



**INSIGHTS & TRENDS  
IN ANTISEMITIC  
ONLINE HATE SPEECH**



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# ***Get the Trolls Out!*** **Insights & Trends in** **Antisemitic Online** **Hate Speech**

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# I. Introduction: the *Get the Trolls Out!* project (2015-2016)



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## ABOUT *GET THE TROLLS OUT!*

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*Get the Trolls Out!* is an 11-month project (from September 2015 to July 2016) to engage European youth to counter and combat antisemitism.

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## PROJECT GOALS

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The goals of the project:

- Raise awareness of and counter antisemitic incidents, speech and politics;
- Promote accurate, balanced and inclusive messages about Jews that counter misinformation;
- Engage young people active in the social media sphere in being aware of antisemitism, in discussing and promoting a culture of respect, and to test out arguments against antisemitic stereotypes.

As first-hand experience of the Holocaust recedes in Europe, young people are especially vulnerable to dangerous ignorance and indifference about antisemitic attitudes that are still very much present in Europe. The project's efforts were based in five countries – Belgium, France, Greece, Hungary and the UK – but because of the project's emphasis on digital tools and social media, and the project target audience's vigorous use of them, it reached a broader European audience in the pursuit of solutions to a pan-European problem.

The project responded to the concerning rise in antisemitic attitudes and statements by both politicians and the media in the project countries, and addressed the risk that such attitudes are gaining traction among young people, especially (but not exclusively) in the context of unemployment, lack of opportunities and disillusion with traditional politics. Over a 12-month media and social media campaign, the project exposed the attitudes, misrepresentations and manipulation of antisemitic public discourses through creative education, humour and drama. *Get the Trolls Out!* demonstrated methods to actively reject antisemitic discourse in the media (both traditional and new) as well as in everyday life.

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## PROJECT ACTIONS

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The main actions of the project to counter antisemitic hate speech were:

1. **Media Monitoring:** traditional and new media were monitored to uncover antisemitic acts and speech by public and other figures.
2. **Mechanisms to Publicise Complaints:** when the project's monitoring efforts detected antisemitic content in the media, the partners exposed and countered this content using the most appropriate mechanisms – letters to the editor, posts on Facebook, Twitter, blogs on the given organisation's website, and complaints to regulatory bodies.
3. **Satirical Cartoons:** findings from the media monitoring provided grist for cartoons and posters to counter antisemitic speech to expose false claims and lies.
4. **Radio and Video Story Production:** videos and radio pieces which were critical of antisemitism or marking Holocaust-related events were produced.
5. **Cine-conferences:** films raising awareness about antisemitism were screened and followed by debates with the film director and experts
6. **Theatre plays:** theatre plays focused on combating antisemitism were prepared and performed in alternative places such as high schools.
7. **Social Media Strategy:** a project-dedicated website and social media campaign, together with the project partners' online platforms, pushed out the programme's media products and launch discussion and conversation about combating antisemitism.

All actions are available on the *Get the Trolls Out!* website: [www.getthetrollsout.org](http://www.getthetrollsout.org)

This publication will focus on the results of the media monitoring.

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## PROJECT PARTNERS

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- The **Media Diversity Institute** ([MDI](#)) works internationally to encourage and facilitate responsible media coverage of diversity. It aims to prevent the media from intentionally or unintentionally spreading prejudice, intolerance and hatred; encouraging instead, fair, accurate, inclusive and sensitive media coverage in order to promote understanding between different groups and cultures.
- **The International Center for Journalists** ([ICFJ](#)) is at the forefront of the news revolution. Its programmes empower journalists and engage citizens with new technologies and best practices. ICFJ's networks of reporters and media entrepreneurs are transforming the field. They believe that better journalism leads to better lives.
- **The Center for Independent Journalism** ([CIJ](#)) is a non-profit and non-political organisation aiming to promote ethical, fact-based journalism and independent media in Hungary. CIJ focuses its activities on journalism training, with a special emphasis on training professional journalists to contribute to ethical and high-quality journalism.
- **CEJI - A Jewish Contribution to an Inclusive Europe** ([CEJI](#)) is a Brussels-based non-profit organisation established in 1991. CEJI stands with people of all backgrounds to promote a Europe of diversity and respect. A Jewish voice at a European level, CEJI activities include delivering diversity education, enhancing interfaith and intercultural dialogue, and advocating in the EU against antisemitism and discrimination of all kinds.
- The **International League against Racism and Anti-Semitism** ([LICRA](#)) is one of the oldest non-governmental organisation fighting against racism and antisemitism. It offers free legal assistance to victims of racism and antisemitism and develops pedagogical actions and professional training.
- **Symbiosis** is a Greek organisation that advocates for political, social and economic participation of migrants and vulnerable communities at local, national and European level and seeks inclusion for marginalized groups and young people in the public sphere.

