Overall, the level of support for Jewish heritage days varies widely among different countries and reflects the different historical, cultural, and political contexts of each.

DO THE AUTHORITIES OF YOUR COUNTRY/THE STATE USE DIFFERENT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES TO SAFEGUARD JEWISH HERITAGE?



The comments of respondents regarding funding for Jewish heritage preservation and promotion can be divided into three main categories: funding initiatives, types of support, and limitations of funding.

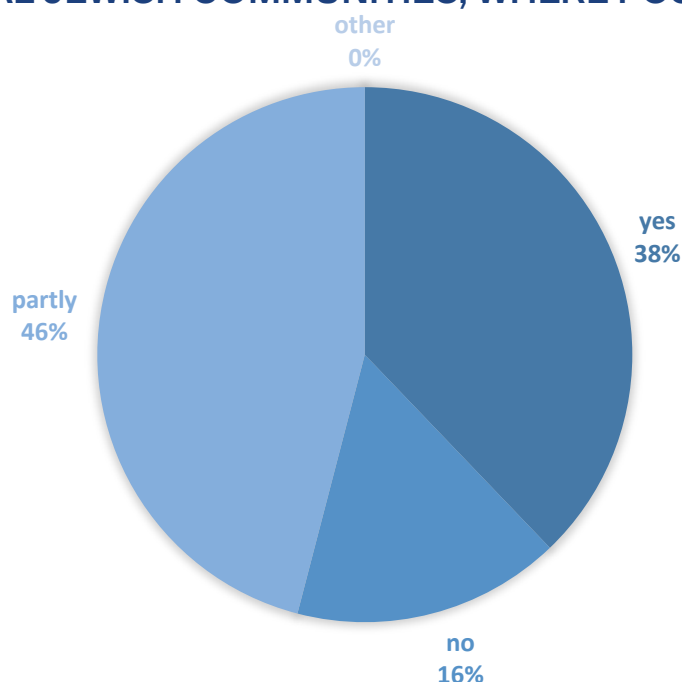
The first pertains to the variety of funding initiatives. For example, some state authorities provide support for Jewish heritage initiatives, while others provide only for Holocaust-related initiatives.

With respect to the second category, Some states provide support for civil society projects that safeguard Jewish heritage, while others take responsibility for looking after Jewish cemeteries or synagogues through their municipalities or state funding.

The most reiterated theme among respondents was the limitations of funding. Several Jewish communities face insufficient funds from their states for larger, long-term projects or campaigns. State support is mainly project-based rather than consistent and long-term. Emphasis is also placed on preserving physical structures such as synagogues and

cemeteries, rather than safeguarding Jewish life and culture more broadly. Consequently, the community is often faced with finding its own sources of support for certain projects.

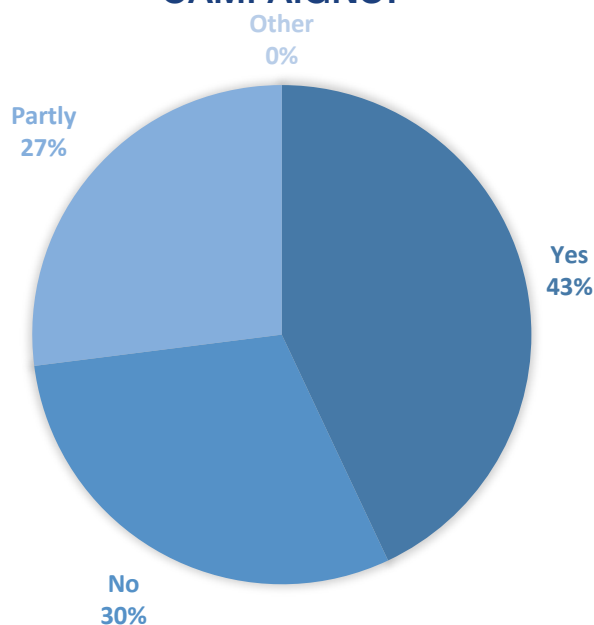
DO THE AUTHORITIES OF YOUR COUNTRY PROMOTE KNOWLEDGE OF JEWISH LIFE, ANTISEMITISM, AND THE HOLOCAUST THROUGH EDUCATION AND RESEARCH, AND ENCOURAGE EXCHANGES WITH LOCAL JEWISH COMMUNITIES, WHERE POSSIBLE?



In general, the promotion of knowledge about Jewish life, antisemitism, and the Holocaust through education and research varies greatly. Some countries have established initiatives and institutions dedicated to Holocaust education and research, with some universities offering programs related to religion and interfaith studies, though not much has been done in the promotion of Jewish life and culture through research. In other countries, it is the responsibility of the Jewish community to create initiatives to promote knowledge about Jewish life and the Holocaust.

Most countries focus more on educating about the Holocaust than Jewish life, culture, and modern antisemitism. Although some have made Holocaust education mandatory in the school curriculum, there is no standardization as to how it is taught. Some countries have experienced general budget cuts within their educational systems, which have affected the funding for education about Judaism and Jewish culture.

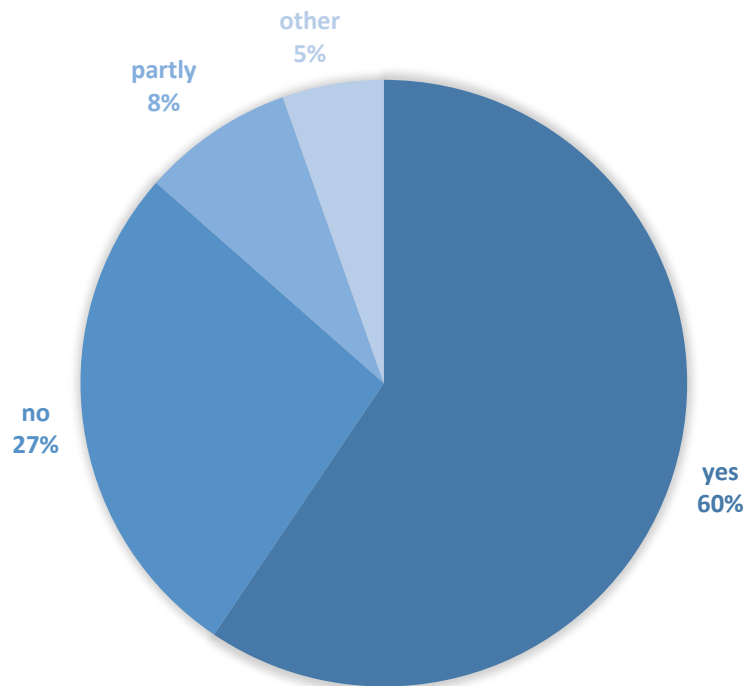
DO YOUR AUTHORITIES/STATE RAISE AWARENESS AMONG THE GENERAL PUBLIC ABOUT JEWISH LIFE AND TRADITIONS, INCLUDING BY PUBLICLY MARKING DAYS RELEVANT FOR JEWISH PEOPLE, AND BY FUNDING PROJECTS AND CONDUCTING CAMPAIGNS?



The level of government support for Jewish life in the national context varies widely. Some states observe Jewish Heritage Month and provide funding for museums and festivals, while others provide minimal support. In some countries, events to raise awareness about contemporary Jewish life are organized by the Jewish communities themselves, while in others, periodic support is provided for community-run Jewish heritage initiatives, but requests for state involvement are not made.

