

## **One Year Later: The Historic United Nations Report on Antisemitism as a Human Rights Concern**

October 2020

### **I. Introduction & Summary**

It has been one year since Dr. Ahmed Shaheed, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, published the first-ever UN human rights report solely dedicated to examining the threat to human rights posed by antisemitism and identifying necessary actions to combat it. Dr. Shaheed's report, which he developed after studying the issue and meeting with representatives of Jewish communities and organizations around the world, including in several consultations convened by AJC's Jacob Blaustein Institute, was warmly welcomed not only by Jewish audiences but also by many governments at the UN General Assembly.

In his 2019 report, Dr. Shaheed affirmed that antisemitism is manifested in both classic and contemporary forms and commended the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism as a critical source of guidance for understanding the phenomenon. Reviewing trends around the world, Dr. Shaheed expressed alarm that antisemitic attitudes appeared to be prevalent in many countries, both those with significant Jewish populations and those with no Jewish inhabitants alike. Dr. Shaheed concluded that in extreme cases, antisemitic rhetoric poses a threat to the right to life of Jews, and more broadly, persistent antisemitism has created a climate of fear in which Jews in many countries – particularly those who are openly or visibly observant – are effectively prevented from being able to exercise the right to manifest their religion or belief or to exercise other rights. Dr. Shaheed's report also identified antisemitism not only as a serious threat to the human rights of Jews, but also as a threat to the rights of non-Jews, including other minority communities. He characterized antisemitism as “toxic to democracy” and concluded that it “threatens the rights of all people in societies in which this insidious hatred is unaddressed.”<sup>1</sup> He then set out a number of recommendations for further action to combat antisemitism and protect the human rights of Jewish and other individuals, including calling on all governments to adopt the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism.

In hindsight, Dr. Shaheed's report, which AJC called “historic” at the time of its publication, was especially prescient. During the year following the publication of Dr. Shaheed's report, from mid-October 2019 through mid-October 2020, a number of violent antisemitic incidents have occurred and antisemitic expression appears to have become even more widespread in many countries. The drivers of this include the intensification of deep political and societal discord in many countries, particularly the United States, exacerbated beginning in the first quarter of 2020 by the COVID-19 pandemic and economic consequences stemming from it. These phenomena have placed unprecedented stress on people and societies, making them ripe for exploitation by those willing to scapegoat Jews and Jewish communities and to perpetuate antisemitic stereotypes and conspiracy theories as explanations for the fear and hardship they face. The resulting proliferation of antisemitic material, including in online media and on social media platforms, represents a serious challenge to which policymakers and social media companies have not yet adequately responded.

This report concludes that while governments and other actors have indeed taken some significant steps to implement Dr. Shaheed's recommendations over the past year, much work remains to be done. It also proposes additional steps that governments and political leaders, social media and internet companies, and United Nations officials and entities should take in order to more effectively confront antisemitism in the months and years ahead.

## **II. Key Trends and Emblematic Antisemitic Incidents from October 2019 to September 2020**

### *A. Persistent Antisemitic Violence and Threats in 2019 and in 2020*

Following the publication of Dr. Shaheed's report in September 2019, a number of government and civil society monitors published comprehensive reports confirming what many had suspected: that unprecedented numbers of violent antisemitic incidents were documented in many places around the world in 2019, including an 18 percent increase in reports of antisemitic violence worldwide,<sup>2</sup> a 25 percent increase in violent antisemitic incidents in the **United Kingdom**,<sup>3</sup> a 26 percent increase in antisemitic violence in **New York City**, and a 13 percent increase in antisemitic hate crimes in **Germany**.<sup>4</sup>

Several particularly violent incidents occurred in the weeks and months immediately following the publication of Dr. Shaheed's report. Moreover, while fewer reports of antisemitic violence incidents have come to light in many places in 2020, likely owing to the imposition of lockdown orders and restrictions on mass gatherings by national and local governments in many countries, civil society organizations have continued to report violent antisemitic incidents during the pandemic, particularly as movement restrictions in some countries have been eased. The following troubling violent incidents have been reported since the publication of Dr. Shaheed's report:

- **In Germany:**
  - At the Halle synagogue on October 9, 2019, the Jewish High Holy Day of Yom Kippur, an assailant armed with guns and homemade explosives attempted to force his way into the synagogue and kill worshipers inside. When he was unable to do so, he shot at passersby outside and in a nearby shop, killing two and injuring two.<sup>5</sup> The attacker, who livestreamed the attack on Twitch, Amazon's gaming platform, professed white supremacist and antisemitic hatred during the attack, in a written manifesto he published online before the attack, and at his subsequent criminal trial.<sup>6</sup>
  - In a number of cases in the last months of 2019, assailants in Berlin assaulted people they believed to be Jewish while using antisemitic language.<sup>7</sup>
  - During the first six months of 2020, the Department for Research and Information on Anti-Semitism Berlin (RIAS) documented 410 antisemitic incidents including six physical attacks, only slightly fewer than the 458 incidents documented during the same period in 2019.<sup>8</sup>
  - In August 2020, a university student attending a party in Heidelberg was assaulted by other partygoers after they realized he was of Jewish ancestry.<sup>9</sup>
  - On October 4, 2020, as Jews celebrated the Sukkot holiday, a 29 year-old man, who reportedly had a piece of paper displaying a swastika in his pocket, attacked a 26 year-

old Jewish student wearing a kippah outside a synagogue in Hamburg with a folding shovel, inflicting serious head injuries.<sup>10</sup>

- In the **United States**,
  - In November 2019, a potential antisemitic attack was averted when federal authorities arrested a man with white supremacist beliefs for attempting to bomb a synagogue in Pueblo, Colorado.<sup>11</sup>
  - On December 10, 2019, two individuals, including a member of an extremist group who had previously posted antisemitic comments online, carried out an armed attack on a kosher supermarket adjacent to a synagogue in Jersey City, New Jersey, killing three people in the supermarket and a policeman.<sup>12</sup>
  - On December 28, 2019, a man wielding a machete attacked a Hanukkah celebration at the home of a rabbi in Monsey, New York, and was prevented from continuing the attack at an adjacent synagogue by congregants, who managed to lock him out. Five individuals were wounded in the attack, one of whom later died.<sup>13</sup>
  - In the last weeks of December 2019, Orthodox Jewish residents of the Brooklyn, New York, neighborhoods of Williamsburg, Crown Heights, and Borough Park experienced an alarming series of apparently antisemitic assaults.<sup>14</sup>
  - In April 2020, a homemade incendiary device was discovered at a Jewish assisted living residence in Massachusetts. It was reported that a white supremacist organization had identified the facility on social media as one of two possible locations for committing a mass killing.<sup>15</sup>
  - In June 2020, a Jewish man was stabbed by a man shouting “Heil Hitler” in Nevada.<sup>16</sup>
  - In July 2020, an Orthodox Jewish man was assaulted in Brooklyn, New York, by unknown assailants shouting antisemitic slurs.<sup>17</sup>
- In **France**:
  - In December 2019, a rabbi was physically assaulted by perpetrators shouting antisemitic slurs.<sup>18</sup> In a separate incident, an Israeli student was beaten on the subway after speaking in Hebrew on his phone.<sup>19</sup>
  - In August 2020, a Jewish man was beaten by two men who used antisemitic slurs in Paris.<sup>20</sup>
  - In September 2020, a man was robbed and cut with a knife in Aubervilliers by assailants who yelled antisemitic slurs when they saw that he was wearing a Star of David necklace.<sup>21</sup>
- In **Italy**, in November 2019, Senator Liliana Segre, an 89 year-old Holocaust survivor, was placed under police protection after she received antisemitic death threats from far-right extremists because she called for parliament to establish a commission to combat racism and religious intolerance.<sup>22</sup>
- In **Austria**, in August 2020, the leader of the Jewish community was attacked by a man with a wooden club outside the Graz synagogue.<sup>23</sup>

*B. Antisemitic Attacks on Jewish Religious and Cultural Sites*

Several antisemitic attacks on Jewish religious and cultural sites and other property were reported during in the last months of 2019. Reports of such attacks continued throughout 2020, notwithstanding the imposition of widespread restrictions on movement and gatherings after the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic. For example,

- In November 2019, Jewish cemeteries and sites in **Denmark**<sup>24</sup> and **Sweden**<sup>25</sup> were vandalized on the anniversary of Kristallnacht.
- In December 2019, two Jewish cemeteries were vandalized in **France**.<sup>26</sup>
- Between April and September 2020 in the **United States**, synagogues were vandalized in Alabama,<sup>27</sup> California,<sup>28</sup> Florida,<sup>29</sup> Illinois,<sup>30</sup> Maryland,<sup>31</sup> New York,<sup>32</sup> Pennsylvania,<sup>33</sup> and Texas.<sup>34</sup> A Jewish cemetery was vandalized in Louisiana.<sup>35</sup> Holocaust memorials were vandalized in Tennessee,<sup>36</sup> California,<sup>37</sup> and South Carolina.<sup>38</sup> Additionally, a Chabad Center was set on fire at the University of Delaware<sup>39</sup> and another was vandalized in Massachusetts.<sup>40</sup>
- On May 14, 2020, in **Iran**, a fire was set at the tomb of Esther and Mordechai, a Jewish holy site located in the province of Hamadan. It occurred several weeks after a Basij paramilitary student group threatened to destroy the tomb as an expression of opposition to the proposed U.S. peace plan for the Middle East.<sup>41</sup>
- In September 2020, Holocaust memorials in **Ukraine** and **Russia** were vandalized.<sup>42</sup>
- In 2020, Jewish cemeteries were desecrated in **Germany**,<sup>43</sup> **Poland**,<sup>44</sup> **Finland**,<sup>45</sup> and **South Africa**.<sup>46</sup>
- In 2020, synagogues were vandalized in **Canada**,<sup>47</sup> **Austria**,<sup>48</sup> and **France**,<sup>49</sup> and a synagogue in **Russia** was subjected to an arson attack.<sup>50</sup>

**III. Antisemitic Rhetoric Including Conspiracy Theories: Enduring Challenges and New Trends in 2020**

In his 2019 report, Dr. Shaheed expressed concern about the prevalence of antisemitic hate speech around the world, noting key trends such as the “increasing use of antisemitic tropes by prominent political figures, along with the politicization of these incidents,”<sup>51</sup> “a resurgence of classic antisemitism in online chatter and offline political activity being advanced by right-wing supremacist groups,” and expressions of hostility against Jews based on an “association of all Jews with Israel and its policies” by organizations and individuals aligned with the political “left”<sup>52</sup> and by figures in a number of Muslim-majority countries.<sup>53</sup> Dr. Shaheed expressed particular concern about the increasing frequency and geographic reach of such hate speech on social media and on other internet platforms.<sup>54</sup> In the year that has followed the publication of Dr. Shaheed’s report to the General Assembly, these trends have intensified.

*A. Persistent Antisemitic Rhetoric Worldwide*

Antisemitic rhetoric has remained a persistent phenomenon in some countries. In his 2019 report, Dr. Shaheed noted that in many countries in the Middle East and North Africa, Jews are frequently conflated with Israel and Zionism, and that literature demonizing Jews is prevalent in the media.<sup>55</sup> These trends have continued in 2020, with high-profile figures advancing antisemitic narratives about Jews in the context of commenting on the conflict in the Middle East, for example in a tweet by **Iran**'s Ayatollah Khamenei in August 2020.<sup>56</sup> Recent reports revealed that antisemitic content remains prevalent in textbooks in countries including **Qatar**,<sup>57</sup> and that the Al Jazeera network, which is based there, broadcast antisemitic content including a May interview with a leading Muslim cleric who called for the killing of Jews.<sup>58</sup>

Dr. Shaheed's report also expressed concern about the use of antisemitic rhetoric by right-wing political parties in Eastern Europe.<sup>59</sup> In 2020, the state-controlled public broadcaster in **Poland**, TVP, repeatedly employed antisemitic tropes in critiquing the opposition candidate in the presidential election, calling him as a "puppet of world Jewry" and asking rhetorically if he would "comply with Jewish demands" after he suggested that the government should negotiate with Jewish groups on the issue of World War II-era property restitution.<sup>60</sup> In April, far-right Polish politicians petitioned the lower house of Parliament to adopt a draft resolution that would have effectively prevented WWII-era property restitution, but the ruling Law and Justice Party thus far has declined to support it.<sup>61</sup>

In **Hungary**, the ruling Fidesz party, government-controlled media, and leaders including President Viktor Orban have promoted antisemitic discourse, including in a September 2020 speech in which Orban stated that European institutions serve the interests of "[Jewish financier and philanthropist] George Soros and his ilk."<sup>62</sup> In August 2020, the government awarded the Hungarian Order of Merit to historian Erno Raffay, whose scholarship blames Jews for the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian empire in 1918 and who has claimed that there was a "Jewish takeover" of Hungarian institutions in the 1930s.<sup>63</sup> In February, the government supplemented the required reading list in the National Basic Curriculum with novels by two Nazi collaborators while removing a novel authored by Jewish Nobel Laureate and Holocaust survivor Imre Kertész.<sup>64</sup> The government failed to condemn antisemitic comments made by the leader of the far-right party Mi Hazánk at several marches during the year, including one in Budapest on March 1<sup>st</sup> honoring the centennial of the administration of Admiral Miklos Horthy, under whose administration the deportation of Jews began, and at which the leader of the far-right party reportedly condemned Jews for "ruining Hungary" and called for Jews "to be held accountable" for their role in society.<sup>65</sup>

In **Lithuania**, the government effectively supported efforts to minimize the country's historical responsibility for Nazi-era crimes and its citizens' collaboration in persecuting its Jewish population. The country's parliament dedicated 2021 to celebrating the legacy of Lithuanian nationalist Juozas Luksa-Daumantas despite his leadership of a pro-Nazi militia during World War II and alleged participation in a notorious massacre of Jews in 1941.<sup>66</sup> In August 2020, shortly following his appointment by Parliament, the new director of the Center for the Study of the Resistance and Genocide of Residents of Lithuania appointed a principal adviser whom the Lithuanian Jewish community publicly criticized as actively engaged in Holocaust distortion and having publicly defended those engaged in antisemitism.<sup>67</sup>

Extremist politicians on the far right and from Islamist parties have engaged in antisemitic rhetoric in other countries as well in the past year, with notable examples occurring in countries including **Canada**,<sup>68</sup> **Germany**,<sup>69</sup> and **Turkey**.<sup>70</sup>