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## SUPPORTING PARTNER

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- **The Council of Europe** ([CoE](#)) advocates freedom of expression and of the media, freedom of assembly, equality, and the protection of minorities. It has launched campaigns on issues such as child protection, online hate speech, and the rights of the Roma, Europe's largest minority.

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# II. Media Monitoring and Reporting of Antisemitic Hate Speech Online

## BACKGROUND

In the *Get the Trolls Out!* project, the media monitoring has focused on the diversity of the media outlets in all project countries involved: the diversity of political opinions, the diversity of press platforms and the diversity of the countries involved. The common point in the monitored media is the persistence of antisemitic hate speech. The media monitoring included the European press, the depiction of antisemitic events in the press or the antisemitic depiction of events in the press, blogs and websites. An important part of the media monitoring took place in the social media realm, with a focus on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

In order to construct a methodology of media monitoring tailored to the project, it was necessary to establish a common understanding of antisemitism and agreed indicators for identifying it. Towards this end, CEJI – A Jewish Contribution to an Inclusive Europe:

1. produced the *Guidelines for Identifying and Monitoring Antisemitism Online and Offline*. The aim of the Guidelines was to clarify and identify current expressions of antisemitism, its historical roots, and how to monitor it today. The publication thus offered a clear panorama of working definitions and terminology and examples of antisemitism. It addressed the difficult chapter of drawing the line between criticism of Israel and antisemitic criticism of Israel. The annex included current manifestations of antisemitism in Europe (2013-2015) and antisemitic incidents in European countries during 2014. The Guidelines are available in English and in French on [CEJI website](#) and on the [Get the Trolls Out!](#) website
2. organised a Training for Online Monitors. Following an open call for young monitors of online antisemitic speech, a two day seminar was organised on 1-2 September 2015 in Brussels. The training ensured that the monitors' developed a thorough comprehension of the Guidelines (mentioned above) and would be well-prepared to fulfill their role in the project. The two day agenda included elements from CEJI's awareness-raising training programme, Overcoming Antisemitism, and included interventions by other leading experts in the field such as Dr. Joel Kotek.

Following the training, 10 online monitors from all project countries were selected to work on the Get the Trolls Out project from September 2015 until July 2016. As CEJI online monitor, they had:

- completed an application demonstrating their motivation
- completed the two-day training
- committed to monitor online and/or offline media for antisemitism in the language for which they were selected (English, French, Hungarian or Greek)
- understood, acknowledged and accepted the CEJI Guidelines for Monitoring and Identifying Antisemitism Online and Offline as the framework document for identifying possible cases of antisemitism.

Media monitoring required a regular review of current media each week and also searching sources of antisemitic speech for the purpose of exposing its harmful existence.

The monitors agreed to send a short report on the incidents they uncovered to CEJI on a regular basis using a form provided by the project. It was estimated that the monitors would spend approximately two hours per week actively monitoring for incidents. Their work was compensated with a symbolic sum per incident report form.

Monitors found antisemitic hate speech online through different channels: it appeared in a specific media they were following, or in the social media they were using. In many cases, "googling" some keywords or names were enough to find a massive amount of antisemitic websites.

## GET THE TROLLS OUT! INCIDENT REPORT FORM

### PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM EVERY TIME AN INCIDENT HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of submission: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

1. Date of publication: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

2. Name of the media outlet: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Author (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

4. What type of media was this identified in?

☐ Newspaper

☐ Radio

☐ Television/video

☐ Blog

☐ Facebook

☐ Twitter

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

5. If applicable, please tell us in what country this incident occurred.  
*Mark all that apply.*

☐ UK

☐ Belgium

☐ France

☐ Greece

☐ Hungary

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

6. What type of figure committed this act?

☐ Public figure

☐ Media figure or organization

☐ Social media influencer

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_



7. Which of the following categories best describes this act of antisemitism?  
*Mark all that apply.*

☐ Stereotypes of Jewish people

☐ Misleading claims about Israel

☐ Misleading claims about the Holocaust

☐ Misleading claims about antisemitism

☐ Hateful invective

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

8. Link to the article (or source): \_\_\_\_\_

9. Headline (for long article) and translation of the headline or content:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. Description of the antisemitic content.  
*How is the content antisemitic? Describe in your own words:*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. Please translate one or more of the antisemitic sentences from the article.  
*Write here the English version next to the original version:*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12. Please provide us with some information about the context in which these comments were made.  
*For example, who is the author, is this incident related to some country-specific event and what was the public reaction?:*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

13. Please provide us with a brief description of the media outlet. If possible, you can include their editorial policy and target audience as well as any other details that will help us understand the significance of this incident. If you have already reported an incident from this organization, feel free to copy and paste this answer from your previous report or write “see previous report on this organization.”