In summary, cooperation and understanding between authorities and the Jewish community exist in some places, whereas it is lacking in others.

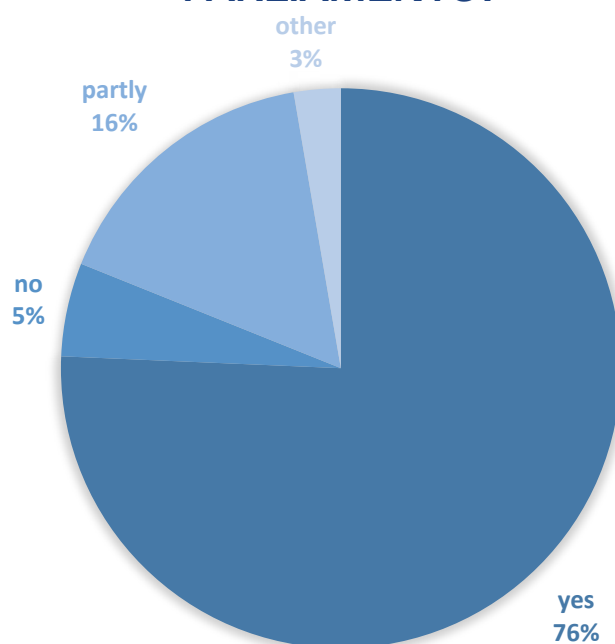
DO YOU THINK THE AUTHORITIES SHOULD DO MORE REGARDING EDUCATION AND RESEARCH ON ANTISEMITISM AND JEWISH LIFE? IF SO, WHAT?



Many respondents said that education is a key factor in preventing antisemitism and increasing awareness of Jewish life. This includes the need to integrate studies on Jewish life and history into school curricula, create national funds for scholars to conduct research on antisemitism and Jewish life, and standardize the way children are taught about Jews and Judaism in the national school curriculum.

Some interviewees suggested that the government should take a more active role in addressing antisemitism and fostering Jewish life. This includes appointing a special envoy to combat antisemitism, establishing inter-ministerial working groups to coordinate efforts, and making funds available dedicated to the issue. Several suggested that authorities should pressure the media to take responsibility for spreading antisemitism and anti-Zionism.

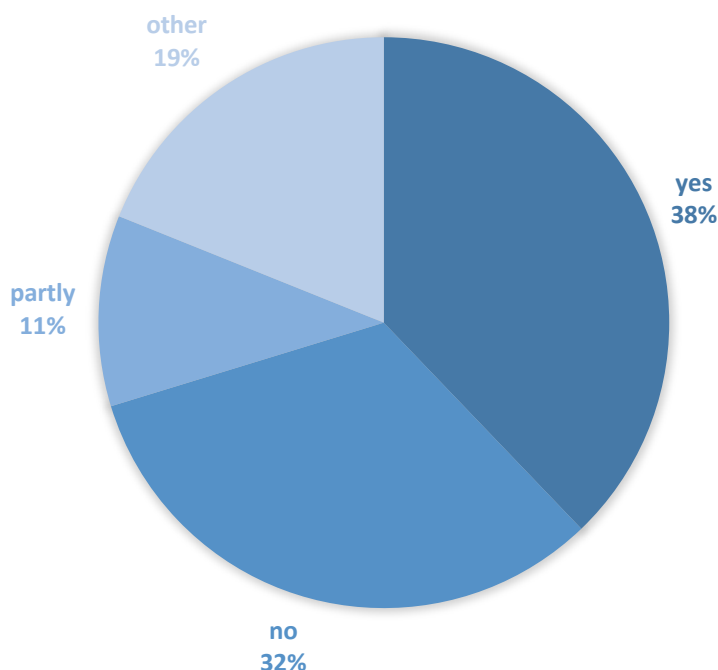
DOES YOUR GOVERNMENT OR OTHER OFFICIAL STATE INSTITUTIONS COMMEMORATE THE HOLOCAUST PUBLICLY IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE JEWISH COMMUNITY, INCLUDING WITH THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS?



Many states commemorate the Holocaust with the participation of government officials in cooperation with Jewish communities. Some Jewish communities organize various events on Holocaust Remembrance Day, and high-level officials release statements on relevant anniversaries. In other countries, Holocaust commemoration is well integrated into the community and government on all levels. However, controversy does exist in some countries, namely, over the emphasis on national victimhood and the role of the locals in rescuing Jews.

In general, most countries recognize International Holocaust Remembrance Day on January 27, and many have additional events throughout the year. The main trend is that governments participate in some form of commemoration, with varying levels of involvement.

IS YOUR STATE/GOVERNMENT ENGAGED IN FOSTERING JEWISH LIFE AND SAFEGUARDING FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND BELIEF IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA?



There is general acknowledgement that the protection of the freedom of religion and belief is important to promote on various international platforms. However, some countries tend to be reactive, rather than creating initiatives to promote and safeguard these rights. Consequently, some countries actively advocate against bans on Jewish religious practices such as *shechita* and *brit milah* in meetings with appropriate officials.

Moreover, there is recognition that those countries in which best practices in fostering Jewish life and safeguarding the freedom of religion and belief exist should do more to clearly communicate them to other countries.

Main Takeaways

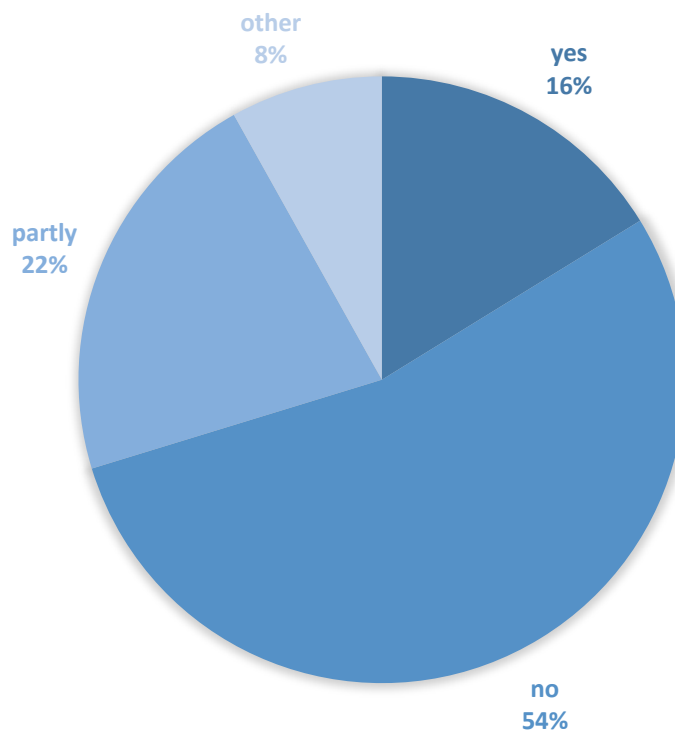
While it is important to preserve Holocaust memory and to honor the memory of the millions of victims, it should not be the exclusive focus; it is equally important for governments to support and invest in the Jewish community today. Unfortunately, some states concentrate more on preserving Holocaust memory than combating modern-day antisemitism and actively supporting Jewish life, which can be done by investing in Jewish

institutions and cultural events, promoting Jewish education, and enacting laws and policies to protect the rights and safety of Jewish individuals and communities.

