

## **International Council of Jewish Parliamentarians**

### **RESOLUTION**

#### **Combating Anti-Semitism in Europe**

*December 2013*

Whereas anti-Semitism remains a threat to many Jewish communities in Europe and is becoming increasingly prevalent;

Whereas in November 2013, the European Union (EU) Fundamental Rights Agency surveyed Jews in the eight EU Member States with the largest communities to compile a report, "Discrimination and Hate Crime Against Jews in EU Member States," which confirmed the growing presence of anti-Semitism in Europe;

Whereas this survey—the first to collect comparable data on Jewish experiences of anti-Semitism - found that 76% of Jews surveyed believe anti-Semitism has become more acute and has increased in their country in the last 5 years;

Whereas in the 12 months preceding the survey, 21% of all respondents experienced at least one incident involving verbal insult or harassment or a physical attack because they were Jews and 27% of respondents said that they have witnessed other Jews being victims of anti-Semitic incidents;

Whereas 64% of victims of anti-Semitic physical attacks or threats of violence did not report the incident;

Whereas 46% of Jews surveyed worry about being verbally insulted or harassed in public because they are Jews and 33% worry about being physically attacked because of their faith; a number stated that they avoid wearing or displaying items in public that might identify them as Jewish and avoid visiting Jewish events or sites due to safety concerns;

Whereas 36% of respondents felt discriminated against or harassed in the last 12 months, most notably in the workplace, while looking for work or while in school;

Whereas 75% of respondents identified the Internet as "the most common forum for negative statements" about Jews;

Whereas the report points to traditional forms of anti-Semitism with 57% of respondents reporting that in the last 12 months they have heard claims that the Holocaust was a myth or has been exaggerated, it also signals the growing prevalence of new forms of anti-Semitism – namely anti-Zionism—with 48% of respondents saying they regularly hear people compare Israel to the Nazis;

Whereas 29% of Jews surveyed have considered emigrating because they do not feel safe living as a Jew in their home countries;

Whereas 43% of respondents were not aware of legislation which protects Jewish people against discrimination;

Whereas the Jobbik party, in part founded on Nazi and anti-Semitic ideology, is the third largest party in Hungary;

Whereas Golden Dawn leaders in Greece openly deny the Holocaust and blame Jews for Greece's economic difficulties;

Whereas on April 3, 2012, just days before the observance of the Jewish holiday of Passover, Zsolt Barath, a member of the Jobbik Party, took to the floor of Parliament and claimed that the Jews who were accused in 1882 of ritual murder after the disappearance of Eszter Solymosi, a Christian peasant girl from the village of Tiszaeszlar, were found innocent only because the judge worried that international bankers – code words for "Jews" – would push Hungary into bankruptcy if the Jews were convicted;

Whereas on May 4, 2013 the Jobbik party staged a rally in central Budapest in protest of the capital's hosting of the World Jewish Congress. During the rally, party chairman Gabor Vona told protestors that "the Israeli conquerors, these investors, should look for another country in the world for themselves because Hungary is not for sale;"

Whereas the rise in anti-Semitism and its growing acceptance in certain circles may contribute to the vulnerability of the Jewish community, including to physical political attacks such as the 2012 attack in Toulouse, France, where a Rabbi, his two children, and a third Jewish child were killed by Islamist Mohamed Merah, outside a Jewish school, then known as Otzar HaTorah;

Whereas in 2013 Jewish communities in Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Sweden and Ukraine all reported anti-Semitic or Nazi related vandalism against Jewish infrastructures such as synagogues and/or Jewish community centers;

Whereas on June 19, 2013, in Warsaw, Poland, the phrase "Jews out" was found written on the stairs of a monument commemorating the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising;

Whereas on July 23, 2013 in Sheerness, England a group of Hasidic Jews riding on a coach bus were attacked by a gang of teenagers who shouted anti-Semitic slurs while pelting the bus with rocks and eggs;

Whereas, in May 2013, a Belgian woman was beaten by her neighbors and told "what the Nazis didn't finish we will;"

Whereas, in May 2013 a Belgian politician told a well-known Flemish blog that anger against Jews in Hungary and Greece happens because Jews own the banks and control the global economy;

Whereas, European politicians have expressed that its citizens have become inured to anti-Semitism and that its use is being met with increasing complacency.

Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved,*

The International Council of Jewish Parliamentarians (ICJP) applauds the EU Fundamental Rights Agency for compiling and publishing the “Discrimination and Hate Crime Against Jews in EU Member States” survey;

The ICJP calls upon the EU Fundamental Rights Agency to follow up on these disturbing findings by publishing and disseminating information about EU and national laws and efforts which are supposed to protect Jewish people and other minorities from discrimination;

The ICJP calls upon its individual members to circulate the survey compiled by the EU Fundamental Rights Agency among fellow parliamentarians and countries;

The ICJP calls on European parliaments to adopt the London Declaration and the Ottawa Protocols to combat anti-Semitism;

The ICJP calls upon the United States to further strengthen its cooperation with the EU and the broader international community to combat anti-Semitism by expanding dissemination of the reports initiated and compiled by the U.S. State Department’s Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism.