



# Strategy to Combat Antisemitism

2024-2030



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# Introduction

The Netherlands is the country of freedoms, of respect for one another and of accepting everyone's differences. It has a free and open society where everyone should have equal opportunities regardless of origin, skin color, religion, disability, sexual orientation or gender, where everyone should feel free to express their identity and culture and where everyone should be treated equally. These freedoms are enshrined in our Constitution and are the foundations on which our society is built. These freedoms are at the heart of what the Netherlands and its government stand for.

Unfortunately, Jewish people are unable to experience the same freedoms. The Jewish community in the Netherlands constitutes a very small group of only 50,000 people who are having to live with a considerable sense of insecurity each and every day. Many of them do not feel it is safe to express their Jewishness freely and openly and those who display visible expressions of their faith and identity face threats, aggression and even violence. Many feel compelled to stop wearing a yarmulke (visibly) or, for example, to remove mezuzas from their doorposts. Some Jewish children have to take measures to stay safe on their way to school and those involved in organizing Jewish festivities have to assess whether the right level of security can be provided, because otherwise the event cannot take place. The fact that there are people in the Netherlands who do not feel safe because they are Jewish is unacceptable and that is not the kind of country we want the Netherlands to be.

The government has stated that there is no place or justification at all for antisemitism. The events in Amsterdam on November 7-8, 2024 were intolerable and call for short-term and long-term action. Fortunately, large numbers of people have committed to protecting Jewish people and these include mayors and the police, who are both frequently on the front line, the public prosecution

service, the education sector and numerous social initiatives. However, despite all these efforts, a large proportion of the Jewish community do not feel free and safe in our country at this moment in time and that is shameful.

The government wants this new strategy to send a clear signal that fighting antisemitism is a matter that concerns all Dutch people. We all have a responsibility, as a society, to combat antisemitism and make Jewish people feel safer. The Netherlands stands for an open, reasonable and tolerant society and the Jewish way of life is very much a part of that.

The aim of this strategy is to create a Netherlands which is free of antisemitism. This is a very ambitious goal given that antisemitism has existed for thousands of years and has persistently molded itself to the crisis of the moment. Nevertheless, that does not mean that this should not be our aim as a society. The government appreciates the efforts of all those who are contributing to this mission, in education, in the security domain, in the cultural sector and via civil society organizations and many more besides.

The government is reinforcing the approach with concrete measures, by very clearly setting standards and boundaries, by recognizing and expressing support, by increasing the resilience of citizens who are susceptible to antisemitism and by reducing the breeding ground within our society. From 2025 onwards the Ministry of Justice and Security will be structurally releasing an additional 4.5 million euros to tackle antisemitism. The present strategy is also an update to the measures referred to in the letter of April 23 last<sup>1</sup> and also addresses the themes from the private member's policy proposal by MPs Ellian (VVD) and Bikker (CU) on tackling antisemitism – the next step.<sup>2</sup> This strategy is a multi-year approach in which we, as a government, will review the effectiveness of measures and further enhancements every year. The Minister of Justice and Security is coordinating the further development of the strategy, with the various ministers having final responsibility in their own policy areas<sup>3</sup>. As the special advisor to the government, the National Coordinator on Combating Antisemitism (*Nationaal Coördinator Antisemitismbestrijding*, NCAB) plays a crucial role in the overall approach to antisemitism and also advises on policy and implementation.

Under the responsibility of the Minister of Justice and Security, the government is soon going to establish the Antisemitism Task Force. Over the next year this high-level task force is going to start making specific proposals for measures to enhance the safety of Jewish people and these will cover, among other things, the safety of Jewish students at colleges and universities, banning antisemitic speakers at colleges and universities and the safety implications of sit-ins at NS stations. The government considers it important that the Task Force is made up of representatives from the ministries involved, the National Coordinator on Combating Antisemitism, mayors, the education sector, the sports sector, the cultural sector, the public transport sector and other social parties, so that they can work on the measures based on their individual responsibility. Representatives of the Jewish community are also members of this Task Force. The Task Force secretariat will be embedded within the NCAB organization and the Task Force itself is to be set up for a period of one year.

The establishment of the Task Force also represents the implementation of MP Stoffer's motion<sup>4</sup> in which he asked the government to form a steering committee with the universities to combat antisemitism in higher education.

**“Combating antisemitism is not the responsibility of Jewish people: it is part of protecting the democratic state under the rule of law and society as a whole.”**

Eddo Verdoner, National Coordinator on Combating Antisemitism

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1 Parliamentary Papers II, 2023-2024, 30950, no. 367.

2 Parliamentary Papers II, 2022/23, 36272, no. 2 and Parliamentary Papers II, 2023/24, 36272, no. 8.

3 See annex: Coordination of the Strategy to Combat Antisemitism.

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4 Parliamentary Papers II, 2024-2025, 36651, no. 17.

## Antisemitism in figures

Figures from reporting agencies for the year 2023 show an increase in reports of antisemitism. Municipal anti-discrimination services received 154 reports of antisemitism in 2023, compared to 69 reports in 2022. The police recorded 880 cases of antisemitism (reports and denunciations) in 2023, as opposed to 549 in 2022. The number of cases of antisemitism reported which involved violence or threats also increased, with the police recording 43 cases of violent acts of antisemitism in 2023 compared to 28 in 2022. Acts of antisemitism were accompanied by threats in 80 of the cases recorded by police, compared to 54 in 2022.

In 2023 the Public Prosecution Service (OM) recorded antisemitism as being the ground for discrimination in relation to 181 discrimination offenses, compared to 94 offenses in 2022. The difference in numbers of reports recorded by the police and the number of offenses filed with the Public Prosecution Service is partly because only a portion of reported antisemitism in society falls within the scope of the Dutch Criminal Code. Comparatively speaking, antisemitism is the ground for many of the specific discrimination offenses recorded by the Public Prosecution Service. Moreover, this share has been increasing in recent years. Of the total number of 535 discriminatory offenses (specific discriminatory offenses and common offenses with a discrimination aspect) recorded by the Public Prosecution Service in 2023, one-third involved antisemitism. Of the number of specific discrimination offenses, the proportion that involved antisemitism actually increased from 39% in 2022 to 48% in 2023, while only 0.3% of the Dutch population is Jewish. (It should be noted that while the Public Prosecution Service records the ground as being 'antisemitism' when someone says something discriminatory about Jewish people, this does not mean that what was said was necessarily directed towards a Jewish person). The increase in the number of offenses filed with the Public Prosecution Service is partly related to a more intensive approach to discrimination, including antisemitism, in soccer.

In 2023 Meld.Online Discriminatie received more reports in total than in 2022, in part due to a campaign to raise awareness about the reporting center. 114 reports involved antisemitism, as opposed to 16 in the previous year. This represents 24% of the total number of reports to this reporting center. The Center for Information and Documentation Israel (CIDI) also published the 2023 Antisemitic Incidents Monitor on April 9 this year. The 2023 Monitor shows that, compared to the previous year, the number of reports increased from 155 to 379 reported incidents (a 245% increase). This information is based on the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism.

Sources:

Jaarlijkse discriminatiecijfers 2022 en 2023  
Cijfers in Beeld 2022 and Strafbare discriminatie in beeld 2023  
Monitor Antisemitisme Incidenten 2023, CIDI



## Offenders and target groups

In the Netherlands the various agencies that publish figures on antisemitic incidents do not publish information on offender groups. The sources below provide an insight into the offender groups of only a limited number of the total incidences of antisemitism.

The latest Terrorist Threat Assessment for the Netherlands (Dreigingsbeeld Terrorisme Nederland) by the National Coordinator for Security and Counterterrorism (NCTV) shows that antisemitism is evident within the framework of anti-institutional extremism, jihadism and right-wing extremism.<sup>5</sup> The latter two movements regularly incite violence against Jewish people.<sup>6</sup>

In its 2023 annual report the AIVD indicated that the threat against Jewish and Israeli targets in the Netherlands has increased. The conflict in Gaza may be lowering the threshold for radical Islamists who do not adhere to jihadist ideology, but who consider the violence in Gaza to be a justification for attacking Israeli or Jewish property or people.<sup>7</sup>

A study on antisemitism in secondary education which was conducted by Panteia on behalf of the Anne Frank Foundation revealed that soccer is the most common context in which students insult Jewish people as a group. The insults mostly come from students with Western backgrounds. By contrast, insults made in the context of the Middle East conflict are more often associated with students who have a Dutch-Moroccan or Dutch-Turkish background.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Terrorist Threat Assessment for the Netherlands, June 2024.

<sup>6</sup> General Intelligence and Security Service (AIVD) Annual Report. P.12 <https://www.aivd.nl/onderwerpen/jaarverslagen/documenten/jaarverslagen/2024/04/22/jaarverslag-2023>

<sup>7</sup> Anne Frank Foundation, Antisemitisme in het voortgezet onderwijs, 2023, <https://www.annefrank.org/nl/over-ons/onderzoek/sociaal-onderzoek/onderzoek-naar-antisemitisme/antisemitisme-vo-2023/>.