By supporting the Jewish community today, governments can ensure that the legacy of the Holocaust remains a powerful reminder of the dangers of bigotry and hate while also promoting a vibrant and thriving Jewish community.

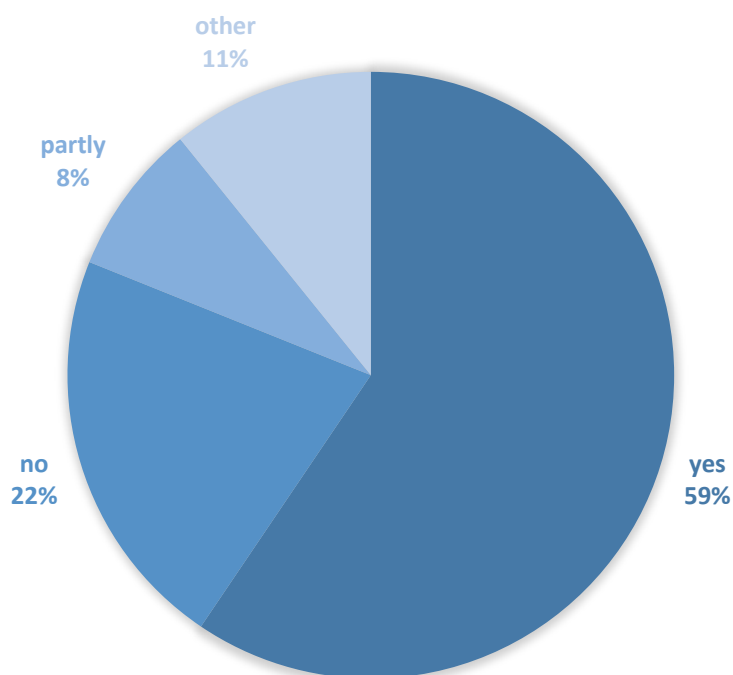
LACK OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT JUDAISM AND JEWISH LIFE

DO YOU THINK YOUR COUNTRY DOES ENOUGH WHEN IT COMES TO TRAINING AND AWARENESS-RAISING ABOUT ANTISEMITISM AMONG OFFICIALS?



There is a mixed level of awareness regarding antisemitism among officials in different countries, who undergo varying amounts of training. Some countries are making progress and taking steps to address the issue, while others seem to have little to no focus on addressing antisemitism. Many respondents mentioned a lack of understanding on the part of the officials of the manifestations of antisemitism, with some suggesting that more education and outreach is needed among officials, educators, judges, prosecutors, and police officers. Lastly, there was a call for more systemic and coordinated efforts to address antisemitism across various spheres of society and government.

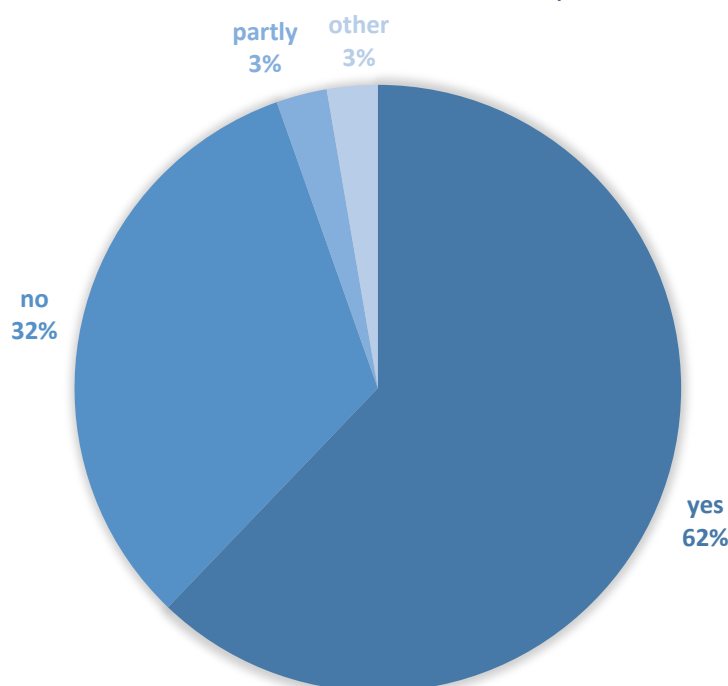
DO YOU THINK THE AUTHORITIES SHOULD DO MORE REGARDING ANTISEMITIC DISCRIMINATION? IF SO, WHAT?



Most respondents said that authorities should do more to counter antisemitic discrimination. Suggestions included increasing awareness among state stakeholders, education and workshops for police and prosecutors, creating mechanisms to monitor and respond to antisemitic discrimination in schools, establishing a clear definition of antisemitism, and legislation to punish offenders and discourage antisemitism. Some also suggested working closely with the Jewish community and relevant organizations to address antisemitism and discrimination. A common theme throughout the responses was the need for education and awareness about Jews and Judaism to combat antisemitic discrimination.

In short, the responses suggest that there is a need for more action from authorities in combating antisemitic discrimination, which includes increasing awareness and education, creating monitoring and reporting systems, working closely with the Jewish community, enhancing school curricula, and establishing a clear definition of antisemitism.

DO YOU THINK THE AUTHORITIES COULD DO MORE REGARDING HOLOCAUST EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND REMEMBRANCE? IF SO, WHAT?



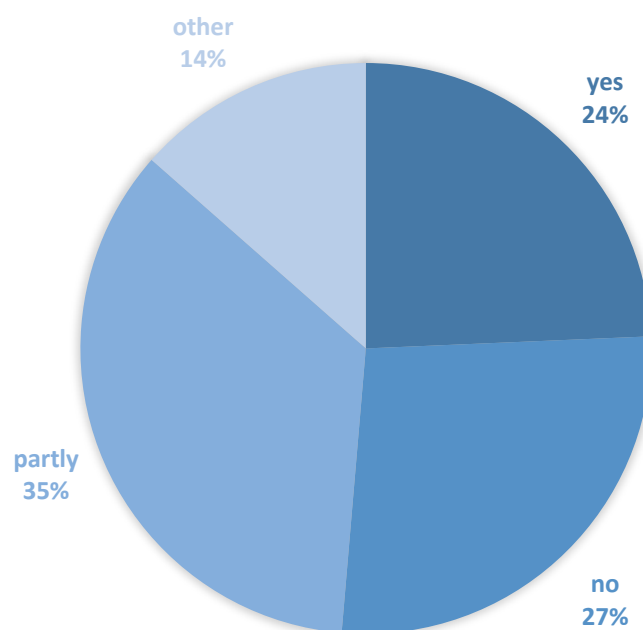
One common theme expressed was the need for more education on and awareness of the Holocaust in schools, with some respondents suggesting an increase in the number of hours dedicated to this topic. Another was the need for more research and funding, with several calls for the creation of infrastructure for the exchange of European Holocaust research or for universities to open departments on Holocaust history.

Other suggestions included the need for more government support in marking the Holocaust at commemorative events and encouraging more public officials and celebrities to participate. Additionally, there were calls for more active cooperation between the authorities and the Jewish community, as well as the implementation of the pledges made by governments.

However, criticism was also leveled at some governments for not recognizing the threats posed by hate speech, discrimination, indifference, and hatred towards minorities, and for not supporting anti-discrimination education that would include teaching about the Holocaust and would therefore tackle the previously mentioned issues.

