



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)  
Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)**

**The Federal Public Service Justice of Belgium**

**RESPONDING TO ANTI-SEMITIC HATE CRIMES AND ADDRESSING  
THE SECURITY NEEDS OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY  
IN BELGIUM**

**2 April 2019**

**Jewish Museum of Belgium**

*Rue des Minimes 21, Brussels*

In recent years, deadly anti-Semitic incidents in Pittsburgh, Copenhagen, Paris, Brussels, Toulouse and elsewhere, as well as frequent non-fatal violent anti-Semitic incidents, have created a widespread sense of fear and insecurity among Jewish individuals and communities throughout the OSCE region.

In light of the urgent need for greater efforts to address anti-Semitism and as part of the German-funded, multi-year project “Turning Words into Action to Address Anti-Semitism”, ODIHR has developed a publication entitled “Understanding Anti-Semitic Hate Crimes and Addressing the Security Needs of Jewish Communities – A Practical Guide”. This guide lays out practical steps that governments, in co-operation and partnership with Jewish communities, are recommended to undertake to better address the security needs of Jewish communities.

This event is particularly relevant in light of the findings from a recent survey by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) according to which 81 per cent of respondents in Belgium considered expressions of hostility towards Jews in the street and in other public places to be ‘a very big’ or a ‘fairly big problem’. In this regard, more than one third of respondents (37 per cent) in Belgium said to avoid visiting Jewish events or sites, at least occasionally, because as Jews, they do not feel safe. Moreover, 42 per cent of respondents in Belgium indicated that they have considered emigrating in the past five years because they did not feel safe there as Jewish citizens. In addition, the registration of anti-Semitic incidents by Unia, the Interfederal Equality Body in Belgium, nearly doubled last year. Whereas 56 such incidents were recorded in 2017, in 2018 this number increased to 101.

The purpose of the event, co-organized by the Federal Public Service Justice of Belgium and ODIHR, in cooperation with the Jewish Museum of Belgium, is threefold. First, to officially present the Guide, including its translation in French and Dutch. Second, to raise awareness of the issues concerning the security needs of Jewish communities among Belgian law

enforcement officials working on issues of hate crime. The third goal is to discuss the co-operation between law-enforcement and Jewish communities in Belgium and, on the basis of the Guide, identify challenges, opportunities, and recommendations pertaining to this co-operation for the future.

The presentation of the Guide will be followed by a workshop with the participation of law-enforcement officials and Jewish community representatives (community security focal points) from cities in Belgium where Jewish communities are present. Participants will discuss the practicality of the Guide in responding to anti-Semitic hate crimes and security challenges. Based on case studies, participants will apply the ten practical steps of the Guide in order to find concrete solutions and recommendations to address the respective scenarios.

Interpretation from/to English to/from French and Dutch will be provided.

## AGENDA

### *Part 1*

#### *Presentation of the Practical Guide*

9:30 - 10:00      *Registration and welcome coffee*

**10:00 - 10:30      Opening remarks**

- **Koen Geens**, Minister of Justice, Belgium
- **Marc Loewenstein**, Coordinator of Antisemitisme.be
- **Pascale Falek Alhadeff**, Director of the Jewish Museum of Belgium
- **Francesca Vietti**, Project Officer, Words Into Action Project, Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department, ODIHR

**10:30 - 11:00      Short film followed by the presentation of the ODIHR Practical Guide**

- **Ilan Cohn**, Project Manager, Words Into Action Project, Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department, ODIHR

11:00 – 11:15      *Coffee break*

**11:15 – 12:45      Panel discussion on manifestations of anti-Semitism in Belgium**

- **Debbie De Baets**, Inspector, Local Police of Antwerp
- **Dominique Franz**, Board member, Point of Contact Jewish Community, Local police of Brussels Capital Ixelles
- **Evelyne Haberfeld**, Administrator, *Communauté Israélite de Bruxelles*, Jewish Community of Brussels

- **Nadine Iarchy**, Board Member, *Forum der Joodse Organisaties*, Jewish Community of Antwerp
- **Katharina von Schnurbein**, European Commission's Coordinator on Combating Antisemitism

**Moderation: Patrick Charlier**, Co-Director of Unia

12:45 - 13:45

*Buffet lunch*

13:45 - 14:15

**Case study: Security at the Jewish Museum of Belgium**

- **Philippe Blondin**, President, Jewish Museum of Belgium
- **Philippe Strauss**, Security Focal Point, Jewish Museum of Belgium

14:15 - 15:00

**International good practises regarding cooperation between police and Jewish Communities**

- **Ophir Revach**, Chief Executive Officer, European Jewish Congress Security and Crisis Centre

15:00 - 15:15

**Concluding remarks**

- Representative of the Federal Public Service Justice (tbc)

15:15 - 15:30

*Coffee break*

*Part 2*

*Workshop for law enforcement officials, local Jewish community security focal points and stakeholders dealing with reporting of incidents*

15:30 – 17:00

**Workshop on the application of the Security Guide's 10-Step model to the local context**

Participants will be divided into several working groups to discuss a specific case study against the background of the 10-step model of the Security Guide. Participants will introduce themselves and briefly discuss their experience regarding hate crime and Jewish community security issues. The facilitator will then present the ten practical steps of the Guide and the workshop objectives. Each group will discuss, on the basis of a scenario, measures which are in place in their respective jurisdictions and identify recommendations contained in the Guide that could be implemented locally. Based on the fictional scenario participants will focus on discussing what is usually done,

what works and what needs to be improved. Following the exercise, a rapporteur from each group will present the findings.

**17:00 - 17:15      Conclusions and evaluation**

ODIHR representative

**17:15 – 18:15      Guided tour of the permanent exhibition of the Jewish Museum and of the temporary exhibition (photographer Leonard Freed)**