<sup>8</sup> Motivaction, Een verkenning naar de houding tegenover joden in Zuid-Holland, 2024. <https://pzh.notubiz.nl/document/14177670/1>

A survey of the attitudes toward Jewish people in the province of Zuid-Holland among Turkish, Moroccan, Surinamese and Caribbean Dutch people showed that bi-cultural Dutch people generally have a positive attitude towards Jewish people. However, the attitude of bi-cultural Dutch people is more clear-cut than that of people of Dutch origin. That applies particularly in the case of Turkish and Moroccan Dutch people who are more likely to have a negative attitude towards Jewish people than people of Dutch origin, or Surinamese and Caribbean Dutch people. This survey also revealed that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is the main reason for the negative attitude.

Right-wing extremist groups are also spreading more antisemitism than before.<sup>9</sup> Right-wing extremist groups spread hate speech relating to Jewish people both online and offline in 2023, as the AIVD reported in its 2023 Annual Report. Central to the thinking of right-wing extremist groups is still the antisemitic white replacement conspiracy theory, in other words the idea that a Jewish elite is fueling mass migration to replace or weaken white populations in Western countries.<sup>10</sup> The NCTV has pointed out that conspiracy theories often have an antisemitic component, although followers are by no means always aware of it.<sup>11</sup>

Antisemitism can take different forms and come from different groups. The government is strongly committed to targeting antisemitism according to target groups and offender groups.

<sup>9</sup> AIVD Annual Report p. 12. <https://www.aivd.nl/onderwerpen/jaarverslagen/documenten/jaarverslagen/2024/04/22/jaarverslag-2023>

<sup>10</sup> Ibid. 18. <https://www.aivd.nl/onderwerpen/jaarverslagen/documenten/jaarverslagen/2024/04/22/jaarverslag-2023>

<sup>11</sup> Terrorist Threat Assessment for the Netherlands 58, May 2023, p. 38. <https://www.nctv.nl/onderwerpen/dtn/documenten/publicaties/2023/05/30/dreigingsbeeld-terrorisme-nederland-58>

# The ambitions behind the Strategy to Combat Antisemitism

Tackling antisemitism is a government priority which requires a high level of ambition. The strategy is based on three pillars:



**Pillar 1: Protect, monitor and follow up**

- Ambition 1: Protect Jewish institutions, tackle offenders and support victims
- Ambition 2: Make sure that people feel free and safe to express their Jewishness in education

**Pillar 2: Education and prevention**

- Ambition 3: Remove breeding ground
- Ambition 4: A united stand against antisemitism in soccer

**Pillar 3: Remember and celebrate**

- Ambition 5: Keep the memory alive and recognition
- Ambition 6: Find out about and celebrate the Jewish way of life in the Netherlands





Bron: ANP / Berlinda van Dam

Pillar 1:

# Protect, monitor and follow up





## Ambition 1

# Protect Jewish institutions, tackle offenders and support victims

### The challenge

The government's aim is to eliminate antisemitism, based on the belief that no one should have to face it. The government strategy therefore includes numerous measures which are aimed at preventing antisemitism.

Despite these measures, antisemitism continues to raise its ugly head in our society and the impact of antisemitic incidents is significant. Victims have to deal with personal distress and they may even start to lose confidence in society and become uncertain as to whether they have a safe future in the Netherlands. The government and the Jewish community must take an increasing number of security measures to ensure that Jewish people can live in the Netherlands safely. Antisemitic incidents also have a major impact on society as a whole and they undermine the foundations of our society and the pillars of our rule of law.

Offenders must be robustly dealt with. The government therefore supports the existing policy of the police and the Public Prosecution Service which makes tackling discrimination a priority. Investigative proceedings are taking place and the Public Prosecution Service will, in principle, prosecute suspects in cases of provable criminal discrimination. In addition, the Public Prosecutor is demanding higher sentences for general offenses which have a discrimination aspect (e.g. assault).

Although the police and Public Prosecution Service have specific policies in place to deal with discrimination cases<sup>12</sup>, including antisemitism, relatively little antisemitism is reported to the police and that means many (criminal) incidents may be going undetected. All of this contributes to the fact that the Public Prosecution Service receives a relatively low proportion of reports of all the incidents that occur. A 2018 report by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights found that 74% of Jewish Dutch people who experience an antisemitic incident do not report the most serious incident to the police or another organization.<sup>13</sup> The same research revealed that only 20% of Jewish Dutch people report every incident of discrimination based on Jewishness or religion. This percentage is just 52% when it comes to targeted antisemitic violent incidents. Commonly cited reasons for a low level of willingness to report incidents (to the police) are the expectation that a report will not be followed up on, the idea that the incident is not serious enough to report and not knowing where an incident can be reported. At the same time we know that Jewish people encounter antisemitism on a very frequent basis. The same research revealed

<sup>12</sup> *OM Aanwijzing Discriminatie* (Government Gazette. 2018, 68988)

<sup>13</sup> <https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2018/experiences-and-perceptions-antisemitism-second-survey-discrimination-and-hate>.

that this is true for 97% of those surveyed. This low level of willingness to report among victims of (all forms of) discrimination is backed up by the CBS's annual Security Monitor.

## The ambition

The government provides measures and resources that increase the resilience of Jewish institutions and make them more robust. Jewish institutions themselves also invest in security measures because they also see it as their own responsibility to do so. The government's ambition is to guarantee and ensure that these costs do not fall disproportionately on the Jewish community. In addition, the government wants to improve people's willingness to report antisemitic incidents. Its ambition is for victims always to report every incident in principle and that those reports are always followed up. Wherever possible it is committed to removing the obstacles that prevent victims from reporting and to helping victims to report incidents (to the police) while ensuring that they are fully aware of the opportunities for doing so. If incidents are reported as standard, this will lead to more incidents being followed up on, but will also provide a better insight into where antisemitism is occurring and where it is coming from.

In order to achieve the above ambition we are taking the following steps:

### Security Fund

Due to the increase in antisemitism in the Netherlands, Jewish schools, institutions and event organizers are taking their own measures to protect themselves or to address security concerns. While this aligns with the division of responsibility in terms of security, the cost of doing so may be falling disproportionately on the community.

The Ministry of Justice and Security plans to establish a fund and is exploring how this fund can financially support Jewish schools, institutions and event organizers when it comes to implementing these security measures.

The government has set aside 1.3 million for this purpose. The establishment of the Security Fund is in line with the Jetten et al. motion<sup>14</sup> which asks the government to cover the additional costs incurred by the Jewish community in securing institutions and properties. Information on this matter is going to be submitted to the House of Representatives as soon as possible.

### A single point of contact for victims/central organization

There are several ways in which antisemitic incidents can be reported, namely to municipal anti-discrimination services, the website [Discriminatie.nl](https://discriminatie.nl), the police, the website Meld.Online Discriminatie, the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights (*College voor de Rechten van de Mens*), the National Ombudsman and the Children's Ombudsman. Other options include reporting to civil society organizations, such as the CIDI.

The government is committed to ensuring that victims of antisemitism can report with confidence to the proposed central organization of municipal anti-discrimination services and also receive appropriate support.

It is important that victims have a single point of contact which must be recognizable and approachable. The existing system of anti-discrimination services is currently under review. Since January 1, 2024, all anti-discrimination services have been grouped under the name '[Discriminatie.nl](https://discriminatie.nl)'. The Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations is working on a framework memorandum on what the new proposed central organization of anti-discrimination services could look like. Relevant input was obtained during working conferences involving the [Discriminatie.nl](https://discriminatie.nl) reporting center, the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (*Vereniging van Nederlandse Gemeenten*, VNG) and other parties in the field.

A corresponding legislative process is to be initiated this year. The Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations is going to send the framework memorandum to the House of Representatives this year.

The government supports the process of improvement initiated by anti-discrimination services and is striving to work with anti-discrimination services and the national [Discriminatie.nl](#) reporting center to provide a full package of appropriate support to victims so that they have the confidence to report incidents.

Many victims of antisemitism now report to the CIDI, rather than the anti-discrimination services.

The Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations will consult with the CIDI and the anti-discrimination services so that a protocol can be agreed on. The protocol will include agreements between CIDI and the anti-discrimination services on the referral of victims of antisemitism to the anti-discrimination services<sup>15</sup> and on ensuring smooth transfers.

The CIDI is also going to provide information to Jewish communities on the support offered by the anti-discrimination services.

[Discriminatie.nl](#) will also provide referral aftercare for victims. The Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations is currently assessing what kind of form this aftercare should take. It will be provided from 2026 onwards and will take account of the experience gained in Germany with providing aftercare to victims of discrimination. The organization of aftercare will be coordinated in close cooperation with, for example, the Jewish social services organization 'JMW' (*Joods Maatschappelijk Werk*) and Victim Support Netherlands (*Slachtofferhulp Nederland*).

The Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations is also making additional resources available from 2024 onwards (€2.5 million annually) to enable municipalities to do more to prevent discrimination at local level in collaboration with the anti-discrimination service if they wish.<sup>16</sup>

In consultation with the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport and the NCAB, the Ministry of Justice and Security is holding discussions with Jewish social services organization JMW regarding a possible project to provide more targeted assistance (aftercare) to victims of antisemitism. The government is going to provide 0.3 million annually for this purpose. This contribution represents a partial response to the Jetten et al. motion<sup>17</sup>, which calls on the government to seek alternatives to reverse the cuts to the JMW.