There were also calls for a clear universal strategy with set topics to guide teachers on how to teach about the Holocaust in schools. There was a consensus that more needs to be done to ensure that the Holocaust is not forgotten and that it is taught and remembered appropriately, since many respondents noted that there was a lack of knowledge and understanding in their respective countries.

IS RELEVANT TRAINING AVAILABLE REGARDING JEWS, JEWISH COMMUNITIES, ANTISEMITISM, AND JUDAISM FOR NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE PERSONNEL?



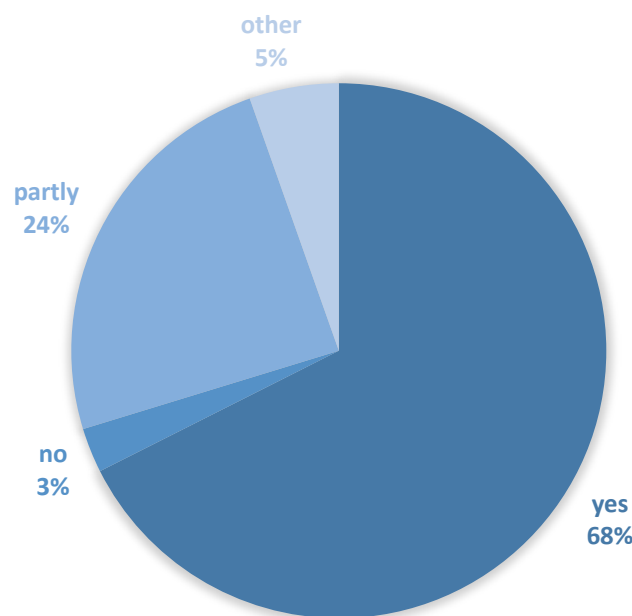
There were several trends that emerged regarding the availability and implementation of training about Jews, Jewish communities, and antisemitism for national law enforcement and criminal justice personnel:

- **Mandatory vs. Optional Training:** Some countries have implemented mandatory training on antisemitism sensitivity for police officers, while others do not require any specific training on this topic.
- **Partnership and Cooperation:** Some countries have established partnerships and cooperation with the Jewish community or relevant organizations to provide training about Jews, Jewish communities, antisemitism, and Judaism.

- **Lack of Awareness and Interest:** In some states, training is available, but it has not been taken seriously by law enforcement authorities. This is believed to be due to a lack of interest or awareness.
- **Community-Led Training:** In some countries, the Jewish community has taken the lead in providing training to law enforcement personnel.

Overall, while specific countries have implemented mandatory training or established partnerships and cooperation with the Jewish community, there is still a lack of standardized and targeted training. Government-supported, community-led training initiatives may play a significant role in filling this knowledge gap.

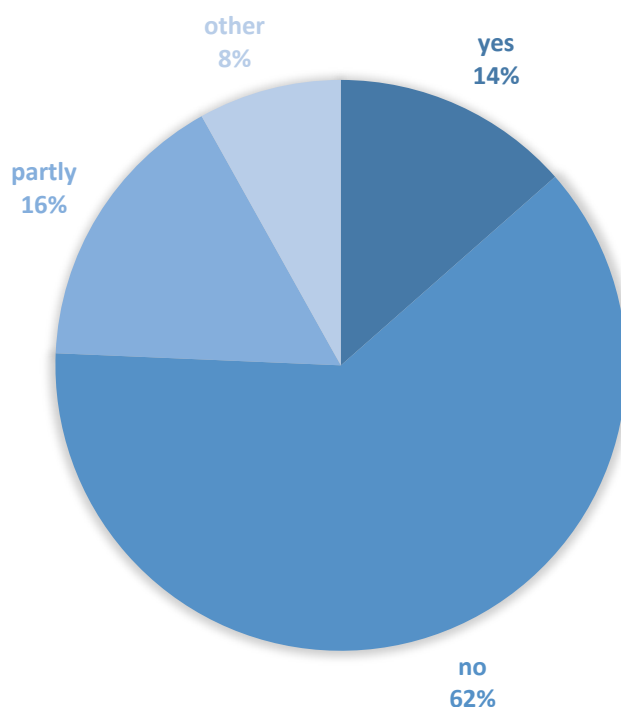
DO THE AUTHORITIES OF YOUR COUNTRY ENSURE, THROUGH POLICY AND LEGAL MEASURES, THAT RELIGIOUS GROUPS OR COMMUNITIES, INCLUDING JEWS, CAN LIVE THEIR LIVES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL TRADITIONS?



Authorities in most countries ensure, through policy and legal measures, that religious groups or communities, including Jews, can live their lives in accordance with their religious and cultural traditions. However, there are some exceptions and challenges that may arise in certain states, such as discussions about banning *shechita* or *brit milah* under the guise of human or animal rights. Moreover, authorities in many countries are

not familiar with the Jewish calendar, leading to instances in which the Jewish community is asked to hold meetings on Yom Kippur. In general, in the countries examined, there is a strong belief in the freedom of religious belief, and efforts are made to protect it, but challenges do arise.

DOES YOUR GOVERNMENT OR OTHER OFFICIAL STATE INSTITUTIONS ACTIVELY ENGAGE IN AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS AGAINST HOLOCAUST DENIAL, DISTORTION, AND TRIVIALIZATION?



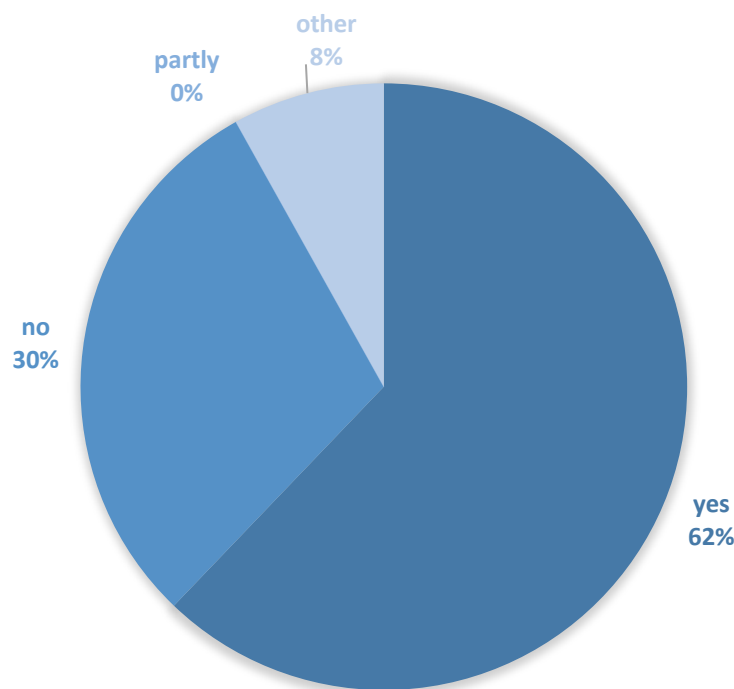
There are differing levels of engagement in combating Holocaust denial, distortion, and trivialization in various countries. Some have taken proactive measures to raise awareness of the issue through various initiatives such as public education programs, academic conferences, and workshops for educators. These campaigns are seen as positive steps towards combating the issue.

Various countries have specific laws that penalize Holocaust denial, while others do not. Jewish communities in states that have laws view them as a positive step towards the prevention of Holocaust denial, distortion, and trivialization. However, the effectiveness of legal measures in combating the issue remains a subject of debate.

