

Extract of the Strategy of the Republic of Slovenia on Combating Antisemitism until 2033

The Strategy on Combating Antisemitism until 2033 was adopted by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia at its 85th regular session on 21 December 2023.

Short extract of the strategy is presented below.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

CIP	Judicial Training Centre at the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Slovenia
EU	European Union
IHRA	International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance
JSKD	Republic of Slovenia Public Fund for Cultural Activities
KZ-1	Penal Code of the Republic of Slovenia
MDDSZ	Ministry of Labour, the Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of the Republic of Slovenia
MIZŠ	Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia
MK	Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia
MNZ	Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia
MP	Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Slovenia
MVI	Ministry of Education of the Republic of Slovenia
MVZI	Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation of the Republic of Slovenia
UN	United Nations Organization
VDT	Office of the State Prosecutor General of the Republic of Slovenia
UOIM	Government Office for the Support and Integration of Migrants
UPRO	Probation Administration of the Republic of Slovenia
URSIKS	Administration for Enforcement of Penal Sanctions of the Republic of Slovenia
ZRSŠ	National Education Institute

INTRODUCTION

Despite the efforts and progress made to build a more tolerant society and to fight intolerance, hate speech and incitement, the internal and external political situation and the manipulation with culture, religion and economic hardships show that the work of building an inclusive, tolerant society based on dialogue and acceptance of diversity cannot be said to be finished.

In the EU, antisemitic hate speech is on the rise, as are antisemitic physical attacks (of one kind or another) on Jewish communities and Jewish cultural heritage.¹ In order to stop, prevent or address such phenomena in a timely and preventive manner, an EU Council Declaration on the fight against antisemitism and the development of a common security approach to better protect Jewish communities and institutions in Europe was adopted.² The EU Council has repeatedly called on all EU Member States³ to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to prevent and combat all forms of antisemitism as part of their strategies to prevent racism, xenophobia, radicalization and violent extremism and to step up efforts to ensure the safety and security of Jewish communities and their institutions and members.

The Jewish community, together with its history, social participation and cultural and intellectual heritage, is an important part of the social and cultural wealth of Slovenia, which must strive to protect and preserve it. It is an undeniable historical fact that in the territory of present-day Slovenia, the Jewish community has been, in certain historical periods from the Middle Ages until the end of the Second World War, subjected to restrictions on its rights, attacks, persecution and, during the occupation (during the Second World War), to Holocaust.

The three key areas of the Strategy of the Republic of Slovenia on Combating Antisemitism (2023 - 2033), for which the relevant stakeholders will prepare concrete measures after its adoption, are the following:

- coordination of the work and activities of state bodies in the identification, investigation, prevention, tackling with and punishment of all forms of antisemitism (ranging from measures to combat all forms of narratives that spread intolerant and antisemitic messages to programmes for the re-socialization of antisemitic individuals radicalized by antisemitic ideology) in Slovenian society;
- preventive work that raises awareness and promotes the fact that Jewish culture and the Jewish community are an integral part of Slovenian society;
- strengthening Slovenian society's knowledge and awareness of the Holocaust and preserving the memory of it among younger generations.

The strategy has three main pillars: recognizing antisemitism, promoting awareness of and preserving (the local) Jewish culture, and Holocaust remembrance, with the overall goal of Slovenia, the EU and the world free of antisemitism. It is formulated in a manner to encourage and guide the implementation of concrete measures and promote examples of good practice in the field of learning about Jewish culture, building a tolerant and pluralistic society, and tackling antisemitism in all its forms. The aim of the strategy is to establish an appropriate organizational and substantive framework that will create favourable conditions for the preservation of local

¹ European Agency For Fundamental Rights: Antisemitism – Overview of antisemitic incidents recorded in the European Union 2011–2021, available at: <https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2022/antisemitism-overview-2011-2021>.

² Council Declaration on the fight against antisemitism and the development of a common security approach to better protect Jewish communities and institutions in Europe – Council conclusion (6 December 2018), <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-15213-2018-INIT/en/pdf>; Council Declaration on mainstreaming the fight against antisemitism across policy areas (2 December 2020), <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/47065/st13637-en20.pdf>; Conclusions on combating racism and antisemitism (2 March 2022), <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-6406-2022-REV-1/en/pdf>.

³ Ibid.

Jewish traditions and culture in the Slovenia and build on a comprehensive, coherent and coordinated fight against antisemitism.