There have been cases during the past year in which far-left politicians have engaged in antisemitic rhetoric as well. For example, in **France**, Jean-Luc Mélenchon, leader of the La France Insoumise party, said that Jews and their allegations of antisemitism were to blame for the poor performance of the UK's Labor Party in parliamentary elections in late 2019,<sup>71</sup> and then in July 2020 cited a notorious antisemitic trope blaming Jews for the death of Jesus during a discussion about law enforcement responses to violent protests.<sup>72</sup>

### *B. Antisemitic rhetoric in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic*

Following the publication of Dr. Shaheed's report, the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020 has created a conducive climate for scapegoating and the promotion of conspiracy theories in which antisemitic rhetoric blaming Jews for the ills of the world has flourished and become widespread. In a number of high-profile cases, public figures, including religious leaders and politicians, have spread antisemitic claims that Jews developed and deliberately spread the coronavirus, or that its spread was an Israeli plot. Similarly, antisemitic commentary has flourished on social media platforms (including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Telegram, Gab, and 4chan) in which users – frequently using anonymized accounts – have promoted conspiracy theories that Jews or the government of Israel manufactured the coronavirus for profit or to exert control over global affairs for the benefit of Jews, or that have blamed Jewish communities for the spread of the coronavirus using classic antisemitic rhetoric, reminiscent of age-old tropes blaming Jews for spreading disease.<sup>73</sup>

The IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism, which Dr. Shaheed reproduced in full in his report, provides helpful guidance on how to recognize antisemitism by providing a list of illustrative examples of the ways in which antisemitism can manifest. The antisemitic expressions that have proliferated in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic reflect many of the enumerated examples, including:

- Charging Jews with conspiring to harm humanity or blaming Jews for “why things go wrong;”
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or about the power of Jews as a collective, such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions;
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews;
- Targeting the State of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity;
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g. claims of Jews killing Jesus or “blood libel”) to characterize Israel or Israelis;
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).<sup>74</sup>

Those responsible for propagating these antisemitic tropes in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic include neo-Nazi and white supremacist provocateurs and fundamentalist Christian religious leaders in the **United States**;<sup>75</sup> government-run social media accounts in **Iran**,<sup>76</sup> and official daily papers published by the **Palestinian Authority**.<sup>77</sup>

Antisemitic conspiracy theories blaming Jews, and occasionally specific Jewish individuals, for creating and spreading the coronavirus also appeared in articles published by online media sources in **Algeria**,<sup>78</sup> **Canada**,<sup>79</sup> **Iran**,<sup>80</sup> **Iraq**,<sup>81</sup> **Jordan**,<sup>82</sup> **Lebanon**,<sup>83</sup> **Saudi Arabia**,<sup>84</sup> **Spain**,<sup>85</sup> **Turkey**,<sup>86</sup> **Venezuela**,<sup>87</sup> and **Yemen**;<sup>88</sup> popular videos and posts originating on social media in **France**,<sup>89</sup> **Pakistan**,<sup>90</sup> **Russia**,<sup>91</sup> and **Switzerland**;<sup>92</sup> and in cartoons published in countries including **Belgium**,<sup>93</sup> **Brazil**,<sup>94</sup> **Bulgaria**,<sup>95</sup> and **Iran**.<sup>96</sup>

Further, there is evidence that this social media activity has had a real-world impact. Several cases have been reported in which people have attempted to commit violent attacks against Jews, Jewish sites, and the broader public, in circumstances suggesting that their actions resulted from a belief that Jews are spreading the coronavirus. Many reported incidents of this sort have occurred in the **United States**, where the authorities have intervened in cases where individuals attacked visibly Jewish individuals while yelling antisemitic slurs and comments about COVID-19, in Brooklyn, New York,<sup>97</sup> and where people have been arrested for making threats against Jews on social media platforms or allegedly planning to commit violence against members of visibly Jewish communities, a Jewish assisted living facility, and a hospital, including in New York,<sup>98</sup> New Jersey,<sup>99</sup> Massachusetts,<sup>100</sup> and Missouri.<sup>101</sup>

Moreover, some sources have suggested that public perceptions of Jews have been significantly and negatively impacted as a result of the spread of antisemitic rhetoric and conspiracies online. For example, a survey of 2,500 adults in the **United Kingdom** in May 2020 revealed that 19% agreed at least “a little” with the statement “Jews have created the virus to collapse the economy for financial gain.”<sup>102</sup>

### *C. Rising antisemitic rhetoric amidst heightened political and social tensions*

In the year since Dr. Shaheed’s report was published, political polarization has continued to deepen in the **United States** and other countries; in turn, the use of antisemitic narratives on both sides of heated debates appears to have increased. In late 2019 and early 2020, for example, as Congress undertook impeachment proceedings against President Trump, a prominent fundamentalist Christian pastor from Florida posted videos on an online news site and YouTube claiming that the impeachment was a Jewish plot and that Jews would carry out mass killings of Christians if the effort succeeded.<sup>103</sup>

Following the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, protesters opposing the imposition by local and state authorities of lockdowns, restrictions on gatherings, or face mask mandates have deployed antisemitic imagery and rhetoric equating government restrictions with Nazi-era discriminatory measures, including in Ohio, Illinois, and New Mexico in the **United States**,<sup>104</sup> and in **Germany**.<sup>105</sup>

Since June 2020, members of white supremacist groups and right-wing politicians<sup>106</sup> and commentators<sup>107</sup> have exploited the social movement protesting against systemic racism in the **United States** to advance antisemitic narratives, for example by claiming that George Soros is secretly funding the protests and fueling violence in order to advance a Jewish plot to stoke anti-

white hatred among minority communities. White supremacists also fueled antisemitism on the left by using fake Twitter accounts in which they falsely claimed to be Jewish to make allegations that racism is widespread within American Jewish communities and that Jews bear primary responsibility for slavery and its legacy in the United States, using the hashtag #JewishPrivilege. This campaign gained significant visibility on Twitter in the United States and beyond.<sup>108</sup>

At the same time, celebrities and public figures in the **United States** have amplified antisemitic conspiracy theories on social media attributing responsibility for racism and police brutality to Jews, insisting that Jews cannot legitimately support racial justice unless they reject Zionism, and advancing other antisemitic narratives that have been promoted by notorious figures like Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam.<sup>109</sup> Such online rhetoric appears to have inspired several antisemitic attacks on Jewish businesses, synagogues, and memorials during protests in recent months. Antisemitic rhetoric along these lines has also been documented in countries including the **United Kingdom** and **France**, where popular figures including the rappers Wiley (Richard Cowie)<sup>110</sup> and Freeze Corleone (Issa Lorenzo Diakhaté)<sup>111</sup> have advanced antisemitic narratives in songs and statements posted on online accounts with large numbers of followers.<sup>112</sup>

As the 2020 presidential election in the **United States** has drawn closer, this political polarization has only deepened, creating further opportunities for propagators of antisemitic narratives to insert these into broader debates. One example is the QAnon network, which is advancing a conspiracy that a powerful cabal controlling a “deep state” government is undermining and attacking the Trump administration and that the cabal is dominated by Jewish elites, globalists, and bankers, such as Soros and the Rothschilds. This movement and its adherents effectively are advancing a contemporary variation on the notorious forgery *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*.<sup>113</sup> Troublingly, some Republican candidates for Congress<sup>114</sup> and other influential individuals have expressed support for this movement.

#### *D. Formal barriers to the enjoyment of freedom of religion by Jewish persons*

In his 2019 report, in addition to identifying antisemitic acts and rhetoric as posing an obstacle to the enjoyment of rights including the right to freedom of religion or belief by Jewish people, Dr. Shaheed also noted that some countries have adopted legislation that expressly limits Jews’ ability to engage in religious rites and practices.<sup>115</sup>

In **Belgium**, the country’s Jewish community has challenged before the European Court of Justice a 2019 law in the Flanders region that bans kosher animal slaughter without stunning, a step several other European countries had previously taken, and which **Poland**’s legislature is also considering for meat intended for export.<sup>116</sup> In August 2020, however, an advocate general for the Court recommended that it strike down the Belgian law as inappropriately infringing on religious freedom.<sup>117</sup> Jewish communities welcomed this sign as the proliferation of such restrictions would make it increasingly difficult for them to be able to continue adhering to this traditional practice.

In **Denmark**, an ongoing campaign in the country’s parliament to enact legislation that would ban circumcision of infant male children, or at least lead to the imposition of cumbersome restrictions on the practice that would effectively prohibit it for infants less than a year old, have alarmed the Jewish community despite the Prime Minister’s opposition to the initiative.<sup>118</sup>



#### **IV. Implementation of Dr. Shaheed’s Recommendations: Identifying Progress and Remaining Gaps**

In his 2019 report, Dr. Shaheed directed a number of detailed recommendations to different stakeholders with the capacity and responsibility to acknowledge and take action to combat antisemitism. Many actions in line with these recommendations have been taken over the course of the past year, though significant implementation gaps remain.

##### *A. Governments*

##### 1. Understanding Antisemitism: Adopting the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism

Dr. Shaheed’s 2019 report recognized the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism as a key source of “valuable guidance for identifying antisemitism in its various forms,” and recommended that States “adopt [it]...for use in education and awareness-raising and for monitoring and responding to manifestations of antisemitism.”<sup>119</sup> Dr. Shaheed stressed that the Working Definition’s key value is in “communicating to public officials and the public at large widely shared concerns about explicit and implicit forms that contemporary manifestations of antisemitism can take.”<sup>120</sup> Since October 2019, **Argentina, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, and Uruguay** have all adopted the Working Definition, with the result that, in total, nearly 30 States have done so.<sup>121</sup>

##### 2. Refraining from and Condemning Antisemitic Incidents and Rhetoric

In his 2019 report, Dr. Shaheed calls on governments to take a “robust approach” to combatting antisemitic hate speech in order to ensure that people are able to enjoy their right to have and to manifest their religion or belief,<sup>122</sup> but to do so within the bounds of international human rights law.<sup>123</sup> To this end, Dr. Shaheed stressed the need for “prompt, unequivocal responses from leaders” to antisemitic incidents as well as recognition that “antisemitism poses a threat to stability and security.”<sup>124</sup> Similarly, he called on political party leaders to “promptly, clearly and consistently reject manifestations of antisemitism within their parties and in the public discourse.”<sup>125</sup> In doing so, he recalled that not only has counter-speech been demonstrated to be effective, but also that numerous UN human rights guidance documents stress that in order to ensure respect for the right to freedom of expression, governments should combat hate speech primarily through counter-speech and education and use criminal and other punitive measures only in very serious cases and as a last resort.<sup>126</sup>

Since October 2019, political leaders in many countries and localities where antisemitic incidents have occurred have been outspoken in condemning them. In many cases, public officials in **Canada, the United States, France, and Germany** were quick to condemn antisemitic incidents and rhetoric;<sup>127</sup> law enforcement authorities responded promptly to threats and acts of violence against Jewish people and institutions and attempted to monitor and report on antisemitic hate crimes; and national and local government authorities affirmatively acted to establish dialogue and cooperation in reporting antisemitic incidents with Jewish communities.<sup>128</sup> For example, in the **United Kingdom**, in the midst of an ongoing investigation by the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) into numerous allegations of antisemitic discrimination

and harassment within the Labour Party, the party's new leader, Sir Keir Starmer, has apologized to whistleblowers who revealed the problem and fired an official for propagating an antisemitic conspiracy theory.<sup>129</sup> In another example, in December 2019, UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage removed the Aalst Carnival, an annual costume parade in **Belgium**, from its Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity for "recurring repetition of racist and antisemitic representations."<sup>130</sup> Belgium's Prime Minister condemned the carnival's organizers when antisemitic displays were featured again in 2020.<sup>131</sup>

At the same time, certain political leaders have continued to engage in openly antisemitic rhetoric and others have done little to address antisemitic acts and rhetoric when these have been brought to their attention, demonstrating that continued attention is required.

### 3. Monitoring, Reporting, and Ensuring Accountability for Antisemitic Acts

Dr. Shaheed's report recommends that "States should establish data-collection systems to document information on antisemitic hate crimes," "work with Jewish communities and organizations to strengthen efforts to monitor, document and report on hate crimes and other acts motivated by antisemitism," "invest in preventive security measures, compliant with international human rights law, to deter antisemitic hate crimes," and enact and enforce hate crime legislation that recognizes antisemitism as a prohibited bias motivation and that is clear, concrete, and easy to understand.<sup>132</sup> Dr. Shaheed also recommended that governments should appoint senior officials to oversee efforts to monitor, document, and combat antisemitism to aid in accomplishing these goals.

Since October 2019, States including **Italy** and **Romania** have appointed senior officials with responsibility for coordinating action to combat antisemitism.<sup>133</sup> In December 2019, following an attack on a Jewish cemetery, **France's** Interior Minister announced that the government would create a national hate crimes bureau within the gendarmerie tasked with coordinating with judicial and police authorities in cases where crimes appeared to have been committed with antisemitic or other biased intent.<sup>134</sup> In 2020, several European countries initiated or made progress on developing national strategies and action plans to combat antisemitism, including **Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Hungary, and Romania**.<sup>135</sup> In **Germany**, an initiative promoted by Federal Coordinator for Combatting Antisemitism Felix Klein resulted in the country's criminal code being amended to include an express reference to antisemitism to a provision governing sentencing enhancements to ensure that antisemitic hate crimes will be punished appropriately.<sup>136</sup>

In the **United States**, a December 2019 Executive Order on Combating Antisemitism mandated the application of federal anti-discrimination legislation focused on educational institutions to prohibit discrimination rooted in antisemitism in any programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance and required federal agencies to consider the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism in doing so.<sup>137</sup> In the U.S. Congress, a bipartisan legislative initiative, the Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act, has been proposed. If adopted, it would promote and incentivize better hate crime reporting through law enforcement training, the creation of reporting hotlines, increasing resources to liaise with affected communities, and public educational forums on hate crimes.<sup>138</sup>

*B. Online Antisemitism*

Recognizing the increasing prevalence of antisemitic expression online, Dr. Shaheed’s 2019 report stresses that “social media companies should take reports about cyberhate seriously, enforce terms of service and community rules that do not allow for the dissemination of hate messages, provide more transparency of their efforts to combat cyberhate, and offer user-friendly mechanisms and procedures for reporting and addressing hateful content,” and that they should “report criminal antisemitic behavior online to relevant local law enforcement agencies.”<sup>139</sup> Since October 2019, several of the leading social media platforms – including Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube – have taken actions aimed at countering and removing content amounting to antisemitic hate speech, as have other key companies.