Some governments have demonstrated support for the establishment of local Holocaust museums and centers for education and awareness, while others have yet to take concrete action. While these efforts are seen as progress in the preservation of Holocaust memory and the prevention of Holocaust denial and trivialization, there are concerns about the lack of implementation, which is viewed by some as a concerning trend, as it can lead to the normalization of hateful ideologies and revisionist history.

In conclusion, while some countries have taken positive steps to combat Holocaust denial, distortion, and trivialization through awareness campaigns, legal measures, and support for Holocaust education and museums, others have yet to take concrete action. The effectiveness of measures taken remains a subject of debate.

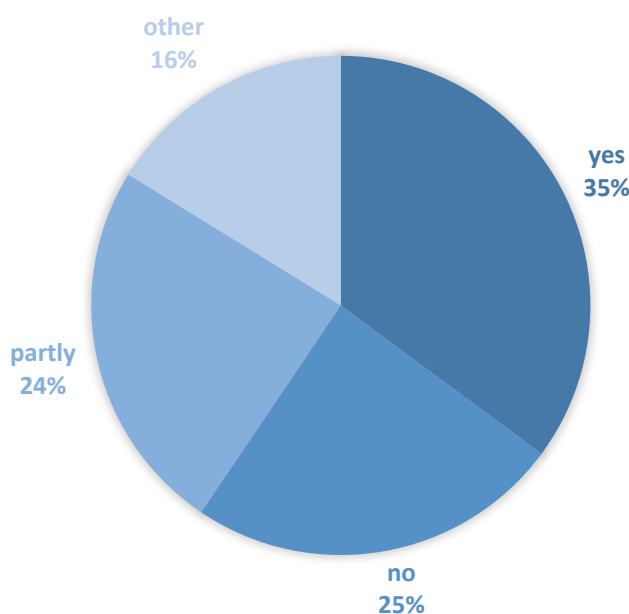
DO YOU THINK THE AUTHORITIES SHOULD DO MORE REGARDING SAFEGUARDING JEWISH HERITAGE? IF SO, WHAT?



In terms of the areas in which authorities should do more regarding safeguarding Jewish heritage, suggestions included educating the public on Judaism and Jewish legacy; preserving and maintaining Jewish sites; highlighting the positive contributions of Jews and Jewish life in the national context; creating strategies for long-term support; providing funding for Jewish causes; and updating and enriching memorials and Jewish

heritage sites. Also mentioned was the need for more support for Jewish heritage initiatives, including cultural events, conferences, and research projects. Primarily, respondents emphasized the importance of recognizing and understanding the significance of safeguarding Jewish heritage and taking concrete steps to support and preserve it.

DOES YOUR STATE STRENGTHEN SUPPORT FOR INTERCULTURAL AND INTERFAITH WORK INVOLVING JEWISH COMMUNITIES AND INSTITUTIONS, IN PARTICULAR TO ENCOURAGE EXCHANGES BETWEEN CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT FAITHS AND BACKGROUNDS?



There are a range of approaches taken by various countries towards supporting intercultural and interfaith work. Several have government-supported initiatives, such as interfaith forums or youth leadership programs, while others rely more on grassroots efforts or community-led events. In some cases, there is structured financial support provided by the state for these initiatives, whereas in others, it is more ad hoc.

While there are examples of government support for intercultural and interfaith work, it appears that many of these initiatives are driven by community organizations and individuals, rather than being spearheaded by governments.

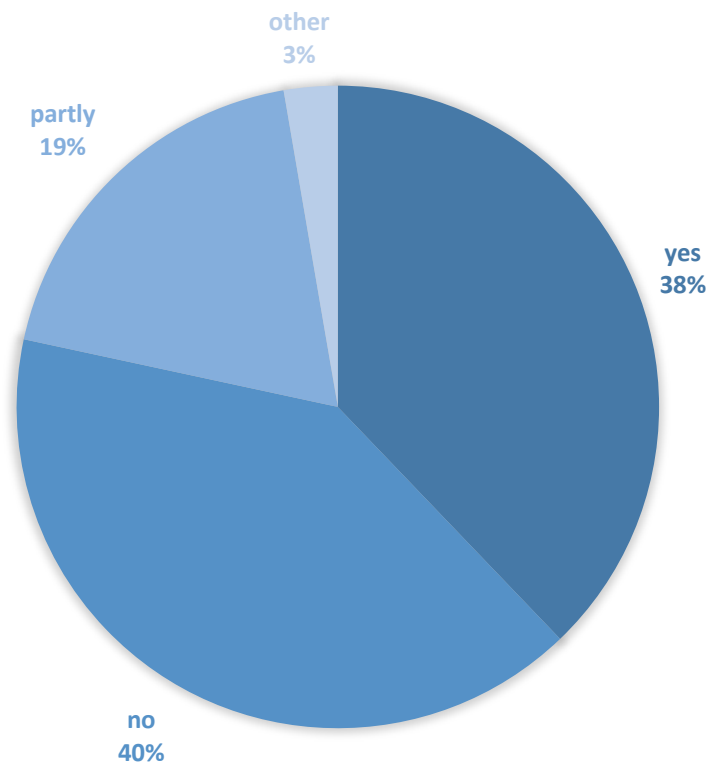
Main Takeaways

Many Jewish communities feel that the general society has little understanding of Judaism and Jewish life and thus fear that an increase in antisemitism might result. A recurrent theme among the various Jewish community representatives interviewed was that misconceptions about Jewish culture, religion, and practices can fuel harmful stereotypes, and ignorance can lead to insensitivity or even hostility towards Jewish individuals and communities. Education is a crucial tool in combating this problem. Teaching about Jewish history, traditions, and values can help promote understanding and combat harmful stereotypes. Additionally, providing support from states in the form of funding for cultural programs and promoting laws against antisemitic discrimination can also be helpful. By increasing awareness and understanding of Jewish life and culture, it is possible to combat antisemitism and promote a more inclusive society.

It is crucial for the state to take a proactive stance in creating greater understanding about Jewish life to ensure the safety and well-being of its Jewish citizens.

SPILL-OVER FROM MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT + ANTI-ZIONISM

IS ANTI-ZIONISM A PROBLEM FOR THE JEWISH POPULATION IN YOUR COUNTRY?



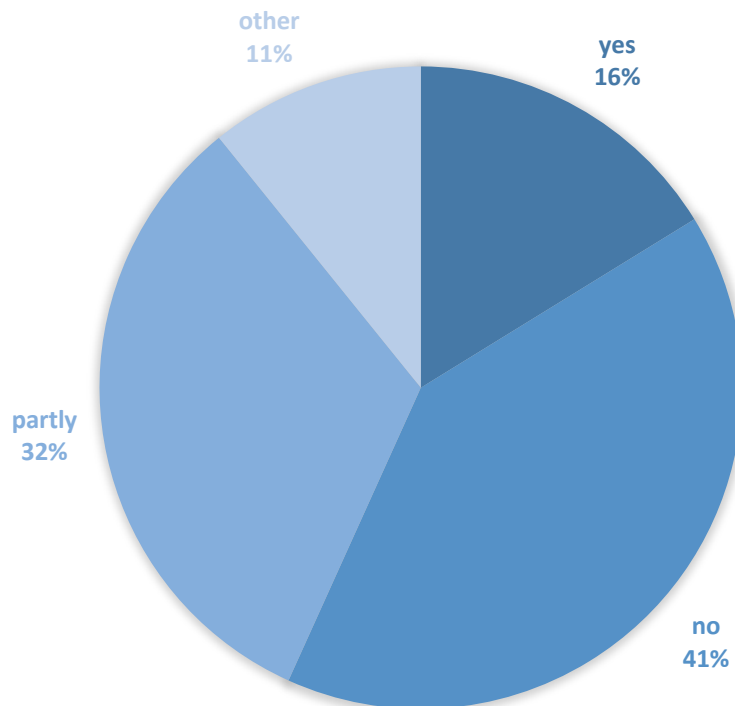
There are clear indications that anti-Zionism is a problem for the Jewish population in a wide variety of countries. In places where this type of sentiment has been growing in recent years, there is a clear connection between that phenomenon and an increase in antisemitic behavior and attitudes towards Jews. In some countries, there has been longstanding anti-Israel/Zionist sentiment in the media and government. Additionally, respondents said that anti-Zionism is often used as a smokescreen for antisemitism, which creates an atmosphere of hostility toward Jews who openly express their identity and support for Israel.