CENTRAL AREAS OF WORK

1 PREVENTING AND COMBATING ALL FORMS OF ANTISEMITISM

1.1 CURRENT SITUATION AND ACTIVITIES TO DATE

Antisemitism is a socio-political phenomenon that has a long history in Europe (including Slovenia). It takes (or has taken) many different, more or less visible forms and is fundamentally based on scapegoating and providing simplistic and easily understandable explanations of the complex challenges and problems faced by European societies. Since today's world is global and well connected, conspiracy theories and messages with antisemitic content are spreading on the internet and social networks also in Slovenia. As this is one of the forms of dissemination of hatred and antisemitic ideas, the competent institutions and relevant stakeholders in Slovenia must take more active, systemic, and strategic preventive action to prevent the dissemination and popularization of such ideas and to address all forms of antisemitism in Slovenian society.

The Republic of Slovenia condemns all forms and manifestations of antisemitism, extremism, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, neo-Nazism, neo-fascism, and all other forms of intolerance and is committed to the global efforts against all of these forms of intolerance.

On 1 December 2011, Slovenia became a member of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. Following its accession to the IHRA, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia appointed a permanent Slovenian delegation to the IHRA, which focuses on the priority areas of commemoration, research and education.

Slovenia participated in the substantive drafting and co-sponsored the UN Resolution on Holocaust denial, proposed by Israel and Germany.⁴

Slovenia was among the first countries to adopt the IHRA's non-legally binding definition of antisemitism, however, without the illustrative examples. On 13 February 2020, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted⁵ the IHRA's legally non-binding working definition of Holocaust denial and distortion, which affirms that denial and distortion of Holocaust facts must not be tolerated and must be condemned by the domestic and international publics, and that the issue must be addressed holistically.

⁴ The Resolution, symbolically adopted on 24 January 2022 on the 80th anniversary of the Wannsee Conference, where the infamous plan on the "final solution of the Jewish question" had been agreed, was adopted unanimously.

⁵ Decision adopting a non-legally binding working definition of Holocaust denial and distortion (Document No: 50102-11/2018/16), 13 February 2020.

1.2 MEASURES

Field of work	Measure	Explanation of measure	Body responsible for the measure
<p>Organization of the coordination of the work of the interdepartmental working body responsible for the subject-matter</p>	<p>1. Establishment of an interdepartmental working group to monitor the implementation of the Strategy and address challenges in the fight against antisemitism.</p>	<p>In order to address antisemitism in Slovenia at the systemic level, a body should be established at the level of ministries or relevant state bodies to monitor (once a year) the reporting on the implementation of the Strategy and the implementation of its measures and to lead the discussion of challenges in its implementation.</p>	<p>MP</p> <p>Participants: competent ministries, Jewish organizations in Slovenia, Human Rights Ombudsman of the Republic of Slovenia, Advocate of the Principle of Equality, a representative of the Strategic Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Prevention of Hate Speech</p>
<p>Detecting and monitoring the prosecution of antisemitic acts</p>	<p>2. Proposing that law enforcement authorities report annually to the ministry responsible for preparing the Strategy information on the number of criminal charges and a brief indication (stage) of the action taken in the case of offences referred to in Articles 131 and 297 of the Criminal Code or other criminal charges for other comparable offences with</p>	<p>This measure will enable the Republic of Slovenia to be better informed on an annual basis about the incidence of antisemitism in the context of law enforcement hearings, so that the competent institutions can better plan and formulate future strategic documents and concrete measures to combat antisemitism.</p>	<p>MP</p> <p>Participants: police, VDT</p>

	the code SOV⁶ and where the content of the case so coded is such as to suggest that it contains elements of antisemitism.		
Empowerment and capacity-building of relevant civil servants and officials to respond appropriately in the event of detecting antisemitism at work	3. Awareness-raising and professional training for relevant public servants and officials who may encounter antisemitism in their work (in the community or with individuals) to identify it, deal with it appropriately or take effective action.	Antisemitism is a social phenomenon (for example a socio-political or ideological outlook or part of one) that has a more or less visible impact on various areas ⁷ of an individual's behaviour or actions. In its extreme form, it can lead to radicalization and violent extremism. As this is a harmful social phenomenon that contradicts the fundamental values of Slovenian society ⁸ and the foundations of Slovenian statehood, all stakeholders in Slovenian society must strive to take action against this phenomenon or to eliminate it. To achieve this, the diverse profiles of public servants (such as educators, police officers, social workers, etc.) and officials who work in the community or with individuals on a daily basis need to be sensitized and empowered to take appropriate action.	MNZ, MDDSZ (or social work centres), MVI, MVZI, CIP
Empowering and strengthening the competences of relevant members of the judiciary in dealing with cases involving antisemitism⁹	4. Awareness-raising and professional training of judicial staff working with convicted offenders in the penal system (custodial and community sanctions) on antisemitism and methods to assist in the work, resocialization and reintegration of convicted offenders radicalized with	In addition to criminal offences, the KZ-1 also deals specifically with the motives for committing them (Article 49). Specific motives may also arise from the perpetrators' ideological and life views. These attitudes also generally guide their behaviour and actions in society (and so, even in the absence of crime, there can be intergenerational transmission of socialization patterns of intolerance). Addressing the motives for committing offences is an important cornerstone of the treatment of convicted offenders. Since dialogue, acceptance of difference and pluralism are the cornerstones of the development and	MP or CIP, UPRO, URSIKS