In late June 2020, for example, Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced that the platform would adopt “new policies to connect people with authoritative information about voting, crack down on voter suppression, and fight hate speech,”<sup>140</sup> and would expand its ads policy “to prohibit claims that people from a specific race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, caste, sexual orientation, gender identity or immigration status are a threat to the physical safety, health or survival of others.”<sup>141</sup> In August, Facebook announced that it had expanded its policy on “objectionable content” to include content that depicts “Jewish people running the world or controlling major institutions such as media networks, the economy or the government,” to which it referred as “implicit hate speech.”<sup>142</sup> That month, the platform revealed that it had removed 22.5 million posts that it classified as amounting to “hate speech” between April and June 2020, in part as a result of efforts to enhance both algorithmic and human review of posted content to facilitate more rapid removal of content violating its policies from the platform.<sup>143</sup> A company official also stated in August that its new policy “draws on the spirit—and the text—of the IHRA [Working Definition of Antisemitism].”<sup>144</sup> In early October, Facebook announced it would proactively seek to identify and remove any group, page or Instagram account that openly associated with QAnon, though it said it would not prohibit individuals from posting about QAnon to their personal Facebook profiles.<sup>145</sup> On October 12, Facebook announced that it would “prohibit any content that denies or distorts the Holocaust,” and that beginning later in 2020 it would “direct anyone to credible information off Facebook if they search for terms associated with the Holocaust or its denial on our platform.”<sup>146</sup> A company representative cited the “well-documented rise in anti-Semitism globally and the alarming level of ignorance about the Holocaust, especially among young people,” in explaining its decision.<sup>147</sup>

While these measures have been welcomed by Jewish advocates and hate crimes monitors as positive steps towards combating online antisemitism, concerns remain that they will nevertheless be insufficient to prevent the spread of antisemitic conspiracies and rhetoric online. Advocates have continued to call for Facebook to adopt the full IHRA Working Definition,<sup>148</sup> as its policies still do not cover all forms of antisemitism contemplated therein. For example, content treating Jews as proxies for the State of Israel would not be considered hate speech, and therefore subject to removal, despite the important policy changes that have been made to date.

Over the past year, Twitter has updated its Hateful Conduct Policy several times, including announcing in July that would block links to hateful conduct and might suspend accounts “dedicated to sharing these types of links.”<sup>149</sup> Twitter has also instituted algorithmic flagging of tweets that constitute hate speech or violate its Terms of Service and announced that it aspires to automatically block 90% of prohibited tweets rather than relying on reporting by users.<sup>150</sup>

However, the platform announced in June that while it might mask tweets by politicians constituting hate speech with a warning message and otherwise make them more difficult to find and retweet, it would not delete such tweets if they had a “clear public interest value.”<sup>151</sup>

Other social media platforms and companies have acted to block the spread of antisemitic rhetoric. In August, TikTok reported that it removed more than 380,000 videos for violating its policies on hate speech since the start of 2020.<sup>152</sup> Apple has blocked Telegram channels encouraging intimidation of or violence against people on the basis of their religion.<sup>153</sup> Companies like Apple and Google have also come under significant criticism for continuing to offer the Telegram app in their app stores at all given the number of instances in which content has been aired on Telegram channels in violation of their policies.<sup>154</sup>

Moreover, a number of easily accessible online platforms – like Telegram, Gab, and 4Chan – have terms of service that generally allow antisemitic content unless it directly incites violence or otherwise violates state law,<sup>155</sup> and numerous social media platforms on the “Dark Web” which can only be accessed by specialized browsers have no content restrictions at all.<sup>156</sup>

Governments have also reacted to the challenge of attempting to curb online antisemitism in different ways, in part reflecting differing positions on the scope of the right to freedom of expression. In June, **Germany** extended its Network Enforcement Act, first adopted in 2017, by requiring social media platforms to report “suspected criminal content” to the federal police in addition to the existing requirement for social media platforms to remove hate speech within 24 hours.<sup>157</sup> **France**’s parliament also adopted legislation in 2020 creating a specialized body to monitor online hate speech, though its provisions requiring online platforms to remove hateful content flagged by users were invalidated by the country’s Constitutional Council on grounds that they created incentives for platforms to remove excessive content in ways that could unnecessarily restrict the right to freedom of expression.<sup>158</sup> Since Dr. Shaheed’s report was published, other countries have adopted similar legislation or have referred to Germany’s laws when proposing legislation imposing duties on social media companies to remove harmful content or “fake news,” or criminalize online hate speech. However, several of these have articulated the scope of content that they seek to prohibit in vague terms, going far beyond antisemitism and into areas that constitute expression protected by human rights law.<sup>159</sup>

Over the course of the past year, governments have also taken non-binding efforts to encourage social media platforms to strengthen their ability to identify and remove terrorist and violent extremist content online, including where such content targets Jewish people or sites. Examples of such initiatives include the Christchurch Call to Action, a non-binding initiative of the governments of New Zealand and France launched in 2019 that as of May 2020 had been joined by 48 countries, the European Commission, two international organizations, and eight tech companies. Key impacts of this initiative have been to encourage the participating tech companies to strengthen the independence of the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism, which they created as a self-regulatory initiative in 2017, and to take more coordinated action to suppress violent extremist content online.<sup>160</sup>

### *C. United Nations Experts and Bodies*

Dr. Shaheed has continued to raise the alarm about antisemitism and the persistent threat it poses to human rights in the year since his report to the General Assembly was published. In an April

17 statement marking the six-month anniversary of his report on global antisemitism,<sup>161</sup> for example, Dr. Shaheed expressed alarm about the apparently dramatic rise in antisemitic hate speech related to the COVID-19 pandemic in the first four months of 2020, a message he repeated in an April 22 statement warning of “an upsurge in incitement to hatred, scapegoating religious or belief communities, including Christians, Jews, and Muslims, for the spread of virus.”<sup>162</sup>

Dr. Shaheed also recommended that other UN system entities take “joint action on antisemitism and other forms of hate.”<sup>163</sup> Despite the UN’s checkered history on this issue,<sup>164</sup> a number of recent actions by UN agencies have demonstrated an increasing sensitivity to and concern about the dangers posed by antisemitism.

In several notable examples, UN experts have explicitly condemned antisemitism and recognized its danger. In January 2019, eight other independent UN human rights experts signed a statement prepared by Dr. Shaheed warning that States around the world were failing to sufficiently counter antisemitic violence, discrimination, and hostility within their societies.<sup>165</sup>

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who had previously spoken out about the danger of rising antisemitism and spoken favorably about the IHRA Working Definition, has taken further action to address rising antisemitism in response to Dr. Shaheed’s recommendations. At the UN’s January 2020 International Holocaust Remembrance Day program marking the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp, the Secretary-General called on the world to address what he called a “global crisis of antisemitic hatred.”<sup>166</sup> During the COVID-19 pandemic, the UN Secretary-General, the High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, and the High Commissioner for Human Rights all condemned reports of rising antisemitic stigmatization, hate speech and hate crimes.<sup>167</sup> Further, UNESCO developed an infographic specifically warning about the rise of antisemitic conspiracy theories in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic as part of its broader “#ThinkBeforeSharing” campaign.<sup>168</sup>

Additionally, in 2020, Secretary-General Guterres took action in response to Dr. Shaheed’s recommendation that he should “consider appointing a senior-level focal point in the Office of the UN Secretary-General with responsibility for engaging with the Jewish communities worldwide, as well as monitoring antisemitism and the response of the UN thereto.”<sup>169</sup> In 2020, Guterres appointed Miguel Ángel Moratinos, the High Representative of the UN Alliance of Civilizations, as his senior focal point to monitor the response of the United Nations to antisemitism.<sup>170</sup> In July, Moratinos issued a statement condemning antisemitic social media posts made by former leaders of the charity Islamic Relief Worldwide,<sup>171</sup> and called for civil society organizations to take a “zero-tolerance policy towards antisemitism,” and enforce strict codes of conduct for their personnel.<sup>172</sup> In August, he condemned the attack against the President of the Jewish community in Graz, Austria and acts of vandalism targeting the Graz synagogue as “despicable crimes targeting the Jewish community and their place of worship.”<sup>173</sup> In September, Moratinos convened a webinar on the COVID-19 impact on “the fabric of our societies,” including the increased incidence of “anti-immigrant, white supremacist, anti-Semitic and xenophobic conspiracy theories;” among the panelists was AJC Chief Policy and Political Affairs Officer Jason Isaacson, who offered highlights of JBI reporting on COVID-related antisemitic incidents.<sup>174</sup>

## **Recommendations**

The persistence of antisemitism, and its continued proliferation in the year since Dr. Shaheed published his “historic” report, demonstrate that far more effort is needed to combat this pernicious threat and that the need to do so remains urgent. Not only have Jewish communities continued to face deadly attacks, but antisemitic rhetoric has also continued to proliferate, espoused by speakers ranging from high-profile political and religious figures in traditional media outlets to private individuals from across the political spectrum communicating online. Particularly alarmingly, antisemitic rhetoric appears to have increased as the COVID-19 pandemic has emerged and as political tensions in the United States have deepened over the course of 2020, causing widespread fear and provoking an unprecedented increase in rhetoric scapegoating Jews for the global public health emergency and for mounting social discord. There are a number of cases in which antisemitic rhetoric has fueled discrimination, harassment, and even attempted mass violence; and the risk of additional such cases in the future is increasingly high.

In addition to his call for local authorities to provide Jewish individuals and communities with effective protection from antisemitic violence and discrimination, discussed above, Dr. Shaheed’s call for international, regional, national and local actors – officials, social media companies, and others – to carry out greater education, monitoring of and condemnation of antisemitism remains essential.

### **Governments** worldwide should:

- Undertake – or enhance their existing efforts – to effectively monitor, document, and take effective action in response to antisemitic hate crimes and discrimination, especially by establishing collaborative arrangements with Jewish communities and civil society organizations to address the challenge of persistent underreporting.
- Ensure that all Jewish places of worship, educational, cultural sites, and individuals requiring protection receive it.
- Adopt the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism, if they have not already done so, and ensure it is incorporated in training for public officials at all levels and in educational materials on recognizing antisemitism.
- Appoint national focal points to help coordinate domestic monitoring and educational initiatives on combating antisemitism, if they have not already done so.
- Make reasonable accommodations to general laws in order to allow individuals to manifest their religion or belief where doing so would not give rise to a disproportionate or undue burden or cause harm to the rights of others or to public health or safety, consistent with international human rights law.<sup>175</sup>

### **Public officials, religious leaders, and others in a position of influence** should:

- Promptly and publicly condemn antisemitic incidents and rhetoric, including antisemitic conspiracy theories related to COVID-19 and the QAnon movement, and take a zero-tolerance approach to such incidents.

### **Social media companies** should:

- Strengthen their capacity and willingness to actively identify and promptly remove antisemitic content and disinformation from their platforms and remove users and public and private groups that repeatedly post such content.
- Eliminate any exceptions to these policies for politicians.
- Use the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism in articulating their policies and rules on hate speech and as a training tool for content moderators.
- Correct algorithms that recommend or otherwise amplify antisemitic and other hateful content.
- Regularly disclose information about their moderation systems, including the quantity of human moderators addressing online hate, the training that such moderators receive, and their procedures for reinstating content that has been incorrectly removed.

**United Nations experts and officials should:**

- Express concern about the threat to human rights posed by antisemitic hate speech and condemn it, building on Dr. Shaheed’s April 17 warning about antisemitism during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Ensure that all UN personnel receive training on how to recognize antisemitism, with reference to the IHRA’s Working Definition of Antisemitism, and are instructed to reach out to Jewish communities in the countries in which they work to understand their concerns, consistent with the UN Secretary-General’s Plan of Action on Hate Speech (2019)<sup>176</sup> and the Secretary-General’s Call to Action for Human Rights (2020).<sup>177</sup>
- The Senior UN Focal Point on Antisemitism should collaborate with the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief in addressing antisemitism and the UN’s response thereto and should provide periodic briefings on his activities which are open to the public.

**States at the United Nations should:**

- Continue to take actions reflecting multilateral concern about antisemitism and encouraging all governments to combat it in ways that are consistent with their human rights obligations, including by convening discussions about antisemitism at the General Assembly and convening best-practices sharing meetings of the ‘Istanbul Process’ on combating religious intolerance.<sup>178</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, Ahmed Shaheed, *Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance*, U.N. Doc. A/74/358 (Sep. 20, 2019), <https://undocs.org/A/74/358> [hereinafter *Report of the Special Rapporteur*].

<sup>2</sup> Kantor Center, Tel Aviv University, and European Jewish Congress, *Antisemitism Worldwide 2019 and the beginning of 2020: General Analysis – Main Findings (Draft)* (April 20, 2020). Available at [http://www.kantorcenter.tau.ac.il/sites/default/files/Kantor%20Center%20Worldwide%20Antisemitism%20in%202019%20-%20Main%20findings\\_0.pdf](http://www.kantorcenter.tau.ac.il/sites/default/files/Kantor%20Center%20Worldwide%20Antisemitism%20in%202019%20-%20Main%20findings_0.pdf). The report documents 456 cases of major violent attacks in 2019 compared to 387 in 2018, resulting in the deaths of seven Jews and non-Jews; attacks on 53 synagogues (12%) and 28 community centers and schools (6 percent); a 47% increase in life-endangering threats; and a 24% increase in attacks on private property.

<sup>3</sup> Harriet Sherwood, *Antisemitic incidents hit new high in 2019, according to study*, *The Guardian* (Feb. 5, 2020), <https://www.theguardian.com/news/2020/feb/06/antisemitic-incidents-hit-new-high-in-2019-according-to-study>. 1,805 incidents last year, the highest number ever logged in a calendar year and a 7% increase on 2018; 82% rise in online antisemitic incidents, from 384 in 2018 to 697 last year.

<sup>4</sup> In Germany, authorities recorded 2,032 crimes motivated by anti-Semitism in 2019 - a rise of 13% over 2018, and the highest since those statistics were collected. Ben Knight, *Germany sees rise in anti-Semitic, political crimes*, *DW* (May 27, 2020), <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-antisemitism-crimes/a-53583839>.

<sup>5</sup> After failing to enter the synagogue, Stephan Balliet, 27, armed with a sub-machine gun and explosives, killed two civilians nearby and injured two others. Balliet live-streamed the attack on the gaming website Twitch, during which he said that Jews were the cause of the world’s problems. In his manifesto, he stated, “Kill as many anti-Whites as possible, Jews preferred.” Rick

Noack, Luisa Beck and Loveday Morris, *Gunman live-streamed attack outside German synagogue that left two dead*, The Washington Post (Oct. 9, 2019), [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/shooting-near-synagogue-in-germany-leaves-at-least-two-people-dead-police-say/2019/10/09/08214514-ea89-11e9-9306-47cb0324fd44\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/shooting-near-synagogue-in-germany-leaves-at-least-two-people-dead-police-say/2019/10/09/08214514-ea89-11e9-9306-47cb0324fd44_story.html).