Several interviewees saw anti-Zionism as a threat to the local Jewish population. In some cases, political parties and leaders have used anti-Zionist rhetoric, which is often quietly supported by NGOs and left-wing politicians and political parties. In other cases, anti-Zionism is more prevalent on university campuses or cultural festivals, with minimal support for it in government.

The interviews revealed that the periodical intensification of the Israeli–Palestinian conflict has a spillover effect on Jewish communities in some countries, leading to increased security threats and instances of antisemitism. It has also led to increased discrimination and hostility towards Jewish individuals in schools or places of work.

Concerns about the normalization of antisemitic rhetoric and double standards when it comes to Israel was mentioned by many respondents. Overall, they noted that anti-Zionism is a complex issue that varies by country, with different levels of support and hostility towards Jews and Israel. However, concern was expressed that anti-Zionism could lead to the normalization of antisemitic attitudes and behavior. In conclusion, anti-Zionism is often linked to an increase in antisemitism and harassment of Jews.

DO BDS ACTIVITIES IN YOUR COUNTRY NEGATIVELY AFFECT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY?



The BDS movement has had a significant impact on Jewish communities in the various countries in which it is active. On university campuses, it can impose constraints on Jewish students. In some countries, BDS activism is considered violent and can lead to security threats. The BDS movement’s increased activity during times of conflict in the Middle East sometimes creates a hostile environment for local Jewish communities. Some argue that the movement’s mission contributes to antisemitic sentiments and may unfairly target Jewish individuals, communities, and businesses.

Additionally, Jewish students may experience anti-Zionism as a form of antisemitism in schools, including during Holocaust education lessons when comparisons are made between Israeli actions and Nazi atrocities. In some countries, the situation is becoming grave, and there is an increasing need to address this kind of antisemitism.

Main Takeaways

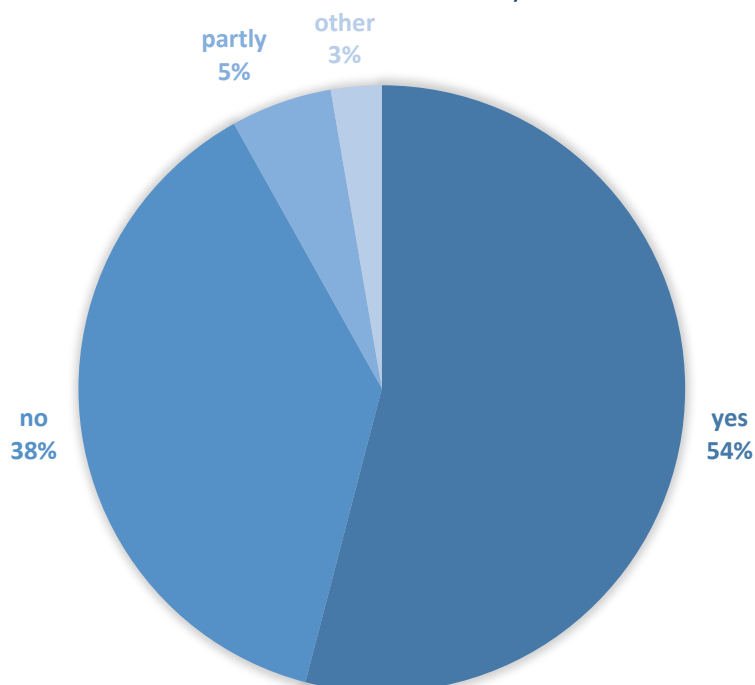
Some Jewish communities in the Diaspora feel a spill-over effect from the Israeli–Palestinian conflict. Antisemitism increases when the conflict heats up, and it is felt that

local and national governments need to pay more attention to this issue with regard to security, education, and safety measures. Jewish community members have a right to feel safe in their own neighborhoods, schools, and places of worship, even during times of heightened tension. It is the government's responsibility to ensure the safety of its citizens, including its Jewish population, and to take proactive measures to prevent and respond to acts of hate or violence. Education is also seen as key: By educating the wider public about Jewish life, culture, and history, governments can combat antisemitism and help build more tolerant and inclusive societies.

Opinion is divided regarding the need for government action to combat anti-Zionism as a form of antisemitism. Some factors that may contribute to this include differences in political ideology and cultural and historical perspectives, and the size and composition of the Jewish communities in these countries. Additionally, attitudes towards Zionism itself may play a role, as some may view it as an essential aspect of Jewish identity, while others may reject it as a political movement. Ultimately, the attitudes of each community towards the need for government action on this issue may reflect a combination of these and other factors.

EXPECTATIONS TOWARDS THE STATE

DO YOU THINK THE AUTHORITIES COULD DO MORE REGARDING HOLOCAUST DENIAL, DISTORTION AND TRIVIALIZATION? IF SO, WHAT?



As seen in the diagram above, opinions varied, with some believing that it is not really an issue in their country, while others suggesting that more could be done. Examples of ways to tackle the issue, such as awareness campaigns, legislation, and a clear policy stance, were raised by most of the respondents.

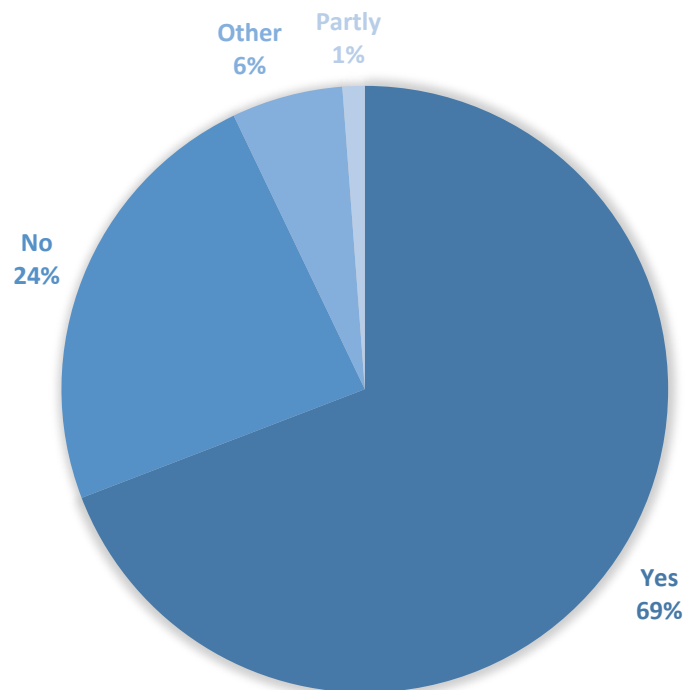
Jewish communities in countries that lack legislation criminalizing Holocaust denial request a governmental inquiries when it occurs. However, in places where such laws exist, there are challenges in enforcing them, particularly in cases in which the specific issue at hand may concern distortion or trivialization rather than outright denial.