Victims of antisemitism need to feel understood. It is therefore important that counselors have knowledge of antisemitism and its impact on victims, of how to recognize forms of antisemitism and of how best to treat Jewish victims. The Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations supports [Discriminatie.nl](#) in the creation of an Anti-Discrimination Service Academy.

Training courses on antisemitism for anti-discrimination service employees will also be offered at this Anti-Discrimination Service Academy and the NCAB will fulfill an advisory role.

### Structural funding for the Center of Expertise on Tackling Discrimination

As a follow-up to the Paternotte motion<sup>18</sup> the police conducted a pilot in which national expertise was developed to support the police in their (criminal law) approach to discrimination in society. Part of this approach are the so-called discrimination detectives.

The government is going to provide structural funding for the Police Center of Expertise on Tackling Discrimination (Expertisecentrum Aanpak Discriminatie - Politie, ECAD-P) to strengthen police efforts.

To this end the capacity of the Center of Expertise is to be perpetuated and expanded. Discussions between the police and the Ministry of Justice and

<sup>15</sup> Networks Overcoming Antisemitism, p. 22.

<sup>16</sup> 2024 Municipalities Fund May Circular | Circular | [Rijksoverheid.nl](#), p. 31 and Annex 3.2-6 on p. 71.

<sup>17</sup> Parliamentary Papers II, 2024-2025, 36651, no. 15.

<sup>18</sup> Parliamentary Papers II, 2019-2020, 35164, no. 9.

Security on the future structure will take place soon. The police believe that a national and coordinated center of expertise for local core teams will clearly add value.

### **Recognizing the antisemitic aspect of reports to the police**

The police do not always recognize the antisemitic aspect of incidents reported to them. Although victims and witnesses may point out the antisemitic aspect of the crime when reported, sometimes it may not be recorded as such. Improvements must be made to the police's ability to recognize the antisemitic aspect of a crime when incidents are reported, as well as the way such crimes are registered. It is very important that the ECAD-P investigates discriminatory aspects based on the reported incident so that cases with an antisemitic aspect can be identified, after which the center of expertise will contact local investigators.

The government's ambition is that, when recording incidents, police officers should always recognize the antisemitic aspect themselves, or be made aware of it as soon as possible.

The Jewish Police Network, which is part of the police's Diverse Skills Network, advises and supports colleagues in matters involving Judaism and antisemitism. The network also fulfils a connecting role between the Jewish community and the police. The November 14 letter from the Minister of Justice and Security stated that additional resources will be made available for ECAD-P and for the Diverse Skills Network (including the Jewish Police Network).

In the spring of 2025 the police are going to engage with the NCAB and civil society organizations with relevant expertise to discuss possible measures which would make them more effective in recognizing antisemitism, particularly when incidents are reported.

In the context of this comprehensive approach it is also important that victims of antisemitism have confidence and feel they are being listened to when reporting an incident (to the police).

The Minister of Justice and Security has asked the Research and Data Centre (Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek- en Datacentrum, WODC) to investigate the problems that victims of antisemitism face when reporting incidents (to the police).

The investigation is going to start in 2025 and its results will be used to develop new measures to increase the willingness of victims to report incidents (to the police). As already stated above, it is also essential that reports (to the police) are properly followed up.

### **Accelerated proceedings**

Tit-for-tat policy can be an effective means of countering antisemitism, if the offense has already occurred. Accelerated proceedings can be used in cases which are easy to prove, when the suspect can be remanded in custody, for example, in the event of serious violent crimes for which sufficient evidence is immediately available. This applies in particular to situations in which offenders are caught red handed.

It goes without saying that accelerated proceedings are used wherever possible in the event of crimes with an antisemitic and therefore discriminatory element.

### **Educational behavioral interventions for antisemitism offenders**

As promised during the November 13 debate, the Ministry of Justice and Security is going to send a letter to the House of Representatives in early 2025 regarding the behavioral interventions by the probation service that can be imposed by the court in cases of antisemitism, and the possibility for the court to impose a special condition which includes an educational component.

This letter is going to include MP Bamenga's motion<sup>19</sup> to explore obstacles to imposing educational punishments and the Prime Minister's commitment to



explore the idea of young perpetrators of antisemitism perhaps being given a training order, for example in the form of a mandatory visit to the Camp Westerbork or Camp Vught concentration camps.

### **Private member's bill on the ground for an increase in penalty in the case of a discriminatory, including antisemitic, element**

Perpetrators of crimes of an antisemitic nature must receive a robust punishment.

The government believes it is a positive development that the parliamentary debate of the private member's bill that regulates a statutory ground for an increase in penalty in the event of a crime with a discriminatory element has been started and strongly supports the bill.

The Minister of Justice and Security will present the government position during the course of the parliamentary debate. The ground for an increase in penalty also applies to common offenses of an antisemitic nature. If the



Bron: ANP / Maarten Brante

private member's bill is adopted, the maximum custodial sentence imposed for the crime in question would be increased by one-third, and that includes cases of antisemitism.

### **Criminalization of Holocaust denial**

In addition a law came into force as of October 1, 2024 that makes condoning, denying and grossly trivializing international crimes (including the Holocaust) in an offensive manner punishable as a specific form of group defamation (Article 137c of the Criminal Code).

### **Research into the criminalization of antisemitism in other countries**

An exploratory study is currently being conducted, partly with a view to implementing the motion of MPs Bikker and Ellian<sup>20</sup>, that will answer the question of how antisemitic behavior is criminalized in Belgium, France and Germany.

The results of the study are expected at the end of 2024. An assessment will then be carried out to determine how Dutch criminal law practice compares with the criminal offenses in the above-mentioned countries.

In the near future, and in cooperation with the NCAB, the Minister of Justice and Security is also going to hold discussions on how to tackle antisemitism with ministers in neighboring countries, including Germany and Austria. The government intends to implement the good examples from abroad in the Netherlands wherever possible.

### **Near real-time dashboard of discriminatory/antisemitic incidents**

The government believes it is very important to have near real-time insight into incidents involving antisemitism, racism and discrimination.

<sup>20</sup> Parliamentary Papers II, 2023-2024, 30950, no. 379.

The Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations and the Minister of Justice and Security are going to investigate whether an online dashboard can be introduced nationwide by the chain partners in mid-2025 which can then be used to register incidents according to ground for discrimination. This will facilitate a better understanding of antisemitic incidents and trends by, for example, municipalities, prevention workers and researchers.

#### **Insight into developments relating to online antisemitism**

In order to combat antisemitism effectively, it is essential to gain a comprehensive picture of how antisemitism manifests itself in the Netherlands. It is also important to gain a better insight into manifestations of antisemitism in the Dutch language on the Internet so that, for example, a conversation can be initiated on this issue with social media parties.

Periodic research will have to be carried out in order to gain this insight into the development of online antisemitism and other forms of hatred and discrimination.

The NCAB is therefore going to commission an annual survey of online antisemitism in the Dutch language.

#### **International commitment to countering antisemitism**

In addition to efforts at national level, the Netherlands has long been committed at international level to combating antisemitism and promoting the Jewish way of life. The Netherlands has been emphasizing this commitment in various international fora, including the United Nations, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA)

In light of the recent violence that took place in Amsterdam, the Netherlands raised the importance of combating antisemitism at the Foreign Affairs Council on November 18 and called on EU foreign ministers to use their networks for a joint effort in this area.

A separate consultation also took place involving France, Germany, Portugal, Poland and Sweden, in addition to the Netherlands, as well as Katharina von Schnurbein, who is the European Commission Coordinator on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life. Within the EU the Netherlands has also actively promoted the adoption of the Council Statement by EU member states on promoting Jewish life and combating antisemitism and is contributing to the follow-up of the recent EU status report, which assesses the effectiveness of national strategies against antisemitism in member states. The NCAB participates in the EU working group on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life. On July 17, 2024, the Netherlands also joined 33 other countries in endorsing the Global Guidelines for Countering Antisemitism. These legally non-binding guidelines help countries to continue improving their approach to antisemitism. In June 2024 the NCAB also organized the first European conference on the criminal justice approach to antisemitism in The Hague, which was an opportunity for prosecutors from fifteen European countries to exchange experiences and solutions. The NCAB is going to host the next edition of this meeting in 2025.

#### **European Conference of Public Prosecution Services on Antisemitism**

In order to encourage the sharing of knowledge and experience on criminal justice approaches to antisemitism in a European context, the NCAB organized the first European Conference of Public Prosecution Services on Antisemitism (ECPPSA) on June 4 and 5, 2024. During the event prosecutors from 15 European countries were able to exchange knowledge on criminal law approaches to antisemitism. Due to the success of the conference, the NCAB has decided to organize a second conference in 2025.





## Ambition 2

# Make sure that people feel free and safe to express their Jewishness in education

### The challenge

All Jewish people must be free to live and practice their Jewish identity and religion without hinderance. However, many of them, of both secular and religious persuasion, do not feel safe. Many Jewish people who engage in visible expressions of their faith and identity face threats, aggression and even violence. Research showed that 70% of Jewish Dutch people surveyed said they avoid wearing symbols in public that might identify them as Jewish.<sup>21</sup> Many feel compelled to restrict expressions of their Jewishness to when they are at home.