<sup>6</sup> *Video showing deadly shooting near synagogue on Yom Kippur was livestreamed*, CBS News (Oct 9, 2019), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/germany-synagogue-shooting-halle-grenade-reportedly-thrown-jewish-cemetery-today-2019-10-09/>

<sup>7</sup> On October 28, a 70-year-old Jewish man was verbally attacked and physically assaulted by a man using antisemitic insults in the Pankow district in Berlin, Germany. Benjamin Weinthal, *70-year-old Jewish man in Berlin assaulted in violent antisemitic attack*, The Jerusalem Post (Oct. 30, 2019), <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/70-year-old-jewish-man-in-berlin-assaulted-in-violent-antisemitic-attack-606262>. On November 18, a 76-year-old man was assaulted by a teenager in the same neighborhood who called him a Jew during the attack. Toby Axelrod, *Elderly man beaten by teen in anti-Semitic attack in Berlin, police say*, The Times of Israel (Nov. 20, 2019), <https://www.timesofisrael.com/elderly-man-beaten-by-teen-in-anti-semitic-attack-in-berlin-police-say/>.

<sup>8</sup> Ciarán Fahey, *Assaults, arson, slurs: Report finds anti-Semitism in Berlin*, AP News (Sep. 22, 2020), <https://apnews.com/article/berlin-race-and-ethnicity-anti-semitism-archive-arson-ddc313b520a812c7b8050a49b05803c1>; RIAS Berlin, *Antisemitische Vorfälle in Berlin: Januar Bis Juni 2020* (2020). Available at [https://report-antisemitism.de/en/documents/2020-09-22\\_rias-be\\_Annual\\_Antisemitische-Vorfaelle-Halbjahr-2020.pdf](https://report-antisemitism.de/en/documents/2020-09-22_rias-be_Annual_Antisemitische-Vorfaelle-Halbjahr-2020.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> *Germany: Heidelberg fraternity under investigation for anti-Semitic crimes*, DW (Sep. 8, 2020), <https://www.dw.com/en/german-fraternity-heidelberg/a-54858057>.

<sup>10</sup> Katrin Bennhold, *Attack at Germany Synagogue During Sukkot Raises Anti-Semitism Fears*, New York Times (Oct. 4, 2020), <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/10/04/world/europe/synagogue-attack-germany-hamburg.html>.

<sup>11</sup> Julie Turkewitz, *White Supremacist Plotted to Bomb Colorado Synagogue, F.B.I. Says*, New York Times (Nov. 4, 2019), <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/04/us/pueblo-colorado-synagogue-richard-holzer.html>.

<sup>12</sup> On December 10, 2019, David N. Anderson and Francine Graham attacked the JC Kosher Supermarket in Jersey City, New Jersey, which resulted in their deaths, as well as the death of three persons inside the store and a Jersey City police officer. Following the incident, it was reported that Anderson had been linked to the Black Hebrew Israelite movement. The Southern Poverty Law Center describes the Black Hebrew Israelites as "a Black separatist movement known for harboring anti-white and antisemitic beliefs," and has listed 144 groups affiliated with it as Black separatist hate groups. *Deadly Attack in New Jersey – Possible Link to Black Separatist Movement*, Southern Poverty Law Center, <https://www.splcenter.org/deadly-attack-new-jersey-possible-link-black-separatist-movement>. Michael Gold and Ali Watkins, *Suspect in Jersey City Linked to Black Hebrew Israelite Group*, New York Times (Dec. 11, 2019), <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/11/nyregion/jersey-city-shooting.html>.

<sup>13</sup> On December 28, 2019, Grafton Thomas invaded the home of Rabbi Chaim Rottenberg and began stabbing guests who were there to celebrate the seventh night of Hanukkah. Rebecca Liebson et al., *Intruder Screamed ‘I’ll Get You’ in Attack on Jews at Rabbi’s Home*, New York Times (Dec. 29, 2019), <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/29/nyregion/monsey-new-york-stabbing.html>. Five guests were wounded, one of whom ultimately died in March. Azi Paybarah, *Rabbi Dies Three Months After Hanukkah Night Attack*, New York Times (Mar. 30, 2020), <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/30/nyregion/rabbi-monsey-attack.html>. It was reported that, following the attack, Thomas also attempted and was prevented from entering a synagogue next door. Rebecca Liebson et al., *5 Wounded in Stabbing at Rabbi’s House in N.Y. Suburb*, New York Times (Dec. 28, 2019), <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/28/nyregion/monsey-synagogue-stabbing-anti-semitic.html>. Thomas kept journals which referenced Jews and his internet search history included the question “why did Hitler hate the Jews,” “German Jewish Temples near me”, and “prominent companies founded by Jews in America. *Monsey stabbing: Journals of attacker ‘referenced Jews’*, BBC News (Dec. 30, 2019), <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-50952441>.

<sup>14</sup> Shayna Jacobs, *Acts of anti-Semitism are on the rise in New York and elsewhere, leaving Jewish community rattled*, Washington Post (Dec. 29, 2019), [https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/acts-of-anti-semitism-are-on-the-rise-in-new-york-and-elsewhere-leaving-jewish-community-rattled/2019/12/29/f8c20578-2a7e-11ea-bcb3-ac6482c4a92f\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/acts-of-anti-semitism-are-on-the-rise-in-new-york-and-elsewhere-leaving-jewish-community-rattled/2019/12/29/f8c20578-2a7e-11ea-bcb3-ac6482c4a92f_story.html); Andrea Salcedo and Sean Piccoli, *N.Y.P.D. Steps Up Patrols After Reports of 8 Anti-Semitic Incidents*, New York Times (Dec. 27, 2019), <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/27/nyregion/brooklyn-anti-semitic-attack.html>; *13 and Counting: NYPD Probing New Year’s Day Attack on Young Jewish Man in Williamsburg*, CBS New York (Jan. 1, 2020), <https://newyork.cbslocal.com/2020/01/01/brooklyn-anti-semitic-hate-crimes-jewish-men-attacked-williamsburg-crown-heights/>; Ari Feldman, *Six Nights of Hanukkah, Seven Anti-Semitic Incidents in New York City*, The Forward (Dec. 27, 2019), <https://forward.com/news/national/437346/anti-semitic-attacks-nyc-brooklyn/>.

<sup>15</sup> Press Release, U.S. Dept. of Justice, *East Longmeadow Man Charged with Attempted Arson at Longmeadow Assisted Living Residential Facility* (Apr. 15, 2020), <https://www.justice.gov/usao-ma/pr/east-longmeadow-man-charged-attempted-arson-longmeadow-assisted-living-residential>. Reportedly, social media users referring to the facility as “that jew nursing home in longmeadow massachusetts,” and designated April 3, 2020 as “jew killing day.” On April 15, police arrested John Michael Rathbun and charged him with two counts of attempted arson. Rathbun has denied having any involvement in white supremacist groups. Christopher Mathlas, *Man Arrested In Alleged White Supremacist Plot To Burn Down Jewish Nursing Home*, Huffington Post (Apr. 16, 2020), [https://www.huffpost.com/entry/john-michael-rathbun-arrested-jewish-nursing-home-arson-massachusetts\\_n\\_5e988e67c5b6ead1400972ee](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/john-michael-rathbun-arrested-jewish-nursing-home-arson-massachusetts_n_5e988e67c5b6ead1400972ee). Michael Levenson, *Man Charged With Trying to Blow Up Jewish Assisted-Living Home*, New York Times (Apr. 16, 2020), <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/16/us/massachusetts-bomb-jewish-nursing-home.html?login=smartlock&auth=login-smartlock>.



<sup>16</sup> Kelsey Penrose, *Carson City Sheriff's Office is asking for the public's help in locating person of interest involved in stabbing*, Carson Now (Jun. 20, 2020), <https://carsonnow.org/story/06/19/2020/carson-city-sheriff-s-office-asking-public-s-help-locating-stabbing-suspect-potenti>.

<sup>17</sup> *Police Looking For 3 Men Suspected Of Yelling Anti-Semitic Slurs, Beating Orthodox Jewish Man in Brooklyn*, CBS New York (Jul. 12, 2020), <https://newyork.cbslocal.com/2020/07/12/police-looking-for-3-men-suspected-of-yelling-anti-semitic-slurs-beating-orthodox-jewish-man-in-brooklyn/>.

<sup>18</sup> On December 29, a rabbi who was visiting London was physically assaulted by teenagers while walking through the Stamford Hill neighborhood. The two teens reportedly shouted "Kill Jews" and "F\*\*\* Jews" during the attack. Rosa Doherty, *Senior Rabbi 'beaten up in totally unprovoked attack' in Stamford Hill*, The Jewish Chronicle (Dec. 1, 2019), <https://www.thejc.com/news/uk-news/senior-rabbi-attacked-in-stamford-hill-1.493749>.

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.jta.org/quick-reads/israeli-student-beaten-on-paris-metro-train-after-he-was-heard-speaking-hebrew>

<sup>20</sup> *French Jewish Man Verbally Abused, Badly Beaten Up in Paris Elevator in Antisemitic Assault*, Algemeiner (Aug. 11, 2020), <https://www.algemeiner.com/2020/08/11/french-jewish-man-verbally-abused-badly-beaten-up-in-paris-elevator-in-antisemitic-assault/>.

<sup>21</sup> *French Court Convicts Man for Antisemitic Assault on Young Muslim in Process of Converting to Judaism*, Algemeiner (Sep. 8, 2020), <https://www.algemeiner.com/2020/09/08/french-court-convicts-man-for-antisemitic-assault-on-young-muslim-in-process-of-converting-to-judaism/>.

<sup>22</sup> *Italy Holocaust survivor Liliana Serge under guard amid death threats*, BBC (Nov. 7, 2019), <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-50329597>.

<sup>23</sup> *Austrian leaders condemn attack against Jewish community in Graz*, Reuters (Aug. 23, 2020), <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-austria-antisemitism/austrian-leaders-condemn-attack-against-jewish-community-in-graz-idUSKBN25J0AY>.

<sup>24</sup> On November 13, two men, including Jacob Vullum Andersen, a leader of the neo-Nazi group the Nordic Resistance Movement, were arrested for the cemetery vandalism and charged with gross vandalism and a hate crime offence. *Neo-Nazi held in Denmark over Jewish cemetery attack*, BBC (Nov. 14, 2019), <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-50417187>.

<sup>25</sup> Cnaan Liphshiz, *On Kristallnacht anniversary, yellow stars placed at Jewish sites in Scandinavia*, The Times of Israel (Nov. 11, 2019), <https://www.timesofisrael.com/on-kristallnacht-anniversary-yellow-stars-appear-on-jewish-sites-in-scandinavia/>.

<sup>26</sup> *France Creates Anti-hate Crime Office Amid anti-Semitic Wave*, Haaretz (Dec. 4, 2019), <https://www.haaretz.com/world-news/europe/france-creates-anti-hate-crime-office-amid-anti-semitic-wave-1.8223020>.

<sup>27</sup> The first incident in Huntsville occurred at the Etz Chayim temple on April 8, the first night of Passover. The second synagogue, the Chabad of Huntsville, was vandalized the following night. *Two Synagogues Vandalized With Swastikas, Anti-Semitic Slurs*, U.S. News (Apr. 10, 2020), <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/alabama/articles/2020-04-09/synagogue-vandalized-with-swastikas-anti-semitic-slurs>; *Two Synagogues in Alabama vandalized; Police Search for Perpetrator, Reward Offered*, The Jewish Press (Apr. 14, 2020), <https://www.jewishpress.com/news/us-news/two-synagogues-in-alabama-vandalized-police-search-for-perpetrator-reward-offered/2020/04/14/>. Following the first incident, the Mayor of Huntsville, Thomas Battle said, "The City of Huntsville condemns anti-Semitism in the strongest possible terms," and urged anyone with information to come forward to the police. *Huntsville synagogue vandalized with anti-Semitic graffiti*, WAFF 48 (Apr. 9, 2020), <https://www.waff.com/2020/04/09/huntsville-synagogue-vandalized-with-anti-semitic-graffiti/>

<sup>28</sup> *Anti-Semitic Graffiti Scrawled On Hollywood Temple Beth El*, Patch (Aug. 11, 2020), [https://patch.com/california/hollywood/anti-semitic-graffiti-scrawled-hollywood-temple-beth-el?utm\\_source=article-mostrecent&utm\\_medium=rss&utm\\_term=crime%20%26%20safety&utm\\_campaign=recirc&utm\\_content=normal](https://patch.com/california/hollywood/anti-semitic-graffiti-scrawled-hollywood-temple-beth-el?utm_source=article-mostrecent&utm_medium=rss&utm_term=crime%20%26%20safety&utm_campaign=recirc&utm_content=normal); For Los Angeles incident, see "FU\*K KIKES" Found on L.A. Synagogue Day Before Passover, StopAntisemitism (Apr. 7, 2020), <https://www.stopantisemitism.org/antisemitic-incidents-31/3d9mbxkiidxwr9goigxnc7tr4ztnqu>.

<sup>29</sup> *2 Sarasota temples hit by vandal*, ABC7 (Jul. 15, 2020), <https://www.mysuncoast.com/2020/07/15/sarasota-temples-hit-by-vandal/>.

<sup>30</sup> Molly Jirasek, *Synagogue vandalized in Peoria*, NBC 25 News Week.com (May 21, 2020), <https://week.com/2020/05/21/synagogue-vandalized-in-peoria/>.

<sup>31</sup> *Maryland Synagogue Defaced with Swastikas*, StopAntisemitism (Apr. 2, 2020), <https://www.stopantisemitism.org/antisemitic-incidents-31/maryland-synagogue-defaced-with-swastikas>.

<sup>32</sup> *Boro Park: Suspect Apprehended After Vandalizing Synagogue*, Vos Iz Neias (Jun. 2, 2020), <https://vosizneias.com/2020/06/02/boro-park-suspect-apprehended-after-vandalizing-synagogue-video/>.

<sup>33</sup> Keith Schweigert, *Police: Swastika painted on exterior wall of Keshet Israel Synagogue in Harrisburg*, Fox43 (Aug. 10, 2020), <https://www.fox43.com/article/news/local/dauphin-county/police-swastika-painted-on-exterior-wall-of-keshet-israel-synagogue-in-harrisburg/521-f288c22d-16cb-4477-bce9-6884ef8dabe8>.