There were also calls for a more unified and consistent approach across governments, and for the establishment of clear policies. Moreover, the recognition that the problem of Holocaust denial, distortion, and trivialization will become more pressing in the future, particularly in relation to immigration from certain regions, was distinctly expressed.

Emphasis was placed on the need for close collaboration and engagement with Jewish communities and organizations that specialize in this matter.

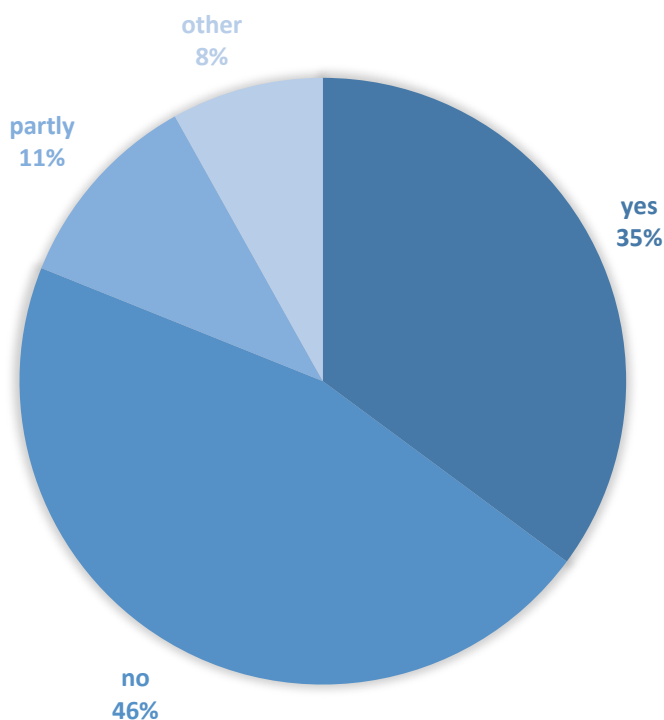
Even though some progress has been made, more work needs to be done to combat Holocaust denial, distortion, and trivialization in a coordinated and effective way.

DO YOU THINK THE AUTHORITIES SHOULD DO MORE REGARDING ANTISEMITIC HATE CRIME AND HATE SPEECH?



Actions taken in response to reports of online antisemitic hate speech vary widely by country. Authorities in some countries take reports of antisemitic incidents seriously and have specific platforms or units in place to deal with them. In several countries, there are difficulties in determining whether the law has been broken with regard to these types of incidents. Some authorities contact social media companies, but successful prosecutions are far from guaranteed. However, more needs to be done in all states to effectively address and combat antisemitism. In many countries, governments do not follow through, and it is up to individual victims or experienced lawyers to pursue legal action. Ultimately, it appears that there is a lack of consistent and effective response to antisemitic hate speech online across countries.

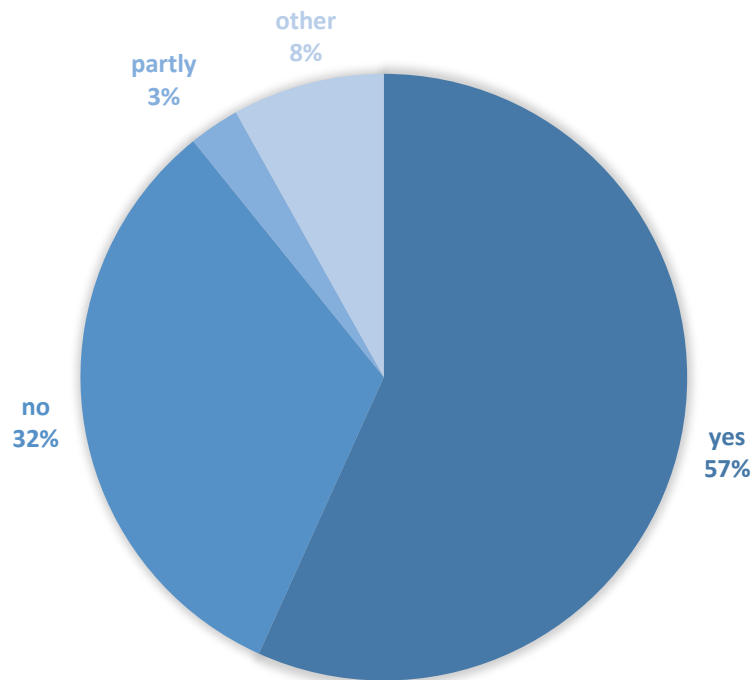
DO YOU THINK THE AUTHORITIES SHOULD DO MORE REGARDING SECURITY FOR JEWISH INSTITUTIONS? IF SO, WHAT?



Several trends regarding increased security measures emerged from the interviews. Financial support for recurring costs was identified as a necessary measure to improve security, including providing additional surveillance tools, reinforcing the security of Jewish community facilities, and funding security training. Several interviewees also related to police protection and suggested increasing police patrols and presence and appointing a representative of the police force to communicate regularly with Jewish community leaders.

Some respondents intimated that providing education for law enforcement personnel to better understand and combat antisemitism would be useful. Conducting regular security threat assessments was also recommended, which would allow for more targeted security measures. Some interviewees acknowledged the need for increased security and improved cooperation between authorities and the Jewish community. On the other hand, many did not see any need for improvement regarding security for Jewish institutions.

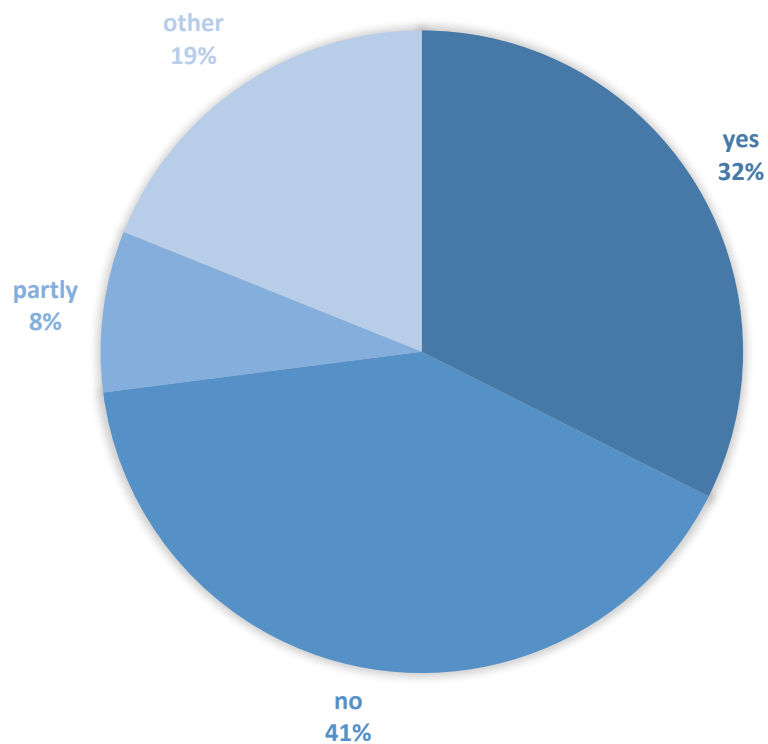
DO YOU THINK THE AUTHORITIES SHOULD DO MORE REGARDING THE FOSTERING OF JEWISH LIFE? IF SO, WHAT?



