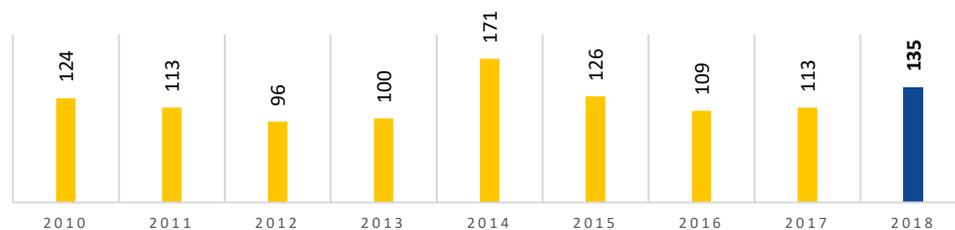


## Netherlands: Monitor anti-Semitic incidents 2018, summary report<sup>1</sup>

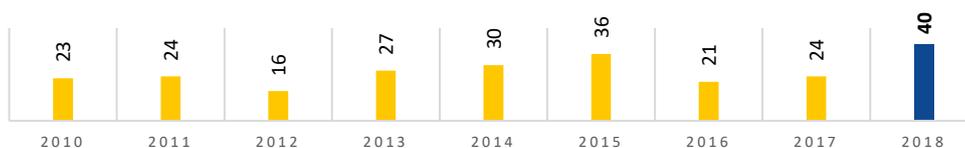
### Overview

- CIDI registered 135 anti-Semitic incidents in 2018 (online incidents excluded). This is the highest number since 2014. Compared with 2017, the number of incidents has increased by 19%.



*Total number of incidents registered by CIDI, 2010 onward*

- The most drastic increase was registered in incidents occurring in people's direct vicinity. This encompasses incidents at schools, at work or between neighbors. The increase in this category is 67% compared to the previous year (from 24 in 2017 up to 40 in 2018). This is the highest number of anti-Semitic incidents in people's direct vicinity in 10 years.



*Incidents in direct vicinity, 2010 onward*

- Anti-Semitic incidents at schools have increased in number. In 2018, twelve such incidents were registered, compared to nine in 2017.
- For a second year, CIDI has also registered expressions of anti-Semitism on the internet. This includes expressions of anti-Semitism on social media, comments on discussion forums and websites. A total of ninety-five expressions were recorded.
- An increase in the number of anti-Semitic incidents was also registered in surrounding European countries. Therefore, the increase in the Netherlands is not isolated.

### Methodology

In order to determine whether an incident is anti-Semitic, we use the International Holocaust Remembrance Association's (IHRA) working definition of anti-Semitism. This reads:

"Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities."

<sup>1</sup> CIDI is a Dutch NGO established to combat racism and antisemitism as well as to broaden and deepen the knowledge about Israel and its inhabitants in the Netherlands, thus contributing to the creation of peace between Israel and the Palestinian people. [www.cidi.nl](http://www.cidi.nl)

Incidents concerning criticism about Israel are not registered as anti-Semitic, unless anti-Semitic motives as outlined in the full IHRA working definition are apparent.

CIDI considers a related series of crimes against one individual as a single incident. Similarly, a series of incidents directed to various individuals by a single perpetrator is also counted as one single incident.

## **Findings**

### **Online anti-Semitism**

Online communication can serve as a catalyst for all forms of anti-Semitism that exist offline. However, communication dynamics on social media and public discussion forums show unique patterns. When news reports appear on matters related to the Israel-Arab conflict or Holocaust remembrance, discussion threads often quickly fill with numerous anti-Semitic comments of various kinds (classic anti-Semitism, new anti-Semitism, religiously inspired, etc.).

A number of extremist websites spreading classic anti-Semitic conspiracy theories in Dutch have been found. Although much of their content is classified as hate crime under Dutch law, under current circumstances, law enforcement is unable to trace any authors of websites that are hosted in the United States.