<sup>34</sup> Dave Lavie, *LA synagogue vandalized as city rocked by violence*, Israel Hayom (May 31, 2020), <https://www.israelhayom.com/2020/05/31/la-synagogue-vandalized-as-city-rocked-by-violence/>; Aaron Bandler, *Los Angeles Synagogue Vandalized with 'Free Palestine,' 'F-Israel' Graffiti*, Jewish Journal (May 30, 2020), [https://jewishjournal.com/los\\_angeles/316561/los-angeles-synagogue-vandalized-with-free-palestine-f-israel-graffiti/](https://jewishjournal.com/los_angeles/316561/los-angeles-synagogue-vandalized-with-free-palestine-f-israel-graffiti/).

<sup>35</sup> Paul Dudley, *Anti-Semitic graffiti painted outside Gates of Prayer Cemetery*, 4WWL TV (Jun. 8, 2020), <https://www.wvltv.com/article/news/local/orleans/anti-semitic-graffiti-painted-outside-gates-of-prayer-cemetery/289-a9f78fcd-994a-45ca-a81f-d47ea01aa85a>.

<sup>36</sup> *Nashville Holocaust Memorial desecrated with antisemitic messages*, Southern Jewish Life (Jun. 14, 2020), <http://www.sjlmag.com/2020/06/nashville-holocaust-memorial->

[desecrated.html?fbclid=IwAR2ShgHLCAfkXhJBZgEXRr8DPJgvJ-QTOLguBJLbcL-wRSH-CMuTWLfgasA](#); Jessica Bliss, *Nashville Holocaust Memorial at Gordon Jewish Community Center*, Nashville Tennessean (Jun. 15, 2020), <https://www.tennessean.com/story/news/local/2020/06/15/anti-semitic-message-left-nashville-jewish-community-center/3189359001/>.

<sup>37</sup> Yousef Baig, *Fountain dedicated to Holocaust survivors vandalized at Santa Rosa cemetery*, The Press Democrat (Jun. 15, 2020), <https://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/news/fountain-dedicated-to-holocaust-survivors-vandalized-at-santa-rosa-cemetery/?artslide=0&sba=aas>.

<sup>38</sup> Chase Laudenslager, *Holocaust Memorial in Marion Square vandalized*, NBC CountOn News 2 (Jul. 30, 2020), <https://www.counton2.com/news/local-news/charleston-county-news/holocaust-memorial-in-marion-square-vandalized/>.

<sup>39</sup> Cnaan Liphshiz, *Joe Biden calls Delaware Chabad torching 'deeply disturbing'*, Jewish Telegraphic Agency (Aug. 28, 2020), <https://www.jta.org/quick-reads/joe-biden-calls-delaware-chabad-torching-deeply-disturbing>.

<sup>40</sup> For the incident at the Chabad Center, *More Antisemitism in Boston, Police Searching for Suspect*, StopAntisemitism (Apr. 8, 2020), <https://www.stopantisemitism.org/antisemitic-incidents-31/more-antisemitism-in-boston-police-searching>.

<sup>41</sup> Benjamin Weinthal, *Holy Jewish site of Esther and Mordechai set ablaze in Iran – reports*, Jerusalem Post (May 17, 2020), <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/holy-jewish-site-of-esther-and-mordechai-set-ablaze-in-iran-reports-628165>; USCIRF (@USCIRF), Twitter (Feb. 19, 2020),

[https://twitter.com/USCIRF/status/1230183451199987715?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwtterm%5E1230183451199987715%7Ctwgr%5Eshare\\_3&ref\\_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.timesofisrael.com%2Fus-troubled-over-report-iranians-want-to-raze-tomb-of-purim-heroes%2F](https://twitter.com/USCIRF/status/1230183451199987715?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwtterm%5E1230183451199987715%7Ctwgr%5Eshare_3&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.timesofisrael.com%2Fus-troubled-over-report-iranians-want-to-raze-tomb-of-purim-heroes%2F).

<sup>42</sup> *3 Holocaust monuments vandalized with swastikas in Ukraine and Russia*, Times of Israel (Sep. 19, 2020),

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/3-holocaust-monuments-vandalized-with-swastikas-in-ukraine-and-russia/#gs.g6t2no>.

<sup>43</sup> Aaron Reich, *Dozens of graves in Europe's oldest Jewish cemetery vandalized desecrated*, Jerusalem Post (Jul. 13, 2020), <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/dozens-of-graves-in-europes-oldest-jewish-cemetery-vandalized-desecrated-634852>.

<sup>44</sup> Katarzyna Markusz, *Jewish cemetery in Poland vandalized with spray-paint*, Jerusalem Post (Jun. 16, 2020),

<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/jewish-cemetery-in-poland-vandalized-with-spray-paint-631617>. Katarzyna Markusz,

*Tombstones vandalized at 3 Jewish cemeteries in Poland*, Jewish Telegraphic Agency (Sep. 14, 2020), <https://www.jta.org/quick-reads/tombstones-vandalized-at-3-jewish-cemeteries-in-poland>.

<sup>45</sup> John Torrendo, *Tomb stones appeared on the big swastika on Jewish cemetery - the mayor shocked*, WireFax News (Apr. 29, 2020), <http://www.wirenewsfax.com/tomb-stones-appeared-on-the-big-swastika-on-jewish-cemetery-the-mayor-shocked>; *Jewish Tombstones in Finland Defaced with Swastikas*, StopAntiSemitism (Apr. 29, 2020),

<https://www.stopantisemitism.org/antisemitic-incidents-33/jewish-tombstones-in-finland-defaced-with-swastikas>.

<sup>46</sup> Cnaan Liphshiz, *More than 30 headstones damaged at South African Jewish cemetery*, Forward (Aug. 21, 2020),

<https://forward.com/fast-forward/453053/more-than-30-headstones-damaged-at-south-african-jewish-cemetery/>.

<sup>47</sup> *Prayer shawls stuffed in toilets and Torah scrolls cut up in vandalism at Montreal synagogue*, Jewish Telegraphic Agency (May 31, 2020), <https://www.jta.org/quick-reads/prayer-shawls-stuffed-in-toilets-and-torah-scrolls-cut-up-in-vandalism-at-montreal-synagogue>; Joel Goldenberg, *CSL synagogue vandalized*, The Suburban (May 28, 2020),

[https://www.thesuburban.com/news/city\\_news/csl-synagogue-vandalized/article\\_24282bc0-735e-52a3-a2e7-d7e7f2ff1500.html](https://www.thesuburban.com/news/city_news/csl-synagogue-vandalized/article_24282bc0-735e-52a3-a2e7-d7e7f2ff1500.html).

<sup>48</sup> Cnaan Liphshiz, *'Free Palestine' graffiti sprayed on Austrian synagogue*, Jerusalem Post (Aug. 22, 2020),

<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/free-palestine-graffiti-sprayed-on-austrian-synagogue-639515>.

<sup>49</sup> *France Creates Anti-hate Crime Office Amid anti-Semitic Wave*, Haaretz (Dec. 4, 2019), <https://www.haaretz.com/world-news/europe/france-creates-anti-hate-crime-office-amid-anti-semitic-wave-1.8223020>.

<sup>50</sup> *Arsonists Attack Synagogue In Russia's Northwestern City of Arkhangelsk*, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (Apr. 14, 2020), <https://www.rferl.org/a/arsonists-attack-synagogue-in-russia-s-northwestern-city-of-arkhangelsk/30552610.html>.

<sup>51</sup> [Report of the Special Rapporteur](#), at ¶ 22.

<sup>52</sup> *Id.* at ¶ 23.

<sup>53</sup> *Id.* at ¶¶ 24-25.

<sup>54</sup> *Id.* at ¶ 35.

<sup>55</sup> *Id.* at ¶ 24.

<sup>56</sup> Khamenei.ir (@khamenei\_ir), Twitter (Sep. 1, 2020),

[https://twitter.com/khamenei\\_ir/status/1300770840175407111?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwtterm%5E1300770840175407111%7Ctwgr%5Eshare\\_3&ref\\_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.algemeiner.com%2F2020%2F09%2F01%2Fmajor-us-jewish-groups-decry-lack-of-twitter-action-after-latest-antisemitic-post-by-iran-leader%2F](https://twitter.com/khamenei_ir/status/1300770840175407111?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwtterm%5E1300770840175407111%7Ctwgr%5Eshare_3&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.algemeiner.com%2F2020%2F09%2F01%2Fmajor-us-jewish-groups-decry-lack-of-twitter-action-after-latest-antisemitic-post-by-iran-leader%2F).

<sup>57</sup> Yossi Lempkowicz, *Anti-Semitism is a central element of Qatar's school curriculum, according to report*, European Jewish Press (Sep. 1, 2020), <https://ejpress.org/anti-semitism-has-remained-prevalent-and-is-a-central-element-of-qatars-school-curriculum/>.

<sup>58</sup> *Qatar's Al Jazeera Network Broadcasts Islamist Cleric's Appeal to 'Kill Jews'*, Algemeiner (May 28, 2020),

<https://www.stopantisemitism.org/antisemitic-incidents-36/qatars-al-jazeera-continues-to-broadcast-radical-clerics-that-call-to-kill-jews>.

<sup>59</sup> [Report of the Special Rapporteur](#), at ¶ 20.

<sup>60</sup> Reuters, *Jewish group slams Polish public TV for 'hateful' role in election race*, Jerusalem Post (Jul. 10, 2020),

<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/jewish-group-slams-polish-public-tv-for-hateful-role-in-election-race-634624>. AJC

Central Europe, the Union of Jewish Communities in Poland, and the Chief Rabbi of Poland filed complaints with the Media Ethics Council and the National Council for Radio and Television in response.

<sup>61</sup> <https://www.jta.org/2020/04/15/global/polish-leaders-block-resolution-that-would-have-stopped-restitution-of-property-lost-during-the-holocaust>

<sup>62</sup> Viktor Orban, "Together we will succeed again," Magyar Nemzet (Sept. 21, 2020), <http://www.miniszterelnok.hu/together-we-will-succeed-again/>.

<sup>63</sup> Edit Inotai & Claudia Ciobanu, *Antisemitism creeps back as Hungary and Poland fail to draw red lines*, Reporting Democracy (Sep. 11, 2020), <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/09/11/antisemitism-creeps-back-as-hungary-and-poland-fail-to-draw-red-lines/>; *Fidesz and the Anti-Semitic Far Right: The Case of Erno Raffay*, Hungarian Spectrum (Sep. 4, 2020), <https://hungarianspectrum.org/2020/09/04/fidesz-and-the-anti-semitic-far-right-the-case-of-erno-raffay/>.

<sup>64</sup> *The rehabilitation of Horthy and the popularity of the radical right in Hungary*, Kafkadesk (Mar. 6, 2020), <https://kafkadesk.org/2020/03/06/the-rehabilitation-of-horthy-and-the-popularity-of-the-radical-right-in-hungary/>.

<sup>65</sup> *Id.*

<sup>66</sup> Vytautas Bruveris, *Pasisakė ir Amerikos žydų komitetas: „Ši veidmainystė turi baigtis“*, Lrytas.lt (Aug. 30, 2020), <https://www.lrytas.lt/lietuvsdiena/aktualijos/2020/08/30/news/vyriausybei-kliuvo-nuo-amerikos-zydu-komiteto-si-veidmainyste-turi-baigtis-16154994/>; *AJC, Lithuanian Jewish Community Urge Seimas Not to Honor Lithuanian Wartime Activist*, *AJC* (Jul. 2, 2020), <https://www.ajc.org/news/ajc-lithuanian-jewish-community-urge-seimas-not-to-honor-lithuanian-wartime-activist>.

<sup>67</sup> *Appointment of Holocaust museum advisor worries historians and Jewish community*, European Jewish Congress (Aug. 28, 2020), <https://eurojewcong.org/news/communities-news/lithuania/alleged-holocaust-distorter-named-top-adviser-to-lithuania-genocide-museum/>; Vytautas Bruveris, *Pasisakė ir Amerikos žydų komitetas: „Ši veidmainystė turi baigtis“*, Lrytas.lt (Aug. 30, 2020), <https://www.lrytas.lt/lietuvsdiena/aktualijos/2020/08/30/news/vyriausybei-kliuvo-nuo-amerikos-zydu-komiteto-si-veidmainyste-turi-baigtis-16154994/>.

<sup>68</sup> Zachary Keyser, *Canadian far-right politician calls for removal of Jews from Canada*, Jerusalem Post (Jul. 14, 2020), <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/canadian-far-right-politician-calls-for-removal-of-jews-from-canada-634977>.

<sup>69</sup> On October 31, Stephan Bradner, a parliamentarian for the far-right Alternative for Germany party posted a tweet aimed at the German musician Udo Lindenberg, who had recently been awarded the Federal Cross of Merit by the German government, calling the award a "Judas wage," for Lindenberg's criticism of the Alternative for Germany party. Bradner was subsequently removed from the post of chairman of the legal committee in the Bundestag with the support of all parties except his own. *German Far-Right Leader Stirs Controversy With Antisemitic 'Judas' Tweet Aimed at Popular Musician*, The Algemeiner (Nov. 4, 2019), <https://www.algemeiner.com/2019/11/04/german-far-right-leader-stirs-controversy-with-antisemitic-judas-tweet-aimed-at-popular-musician/>; Kyra Levine and Christoph Strack, *Germany: Far-Right lawmaker ousted from committee over anti-Semitism*, Deutsche Welle (Nov. 13, 2019), <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-far-right-lawmaker-ousted-from-committee-over-anti-semitism/a-51229697>.

<sup>70</sup> Uzay Bulut, *Turkey: The worst antisemitic incidents of 2019*, Ahval News (Jan. 24, 2020), <https://ahvalnews.com/anti-semitism/turkey-worst-antisemitic-incidents-2019>.

<sup>71</sup> Eldad Beck, *French gov't condemns anti-Semitism from far-left leader*, Israel Hayom (Dec. 18, 2019), <https://www.israelhayom.com/2019/12/18/french-govt-condemns-anti-semitism-from-far-left-leader/>.

<sup>72</sup> *AJC*, Facebook (July 17, 2020), <https://www.facebook.com/AJCGlobal/posts/10160101664689408/>.

<sup>73</sup> Community Security Trust, *Coronavirus and the Plague of Antisemitism* (2020). Available at <https://cst.org.uk/data/file/d/9/Coronavirus%20and%20the%20plague%20of%20antisemitism.1586276450.pdf>.

