

INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT ON
COMBATING ANTISEMITISM

ACTION PLAN

I. FOSTER EDUCATION

1. Expanding Jewish life and culture in school curricula: Foster understanding of Judaism by teaching Jewish history and culture in different subjects at the same time

While the history of National Socialism and all crimes that were committed by the fascist regime are relatively broadly taught in most history classes around the world, antisemitism in other periods of time as well as political topics concerning Israel as well as Jewish life and culture only play a marginal role in European (and other) school curricula. This is especially problematic as kids and juveniles should learn about antisemitism not only as being part of a political system in place in Germany between 1933 to 1945, but as a phenomenon more than 2,000 years old and present until today.

It is equally important that Judaism should not only be associated with great crimes and tragedies, but also be featured in all school curricula as a self-evident and vibrant part of European life and culture.

2. Inclusion of mandatory didactic courses for future teachers and other public officials at university and other levels on: Jewish life, the combat of antisemitism, the Shoah, and Israel as a country for Jews

In order to achieve the goals described in action point 1, a proper education of educators regarding Israel and Jewish life in Europe has to be guaranteed.

This approach will also help to enable e.g. teachers to properly react to antisemitism taking place on school yards and in classrooms or policemen confronted with antisemitic behavior.

3. Establishment of further departments of Jewish studies and of Jewish history, Israel studies Holocaust studies, and post-Holocaust studies at universities across Europe

This approach should include creating an academic network of departments across Europe that exchange different approaches of their work with reference to the Department's country and region.

These departments should build interdisciplinary connections to other departments and faculties of their and other (educational) institutions. This would help faculties and departments integrate Jewish culture and history relevant to their specific research and teaching areas into their teaching.

II. IHRA STANDARD

4. Requirement of recognition of the IHRA working definition of antisemitism by recipients of public funding under procurement law

The antisemitic incidents at documenta15 showed that antisemitism is still widespread and in parts accepted or even welcomed in the arts and cultural sector. Openly antisemitic voices must not be supported by public funding. Therefore, recipients of tax money should be required to recognize the IHRA working definition of antisemitism.

5. Initiation of accountability procedures and implementation strategies concerning the IHRA working definition in governmental institutions and industry federations

Public officials need to take responsibility for the ways in which public funding is used. The existing procedures to recall funding must be used if arts institutions

or other entities misuse public funding for antisemitic propaganda. For example, in Germany, clear structures for administrative agencies should be established for the use of judicial possibilities of §§48, 49, 49a VwVfG or other relevant laws to recall public funding that has already been granted. To help achieve this goal artistically experienced non-state advisors working on the basis of the IHRA-definition should be introduced to help state bodies deal with structural antisemitism when deciding about public funding.

III. PROMOTE JEWISH CULTURE & RELIGION

6. Implementation of Jewish culture days by different governmental entities as cities and communities as well as local and federal governments

Days celebrating Jewish culture should be established on all state levels, connecting governmental and non-governmental bodies. Those “open-door days” should give respective participating Jewish communities the option to present everyday aspects of their culture and religion.

Already existing events such as the European Days of Jewish Culture should be fostered to gain more attention and to address more people across Europe.

7. Implementation of Jewish holidays into calendars and event planning in both private and public sector

Politics should support approaches to establish Jewish life and culture not only as educational subject that students should study because of a historical responsibility, but as a self-evident part of everyday life. “Shabbat Shalom” or “Happy Chanukah” should be heard on European streets instead of only having a place in European school books. Against this background, awareness of Jewish holidays should be fostered by integrating those days into calendars and event planning in both the public and private sector.

8. Establishment of a coalition of organisations, influencers, government representatives, and

other stakeholders to combat antisemitism in all parts of public life

Antisemitism should be recognized as an interdisciplinary challenge with links to all major parts of society. Therefore, a broad coalition of organisations, influencers, and other stakeholders entailing different social movements and minority groups should be established, including government representatives as an equal part of this coalition.

Jewish representatives should be included in this coalition to include Jewish perspectives and opinions while discussing and implementing decisions as well as policies concerning matters of Jewish life and the fight against antisemitism.

IV. SHARPEN REGULATION

9. Introduction of clear criteria for enforcing content moderation by online platforms

Governments are hardly able to control and manage all kinds of hate speech and antisemitism on online platforms. On the other hand, guidelines should be put in place for online platforms on how to apply abstract general laws on hate speech in cases of antisemitism. Therefore, politics should establish regulatory structures like distribution liabilities as well as guidelines for content moderation on online platforms. These guidelines should be transparent to reduce the impact of conspiracy theories blaming states as enemies of free speech on the internet.

10. Allocation of data access to researchers on antisemitism guaranteed by law

Scientific data and research are important tools for fighting structural antisemitism. Online platforms should have to disclose data and algorithms to researchers. On the other hand, algorithms are often considered to be an online company’s greatest trade secret. European politicians have to find a balance that allows researchers access to data needed that at the same time protects online companies’ legitimate economic interests.