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

14. Has the incident already been reported elsewhere?

☐ No

☐ I don’t know

☐ Yes..... If yes, how is the incident being dealt with?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

15. Has it been shared elsewhere?

☐ No

☐ I don’t know

☐ Yes...

Where has it been shared?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
  
If shared via Facebook/twitter, how many times?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

16. Could this incident be considered criminal?

☐ No

☐ Perhaps.....If you know, please state the law against which it may stand:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

17. How did you discover this specific incident?

☐ It was in one of my target media outlets

☐ It was reported by a monitoring organization

☐ It was told to me by someone

☐ Google search

☐ Twitter search

☐ Facebook search

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

If you used a keyword, what keyword did you use?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## DISRUPTING THE TROLLS

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Standing up against antisemitism in Europe has never been an easy task. In an age where numerous tectonic changes are shaking the nature of public communication; when people get the news from their social feed engineered by Facebook; and in the age when facts do not work – as PR strategists behind Trump and “Brexit” campaigners claim – monitoring media discourse seems likely to get limited results. “Not at all”, says Giulia Dessi, the coordinator of [Get the Trolls Out!](#), a project which uncovers examples and provides insights into the use of antisemitic rhetoric that not only reveal patterns, trends and resonances in society, but are sufficient to take action against antisemitic speech.

One only has to read the [Media Monitoring Highlights](#) and the [Ousted Trolls of the Month](#) published on this website to realize how right she is. The 290 ‘antisemitic incidents’, registered by the [team of 10 monitors](#) in almost a year, indeed brought to light examples of hate, misinformation and abuse. It provided evidence of disruption of public space by mainstream and alternative media, national and local news outlets, on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Periscope, and on individual and group blogs.

Identifying antisemitic discourse, aimed at engaging young people around the importance of fighting antisemitism, would not be possible if the monitors had not spent days and nights scanning the digital and analogue world, finding examples of antisemitic discourse in texts, images, videos, comments and messages that hurt and strike at the very idea of tolerance and democratic society based on respect for the equal dignity of all human beings. To be effective in recognising discrimination in media, full attention has to be paid to politicians and public figures as well as non-governmental organisations and journalists, to officials as well as random haters on Twitter, because the discriminatory nature of talk has to be detected before proposing appropriate action.

What has the study found? In all countries where media were monitored – in Belgium, France, Greece, Hungary, and the United Kingdom – trolls with anti-Jewish messages revealed a blurring of lines between information available via the media and information in the public domain. It has been said that the Internet enabled free expression in all its forms, but this monitoring project has proved that it also opened multiple channels of discourse radically changing the interaction between citizens and public figures.

In the [June’s Troll of the Month example](#), the president of the Workers Union for the Organization of Urban Transportation in Thessaloniki, Greece, denied that he said “God created the Jews by mistake, who afterwards killed Jesus Christ” and “unfortunately Hitler did not finish his work” by digging a deep hole with an attempt to clarify the statement by saying “God made Jews and they crucified Christ. Majorities crucified Christ just as they burned Copernicus”. It did not go without public outcry. Challenging antisemitic discourse became part of the wider debate that included officials who loudly distanced themselves from the union leader. Revealing exploitation of antisemitism in political discourse acknowledged the social importance of revealing hate speech. In the long run, it is hoped to decrease public support for discriminatory talk as many columns, readers’ comments, and discussions on social media certify.

The media monitoring part of the *Get the Trolls Out!* project gave a number of other important insights into the ways antisemitic discourse enters the public space. Trolling is traditionally seen as a deliberative act to set out to waste people’s time and energy, and, in the case of spreading anti-Jewish sentiment, involves aggressive campaigning on social media, stereotyping, posting misinformation and misleading claims, ranging from light provocative behaviour to outright abuse.