<sup>74</sup> *Working Definition of Antisemitism*, International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (Jun. 27, 2016), <https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/stories/working-definition-antisemitism>.

<sup>75</sup> Lee Rogers, *Jews Panic Over Accusations that the Coronavirus Pandemic is a Jewish Plot*, The Daily Stormer (Mar. 16, 2020), <https://dailystormer.su/jews-panic-over-accusations-that-the-coronavirus-pandemic-is-a-jewish-plot/>. *Far-right 'Jew coup' media outlet TruNews banned from YouTube*, The Times of Israel (Feb. 22, 2020), <https://www.timesofisrael.com/anti-semitic-media-outlet-trunews-banned-from-youtube-for-hate-speech/>; Irene Connelly, *Online anti-Semitism thrives around coronavirus, even on mainstream platforms*, The Forward (Mar. 11, 2020), <https://forward.com/news/441421/anti-semitic-coronavirus-response-thrives-online-even-on-mainstream/>; Marcy Oster, *Conservative pastor says coronavirus spread in synagogues is punishment from God*, The Times of Israel (Mar. 30, 2020), <https://www.timesofisrael.com/conservative-pastor-says-coronavirus-spread-in-synagogues-is-punishment-from-god/>; Aila Slisco, *Conservative Pastor Says Coronavirus Spreading in Synagogues is God's Punishment to Jews for 'Opposing' Jesus Christ*, Newsweek (Mar. 26, 2020), <https://www.newsweek.com/conservative-pastor-says-coronavirus-spreading-synagogues-gods-punishment-jews-opposing-1494578>; *Anti-Semitic broadcaster: COVID-19 blamed on Jews for not following Jesus*, Cleveland Jewish News (Mar. 27, 2020), [https://www.clevelandjewishnews.com/jns/anti-semitic-broadcaster-covid-blamed-on-jews-for-not/article\\_d6f6e55c-4872-5612-a47c-e0bc02831486.html](https://www.clevelandjewishnews.com/jns/anti-semitic-broadcaster-covid-blamed-on-jews-for-not/article_d6f6e55c-4872-5612-a47c-e0bc02831486.html). David Duke, the former KKK leader, tweeted on March 12, "Does president Donald Trump have coronavirus? Are Israel and the Global Zionist elite up to their old tricks?" Twitter has not removed the post. Emily Schrader, *Opinion, Virus brings spike in anti-Semitic posts*, The Detroit News (Apr. 2, 2020), <https://www.detroitnews.com/story/opinion/2020/04/02/opinion-virus-brings-spike-anti-semitic-posts/5111347002/>; David Duke (@DrDavidDuke), Twitter (Mar. 12, 2020) <https://twitter.com/DrDavidDuke/status/1238138234414211075>. David Duke, (@DrDavidDuke), Twitter (Mar. 17, 2020), <https://twitter.com/DrDavidDuke/status/1239953516850040840>. Jeremy Sharon, *Classic antisemitic allegations arise over coronavirus, says gov't report*, The Jerusalem Post (Mar. 25, 2020), <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/classic-antisemitic-allegations-arise-over-coronavirus-says-govt-report-621921>.

- <sup>76</sup> Shaya Lerner and David Andrew Weinberg, Guest Blog, *Battling COVID, Iran Regime Makes Jews its Bogyman*, Iran Wire (Apr. 3, 2020), <https://iranwire.com/en/blogs/26/6884>; *Negar Online Magazine, Issue 7: Statements of the leader of the Revolution on the Day of Eid al-Fitr* <http://farsi.khamenei.ir/video-content?id=45246>; *IRGC Cyber Division confirms Khamenei's claim that 'demons' are assisting Iran's enemies*, Jewish News Syndicate (Mar. 29, 2020), <https://www.jns.org/irgc-cyber-division-confirms-khameneis-assertion-that-demons-are-assisting-the-enemies/>.
- <sup>77</sup> *Palestinian Writers: The Coronavirus Is A Biological Weapon Employed by U.S., Israel Against Their Enemies*, MEMRI (Mar. 24, 2020), <https://www.memri.org/reports/palestinian-writers-coronavirus-biological-weapon-employed-us-israel-against-their-enemies>.
- <sup>78</sup> *A Zionist organization behind the "Corona" virus and the entity government claims to discover the vaccine*, Al Masdar (Mar. 2, 2020), <https://almasdar-dz.com/?p=103657>.
- <sup>79</sup> Shira Hanau, *Polish-language newspaper in Toronto blames Jews for the pandemic*, Jerusalem Post (Aug. 7, 2020), <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/polish-language-newspaper-in-toronto-blames-jews-for-the-pandemic-637804>.
- <sup>80</sup> *Experts on Iranian TV: COVID-19 May Be an American "Ethnic Weapon" Targeting the Genome of Iranians, Chinese*, MEMRI (Mar. 10, 2020), <https://www.memri.org/tv/iranian-discussion-coronavirus-ethnic-bioterrorism-weapon-america-target-iranians-chinese>. James Henry Fetzer, *Zionist elements developed deadlier strain of coronavirus against Iran: Academic*, PressTV (Mar. 5, 2020), <https://www.presstv.com/Detail/2020/03/05/620217/US-coronavirus-James-Henry-Fetzer>. Kevin Barrett, *US, Israel waging biological warfare on massive scale*, PressTV (Mar. 7, 2020), <https://www.presstv.com/Detail/2020/03/07/620357/US-Israel-waging-biological-warfare-on-massive-scale>; *Coronavirus was produced in a laboratory: Former CIA intel officer*, PressTV (Mar. 6, 2020), <https://www.presstv.com/Detail/2020/03/05/620213/Coronavirus-was-produced-in-a-laboratory>; *Informe: El nuevo coronavirus es resultado de un complot sionista*, HispanTV (Mar. 19, 2020), <https://www.hispantv.com/noticias/oriente-medio/451932/coronavirus-covid19-sionismo-israel>.
- <sup>81</sup> *Iraqi Political Analyst Muhammad Sadeq Al-Hashemi: Coronavirus Is an American, Jewish Plot to Reduce World Population; Rothschilds Paid for the Annihilation of Native Americans and Scots*, MEMRI (Feb. 26, 2020), <https://www.memri.org/tv/iraqi-analyst-sadeq-hashemi-dean-koontz-american-zionist-plot-coronavirus-world-population>.
- <sup>82</sup> *Jordanian Journalist: Judaism Is A Cancer That Harms Humanity; Barbaric Capitalism Is Rooted in Jewish Ideas*, MEMRI (Apr. 9, 2020), <https://www.memri.org/reports/jordanian-journalist-judaism-cancer-harms-humanity-barbaric-capitalism-rooted-jewish-ideas> ("Judaism that bears the greatest responsibility for the evil and brutal aspects of capitalism.").
- <sup>83</sup> *Palestinian-American Academic Seif Da'na on Hizbullah TV: Coronavirus May Have Leaked from U.S. Lab; Western Economic Policies Kill More People than COVID-19; Hitler Did Not Do Anything "Out of the Ordinary" But Is Viewed as Satan Because He Did It in Europe*, MEMRI (Mar. 29, 2020), <https://www.memri.org/tv/palestinian-ameircan-academic-seif-dana-western-economic-policies-kill-more-than-coronavirus-hitler-ordinary>.
- <sup>84</sup> *Arab Writers: The Coronavirus Is Part Of Biological Warfare Waged By The U.S. Against China*, MEMRI (Feb. 6, 2020), <https://www.memri.org/reports/arab-writers-coronavirus-part-biological-warfare-waged-us-against-china>.
- <sup>85</sup> *Herritar Batasuna. El coronavirus es un arma de Guerra del imperialismo*, Insurgente (Mar. 15, 2020), <https://insurgente.org/herritar-batasuna-el-coronavirus-es-un-arma-de-guerra-del-imperialismo/>.
- <sup>86</sup> Louis Fishman, *Opinion, As Coronavirus Cases Spike in Turkey, So Does anti-Semitism*, Haaretz (Mar. 19, 2020), <https://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/.premium-as-coronavirus-cases-spike-in-turkey-so-does-anti-semitism-1.8682725>; Louis Fishman (@Istqanbultelaviv), Twitter (Mar. 13, 2020), <https://twitter.com/Istqanbultelaviv/status/1238463787428167682?s=20>.
- <sup>87</sup> Esmeralda García Ramírez, *The crown of the empire staggers its own demon*, Aporrea (Mar. 15, 2020), <https://www.aporrea.org/actualidad/a288093.html>.
- <sup>88</sup> *Friday Sermon by Yemeni Scholar Ibrahim Al-Ubeidi: Coronavirus Is Part of a Plan by the Jews, Israel, U.S. to Control Mecca, Medina; The Suad Clan Is a Jewish Family Brought into Power in Order to Judaize These Cities*, MEMRI (Mar. 16, 2020), <https://www.memri.org/tv/friday-sermon-yemeni-scholar-ibrahim-ubeidi-coronavirus-jewish-plan-control-mecca-medina>.
- <sup>89</sup> Cnaan Liphshiz, *An unwanted symptom of the coronavirus crisis in France: Anti-Semitic conspiracy theories*, Jewish Telegraphic Agency (Apr. 2, 2020), <https://www.jta.org/2020/04/02/global/an-unwanted-symptom-of-the-coronavirus-crisis-in-france-anti-semitic-conspiracy-theories>.
- <sup>90</sup> Sheikh Qasim, Facebook (Mar. 13, 2020), <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=2543262879334881&set=gm.551826792116408&type=3&theater> [<https://perma.cc/BNZ9-LAKR>]. Mohammad Nasir, Facebook (Mar. 16, 2020), <https://www.facebook.com/mohammad.nasir.12576/posts/10158153805935948> [<https://perma.cc/TB7Z-QJZ8>]. @Qurat\_ul\_ain, Twitter (Mar. 13, 2020), [https://twitter.com/Qurat\\_ul\\_ain/status/1238536511877976065](https://twitter.com/Qurat_ul_ain/status/1238536511877976065) [<https://perma.cc/Y9XB-AVPG>]; Mustaghees ur Rahman (@MUsTaGheess), Twitter (Mar. 12, 2020), <https://twitter.com/MUsTaGheess/status/1238333792949088256?s=20> [<https://perma.cc/XXS5-KHKY>].
- <sup>91</sup> Cécile Guerin, *Opinion, Coronavirus, the 'Soros Bio-weapon': How Far Right anti-Semitic Conspiracy Theories Are Infecting Mainstream Politics*, Haaretz (Apr. 1, 2020), <https://www.haaretz.com/us-news/.premium-soros-bio-weapon-anti-semitic-far-right-coronavirus-theories-go-mainstream-1.8732195>.
- <sup>92</sup> *The Coronavirus: "a coincidence" or deliberately used as a bioweapon?*, Klagemauer (Mar. 5, 2020), <https://www.klagemauer.tv/Coronavirus-en/15818>.
- <sup>93</sup> Cnaan Liphshiz, *Belgian Daily Runs Cartoon Seen to Label Jewish Neighborhood 'Coronavirus Village'*, Jewish Journal (Aug. 14, 2020), <https://jewishjournal.com/news/worldwide/320332/belgian-daily-runs-cartoon-seen-to-label-jewish-neighborhood>.

[coronavirus-village/; Le Kroll du jour sur le village Covid à Anvers, Le Soir \(Aug. 7, 2020\),  
<https://plus.lesoir.be/317675/article/2020-08-07/le-kroll-du-jour-sur-le-village-covid-anvers>.](https://plus.lesoir.be/317675/article/2020-08-07/le-kroll-du-jour-sur-le-village-covid-anvers)

<sup>94</sup> Carlos Latuff (@LatuffCartoons), Twitter (Mar. 30, 2020), <https://twitter.com/LatuffCartoons/status/1244618294214230016>.

<sup>95</sup> Krassimir Ivandjiiski, *Coronavirus Bio-attack Carried Out by the Zio-Anglo-American Axis*, Strogo Sekretno, (Feb. 10, 2020), <https://strogosekretno.com/index.php?p=newsroom&nid=9498>.

<sup>96</sup> See e.g. Amir Hossein Jafari Nejadian, Iran Cartoon, <https://www.irancartoon.com/site/gallery/gallery-of-intl-cartoon-contest-we-defeat-coronavirus#&gid=1&pid=572>; Benjamin Weinthal, *Iranian health ministry holds antisemitic coronavirus cartoon contest*, The Jerusalem Post (Apr. 14, 2020), <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/iranian-health-ministry-holds-antisemitic-coronavirus-cartoon-contest-624646>.

<sup>97</sup> *2 Charged After Snatching Jewish Man's Face Mask in Anti-Semitic Attack, Police Say*, CBS New York (May 11, 2020), <https://newyork.cbslocal.com/2020/05/11/antisemitic-coronavirus-hate-crime/>.

<sup>98</sup> On March 23rd the FBI's New York office released a report to local law enforcement noting that online extremist groups are encouraging members who become infected with COVID-19 to spread the virus to police and Jews in New York. Josh Margolin, *White supremacists encouraging their members to spread coronavirus to cops, Jews, FBI says*, ABC News (Mar. 23, 2020), <https://abcnews.go.com/US/white-supremacists-encouraging-members-spread-coronavirus-cops-jews/story?id=69737522>. In a separate incident, a man from Inwood, New York was arrested for making terroristic threats after he called the police to complain that 500 students at a Yeshiva children's camp were not wearing face masks, and stating that he would shoot them if the police didn't handle the situation. *Police: Inwood man threatened to open fire at Yeshiva children's camp*, News 12 Long Island (Aug. 18, 2020), <http://longisland.news12.com/story/42511292/inwood-man-accused-of-making-terroristic-threat-against-yeshiva-childrens-camp>.

<sup>99</sup> In Lakewood, New Jersey, at least one person has been charged with a criminal offense for making violent threats against Jewish residents of the town, because he believed they were not following State-level ordinances designed to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Dan Alexander, *Man Arrested over Facebook Threat Against Jews in Lakewood*, New Jersey 101.5 (Mar. 28, 2020), <https://nj1015.com/man-arrested-after-facebook-threat-against-jews-in-lakewood/>; Erik Larsen, *Coronavirus in NJ: Howell man charged with 'terroristic threats' against Lakewood Community*, Asbury Park Press NJ (Mar. 27, 2020), <https://www.app.com/story/news/local/jackson-lakewood/2020/03/27/coronavirus-nj-howell-man-charged-terroristic-threats-against-lakewood-community/2931255001/>.

