



Working Group on Antisemitism

3RD MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COUNCIL DECLARATION ON THE FIGHT AGAINST ANTISEMITISM

VIA VIDEO-CONFERENCE
17 June 2020, 13:30 – 17:30

Following the unanimous adoption of the "[Council Declaration on the fight against antisemitism and the development of a common security approach to better protect Jewish communities and institutions in Europe](#)" on 6 December 2018, the European Commission has created a working group on antisemitism within the existing High-level Member States expert group on Racism and Xenophobia to implement the declaration. The aim is to support Member States in the adoption of "a holistic strategy to prevent and fight all forms of antisemitism as part of their strategies on preventing racism, xenophobia, radicalisation and violent extremism", in line with the Council declaration by the end of 2020.

In the Council Declaration, Member States agreed, "to endorse the non-legally binding [working definition of antisemitism](#) employed by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) as a useful guidance tool in education and training, including law enforcement authorities in their efforts to identify and investigate antisemitic attacks more efficiently and effectively". The definition facilitates a common understanding of how antisemitism manifests itself today in different forms.

Proper **reporting and recording of antisemitic hate crimes and incidents** is essential to better measure the extent of antisemitism affecting Jewish communities and for governments and civil society to formulate effective responses. According to the annual Fundamental Rights Agency report on antisemitism, still several EU Member States lack official data on reported antisemitic incidents.

A victim-centred approach fosters trust between state authorities and Jewish communities in addressing antisemitism. The recent Commission implementation report of the **Victims' Rights Directive** showed that some Member States still do not comply with the obligation to assess the particular victims' vulnerability and do not take into consideration that a crime has been committed with a bias or a discriminatory motive.

This working group meeting aims to help Member States and Jewish communities to use the **IHRA working definition** in the process of collecting data on antisemitic incidents, provide training for law enforcement and judiciary and look into ways to better support victims of antisemitism in particular in light of the upcoming EU Strategy on Victims' Rights.