Schools and universities in particular are places where Jewish pupils and students should feel safe to express their Jewish identity, but many do not or no longer dare to do so openly for fear that others will confront them due to the conflict in the Middle East or that they will have to give some justification for being Jewish. Peoples and students are also being confronted with antisemitic stereotypes and conspiracy theories. Not only does that affect them in their freedom to be Jewish, but also in their ability to study freely and safely without the threat of (physical) violence.

<sup>21</sup> Experiences and perceptions of antisemitism – Second survey on discrimination and hate crime against Jewish people in the EU. European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. March 2019, p. 17. See: <https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2018/experiences-and-perceptions-antisemitism-second-survey-discrimination-and-hate>.

### The ambition

The government's ambition is for everyone to be able to express religious beliefs in public without feeling unsafe. The government stands for an inclusive Netherlands where consideration is given to each other and the need for people to be free to engage in their various religious and cultural practices. Jewish people who wish to live out their Jewishness should not be restricted when it comes to participating in public life and there should be an inclusive and safe environment, particularly at schools and universities. The government finds it unacceptable and intolerable that Jewish schoolchildren, students and employees have to hide their Jewish identity because they are afraid, or are fearful about going to school. It is extremely important that Jewish students and pupils can study in a physically and socially safe environment and people should be able to express their identity wherever they are and that includes schools and educational institutions.

In order to achieve the above ambition we are going to take the following steps:

#### Actions in primary education

##### *Free and safe education bill*

The Free and Safe Education Bill, which is expected to take effect on August 1, 2026, is intended to oblige primary schools, among other things, to gain a better

insight into safety at the schools, with the mandatory registration of any safety-related incidents (including discrimination), with schools also being required to carry out an annual evaluation of their safety policies.

#### *Reinforcement of social safety measures*

The Minister of Education, Culture and Science is actively reminding schools of their legal duty of care with regard to social safety and is offering tools for schools to implement these safeguards.

The Ministry of Education, Culture and Science is in close contact with the Education Inspectorate, sector councils, civil society organizations and the Social Stability Expertise Unit, with signals of insecurity, social tensions and polarization being exchanged in the process, including with the NCAB.

In May 2024, the guide entitled 'Dealing with antisemitic incidents' (Omgaan met antisemitische incidenten) was published via the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, in conjunction with various civil society organizations.

This guide is intended to help schools and teachers recognize, deal with and report antisemitic incidents. It includes references to educational resources and training courses for professionals that help to ensure that proper action is taken when antisemitic incidents occur.<sup>22</sup> The guide was immediately redistributed to educational institutions after the events of November 7 and 8.

The Ministry of Education, Culture and Science is continuing to draw the attention of educational institutions to the available educational resources and training courses aimed at recognizing and intervening in the event of antisemitism and other forms of discrimination.

The ministry is going to distribute this information via, for example, newsletters, the Citizenship Expertise Unit (*Expertisepunt Burgerschap*), the School & Safety Foundation (*Stichting School en Veiligheid*) and/or campaigns.

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.nieuwsbrievenminocw.nl/actueel/nieuws/2024/05/23/handreiking-omgaan-met-antisemitische-incidenten-op-scholen-gepubliceerd#:~:text=De%20handreiking%20biedt%20scholen%20informatie,raadplegen%20voor%20ondersteuning%20en%20advies.>

#### **Action in relation to further education (senior secondary vocational education (mbo), higher vocational education (hbo), university education (wo))**

#### *Increasing social safety in further and higher education*

The Minister of Education, Culture and Science is working to strengthen the social safety of anyone studying or working in further and higher education. There is no room for antisemitism in a socially safe learning and working environment.

The minister is also working on an integrated approach to social safety in higher education.

One part of this approach is the legal embedding of a social safety duty of care in further and higher education.<sup>23</sup> When implementing the integrated approach and shaping the duty of care, antisemitism is one of the factors taken into account because it causes people to feel less safe in society.

In accordance with the agreements in the 'Higher Education and Research Administrative Agreement 2022' universities (of applied sciences) are working on a social safety monitor.

During talks with the Netherlands Association of Universities of Applied Sciences (*Vereniging Hogescholen, VH*) and Universities of The Netherlands (*Universiteiten van Nederland, UNL*) about this monitor, the Minister of Education, Culture and Science will also discuss with them the possibilities of including the perceived safety of Jewish students and employees. As far as secondary vocational education institutions are concerned, the possibility of including perceived social safety in relation to antisemitism in the further development of the Safety and Security Monitor for those institutions will also be explored.

<sup>23</sup> Parliamentary Papers II (2022-2023) 29240, No. 131.

*Increase people's willingness to report and improve procedures*

As part of the integrated approach to social safety, the Minister of Education, Culture and Science is investigating how the complaint and reporting procedures within higher education can be improved. This involves assessing possible courses of action when dealing with complaints and reports of antisemitism, for example when referring to the criminal justice chain. The first results of this investigation are expected in early 2025.

Discussions are also going to be held with confidential advisors and other officials involved in social safety about what they need in order to recognize and deal with antisemitism, and a relevant guide is being developed for confidential advisors in higher education.

These discussions will provide a basis for assessing, together with the VH and UNL, how to follow up on this, for example by developing and offering training courses or workshops.



Bron: ANP / Koen van Weel

Specifically in relation to demonstrations at educational institutions, the Minister of Education, Culture and Science is highlighting the importance to administrators of reporting someone as soon as they are guilty of antisemitism and of taking action within the institution if someone behaves in violation of house rules.

*Safeguarding and promoting inclusion*

The Minister of Education, Culture and Science is supporting higher education institutions with the implementation of the national student welfare framework for 2023-2030<sup>24</sup>. The government is therefore encouraging educational institutions to adopt more inclusive procedures and policies, which also take account of pupils and students who want to express their religion and identity and practice their religion in other ways (such as prayer rooms). Based on an objective in the senior secondary vocational education Work Agenda, senior secondary vocational education institutions are being encouraged to improve student welfare and make the environment more inclusive.

To combat polarization and discrimination in the classroom, teachers at further and higher education institutions are to be supported in their efforts to discuss and encourage a learning community in relation to disruptive events in society, such as the Middle East conflict. To this end the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science is providing a grant in 2024 to the TerInfo project platform of the Beatrice de Graaf chair at Utrecht University which is focusing on these initiatives. In addition, the School & Safety Foundation is supporting teachers in primary, secondary and senior secondary vocational education as they engage in these difficult conversations.

*Periodical discussions between the Minister of Education, Culture and Science and the NCAB*

The Minister of Education, Culture and Science is going to meet periodically with the NCAB to discuss developments in the social safety of Jewish students, as well as the progress of, and findings from, its policies.

<sup>24</sup> [https://ecio.nl/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/08/ECIO\\_112\\_Landelijk\\_Kader\\_Studentenwelzijn\\_2023-2030\\_tg\\_2023.pdf](https://ecio.nl/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/08/ECIO_112_Landelijk_Kader_Studentenwelzijn_2023-2030_tg_2023.pdf).





Joods  
Museum



open voor  
iedereen

Bron: ANP / Kim van Dam

Pillar 2:

# Education and prevention





## Ambition 3

# Removing the breeding ground for antisemitism

### The challenge

Over the decades antisemitism has constantly changed and new variants have emerged. It has been fueled over the years by myths about Jewish omnipotence and conspiracies<sup>25</sup> which often allege an invisible influence on media, financial markets or politics. Events in the world and in our society in the Netherlands (such as economic recessions, the COVID-19 pandemic and the Middle East conflict) quickly result in new forms of antisemitism, or revive existing stereotypes and antisemitic conspiracy theories.

Research has shown that conspiracy theories about, for example, Jewish people lead to increased prejudice against this group.<sup>26</sup> Such conspiracy theories are a specific form of disinformation or misinformation which causes people to believe that certain events have been secretly manipulated by powerful groups with wrong intentions.<sup>27</sup> In 2023 the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations surveyed the local impact and nature of disinformation in their

Quickscan Local Misinformation.<sup>28</sup> This survey found that municipalities regard misleading information, in the form of disinformation, misinformation and conspiracy theories, to be an increasingly explicit problem.

Antisemitic conspiracy theories used to be spread primarily by word of mouth, but these days they become widespread much more easily due to the key role played by the Internet and social media. A great deal of antisemitic comments are made on social media in particular. In 2022 a study was conducted for the first time into the nature and extent of online antisemitism in the Dutch language on the Internet. The Utrecht Data School found a total of 200,395 examples of online antisemitism, and that represents well over 11% of the total number of posts relating to Judaism.<sup>29</sup>

<sup>25</sup> *Antisemitische en antimoslimracistische complottheorieën* (2022). Inclusion & Community Platform.

<sup>26</sup> Jolley, Meleady and Douglas (2020).

<sup>27</sup> *Quickscan lokale misleidende informatie*. (2023). I&O research commissioned by the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations.

<sup>28</sup> Parliamentary Papers II, 2022-2023, 30821, no. 197.

<sup>29</sup> [https://dataschool.nl/wp-content/uploads/sites/272/2022/05/Utrecht-Data-School\\_Online-antisemitisme-in-2020.pdf](https://dataschool.nl/wp-content/uploads/sites/272/2022/05/Utrecht-Data-School_Online-antisemitisme-in-2020.pdf).

## The ambition

In terms of addressing the breeding ground of antisemitism, the government is focusing on instruments that make young people and adults more resilient to this breeding ground and instruments that can lead to changes in the attitudes and behavior of Dutch citizens who make antisemitic statements.