<sup>100</sup> Press Release, U.S. Dep't of Justice, East Longmeadow Man Charged with Attempted Arson at Longmeadow Assisted Living Residential Facility (Apr. 15, 2020), <https://www.justice.gov/usao-ma/pr/east-longmeadow-man-charged-attempted-arson-longmeadow-assisted-living-residential>. Reportedly, social media users referring to the facility as "that jew nursing home in longmeadow massachusetts," and a calendar event listed April 3, 2020 as "jew killing day." On April 15, police arrested John Michael Rathbun and charged him with two counts of attempted arson. Rathbun has denied having any involvement in white supremacist groups. Christopher Mathlas, *Man Arrested In Alleged White Supremacist Plot To Burn Down Jewish Nursing Home*, Huffington Post (Apr. 16, 2020), [https://www.huffpost.com/entry/john-michael-rathbun-arrested-jewish-nursing-home-arson-massachusetts\\_n\\_5e988e67c5b6ead1400972ee](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/john-michael-rathbun-arrested-jewish-nursing-home-arson-massachusetts_n_5e988e67c5b6ead1400972ee). As of this time, the FBI has not determined whether Rathbun was involved with the white supremacist group, but have seized his computer and noted that the investigation is continuing. Michael Levenson, *Man Charged With Trying to Blow Up Jewish Assisted-Living Home*, New York Times (Apr. 16, 2020), <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/16/us/massachusetts-bomb-jewish-nursing-home.html?login=smartlock&auth=login-smartlock>.

<sup>101</sup> Timothy Wilson was shot and killed on March 24 as FBI agents attempted to arrest him for plotting to blow up a hospital treating patients of the virus. It was reported that Wilson had initially planned to blow up either a mosque or a synagogue, but once the coronavirus pandemic began, he decided that a hospital would kill more people. *FBI Foils Neo-Nazi Plot to Blow Up Missouri Hospital*, Homeland Security News Wire (Mar. 27, 2020), <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20200327-fbi-foils-neo-nazi-plot-to-blow-up-missouri-hospital>; Nick R. Martin, *Heartland Terror*, The Informant (Mar. 25, 2020), <https://www.informant.news/p/heartland-terror>.

<sup>102</sup> *Conspiracy Beliefs Reduces the Following of Government Coronavirus Guidance*, University of Oxford (May 22, 2020), <https://www.ox.ac.uk/news/2020-05-22-conspiracy-beliefs-reduces-following-government-coronavirus-guidance-0>

<sup>103</sup> Pastor Rick Wiles also declared on the video, "Should the Jews take over the country, they will conduct a purge... That's the next thing that happens when Jews take over a country – they kill millions of Christians." Dan Maclean, *YouTube removes video of pastor saying Trump impeachment is a 'Jew coup' but doesn't ban him*, Independent (Dec. 1, 2019), <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-impeachment-jew-coup-pastor-rick-wiles-youtube-video-a9228521.html>; Senior U.S. government officials were criticized for failing to denounce the statements in the video, and for subsequently providing press credentials to TruNews to cover the World Economic Forum. Michael M. Grynbaum, *Site That Ran Anti-Semitic Remarks Got Passes for Trump Trip*, New York Times (Jan. 26, 2020), <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/26/business/media/trunews-white-house-press-credentials.html>.

<sup>104</sup> On April 18, at a protest of the stay-at-home orders in Columbus, Ohio, a protester was photographed holding an antisemitic sign, which had a picture of a rodent next to a Star of David, with the words "The Real Plague." Laura Hancock, *Some Ohio coronavirus protesters using anti-Semitic symbolism*, Cleveland.com (Apr. 19, 2020), <https://www.cleveland.com/open/2020/04/some-ohio-coronavirus-protesters-using-anti-semitism-symbolism.html>. During the May 1 protest of the stay-at-home orders in Illinois, protesters displayed signs with swastikas and other Nazi references. Dan Mihalopoulos, *Pritzker, Top Aids Counter Shutdown Protesters Who Compared Governor To Nazis*, WBEZ News (May 2, 2020), <https://www.wbez.org/stories/pritzker-counters-protesters-who-compared-him-to-nazis/ad0a5d6f-a08e-43fc-98d3-6bf81bc38661>. A man displayed a New Mexico flag turned into a swastika alongside a sign that stated "what's next

concentration camps?” at a COVID-19 rally in Farmington, NM. Rebecca Atkins, *Man carrying swastika flag at Farmington protest sparks outrage*, KRQE News (May 22, 2020), <https://www.krqe.com/health/coronavirus-new-mexico/man-carrying-swastika-flag-at-farmington-protest-sparks-outrage/>.

<sup>105</sup> Some of the recent protests in Germany have included participants holding signs portraying George Soros as the “bogeyman” in the pandemic and participants wearing a yellow Star of David on their chests. See Rob Schmitz, *Germans Protest Shutdown Even After Easing Of Coronavirus Restrictions*, NPR (May 18, 2020), <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/05/18/857756264/germans-protest-shutdown-even-after-easing-of-coronavirus-restrictions>; *Germany rocked by massive anti-lockdown protests*, New Straits Times (May 16, 2020), <https://www.nst.com.my/world/world/2020/05/593063/germany-rocked-massive-anti-lockdown-protests>; Ben Cohen, *Coronavirus Protests Will Boost Far-Right ‘Terrorist Radicalization’ in Germany*, *Antisemitism Expert Warns*, Algemeiner (May 12, 2020), <https://www.algemeiner.com/2020/05/12/coronavirus-protests-will-boost-far-right-terrorist-radicalization-in-germany-antisemitism-expert-warns/>; Yossi Lempkowitz, *Central Council of Jews in Germany condemns right-wing extremist violence in Berlin*, European Jewish Press (Sep. 1, 2020), <https://ejpress.org/central-council-of-jews-in-germany-condemns-right-wing-extremist-violence-in-berlin/>; *Anti-Semitism in Germany increased due to coronavirus protests*, DW (Sep. 1, 2020), <https://www.dw.com/en/anti-semitism-in-germany-increased-due-to-coronavirus-protests/a-54775939>.

<sup>106</sup> DeAnna Lorraine (@DeAnna4Congress), Twitter (May 30, 2020) <https://twitter.com/DeAnna4Congress/status/1266789521141579778?s=20>.

<sup>107</sup> Candace Owens (@RealCandaceO), Twitter (May 28, 2020), <https://twitter.com/RealCandaceO/status/1266061954285740033?s=20>; Ben Sales, *Florida Latinos are being flooded with anti-Semitic conspiracy theories ahead of the election*, Jewish Telegraphic Agency (Sep. 14, 2020), <https://www.jta.org/2020/09/14/united-states/florida-latinos-are-being-flooded-with-anti-semitic-conspiracy-theories-ahead-of-the-election>.

<sup>108</sup> Rachele Hampton, *4chan Trolls Impersonated Jewish Twitter Users. Again*. Slate (Aug. 21, 2019), <https://slate.com/technology/2019/08/4chan-trolls-impersonated-jewish-twitter-users-again.html>.

<sup>109</sup> Michael A. Fletcher, *DeSean Jackson’s anti-Semitic posts continue long history of tension over Farrakhan*, The Undeclared (Jul. 15, 2020), <https://theundefeated.com/features/desean-jacksons-anti-semitic-posts-continue-long-history-of-tension-over-farrakhan/>.

<sup>110</sup> Ben Beaumont-Thomas, *Wiley posts antisemitic tweets, likening Jews to Ku Klux Klan*, The Guardian (Jul. 24, 2020), <https://www.theguardian.com/music/2020/jul/24/wiley-accused-of-antisemitism-after-likening-jews-to-ku-klux-klan>.

<sup>111</sup> See YouTube, Google, Apple Music and Spotify urged to remove French rapper’s songs on Hitler, Jews and money, Jewish Telegraphic Agency (Sep. 22, 2020), <https://www.jta.org/quick-reads/youtube-google-apple-music-and-spotify-urged-to-remove-french-rappers-songs-on-hitler-jews-and-money>. For France, see also *Protesters shout ‘dirty Jews’ at Paris rally against police racism*, Jewish Telegraphic Agency (Jun. 14, 2020), <https://www.jta.org/quick-reads/protesters-shout-dirty-jews-at-paris-rally-against-police-racism> (Protesters demonstrating against police brutality against black people directed chants of “dirty Jews” at white counter-protesters).

<sup>112</sup> Michael Bamidele, *French Rapper Who Compared Himself To Adolf Hitler Under Investigation For Anti-Semitism*, The Guardian (Sep. 18, 2020), <https://guardian.ng/life/french-rapper-who-compared-himself-to-adolf-hitler-under-investigation-for-anti-semitism/>.

<sup>113</sup> *AJC Position Paper: QAnon*, AJC (Aug. 27, 2020), <https://www.ajc.org/news/ajc-position-paper-qanon>.

<sup>114</sup> Veronica Stracqualursi, *The congressional candidates who have embraced the basesless Qanon conspiracy theory*, CNN (Aug. 12, 2020), <https://www.cnn.com/2020/08/12/politics/qanon-congressional-candidates/index.html>.

<sup>115</sup> As Dr. Shaheed noted, “Restrictions on kosher meat or male circumcision do not appear to be driven solely by antisemitism, but they may interfere with the ability of Jews to observe rituals and ceremonies in accordance with the precepts of their religion or belief.” *Report of the Special Rapporteur*, at ¶ 43.

<sup>116</sup> *Polish parliament votes to ban \$1.8 billion industry of kosher and halal meat for export*, Jewish Telegraphic Agency (Sep. 18, 2020), <https://www.jta.org/quick-reads/polish-parliament-votes-to-ban-1-8-billion-industry-of-kosher-and-halal-meat-for-export>. See also US Commission on International Religious Freedom, *Factsheet: Ritual Slaughter* (October 2020), <https://www.uscirf.gov/sites/default/files/2020%20Legislation%20Factsheet%20-%20Ritual%20slaughter.pdf>

<sup>117</sup> *EU court adviser calls for Belgian ritual-slaughter ban to be struck down*, Jewish News Syndicate (Sep. 10, 2020), <https://www.jns.org/eu-court-adviser-calls-for-belgian-ritual-slaughter-ban-to-be-struck-down/>.

<sup>118</sup> *Denmark refuses to ban the ritual circumcision of boys*, CPH (Sep. 11, 2020), <http://cphpost.dk/?p=118305>.

<sup>119</sup> Report of the Special Rapporteur, at ¶ 77.

<sup>120</sup> *Id.* at ¶ 55.

<sup>121</sup> *The Working Definition of Antisemitism*, AJC, <https://www.ajc.org/the-working-definition-of-antisemitism>.

<sup>122</sup> See International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 999 UNTS 171 (entered into force 23 March 1976) (ICCPR), article 18.

<sup>123</sup> See ICCPR article 20(2).

<sup>124</sup> *Report of the Special Rapporteur*, at ¶ 75.

<sup>125</sup> *Id.* at ¶ 80.

<sup>126</sup> See *Id.*, at ¶¶ 70-72, 76, 87-88. See also Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial, or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence* (2012) available at [www.ohchr.org](http://www.ohchr.org).

<sup>127</sup> Local government officials have also called out antisemitism. Following the incidents in Lakewood, New Jersey connected to coronavirus, public officials have responded to these incidents by urging residents not to scapegoat Jewish Orthodox people. At a coronavirus briefing on March 26, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy noted that, “folks are using a couple of examples [of noncompliance] to extrapolate and start blaming and vilifying communities. In this case, our Jewish brothers and sisters.” French President Emmanuel Macron condemned the rise in antisemitic violence in France on February 18 through a tweet on his way to a protest against repeated attacks on Jews within the nation, posting that “Anti-Semitism is the opposite of what France is.” James McAuley, *As anti-Semitism rises in France, Macron’s government struggles to respond*, Washington Post (Feb. 19, 2019), [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/as-anti-semitism-rises-in-france-macrons-government-struggles-to-respond/2019/02/19/2aa9fb52-345a-11e9-8375-e3dcf6b68558\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/as-anti-semitism-rises-in-france-macrons-government-struggles-to-respond/2019/02/19/2aa9fb52-345a-11e9-8375-e3dcf6b68558_story.html).

<sup>128</sup> *Germany warns of spike in anti-Semitism linked to coronavirus*, The Local (Apr. 7, 2020),

<https://www.thelocal.de/20200407/germany-warns-of-spike-in-anti-semitism-linked-to-coronavirus>.

<sup>129</sup> Ali Miraj, *Can Keir Starmer turn a party of student protest into a party of government?* The Article (Aug. 24, 2020),

<https://www.thearticle.com/can-keir-starmer-turn-a-party-of-student-protest-into-a-party-of-government>; *Britain’s Labour Party apologises to ex-staff over anti-Semitism row*, Reuters (Jul. 22, 2020), <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-britain-politics-labour/britains-labour-party-apologises-to-ex-staff-over-anti-semitism-row-idUSKCN24N1UX?il=0>;

Robert Philpot, *New UK Labour head is flushing out anti-Semitism. Where will he stand on Israel?* Times of Israel (Jul. 8, 2020),

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/new-uk-labour-head-is-flushing-out-anti-semitism-where-will-he-stand-on-israel/#gs.fldp8a>.

<sup>130</sup> UNESCO’s intergovernmental committee for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage said it was withdrawing the carnival “over recurring repetition of racist and antisemitic representations” at the event. *UNESCO removes Belgium carnival with anti-Semitic float from heritage list*, Jewish News Syndicate (Dec. 16, 2019), <https://www.jns.org/unesco-removes-belgium-carnival-with-anti-semitic-float-from-heritage-list/>.

<sup>131</sup> Eddy Wax & Laurie Tritschler, *Anti-Semitic carnival polarizes Belgian politics*, Politico (Feb. 24, 2020),

<https://www.politico.eu/article/anti-semitic-carnival-polarizes-belgian-politics/>.

<sup>132</sup> *Report of the Special Rapporteur*, at ¶¶ 75-79.

<sup>133</sup> *Id.* at ¶¶ 78 & 88.

<sup>134</sup> *France pledges hate crime office after Jewish cemetery desecrated*, France 24 (Apr. 12, 2019),

<https://www.france24.com/en/20191204-france-pledges-hate-crime-office-after-jewish-cemetery-desecrated>.

<sup>135</sup> European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, *Antisemitism: Overview of Antisemitic Incidents Recorded in The European Union 2009-2019* (2020). Available at

[https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra\\_uploads/fra-2020-antisemitism-overview-2009-2019\\_en.pdf](https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2020-antisemitism-overview-2009-2019_en.pdf).