Responses to the question of whether authorities should do more to foster Jewish life varied greatly. Some of those questioned suggested that the state should engage in more public initiatives with the local community and implement policy to promote Jewish culture as well as take legal and symbolic action.

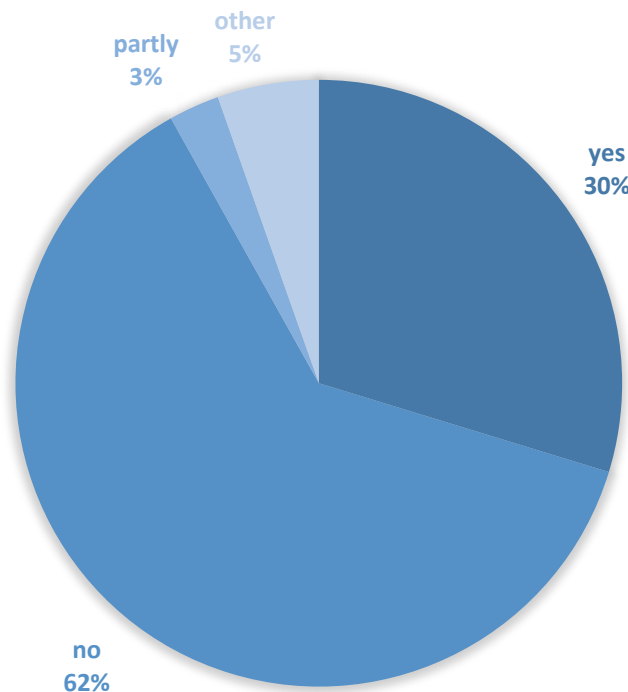
Others emphasized the importance of education about Jewish history and religious life in schools and universities, while some called for more financial support and investment in Jewish museums, synagogues, and cultural centers. Additionally, many expressed that the authorities lacked an understanding of the importance of Jewish culture and holidays and all they entail. To conclude, it is important for the authorities to prioritize the preservation and promotion of Jewish history and culture, thereby building resilience within the Jewish community.

DO YOU THINK YOUR STATE SHOULD DO MORE REGARDING ANTI-ZIONISM? IF SO, WHAT?



Many respondents indicated that education is crucial to combating anti-Zionism. This includes differentiating between Israel and Jews; improving education about Jews and Judaism; and educating the public and officials about when anti-Zionism becomes antisemitism. Others opined that the state should equate anti-Zionism with antisemitism, as they see the two as interchangeable, and saw this as another important element in combating anti-Zionism. Strong emphasis was also placed on putting pressure on the media and politicians.

DO YOU THINK YOUR STATE SHOULD DO MORE REGARDING ADDRESSING ANTISEMITISM THROUGH EXTERNAL ACTION? IF SO, WHAT?



While some respondents said that their state should take more external action to combat antisemitism and support international initiatives, others prioritized national action. Additionally, some supported the idea of including the battle against anti-Zionism in the struggle against antisemitism on the international stage, because the two are often linked. Suggestions included supporting international initiatives, promoting international treaties, highlighting the issue in the international public sphere, and recognizing Jewish heritage through international organizations.

Others said that unfortunately, combating antisemitism was not a priority for their governments or that they had too many domestic issues to focus on that took precedence. Some acknowledged government bias in criticism of Israel and the problematic consequences of not doing enough to contest it. Such bias is understood to be challenging in a world in which antisemitism is on the rise.

Still, some respondents stated that it was not their government's place to engage in external action to combat antisemitism, citing their small presence on the international

stage or the need to focus primarily on supporting Jewish life and combating antisemitism on a national level.

Main Takeaways

In countries with larger Jewish populations, there is generally less reliance on government support when it comes to spreading information about Jewish life and culture. This is likely due to the fact that established Jewish communities and institutions can take on this role independently. However, in countries with smaller Jewish populations, there are often greater expectations of the state to support and promote Jewish life and culture. This might be because there are not as many established Jewish organizations or resources available to the community. In such cases, government support is crucial to ensuring that the Jewish community can thrive and maintain its cultural identity. Therefore, the level of governmental support needed for Jewish communities may vary depending on the size and strength of the community.

The same trend is also clear when examining expectations regarding state actions on the international level. The lack of clear expectations and consensus on whether a state should prioritize combating antisemitism on an international level or focus on national issues can be problematic, since it can lead to ambiguity and lack of action. This may result in missed opportunities to address these issues in international forums effectively and efficiently.

CONCLUDING REFLECTIONS/REMARKS

CONTINUATION

The continuation of partially implemented government initiatives regarding Jewish life or the implementation of those not yet started is crucial to ensuring the preservation of Jewish culture and history. Jewish communities have faced numerous challenges throughout history, including persecution, discrimination, and forced assimilation. In many cases, government initiatives have been instrumental in supporting Jewish communities and helping them maintain their traditions and identity. By implementing their pledges and making commitments for long-term collaboration, governments can help ensure that Jewish communities can continue to thrive and contribute to society.

DISCREPANCY WITHIN EXPECTATIONS

The Malmö International Forum on Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism, held in October 2021, saw governments come together to discuss ways to combat antisemitism, foster Jewish life, and promote Holocaust education. While the pledges made at the forum were an important step towards addressing these issues, there may be discrepancies in the expectations of governments versus those of Jewish communities.

Jewish community expectations include protection against antisemitism and discrimination, support for Jewish education, and recognition of Jewish traditions and culture. However, there often seems to be a discrepancy between that and what the government ensures. For example, some governments may not adequately address instances of antisemitism or may not provide sufficient funding for the promotion of Jewish culture and heritage.

Governments focus on what they believe is relevant; however, in-depth cooperation and communication with local Jewish communities is necessary in order to determine what is truly of the essence and to avoid discrepancies in expectations. To prevent discontent within Jewish communities, it is important for governments to understand their diverse needs and address them appropriately. It is also important for governments to not only make policy commitments, but also to address the specific needs and concerns of

Jewish communities in order to build trust and foster a stronger relationship between the state and its Jewish citizens. This is crucial in promoting religious freedom, cultural diversity, and a more cohesive society overall.

FINAL REMARKS

“Pledges are relevant but they do not tell the whole story,” as one of the respondents remarked. Some of the pledges may have been implemented to a certain degree; however, according to the surveys conducted in Jewish communities, no country has fully implemented all pledges. Some states have not even begun the process and do not yet have a plan or a timeline in place. The Jewish leaders from the various communities interviewed were mostly in agreement that the pledges can have some relevance if implemented correctly, and with proper enforcement and follow-up mechanisms. Nevertheless, for the pledges to have even more relevance and meet the needs of Jewish communities, additional communication between the state and stakeholders is needed.

The continuation of the work outlined in the pledges is essential, both in terms of implementation and the analysis of what needs to be strengthened or developed. Components such as support and cooperation will determine the success of fostering Jewish life, combating antisemitism, and Holocaust remembrance moving forward.

LIST OF COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