⁶ According to an order of the State Prosecutor General of 2 June 2020, files dealing with crimes with a hate element must be specifically marked with the abbreviation SOV (abbreviation for hate).

⁷ For example, from the transmission of socialization and ethical value patterns in the family to attitudes at work and school, social inclusion, and socio-political activism.

⁸ Such as pluralism, acceptance of difference, dialogue and respect for human rights.

⁹ I.e., when working with persons who have committed crimes or offences with elements or signs of antisemitism.

	ideologies that contain the premises of antisemitism.	preservation of the democratic and progressive nature of Slovenian society, it is necessary (with the aim of strengthening the effectiveness of the reintegration and resocialization of convicted offenders) to empower all stakeholders or officials who come into contact with offenders convicted of crimes motivated by the national, racial, religious or ethnic background, or any other personal circumstance of the victim, through the provision of the relevant practical skills.	
Strengthening intercultural competences of migrants	5. Raising awareness of antisemitism among civil servants working with applicants for international protection, persons granted international protection and persons granted temporary protection and mainstreaming of promotion of tolerance (with a focus on eliminating and changing antisemitic attitudes) in their work with persons from these target groups.	According to the European Commission's website, ¹⁰ 74% of people in the Middle East and North Africa, 34% of people in Eastern Europe, and 23% of people in sub-Saharan Africa hold antisemitic views. As a significant proportion of applicants and persons granted international protection in Slovenia come from the above-mentioned regions, it is essential, in order to integrate them more effectively into Slovenian society, to strengthen knowledge and practical skills among civil servants (working with applicants for international protection, persons granted international protection and persons granted temporary protection) and to strengthen the scope of workshops on accepting diversity and eliminating or changing antisemitic prejudices or attitudes.	UOIM

Additional actions can be built on, taking into account new challenges and the available capacities of stakeholders.

¹⁰ European Commission, Strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life (2021–2030), available at: [About the EU strategy \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/e3000000/1/press-2020-05-14-01_en.pdf).

2 PROTECTING AND PRESERVING JEWISH CULTURE

2.1 CURRENT SITUATION AND ACTIVITIES TO DATE

Since the population censuses since 2002 do not define ethnicity, the number of persons identifying themselves as Jews in Slovenia cannot be accurately determined. Nevertheless, Jewish community is an ethnic community that has been historically present on the territory of present-day Slovenia since at least the Middle Ages. At the same time, the Jewish community in Slovenia is one of those communities that has been almost completely destroyed in the last millennium – most recently and most deliberately during the Second World War – as a result of the actions of the Nazi or fascist authorities and collaborationists, through deliberate physical persecution and extermination. In its efforts to preserve its tangible and intangible cultural wealth and to strengthen pluralism and intercultural dialogue on its territory, Slovenia must endeavour to create an environment that is even more conducive to the cultural activities of the local Jewish community, so that its members feel secure in performing their cultural events, preserving their traditions and attending religious services.

Some NGOs and the state are working to preserve Jewish culture. The Republic of Slovenia and local communities take care of Jewish cemeteries and synagogues which are listed in the Register of Immovable Cultural Heritage and constitute the preserved cultural heritage of the Jews in Slovenia. These are the Maribor synagogue,¹¹ Jewish cemeteries in Dolga vas near Lendava, Murska Sobota, Ljubljana and Rožna Dolina near Nova Gorica, the Jewish quarter in Maribor, and the synagogue in Lendava.¹²

¹¹ Cultural monument of national significance.

¹² Cultural monuments of local significance.