In order to achieve the above ambition we are going to take the following steps:

### Knowledge about Jewish life and history

Pupils in primary education are taught about Jewish life and history in a variety of ways.

The inclusion of the factual subject of *religious and ideological movements* means schools are obliged to pay specific attention to Judaism. The need for students to learn about celebrations, stories and customs of the Jewish religion and the four other world religions is embedded in the curriculum. In primary and secondary education, teachers are obliged to focus on the Holocaust in the context of World War II and in relation to its history and contemporary developments.

Citizenship education also plays an important role in countering antisemitism and other forms of discrimination. Schools are required by law to teach students about the basic values of the democratic rule of law and to respect these values. This includes having a mutual understanding and knowledge of each other's cultures and religions. The Inspectorate of Education monitors whether teachers are fulfilling the requirements and/or whether the school culture does not conflict with these basic values. Consultations are expected to start on a senior secondary vocational education bill in 2024 that will develop the citizenship mission in a similar way.

### Supporting lecturers and teachers in fulfilling citizenship assignment

The Ministry of Education, Culture and Science provides teachers in primary, secondary and secondary schools with the tools needed to conduct socially sensitive conversations. For example, the Citizenship Expertise Unit provides an overview page of available teaching materials, and support is available through the *Scholingsaanbod Schurende Gesprekken* subsidy scheme. This will be reinforced

at the beginning of 2025 with funds made available on the basis of the Cedar Amendment so that conversations between and with students and students can take place in a safe and respectful way.<sup>30</sup>

The same support is also provided to lecturers at universities (of applied sciences). During 2024 the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science is funding the TerInfo project platform of the Beatrice de Graaf chair at Utrecht University, which is focusing on discussing and fostering a learning community in relation to disruptive events in society. The materials developed here will be made available free of charge to all educators within higher education via the TerInfo website.

### National Plan To Enhance Holocaust Education

Holocaust education – the study of the systematic persecution and murder of six million Jewish people and Sinti and Roma by Nazi Germany and their collaborators – increases people's knowledge of the Holocaust and makes them aware of the consequences of prejudice and (the existence of a breeding ground for) antisemitism.<sup>31</sup>

Together with the NCAB, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment sent the 'National Plan To Enhance Holocaust Education' to the House of Representatives on June 24, 2024.<sup>32</sup>

Recent surveys have shown that the Dutch population's knowledge of the Holocaust has fallen to worryingly low levels<sup>33</sup>, so there is a clear need to enhance Holocaust education among the young and old. The plan's central ambition is to improve Dutch people's knowledge of the Holocaust, including

<sup>30</sup> Parliamentary Papers II, 2023-2024, 36410-VIII, no. 197.

<sup>31</sup> Van der Hulst, A. (2023, September 26). *Goed onderwijs over de Holocaust is belangrijker dan ooit*. VOX *Goed onderwijs over de Holocaust is belangrijker dan ooit* - Vox magazine ([voxweb.nl](https://www.voxweb.nl))

<sup>32</sup> <https://open.overheid.nl/documenten/5b255efe-c586-479b-849f-342282ef8c3a/file>

<sup>33</sup> See, among others Dr. M.L.F. van Berkel, *De oorlog in de klas; Lesgeven over de Tweede Wereldoorlog en de Holocaust in het voortgezet onderwijs*, HAN University of Applied Sciences, October 2021 and *Antisemitisme in het voortgezet onderwijs; Een survey-onderzoek voor de Anne Frank Stichting*, Panteia, January 2023.





Bron: ANP / Marcel Jurian de Jong

its national and international context. Three objectives have been formulated, which each focus on a different component, namely (I) the education sector, (II) the memorial sector and (III) the general public.

Work has now started on the plan's implementation. In the coming year, a poll is going to be conducted among school leaders and teachers in order to gain a better understanding of the factors that impede and promote Holocaust teaching.

A survey is also being carried out into the cost of organizing free visits by schools to authentic Holocaust locations and the implications of doing so.

This survey is expected to be completed in the spring of 2025.

The ambition is to reinforce the educational function of the memorial centers, the National Holocaust Museum and the Anne Frank House. This initiative aligns with the Bikker motion<sup>34</sup> which calls for additional funding for memorial centers. In addition, a monitoring system is to be set up to measure the reach of the broad memorial sector and an impact analysis is to be conducted of the existing supply of teaching materials from this sector.

A four-year Holocaust Education and WWII Forgotten Stories subsidy scheme is expected to become available during 2025.

The 'Learn about the Holocaust' campaign is going to be launched in January 2025 and the second Holocaust Education Working Conference is to be held in the spring. The House of Representatives will be informed about the progress being made in terms of the implementation of the National Plan To Enhance Holocaust Education in the fall of 2025.

#### **Local support centers for schools**

In response to advice from the NCAB, the Support Center for Holocaust Education and Antisemitism was founded in the municipality of Amsterdam on July 3, 2024 to provide support to teachers in Amsterdam and makes the existing range of Holocaust educational materials and expertise available to school.

<sup>34</sup> Parliamentary Papers II, 2024-2025, 36651, no. 14.



Since then other municipalities have shown an interest in setting up similar support centers and the possibilities for following up on this are being explored.

### Historical research into the Holocaust

In Europe, research into the Holocaust is fragmented and that is why several research institutes are working together to set up the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI) in 2025. For the first time the EHRI is going to make sources on the Holocaust from many European countries available in digital and physical form. This will give researchers easy access to relevant sources and will shift national Holocaust research towards an international approach with new insights into the shared history.

The headquarters of the research center is going to be located in the Netherlands due to the important international role played by the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies and other scholars when it comes to Holocaust research.

The government is pushing for the European Commission to recognize the EHRI as a research infrastructure.

### Integration

The final attainment targets of the Knowledge of Dutch Society civic integration examination were recently adjusted to improve the level of knowledge of the Holocaust among Dutch citizens.

The new attainment targets focus explicitly on rejecting antisemitism, on the Holocaust and on the history of the Netherlands in World War II and test students' knowledge in these areas. One new development in comparison to the previous attainment targets is the addition of the term 'Holocaust'. The fine-tuning of the attainment targets is in line with the government's program to strengthen knowledge of the Holocaust among citizens sitting the civic integration examination. The new attainment targets are coming into effect on July 1, 2025, so there is plenty of time for publishers to adapt teaching materials and for test developers to create new examination papers. In addition to gaining

theoretical knowledge by preparing for the examination, a visit to an authentic Holocaust or memorial locations may further enhance people's awareness of the horrors of the Holocaust.

Within the framework of the aforementioned survey (as part of the National Plan To Enhance Holocaust Education) into the costs of organizing three visits to authentic locations<sup>35</sup>, the funding and implementation of the motion of Van Dijk et al.<sup>36</sup> on a visit to these locations as part of the civic integration process is also going to be sympathetically reviewed.

### Countering misinformation, including conspiracy theories

Research by the Inclusion & Community Platform<sup>37</sup> has shown that, in order for young people to become more less susceptible to conspiracy theories, it is important that they learn to recognize them before they themselves start supporting them. A variety of instruments can be used to recognize conspiracy thinking and conspiracies. One of these is a guide to conspiracies developed by the National Extremism Support Centre (*Landelijk Steunpunt Extremisme*). The Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations is going to revise the 'dealing with disinformation' guide for local and regional authorities in 2024 and publicize it widely among municipalities.

In 2022 the previous government also published a government-wide strategy for the effective tackling of disinformation<sup>38</sup> and, on June 17, 2024, the then Minister and State Secretary of the Interior and Kingdom Relations briefed the House of Representatives on its progress.<sup>39</sup> The progress letter also highlights new measures, for example to strengthen the resilience of citizens. One of the elements of this is an additional subsidy from the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations to the BENEDMO consortium to support the fact checkers network in the Netherlands. The government is also strengthening its commitment to improving the public's media literacy.

<sup>35</sup> Also with a view to implementing the motion by MP Diederik van Dijk et al, Parliamentary Papers II, 2023-2024, 36272, no. 16.

<sup>36</sup> Parliamentary Papers II, 2023-2024, 36272, no. 16.

<sup>37</sup> *Antisemitische en antisocialistische complottheorieën*. KIS.

<sup>38</sup> Parliamentary Papers II 2022-2023, 30821, no. 173.

<sup>39</sup> Parliamentary Papers II 2023-2024, 30821, no. 230.

### Symbols Database

The National Coordinator for Counterterrorism and Security (NCTV) and the police have developed a Symbols Database in which professionals can look up information on right-wing extremist symbols they encounter, including antisemitic symbols and expressions. The Symbols Database has been developed for the police, municipal officials, youth workers, or other professionals who may come across extremist symbols during the course of their work. It is intended to enable professionals to recognize such symbols or expressions and, if necessary, act on them in accordance with their own agreements or procedures. These professionals are expected to be knowledgeable enough to interpret a symbol correctly in a given situation after examining the information contained in this Symbols Database.

#### *Project Based Collaboration on Antisemitism*

At EU level, EU member states, including the Netherlands, are looking into the possible areas of overlap between antisemitism on the one hand and terrorism, violent extremism and radicalization on the other. The Ministry of Justice and Security and the NCAB are involved in this process.