The use of automated search algorithms can have unintended consequences by promoting extremist content. There are known cases of news applications spreading content from extremist websites in Dutch.

### **Holocaust denial and conspiracy theories**

Increased access to the internet can lead to more exposure of students to hateful conspiracy theories. CIDI increasingly receives signs from teachers that students voice such ideas in classrooms, often in the context of discussions about politics in the Middle East or the history of the Holocaust.

### **Scolding**

The report finds that anti-Semitic scolding is still a prevalent issue. In many social circles, the word “Jood” (“Jew”) is commonly used as an insult, often in combination with other offensive phrases used in scolding in the Dutch language. Anti-Semitic scolding has occurred both towards people working as public servants (in particular police officers) as well as towards people recognizable as Jewish by their appearance. Incidents of anti-Semitic chants by large groups of football hooligans still occur from time to time.

### **Police and public prosecutors**

A report by the EU Fundamental Rights Agency shows that only 25% of respondents in the Netherlands report incidents of anti-Semitism to the police, other government agencies, or an NGO such as CIDI<sup>2</sup>. It also shows that only 61% of respondents in the Netherlands are aware of a law banning hate crime (which does exist). This may be due to the slow speed of investigations.

Police statistics of the year 2017 show that 8% of registrations of discriminatory incidents concern anti-Semitism (statistics from 2018 are not available yet). The same report also notes the frequency by which police officers are scolded at in public with anti-Semitic slurs.

Statistics by the public prosecution service, equally of the year 2017, show that 41% of all cases of discrimination concern anti-Semitism. Many of these incidents have occurred around football matches.

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<sup>2</sup> Fundamental Rights Agency, ‘Experiences and perceptions of antisemitism - Second survey on discrimination and hate crime against Jews in the EU’. November 2018.

The prevalence of anti-Semitism as a discriminatory motive is in stark contrast to the actual proportion of Jews in Dutch population, which is estimated to be around 0,3%.

Authorities can do more to give insight in incidents of racism registered by them. For instance, little is known about who the offenders are of different types of anti-Semitic hate crime.

### The European context

An increase in the number of anti-Semitic incidents was also registered in surrounding European countries, including France, the UK and Germany.

In the UK, Community Security Trust (CST) measured a 16% increase in the number of anti-Semitic incidents in 2018 compared with 2017. In Germany, an increase of 9% was observed by authorities. In France, the ministry of interior even reported an astonishing increase of 74%.

As collection standards differ per country, it is difficult to establish comparisons or correlation. However, the overall picture shows that the increase in anti-Semitic expressions is a cross-border trend. The case of the Netherlands is a welcome exception among these countries in that hardly any anti-Semitic violence has occurred. However, according to the FRA's report, many respondents nevertheless avoid wearing attributes that could identify a person as Jewish in public. This situation is unlikely to change if anti-Semitism becomes more rather than less prevalent.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
'Real life' incidents	17	33	21	28	54	33	36	29	27
Vandalism	17	22	14	10	22	20	21	28	21
Incidenten in direct vicinity	23	24	16	27	30	36	21	24	40
Verbal abuse	54	21	26	13	38	21	11	14	21
Public sphere	13	13	19	22	27	16	20	18	26
<b>Subtotal, excluding internet</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>135</b>
<b>Subtotal, including internet</b>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	<b>137</b>	<b>230</b>

*Overview incidents by category, 2010 onward*

## Recommendations

The increase in the number of anti-Semitic expressions is worrisome. These statistics confirm a trend in Europe more generally. CIDI offers a number of suggestions to tackle this problem efficiently.

### Education

#### Teach about the Holocaust *and* Judaism in general

Teaching about the Holocaust is important, and requires constant attention from policy makers. However, it is important that Jews not only be portrayed as victims. Jews have long been part of Dutch society, and consequently should not be thought of as an ultimate 'other'.

#### Support teachers in their work

Teachers increasingly face resistance in classrooms when discussing sensitive issues. There are increasing signs of students spreading conspiracy theories or Holocaust denial in classrooms. Teachers should receive adequate support to deal with these challenges.