<sup>136</sup> *German Antisemitism Tsar Urges Amending Criminal Code to Specify Offenses Against Jews*, Allgemeiner (Nov. 13, 2019),

<https://www.algemeiner.com/2019/11/13/german-antisemitism-tsar-urges-amending-criminal-code-to-specify-offenses-against-jews/>.

<sup>137</sup> *Executive Order on Combating Anti-Semitism*, WhiteHouse.gov (Dec. 11, 2019), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-combating-anti-semitism/>.

<sup>138</sup> *Urge Congress to Improve Hate Crimes Reporting*, AJC, <https://global.ajc.org/take-action/NOHATE>.

<sup>139</sup> *Report of the Special Rapporteur*, at ¶¶ 86-87.

<sup>140</sup> Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook (Jun. 26, 2020), <https://www.facebook.com/zuck/posts/10112048980882521>.

<sup>141</sup> *Id.*

<sup>142</sup> Melissa Weiss, *Facebook cracks down on hate speech and expands definition of antisemitism*, Jewish Insider (Aug. 11, 2020),

<https://jewishinsider.com/2020/08/facebook-cracks-down-on-hate-speech-and-expands-definition-of-antisemitism/>.

<sup>143</sup> Vidhi Choudhary, *Facebook Ramps Up Purge of Hate Speech, Misleading COVID-19 Content in Runup to Elections*, Forbes (Aug. 11, 2020),

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/vidhichoudhary/2020/08/11/facebook-ramps-up-purge-of-hate-speech-misleading-covid-19-content-in-runup-to-elections/#7fda308273da>.

<sup>144</sup> Letter from Monika Bickert, Vice President, Content Policy, Facebook (Aug. 11, 2020),

<https://pbs.twimg.com/media/EfJ7BZ1U8AEUAXm?format=png&name=large>.

<sup>145</sup> *An Update to How We Address Movements and Organizations Tied to Violence*, Facebook (Aug. 19, 2020),

<https://about.fb.com/news/2020/08/addressing-movements-and-organizations-tied-to-violence/>; Nick Statt, *Facebook completely bans QAnon and labels it a ‘militarized social movement,’* The Verge (Oct. 6, 2020),

<https://www.theverge.com/2020/10/6/21504887/facebook-qanon-ban-all-apps-pages-groups-instagram-accounts>.

<sup>146</sup> Monika Bickert, *Removing Holocaust Denial Content*, Facebook (Oct. 12, 2020),

<https://about.fb.com/news/2020/10/removing-holocaust-denial-content/>.

<sup>147</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>148</sup> Tamar Beer, *Facebook to remove Holocaust denial content from social media platform*, Jerusalem Post (Oct. 13, 2020),

<https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/facebook-bans-holocaust-denial-645455>.

<sup>149</sup> Andrew Hutchinson, *Twitter Updates Hate Speech Policy to Include Links to ‘Hateful’ Content*, Social Media Today (Jul. 28, 2020),

<https://www.socialmediatoday.com/news/twitter-updates-hate-speech-policy-to-include-links-to-hateful-content/582482/>; *Our approach to blocking links*, Twitter (Jul. 2020), <https://help.twitter.com/en/safety-and-security/phishing-spam-and-malware-links>.

<sup>150</sup> Steven Melendez, *Twitter automatically flags more than half of all tweets that violate its rules*, Fast Company (Jul. 17, 2020),

<https://www.fastcompany.com/90528941/twitter-automatically-flags-more-than-half-of-all-tweets-that-violate-its-rules>.

- <sup>151</sup> *How Twitter Started to Control What Public Figures Say Online*, SciencesPo (Jul. 9, 2020), <https://www.sciencespo.fr/public/chaire-numerique/en/2020/07/09/how-twitter-started-to-control-what-public-figures-say-online/>.
- <sup>152</sup> Andrew Hutchinson, *TikTok Provides an Update on its Approach to Hate Speech and Offensive Content*, Social Media Today (Aug. 20, 2020), <https://www.socialmediatoday.com/news/tiktok-provides-an-update-on-its-approach-to-hate-speech-and-offensive-cont/583905/>; Erin Han, *Countering hate on TikTok*, TikTok (Aug. 20, 2020), <https://newsroom.tiktok.com/en-us/countering-hate-on-tiktok>.
- <sup>153</sup> Alicia Lee, *New Jersey's governor accused a Facebook group's page of being anti-Semitic. Facebook shut it down*, CNN (Feb. 6, 2020), <https://www.cnn.com/2020/02/06/us/facebook-new-jersey-hate-speech-trnd/index.html>. In February, YouTube permanently banned the fundamentalist Christian TruNews channel, which repeatedly aired antisemitic content; however, episodes of TruNews can still be found on other YouTube channels. JTA and Marcy Oster, *YouTube Permanently Bans TruNews Channel that Called Trump's Impeachment 'Jew Coup'*, Haaretz (Feb. 24, 2020), <https://www.haaretz.com/us-news/youtube-permanently-bans-channel-that-called-trump-s-impeachment-jew-coup-1.8569322>. In early February, Facebook removed a page called Rise Up Ocean County, which targeted the Orthodox Jewish community in Lakewood, New Jersey, after local leaders condemned it as antisemitic. Ben Sales, *Facebook takes down New Jersey page accused of anti-Semitism*, Jewish Telegraphic Agency (Feb. 5, 2020), <https://www.jta.org/quick-reads/facebook-takes-down-new-jersey-countys-page-accused-of-anti-semitism>. In February, Facebook and Twitter reportedly suspended an antisemitic Telegram channel's accounts on their platforms. Alex Kaplan, *An anti-Semitic Telegram channel targeting Jews created a Facebook page. Facebook said it doesn't violate its policies.*, Media Matters (Feb. 25, 2020), <https://www.mediamatters.org/facebook/anti-semitic-telegram-channel-targeting-jews-created-facebook-page-facebook-said-it-doesnt>. In March, Twitter removed posts made by a former sheriff in Wisconsin after he tweeted that George Soros was involved in the spread of hysteria surrounding coronavirus. Twitter removed these posts for violating its policies. Eric Litke, *Former Sheriff David Clarke rants coronavirus is just "the damn flue" (it's not)*, PolitiFact (Mar. 19, 2020), <https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2020/mar/19/david-clarke-jr/former-sheriff-david-clarke-rants-coronavirus-just/>. Apple reportedly blocked approximately 20 far-right Telegram channels that posted content praising mass shootings, and encouraged the intimidation of individuals based on their religion, race and ethnicity on January 20. *Extremist Content Online: Anti-Semitic Instagram Account That Has Advocated for Violence Against Jews Not Removed*, Counter Extremism Project (Jan. 27, 2020), <https://www.counterextremism.com/press/extremist-content-online-anti-semitic-instagram-account-has-advocated-violence-against-jews>.
- <sup>154</sup> Apple's App Store Review Guidelines ban apps that contain "Defamatory, discriminatory, or mean-spirited content, including references or commentary about religion, race, sexual orientation, gender, national/ethnic origin, or other targeted groups," while Google Play's Developer Policy bans apps "that promote violence, or incite hatred against individuals or groups based on race or ethnic origin, religion." Ali Breland, *Ahead of Richmond Rally, Apple and Google Are Letting Nazis Use This App to Coordinate*, Mother Jones (Jan. 19, 2020), <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2020/01/telegram-nazis-richmond/>.
- <sup>155</sup> Andrew Torba, *It's Time To Build a Free Speech Internet Of Our Own*, Gab (Oct. 18, 2019), <https://news.gab.com/2019/10/18/its-time-to-build-a-free-speech-internet-of-our-own/#more-1363>.
- <sup>156</sup> Gabriel Weimann and Natalie Masri, *The Virus of Hate: Far-Right Terrorism in Cyberspace*, International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (Apr. 5, 2020), [https://www.ict.org.il/Article/2528/The\\_Virus\\_of\\_Hate#gsc.tab=0](https://www.ict.org.il/Article/2528/The_Virus_of_Hate#gsc.tab=0).
- <sup>157</sup> Natasha Lomas, *Germany tightens online hate speech rules to make platforms send reports straight to the feds*, Tech Crunch (Jun. 19, 2020), <https://techcrunch.com/2020/06/19/germany-tightens-online-hate-speech-rules-to-make-platforms-send-reports-straight-to-the-feds/>.
- <sup>158</sup> Aurelien Breeden, *French Court Strikes Down Most of Online Hate Speech Law*, New York Times (Jun. 18, 2020), <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/18/world/europe/france-internet-hate-speech-regulation.html>.
- <sup>159</sup> For example prohibiting "undesirable political content" (Kenya) any content that "incites hatred" (Venezuela), any content deemed "offensive" by government authorities (Vietnam), any comments "against public interest" (Singapore), and comments that pose a risk to "social peace or to the economic order" (Brazil).
- <sup>160</sup> Hon. Jacinda Ardern, *Christchurch Call: One year Anniversary*, New Zealand (May 15, 2020), <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/christchurch-call-one-year-anniversary>.
- <sup>161</sup> *Rise in antisemitic hatred during COVID-19 must be countered with tougher measures, says UN expert*, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) (April 17, 2020), <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25800&LangID=E>.
- <sup>162</sup> *UN expert warns against religious hatred and intolerance during COVID-19 outbreak*, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) (Apr. 22, 2020), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25814&LangID=E>.
- <sup>163</sup> *Report of the Special Rapporteur*, at ¶ 89.
- <sup>164</sup> Felice Gaer, *Fighting Antisemitism and Hate Speech: Is the UN an Ally or an Antagonist?*, AJC Advocacy Anywhere (Apr. 20, 2020), <https://www.ajc.org/news/fighting-antisemitism-and-hate-speech-is-the-un-an-ally-or-an-antagonist-ajc-advocacy-anywhere>.
- <sup>165</sup> *75 years after Auschwitz liberation, antisemitism still threatens 'foundations of democratic societies'*, UN News (Jan. 23, 2020), <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/01/1055851>.
- <sup>166</sup> *2020 Holocaust Remembrance Events: Statements in 2020*, The Holocaust and the United Nations Outreach Programme, <https://www.un.org/en/holocaustremembrance/2020/statements2020.shtml>
- <sup>167</sup> See United Nations, *COVID-19 and Human Rights: We are all in this together* (Apr. 2020). Available at [https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/un\\_policy\\_brief\\_on\\_human\\_rights\\_and\\_covid\\_23\\_april\\_2020.pdf](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/un_policy_brief_on_human_rights_and_covid_23_april_2020.pdf); *A Joint call for*



*Solidarity, Compassion and Unity*, UNAOC (Mar. 26, 2020), <https://www.unaoc.org/2020/03/a-joint-call-for-solidarity-compassion-and-unity/>; Michelle Bachelet (@mbachelet), Twitter (Apr. 28, 2020), [https://twitter.com/mbachelet/status/1255160337948606464?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Eembeddedtimeline%7Ctwttrm%5Eprofile%3AUNHumanRights%7Ctwcon%5Etimelinechrome&ref\\_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ohchr.org%2FEN%2Fpages%2Fhome.aspx](https://twitter.com/mbachelet/status/1255160337948606464?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Eembeddedtimeline%7Ctwttrm%5Eprofile%3AUNHumanRights%7Ctwcon%5Etimelinechrome&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ohchr.org%2FEN%2Fpages%2Fhome.aspx).

<sup>168</sup> *Conspiracy Theories: The link to antisemitism*, UNESCO, <https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/unesco-conspiracy-english-4.jpg>.

<sup>169</sup> *Report of the Special Rapporteur*, at ¶ 88.

<sup>170</sup> Zachary Keyser, *United Nations appoints first 'UN Focal Point' to monitor antisemitism*, Jerusalem Post (Jul. 30, 2020), <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/united-nations-appoints-first-un-focal-point-to-monitor-antisemitism-636863>.

<sup>171</sup> On July 22, Heshmat Khalifa, who chaired the Australian branch of IRW, resigned after it was revealed that he had made Facebook posts between 2014–2015 in which he called Jews, “grandchildren of monkeys and pigs” and praised Hamas. It was then reported that Almutaz Tayara, who joined the board after Khalifa resigned, had also made antisemitic social media posts from 2014–2015. The entire board of IRW was set to resign on August 23. Tamar Beeri, *Charity leader calls Jews 'grandchildren of monkeys, pigs', resigns*, Jerusalem Post (Jul. 26, 2020), <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/charity-leader-resigns-after-calling-jews-grandchildren-of-monkeys-pigs-636266>; *Entire Islamic Relief Group Forced to Resign After More Antisemitism Exposed*, StopAntisemitism (Aug. 23, 2020), <https://www.stopantisemitism.org/antisemitic-incidents-45/entire-islamic-relief-group-resigns-after-more-antisemitism-exposed>.

<sup>172</sup> *Press Statement on Combating Antisemitism*, UN Alliance of Civilizations (Jul. 28, 2020), <https://www.unaoc.org/2020/07/press-statement-on-combating-antisemitism/>.

<sup>173</sup> *Press Statement on the attack on the President of the Jewish Community in Graz, Austria*, UN Alliance of Civilizations (Aug. 23, 2020), <https://www.unaoc.org/2020/08/press-statement-on-the-attack-on-the-president-of-the-jewish-community-in-graz-austria/>.

<sup>174</sup> *Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination: The Tearing of Our Societies*, UN Alliance of Civilizations (Sep. 29, 2020).

<sup>175</sup> Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, Freedom of religion or belief and gender equality, UN Doc. A/HRC/43/48 (Feb. 27, 2020) ¶¶ 66 and 72.

<sup>176</sup> United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech (2018). Available at <https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/UN%20Strategy%20and%20Plan%20of%20Action%20on%20Hate%20Speech%2018%20June%20SYNOPSIS.pdf>.

<sup>177</sup> UNSG António Guterres, *The Highest Aspiration: A Call to Action for Human Rights* (2020). Available at [https://www.un.org/sg/sites/www.un.org.sg/files/atoms/files/The\\_Highest\\_Aspiration\\_A\\_Call\\_To\\_Action\\_For\\_Human\\_Rights\\_English.pdf](https://www.un.org/sg/sites/www.un.org.sg/files/atoms/files/The_Highest_Aspiration_A_Call_To_Action_For_Human_Rights_English.pdf).

<sup>178</sup> See Felice Gaer, Director of AJC’s Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights, Plenary Remarks at the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Istanbul Process – “Combating religious intolerance: Building inclusive and resilient societies, and pushing back against incitement to hatred and violence” (Nov. 18, 2019). Available at <https://www.jbi-humanrights.org/IBI%20Felice%20Gaer%20Plenary%20Remarks%207th%20Istanbul%20Process%20Mtg%20The%20Hague%20Nov%202019.pdf>.