A *Project Based Collaboration (PBC)* on Antisemitism led by Germany and Austria was launched in 2024. The PBC on Antisemitism was created in view of the increase in intimidation and physical attacks against the Jewish community in Europe, among other things, and also the role antisemitism plays in violent extremism and radicalization. The focus during the meetings will be on the presence of antisemitism in various forms of extremism, how to record antisemitic incidents and how to harmonize them at the European level. Information on successful initiatives and perceived obstacles related to combating and preventing antisemitism in the context of extremism will also be exchanged.

### Plan of action to tackle online discrimination

In order to intensify the approach to online discrimination, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Justice and Security, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science and the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport launched a project in 2022 in cooperation with the National Coordinator for Combating Antisemitism (NCAB) and the National Coordinator against Discrimination and Racism (NCDR). A letter to

parliament<sup>40</sup> was drawn up in early 2023 which included an overview of existing initiatives and policies. Before the end of 2024 the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations is going to submit the interministerial plan to tackle online discrimination to the House of Representatives, of which online antisemitism is an explicit part.

Supplementary to this the Minister of Justice and Security is collaborating with the NCAB on engaging with social media parties to discuss a number of issues, including online antisemitism.

### Digital Services Act

The Digital Services Act (DSA) became fully effective in February 2024. Among other things it requires Internet parties to have accessible and user-friendly options for reporting illegal content including, therefore, punishable and unlawful manifestations of antisemitism. Platforms are required to carry out a review if illegal content is reported and can be held liable if they fail to take action. The DSA allows regulators to certify parties as so-called 'trusted flaggers'. Platforms are obliged to respond to reports from these parties immediately and treat them as a priority. The DSA also imposes reporting requirements on online platform providers. For example, online platforms must send moderation decisions to the European Commission, which then records them in the so-called 'DSA Transparency Database'.<sup>41</sup> The DSA also makes it easier to address social risks online, such as the rapid dissemination of illegal antisemitic messages. The European Commission monitors compliance with these obligations and is able to take enforcement action, for example by imposing fines of up to 6% of these parties' global turnover. The DSA implementing legislation was approved in the House of Representatives on October 15, 2024.<sup>42</sup>

<sup>40</sup> Parliamentary Papers II 2022-2023, 30950, no. 334.

<sup>41</sup> <https://transparency.dsa.ec.europa.eu/>

<sup>42</sup> Implementation of Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council of October 19, 2022 on a unified market for digital services and amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Services Regulation Implementation Act) (Parliamentary Dossier 36531)

**Contact with the Media Authority**

The motion brought by MP Van der Plas<sup>43</sup> asks the government to contact the Media Authority and request that it actively enforces the registration requirement for social media accounts with more than 500,000 followers and compliance with the Media Act. As already indicated in the debate on November 13, the Media Authority is an independent regulator and makes its own decisions on supervision and enforcement. Consequently, the government cannot ask it to pay more or less attention to any particular issue. The Minister of Education, Culture and Science is in constant contact with the Media Authority and will discuss the motion and the applicable platform regulations in general terms. The minister will inform the House of Representatives in the near future regarding how the supervision of these channels is currently arranged.

**Online Discrimination Hotline**

The Ministry of Justice and Security provides a subsidy to the online discrimination hotline every year. One of the purposes of the hotline is to enable people to report online antisemitism. The hotline assesses the reports it receives to see whether they relate to illegal content and, if that is the case, a request to remove the content is sent to the platform in question.

**International knowledge sharing**

In order to learn about municipalities' approaches to antisemitism in the rest of Europe, the NCAB led the Dutch delegation of municipal representatives to the annual European Mayors Summit Against Antisemitism in November 2023. The NCAB also intends to lead Dutch delegations with representatives from municipalities at future (international) conferences on local policies to combat antisemitism.

The NCAB exchanges knowledge with foreign coordinators on trends relating to antisemitism and successful policies to combat it.

The NCAB informs the government and relevant ministries accordingly and the ministries similarly consult the NCAB for advice on antisemitism policy.

**Guide for municipalities on how to deal with tensions and polarization**

The Social Stability Expertise Unit of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment has prepared a guide which gives municipalities, professionals and employers insight into how to deal with the tensions and polarization which are a consequence of the conflict in the Middle East.

**Preventing (online) sales**

A number of major online booksellers have committed to stop selling books which contain antisemitic content. The NCAB has taken the initiative to bring these businesses together to exchange their knowledge and experience so that they can jointly devise an effective roadmap. The government is encouraging other webshops and platforms that are not yet participating in this private initiative to do the same.



## Ambition 4

# A united stand against antisemitism in soccer

### The challenge

Unfortunately, as is the case in society as a whole, antisemitism also occurs in professional and amateur soccer. Generally speaking, incidences of antisemitism on the sidelines and in the stands are too often condoned with comments like “They don’t really know what they are on about” or “They don’t really mean it”.

Antisemitic slogans and chants in and around soccer stadiums can have consequences for many Jewish people beyond the stadium boundaries. Chants are, for example, repeated in schools and surveys of secondary school teachers have revealed that school children largely pick them up from matches.<sup>44</sup> This picture is also reflected in the figures relating to the investigation and prosecution of illegal discrimination. The vast majority of illegal discrimination offenses involving antisemitism occur in a soccer context. In all instances the suspect is a soccer supporter.<sup>45</sup>

### The ambition

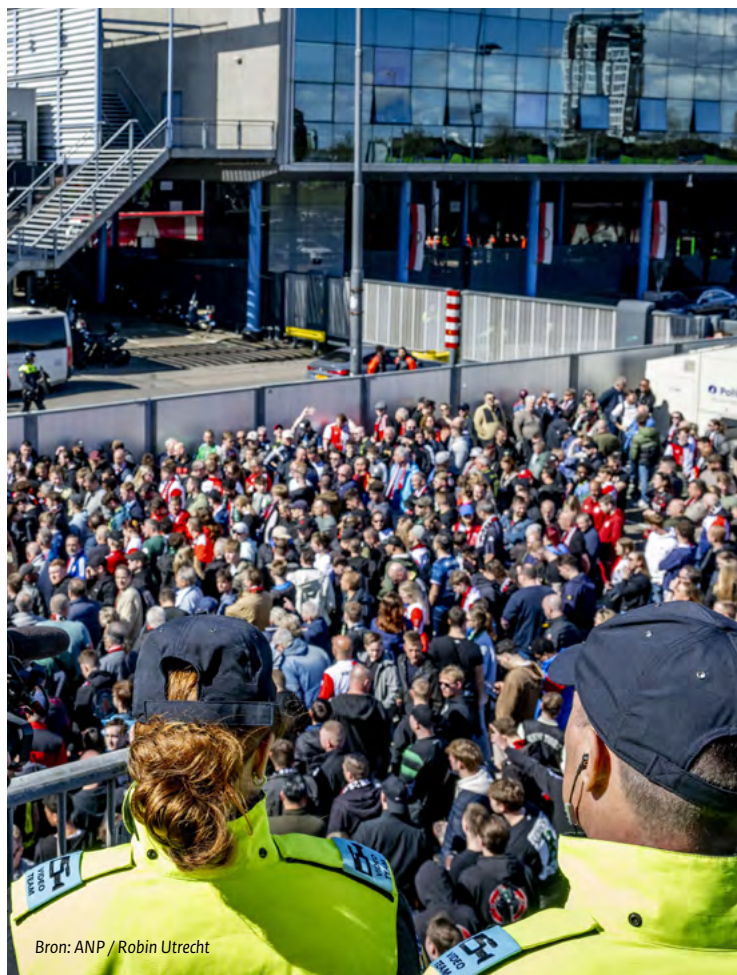
Soccer brings people together, is a source of pleasure and gives people a sense of purpose. Despite all the good intentions and measures taken by soccer clubs, antisemitic chants and slogans can still be heard regularly in Dutch soccer stadiums.

Therefore, the government is – once again – making an urgent appeal to all soccer clubs to tackle antisemitism.

With a view to dealing specifically with specific chants, the Royal Netherlands Football Association (KNVB) drafted the National Directive on Combating Verbal Violence to combat discriminatory, racist and antisemitic chants. If they occur, action is taken in accordance with the guideline and the stadium announcer will make an announcement to the fans. It is also possible for organizers to suspend matches either temporarily or permanently. The Minister of Justice and Security is examining the possibilities for prosecution in instances of discriminatory chants, where the individual involvement of suspects is difficult to prove (expansion of Article 141 of the Criminal Code to include chants).

<sup>44</sup> *Antisemitisme in het voortgezet onderwijs*, 2023, Panteia (commissioned by the Anne Frank Foundation).

<sup>45</sup> *Strafbare Discriminatie in Beeld 2023*.



Bron: ANP / Robin Utrecht

### **Our Football Belongs to Everyone**

Together with the KNVB, soccer clubs and the relevant stakeholders, the government is taking important steps to combat antisemitism, racism and discrimination in soccer through the plan entitled 'Our Football Belongs to Everyone' (*Ons voetbal is van iedereen*, OVIVI). A follow-up to this plan, which is based on preventing, signaling, sanctioning and cooperating, was put forward on September 28, 2023<sup>46</sup>, with additional measures being proposed to make it clear that any manifestations of discrimination, racism, antisemitism or homophobia, as well as behavior or chants, during football matches will not be tolerated.