### **Recognize and tackle anti-Semitic bullying**

Schools should be a safe place for all students, regardless of background. When anti-Semitic bullying is detected, the school should intervene immediately.

## **Assimilation**

### **Teach newcomers to the Netherlands about Jews and the Holocaust**

Newcomers often originate from societies where anti-Semitism is not uncommon. It is important that the naturalization process pays attention to these subjects.

### **Give special attention to the values of democracy and the rule of law**

When newcomers originate from societies where such values are not evident, these subjects should be taught to facilitate life in a democratic country.

## **Security**

### **Map anti-Semitism in more detail**

Government institutions can do more to give insight in the manifestation of anti-Semitism in society. For instance, too little is known about the culprits of anti-Semitic hate crime.

### **Train police officers**

As enforcers of the law, people should feel safe to report anti-Semitic crime to police. There are too many signals that people are turned down, as police officers may not recognize anti-Semitism or hate crime in general.

### **Speed up the process of filing charges**

When complaints regarding hate crime are filed, it can take long periods of time before reporters are informed of possible further steps, or even whether investigation will take place.

### **Encourage reporting hate crimes**

Research shows that the majority of hate crimes are never reported. However, reporting is vital both for mapping the problem of anti-Semitism and for strengthening norms against it.

### **Severe punishments for violent hate crimes**

When somebody is physically attacked because of his or her group identity, harm is not only done to the victim, but also to the victim's group as a whole.

## **Sports**

### **Implement policies with football clubs and the Dutch football association (KNVB)**

Too often, anti-Semitic chants are heard surrounding football matches. This occurs especially when there is a relation to the club Ajax, the supporters of which are sometimes nicknamed "Jews". However, this is by no means an excuse to use anti-Semitic slurs.

### **Football clubs and their players and supporters should denounce anti-Semitism**

Certain clubs in particular in particular contribute to norms against anti-Semitism.

## **Internet**

### **Enforce a zero-tolerance policy against hate crime online**

The anonymity of the internet frequently leads to waves of anti-Semitic hate crime. Authorities should show that what is illegal offline is illegal online as well.

### **Force social media companies to keep their platforms 'clean'**

Social media outlets have a responsibility to tackle hate speech that is expressed through their channels. Reports of hate crime should be reviewed quickly, not by an automated process, but by humans capable of sound judgements.

## Statistics

'Real Life' incidents	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Violence and assault	4	1	4	3	6	5	3	4	1
Threats	1	3	2	1	3	0	4	2	6
Verbal abuse	9	28	14	21	40	24	25	18	18
Phone & WhatsApp	3	1	1	3	5	4	4	5	2
<b>Sum</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>27</b>

Vandalism	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Damage Jewish objects	2	3	1	2	2	2	1	4	5
Desecration Jewish objects	5	6	3	4	5	4	2	3	4
Other damages/ desecration	10	13	10	4	15	14	18	21	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>21</b>

Incidenten in de directe omgeving	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Buren, kennissen of familie	10	11	8	8	10	12	10	11	18
School	7	5	5	11	15	16	10	9	12
Werk	6	8	3	8	5	8	1	4	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>40</b>

Writings	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Letter/fax/flyer/sticker	7	4	3	3	9	9	4	4	3
E-mails and Digital private messages	47	17	23	10	29	12	7	10	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>21</b>

Public Sphere	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Sport	3	5	13	6	5	10	9	5	5
Demonstrations	0	0	1	1	8	3	3	3	5

Extreme right				3	8	2	4	0	2
Media	7	3	4	9	2	0	3	0	5
Books, films, games, etc.	3	5	1	3	2	0	0	2	2
Music	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	1
Politics	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>26</b>

Subtotal, excluding online incidents	124	113	96	100	171	126	109	113	135
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Internet	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Facebook	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	37
Twitter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	27
YouTube	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5
Websites	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>95</b>						