2.2 MEASURES

Field of work	Measure	Explanation of measure	Body responsible for the measure
Dialogue and cooperation between the competent authorities and the local Jewish communities on specific security issues or risks	1. Strengthening dialogue with Jewish communities in Slovenia and with the police to assess security risks and the need for enhanced security during Jewish cultural events.	An important factor enabling the preservation and development of the cultural life of minority communities, such as the Jewish community in Slovenia, is a sense of security. This measure (which is primarily aimed at strengthening cooperation and jointly assessing the security situation and security risks and agreeing to reduce the latter) provides a more appropriate environment for members of the Jewish community in Slovenia to preserve their traditions, customs, and cultural life.	MNZ, Police
Ensuring favourable conditions for the development and preservation of Jewish cultural activities	2. Supporting the cultural activities of Jewish organizations in Slovenia, including by creating more favourable conditions for applications to calls for tenders in the field of culture.	Through public calls for tenders intended to co-finance cultural activities promotion of the cultural integration of members of minority communities (category including members of the Jewish community) and immigrants in the Republic of Slovenia, which expresses a specific promotion of the constitutional right laid down in Article 61 of the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia.	MK, JSKD

Additional actions can be built on, taking into account new challenges and the available capacities of stakeholders.

3 EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND REMEMBRANCE

3.1 CURRENT SITUATION AND ACTIVITIES TO DATE

The persecution of Jews and their culture (customs and religion) and way of life over the centuries, culminating in the Holocaust, has left an indelible impact on the history of Europe. Despite all the wrongs that have happened in Europe as a result of the persecution of the Jews, Europe must not allow itself to forget or distort such historical events but must preserve the memory of them in order to pass on to future generations of its inhabitants the memory and the reminder of what must not happen again and of what led up to the tragic events. In the Second World War, the Slovenian nation was also threatened with extermination because of its Slavic origins and its settlement in a territory that was supposed to be a habitat exclusively for Germans in the Third Reich. During the war, many inhabitants of the Slovenian territories were taken to Nazi and fascist concentration and extermination camps, where they shared their fate with Jews, Roma, and members of other nations and religious groups doomed to extermination. **Those who survived and lived to see liberation brought their experiences home and shared them in their domestic environments, so the memory of the concentration camps and the crimes that took place there remains in the Slovenian national consciousness.**

Throughout the history of the independent Slovenian state, Slovenian society has preserved the memory of the traumatic experiences of the Second World War (Nazi/Fascist killings, deportations, internment and the sending of Slovenian inhabitants to concentration camps), which left indelible traces on Slovenian society and were etched in its historical memory. **In Slovenia, efforts must be made to preserve memory and to disseminate or popularize knowledge about the meaning of the consequences of Nazism, the Holocaust, and the concentration and extermination camps.**

In 2008, Slovenia declared 27 January, International Holocaust Remembrance Day, as Holocaust Remembrance Day. To commemorate it, several cultural events and educational activities are held each year in cooperation with the Jewish community, concentration camp survivor organizations, local communities, relevant ministries, and the Slovenian delegation to the IHRA. The Auschwitz-Birkenau memorial complex in Poland, where 2,324 Slovenians, Jews and Roma from the territory of the former Yugoslavia were transported, also houses the "Yugoslav pavilion", which commemorates the suffering of prisoners from the entire territory of the former Yugoslavia. The Ministry of Culture has provided part of the funds to pay for the restoration of the pavilion and the installation of a joint exhibition commemorating the suffering of all the victims (killed and detained) of Auschwitz-Birkenau from the territory of Slovenia.

3.2 MEASURES

Field of work	Measure	Explanation of measure	Body responsible for the measure
Teacher training to transfer knowledge about the Holocaust to schoolchildren	1. Annual training for primary and secondary school teachers on useful skills, practical tools and content for delivering quality lectures on the Holocaust and its remembrance.	<p>Primary and secondary school teachers are among the most important factors in the secondary socialization of young people. They are also a medium for the transmission of information and knowledge, thus influencing the construction of a moral and ethical value system for the future leaders of the social, political, cultural and economic development of Slovenian society. As the Holocaust is also a traumatic historical experience for Slovenian society, which must not be repeated, it is essential that teachers, as transmitters of Holocaust-related knowledge, be provided with the opportunity to participate in thematic professional trainings, to become acquainted with subject-specific good practices, and to have access to the most up-to-date educational materials or tools in this field.</p>	ZRSŠ, MVI
Teaching and awareness-raising	2. Linking cultural, academic and educational institutions to evaluate, present and communicate Jewish heritage	<p>In order to have accurate knowledge of the local Jewish cultural heritage, it is important to evaluate it, which is the basis for forming a comprehensive and professional view and a guide for raising the awareness of Slovenian society regarding it. International cooperation and programmes (e.g. the Cultural Route of European Jewish Heritage) also fall under this heading.</p>	MK, MVZI

Additional actions can be built on, taking into account new challenges and the available capacities of stakeholders.