The OVIVI program is to run until 2025 and will be evaluated at the end of that year. Together with the partners involved, the ministers responsible for OVIVI are exploring which elements of this approach can be continued beyond 2025, with specific attention being paid to combating antisemitism in addition to a broad focus on discrimination. In anticipation of the evaluation, we are in any event committed to the following measures.

### **Scaling up of the Anne Frank Foundation Fair Play workshop within the framework of OVIVI**

Within the framework of OVIVI the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment is committed to raising awareness among, and changing the behavior of, young people via two projects, namely the Fair Play workshops which the Anne Frank Foundation organizes together with clubs and the Fancoach projects. The Fair Play workshops are held in schools (in cooperation with youth coaches from the professional football clubs) and at both professional and amateur soccer clubs and include a game and a group discussion. The Anne Frank House wants the young people who play the game and engage in the group discussion to become aware of different forms of discrimination (such as antisemitism, anti-black racism and homophobia) and of their own role in such discrimination on and around the pitch. The game demonstrates to the participants that young people themselves can play an active role in tackling discrimination.

Funding from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment for the implementation of 80 workshops that will reach 1,600 to 2,000 young people is going to be available up to and including 2025.

The government is going to provide the necessary funding to enable the Anne Frank Foundation to continue expanding the workshops to more soccer clubs in 2025.

These additional funds will allow the Anne Frank House to provide a total of 140 workshops in 2025, reaching 2,800 to 3,500 young people.

#### Continuation/follow-up of the Fancoach Project

Supporters who are guilty of antisemitic slogans can, at the club's request, participate in the Fancoach Project which the Anne Frank Foundation is supporting. This project, which is running at Feyenoord, FC Utrecht and FC Den Bosch, focuses primarily on raising awareness among supporters of the hurtful effect of antisemitic chants. This project is also going to continue after 2024. A documentary on tackling chants entitled 'Towards a Galgenwaard Stadium for everyone' (*Op naar een stadion Galgenwaard voor iedereen*) was launched at FC Utrecht in May and can be viewed online. The Anne Frank House is going to use this video to try and generate interest at other professional football clubs. The government has called on the KNVB and the professional football clubs to step up their efforts to tackle offensive chants and to take part in similar projects.

#### Detection, proof and monitoring

Clubs have a responsibility to ensure that manifestations of antisemitism and other antisemitic incidents can be detected and proven. This means that the government is going to continue encouraging clubs to use technologies which have been or are still being developed within the framework of OVIVI, such as Identity Based Access and the options for making sound and visual recordings of early indications and clear manifestations of antisemitism and discrimination. The ultimate goal is to track down and prosecute offenders. The government is reminding clubs to record and document antisemitic incidents in such a way that the offenders can be identified and is calling on clubs that do not yet have adequate technology to make the necessary investments.

#### Standards

In recent years the KNVB has worked to raise awareness of discrimination in soccer via the OVIVI plan. Now it is time to take the next step.

On September 25 this year it launched the 'Don't Give Discrimination a Chance' (Discriminatie = Kansloos) campaign.

The ultimate goal of this campaign is to change behavior. The focus is gradually shifting from raising awareness (2020 - 2023) to creating a widely supported standard (2024) and to explaining what the response should be if standards are not met (2025). Soccer clubs can promote the standards by communicating them to their supporters and visitors via fence signs, canteen posters, window stickers, tiles, flags and online displays. Since the start of the campaign, 1 in 8 clubs have signed up to it and are actively engaging in it.

#### Campaign focus on amateur sports

In addition to the commitment via the OVIVI program, the government is also going to make an additional 0.10 million euros **available** every year from 2026 onwards **for amateur soccer clubs to help them recognize and combat antisemitism** and for campaigns to raise awareness about Jewish history and the Holocaust past of amateur soccer clubs and the villages, towns and cities they are located in.

In addition, the government is providing funds for a recurring awareness campaign on the Holocaust and contemporary antisemitism throughout amateur sport as a whole.

The government is going to provide 0.10 million euros for this campaign every year from 2026 onwards and the NCAB involved.





Bron: ANP

Pillar 3

# Remember and celebrate







## Ambition 4

# Keep the memory alive and recognition

### The challenge

Jewish people are still dealing with the (transgenerational) effects of the Holocaust and live with a fear that is ever-present in the back of many of their minds. *“It happened, so it can happen again,” said Auschwitz survivor Primo Levi.*

Consequently, we must be and remain alert to antisemitism, hatred and exclusion.<sup>47</sup>In ‘The Ten Stages of Genocide’ Gregory H. Stanton refers to a variety of stages that can lead to genocide. Discrimination is the third stage. This is followed by dehumanization, when a group is dismissed as second-class citizens, as a disease, vermin, inferior and less than human. The ten stages are visible in today’s world. The memory of, and education on, the Holocaust are essential for creating a greater awareness of the consequences of antisemitism, exclusion, hatred and the breakdown of the democratic rule of law.

For Jewish people, the memory of the Holocaust is often a personal story. It involves remembering one’s own relatives and family friends, as well as families no one remembers because they were all killed. Remembrance enables us as a society and the government also to recognize the seriousness of the horrors, which must never, ever be forgotten.

As the government, and representative of the State of the Netherlands, we remember the victims, but also reflect on our own role as a government before, during and after World War II. In 2020, then Prime Minister Rutte apologized on behalf of the State for the government’s attitude and actions at the time of the persecution of Jewish people. The Dutch government therefore bears a special historical responsibility in the fight against antisemitism in Dutch society, as well as the responsibility to preserve what remains today of pre-war Jewish life, such as buildings and other cultural assets.

### The ambition

We share a common history, including the history of World War II. Now that it has been more than 80 years since Allied troops landed in Normandy, we are in a phase of transition from remembering and celebrating the liberation with those who lived through World War II to remembering and celebrating freedom without them. Together we have a responsibility to make sure that the memory never fades and, as a government, we want to continue to bring this memory to the attention of different audiences.

In order to achieve the above ambition we are taking the following steps:

### Remembering

The tangible and non-tangible history of World War II should be safeguarded and passed on to future generations. In order to continue telling the story of World War II, including the Holocaust, the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport provides support to professional organizations within the remembrance sector, such as the five Remembrance Centers, the Jewish Cultural Quarter, The National Committee for 4 and 5 May, the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies and the Anne Frank Foundation. The ministry also supports the new National Holocaust Museum.

The celebrations to mark 80 years of freedom are an opportunity to reflect on the liberation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

During this 80th anniversary year (September 2024 to August 2025) we are celebrating the fact that we live in freedom in a democratic constitutional state. During this period there are opportunities to reflect in a variety of ways and locations on the horrors of World War II and the Holocaust, including:

- the Holocaust Remembrance Day commemoration on January 26, 2024, organized by the Dutch Auschwitz Committee;
- the reading of over 100,000 names of the Jewish, Sinti and Roma victims of the Holocaust.
- National Remembrance Day on May 4, 2025, when we remember the victims of World War II and wars and conflicts and peacekeeping operations that have occurred since then. The victims are remembered at other places around the country on the same day.



Bron: ANP / Olaf Kraak

### **Holocaust Remembrance Day**

The International Holocaust Remembrance Day is held on January 27 each year. That is the same day that the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp was liberated in 1945. Since 2017, more and more countries, organizations and people have highlighted the importance of this day through the #WeRemember campaign which was launched in order to commemorate the millions of victims of the Holocaust, to take a stand against all forms of antisemitism and hatred and to make the case for pluralism. The government will continue to participate in the #WeRemember campaign in a variety of ways.

### **January as Holocaust Education Month**

Part of the National Plan To Enhance Holocaust Education is the NCAB's 'January as Holocaust Education Month' campaign ([leeroverdeholocaust.com](https://leeroverdeholocaust.com)).

The aim of this campaign is to raise awareness, particularly in the education sector, of the importance of Holocaust education and the materials and activities available.

The Ministry of Education, Culture and Science is going to support the NCAB by focusing on this campaign through a variety of channels (including the primary/secondary education newsletter (po/vo-nieuwsbrief), the Citizenship Expertise Unit and social media). Attention is also being drawn across society to existing and special products and activities which relate to Holocaust remembrance and education, including through social media, street posters and radio commercials. The campaign is to be funded from the NCAB's budget in 2025.

### **National Day of Action Against Antisemitism - April 25**

In accordance with the Eerdmans motion, the House of Representatives declared<sup>48</sup> April 25 to be National Day of Action Against Antisemitism. In accordance with the wishes of the House of Representatives, a letter will be sent to the House of Representatives prior to this day every year containing details of the progress the government's efforts are making to counter antisemitism.

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48 Parliamentary Papers II 2023-2024, 30950, no. 377.



## Ambition:

# Find out about and celebrate Jewish life in the Netherlands

### The challenge

Jewish people have been part of our society since the 12th century. A tenth of Amsterdam's population was Jewish 85 years ago. Now only 0.3 percent of the Dutch population is Jewish (about 50,000 people). In today's Netherlands it is hard to imagine what Dutch society – and especially society in Amsterdam and in other cities – looked like before World War II.

The genocide perpetrated against the Jewish people during World War II left a huge hole in Dutch society. After the war, Jewish neighborhoods were lifeless and some had been literally wiped off the map.

Jewish history and Jewish life has been part of Dutch culture for centuries and it is still so today. Having said that, there is concern that Jewish cultural heritage is too often associated with the Holocaust as opposed to the long and rich history of Jewish people in the Netherlands.<sup>49</sup> Learning about Jewish life and culture is one way of combating antisemitism.

### The ambition

The government believes it is vital to preserve Jewish heritage in the Netherlands, for example in terms of buildings and cultural assets. This heritage offers people an insight into past society in which Jewish life was an inseparable part of Dutch society, politics, economics, science and philosophy, painting and architecture, and the influence of Yiddish and Hebrew on the Dutch language. It is important that this Jewish heritage and the stories it tells live on in the consciousness of our society as a whole and are structurally protected. Learning about Jewish life and culture is not only a matter of education, but also of increasing people's knowledge of Judaism by focusing on Jewish holidays and the organization of interfaith and intercultural dialogues.

The government has noted with dismay that, in recent years, a number of performances featuring performers with a Jewish background have been disrupted or rescheduled for security reasons. The point of departure is that the cultural sector must continue to be a public and safe place. Freedom of expression is essential and must not be compromised. It is unacceptable for a performance, concert, or other cultural activities to be canceled due to them having a Jewish theme, or due to an artist having a Jewish background. To avoid situations like this it is important for cultural institutions to be properly prepared if there are indications that disruption may occur.

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<sup>49</sup> Networks Overcoming Antisemitism, p. 15.

In order to achieve the above ambition we are going to take the following steps:

### **Guide on dealing with tensions: knowledge sharing and safeguarding a pluralistic cultural sector**

The government stands for an inclusive, pluralistic and accessible cultural sector, where there is no place for antisemitism.

The basic principle within the cultural sector is that institutions are in charge of their own programming. It is, however, unacceptable for organizations and artists that are characterized as Jewish to be rejected by institutions for that reason. It is therefore important that these institutions have the knowledge and skills necessary for them to relate to the polarization that exists in society. The cultural sector has distributed a set of guidelines on how to deal with the tensions that might be associated with a particular cultural event. Discussions have been held between the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, the Ministry of Justice and Security and the Association of Dutch Municipalities to ensure access to the local tripartite consultation group and the government is also providing a one-off amount of 0.08 million euros for further dialogue and knowledge sharing with cultural institutions to ensure an inclusive, pluralistic and accessible cultural sector.

### **Experiencing identity, culture and faith**

The organizers of public activities often do not take any account of religious days, other than those observed in the Christian faith. **The government is calling on government agencies and the business community to be more mindful, for example, of Jewish and Muslim holidays, Sabbath and dietary restrictions, and to pay attention to, among other things, Jewish holidays, in line with initiatives relating to other holidays.** The idea is at least to allow employees to take time off on a day of religious significance other than a generally recognized Christian holiday. The same request has been made by the government to the ministries and by the Minister of Education, Culture and Science to educational institutions.

### **Interfaith and intercultural dialogues**

In the Netherlands, many young people have never had the opportunity to find out how Jewish people live their lives. Various Jewish customs contain elements which are recognizable for other cultures and religions and recognizing these elements can help to improve mutual understanding and acceptance and therefore avoid any prejudice and stereotyping. In order to encourage a professional approach to helping people find out more about how Jewish people live their lives, 0.1 million euros is to be made available every year for projects such as 'Get to know your neighbors' (Leer je burens kennen). The NCAB is going to be involved in deciding how these funds should be spent.

At the end of 2023 the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment started organizing interfaith dialogue sessions between young people of different faiths (Jewish, Muslim and Christian). The sessions are intended to lead to a better mutual understanding, (more) positive perceptions and the breaking down of negative stereotypes. The ministry is going to decide whether there will be any follow-up when the pilot ends in April 2025.

### **Preserving Jewish-Dutch heritage and arts**

The Ministry of Education, Culture and Science provides the Jewish Cultural Quarter with a structural subsidy under the Heritage Act for the purpose of public activities and the management and preservation of the Jewish Museum's collection. In addition, 80 (former) synagogues and 71 Jewish cemeteries have been designated as listed buildings, so that they can be protected and so that the owners become eligible for financial support in order to preserve them. Information on Jewish Heritage is available from the Cultural Heritage Agency (Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed).

The above measures are also intended to help implement the Stoffer motion<sup>50</sup>, which asked the government to work together with the NCAB in order to draft a proposal on how to protect the Jewish way of life. This strategy is a multi-year approach in which the government, together with the NCAB, will review the effectiveness of measures and further enhancements every year.

## Annex:

# Coordination of the Strategy to Combat Antisemitism

The Government Program states that, in the fall of 2024, the Minister of Justice and Security will coordinate the drafting by the government, in collaboration with the National Coordinator on Combating Antisemitism, of a national strategy to enhance the way antisemitism is tackled. As mentioned in the letter to parliament of April 23, 2024<sup>51</sup>, the National Coordinator on Combating Antisemitism, as a special advisor to the government, plays a crucial role in the overall approach to antisemitism and advises on policy and implementation.

In this strategy we determine, on behalf of the entire government and in coordination with the NCAB, which additional measures are to be taken to combat antisemitism. This strategy also addresses the distribution of additional funds made available to tackle antisemitism in previous debates on the Justice and Security budget. The NCAB was consulted on the distribution of resources.

Several ministers within government have specific responsibilities in terms of tackling antisemitism. Ministers have ultimate responsibility for their own policy areas.

The Minister of Justice and Security plays a coordinating role on the theme of antisemitism and also has a responsibility to investigate and prosecute antisemitism via the Public Prosecution Service and the police. The Minister of Justice and Security is also the Minister of Worship and, on the basis of that role, is in contact with Jewish communities to guarantee freedom of religion, together with the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations.

The ministers at the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science are responsible for education, emancipation and culture. They are actively engaged in education about the Holocaust and related topics both inside and outside educational

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51 Parliamentary Papers II, 2023-2024, 30950, no. 367.

The NCAB institute was set up in 2021 and plays an advisory, motivating and connecting role. The NCAB advises the government, ministries and local governments on how to combat antisemitism and, to this end, brings together expertise on antisemitism and how to tackle it within government and facilitates cooperation between various ministries and civil society organizations. In doing so the institute supports and promotes the infrastructure for tackling antisemitism both within government and elsewhere in society. The NCAB's duties also include an identifying role for the Jewish community and informing the Minister of Justice and Security of the signals received, setting up a discussion cycle with municipalities that have a Jewish community and monitoring the measures which effectively ensure that Jewish communities are protected, advising on the bottlenecks in the various chains in terms of processing antisemitism cases and in the entire chain of antisemitism and maintaining contacts with colleagues in the international field to exchange experiences and, where possible, to adopt good experiences and put them into practice in the Netherlands.

institutions. The active promotion of citizenship is also a responsibility of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science and that includes promoting basic values, such as non-discrimination, with schools being required to take a proactive approach where appropriate, for example in the event of risks. The Inspectorate of Education plays a supervisory role in this respect. Furthermore, the ministers of Education, Culture and Science can play a supporting role when it comes to guaranteeing safety at educational institutions, with the main focus being on monitoring the progress of the primary process of teaching and research and academic freedom. The Minister of Education, Culture and Science is also responsible for the preservation of designated Jewish cultural heritage and restitution policy.

Based on a responsibility for the Constitution, the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations is the coordinating minister for the broad approach to discrimination.

The Secretary of State for Health, Welfare and Sport is the coordinating minister for policy on war victims and commemorating World War II (including the Holocaust), as well as being responsible for combating antisemitism in sports. The Secretary of State for Participation and Integration focuses on preventing discrimination on the basis of origin, religion or skin color. The Minister of Social Affairs and Employment is involved in tackling discrimination on the labor market. The Minister of Foreign Affairs represents government policy abroad, including with regard to combating antisemitism.

The NCAB is also going to be closely involved in the implementation of the strategy by the ministries and will advise on how to improve the approach towards departments and other governments bodies.



## Annex:

# Financial clarification

The (policy) measures described in the strategy are the responsibility of the various ministries. The responsibility for a specific measure, and therefore its scope, remains with the line ministries. The Ministry of Justice and Security serves as the coordinating ministry as regards the theme of antisemitism, and the NCAB is also accommodated within this ministry. In consultation with the NCAB this strategy addressed the additional funds which have become available to tackle antisemitism.

An amount of €4.5 million in the budget of the Ministry of Justice and Security is to be structurally released from 2025 so that the approach to tackling antisemitism can be further intensified. These funds can be used on a government-wide basis. The responsible departments will initially identify their own scope for proposals in their policy areas, but these funds can provide an initial impetus to initiatives that have not yet been funded. In the coming years further agreements will be made with the ministries on how these funds are to be used. The NCAB will be closely involved and the aim will be to ensure at all times that the funds in question are used as effectively as possible. Some of the funds will also be structurally released for the office of the National Coordinator on Combating Antisemitism.

The funds referred to above will be used to make the approach to tackling antisemitism even more robust. In 2025 the funds are to be spent on, among other things, raising awareness and changing behavior in soccer, on a commitment to exchange and dialogue to counter polarization, and on supporting Jewish victims. Further spending will be assessed in the near future.

The House of Representatives has already been informed, in the letter of June 24 last, about the financing of the work to implement the National Plan To Enhance Holocaust Education.<sup>52</sup>