The highlighted cases put at the forefront the consequences of simplified political discourse that shifts responsibility for the rise of social anxieties onto the section of

the society stereotyped and stigmatised as being historically different. Sometimes the offence has been subconscious, sometimes it comes from ignorance but in many cases they target the Jewish people consciously and purposefully turning social media into “virtual shouting matches”.

Conspiracy theories about the attacks in Brussels and Paris fuelled the Twittersphere with poisonous talk, stigmatising Jews for all the wrongdoings of the world. These tweets differ in content and scope but they build a fertile ground for extremism across Europe. Some were produced by people hidden behind pseudonymous with only 40 followers, but some got the audience of thousands. Previous research shows that troll tactics for disrupting online debate include digressing from the topic, manipulating sensitivities within the group to trigger emotional responses, shocking people by poking fun at sensitive or taboo topics and just being aggressive for the sake of it (Hardaker, 2010<sup>1</sup>). The usual answer “don’t feed the trolls” might indeed work in the case of randomly picked up abuse with no audience but can hardly work as a response in the case of widely known antisemites in the blogosphere.

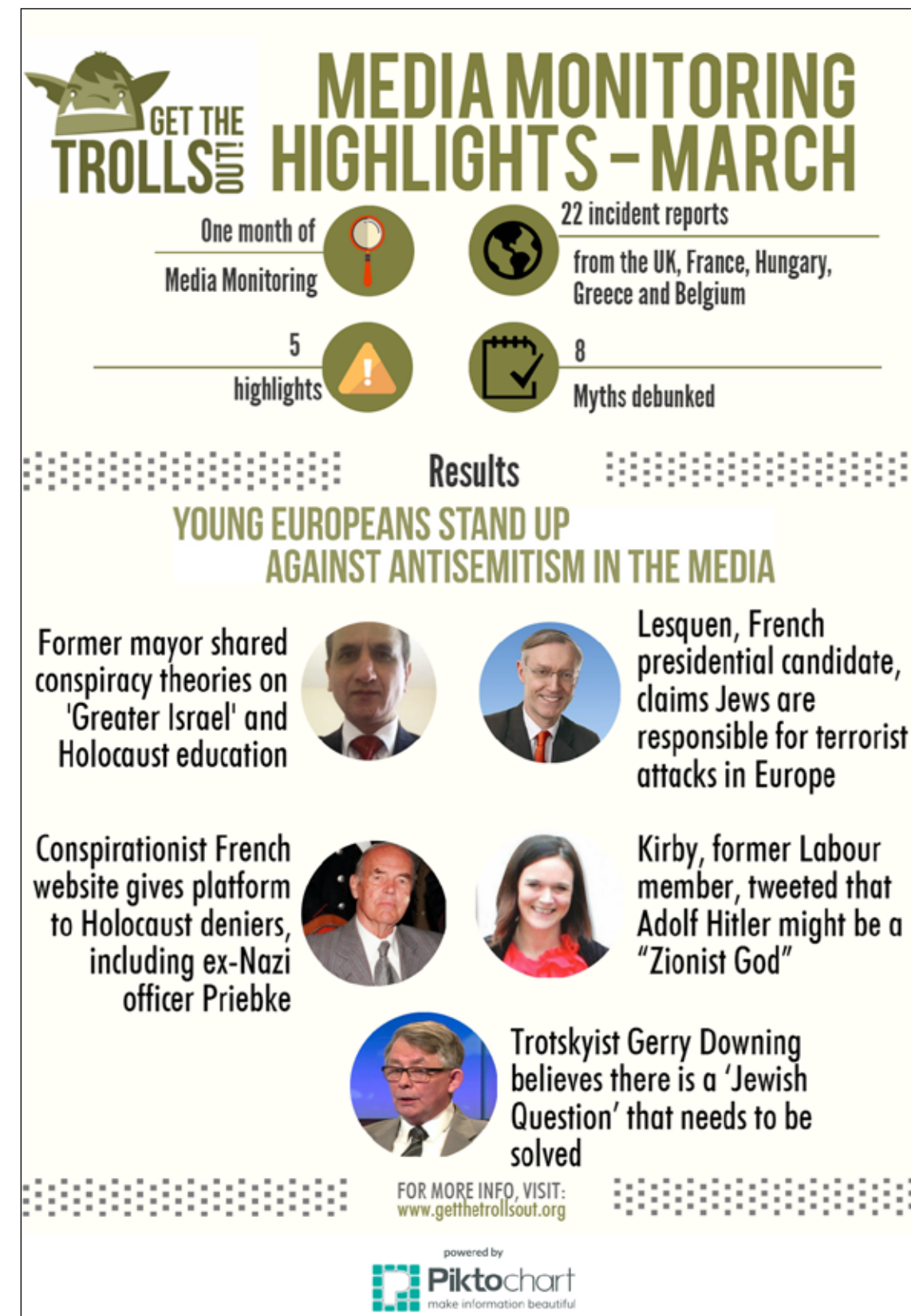
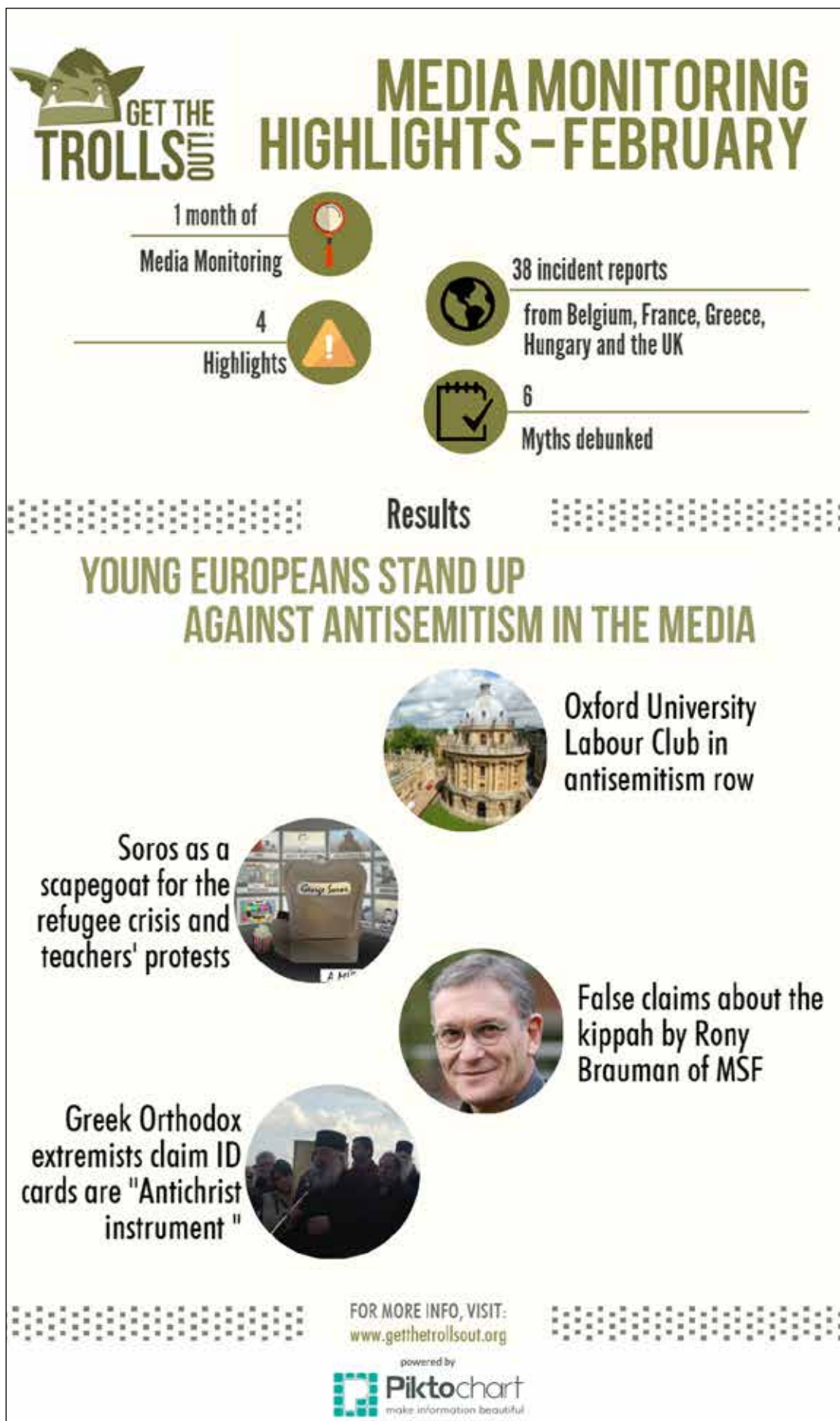
Things get even more complicated with the legacy media. While social media operates in a world where the more you try to get something off the Internet, the more you fuel everyone’s interest in it, print, television and radio easily turn individuals’ hate speech into the institutionalised one. Media coverage of actions such as “[Burning of a Jew](#)” as a part of Easter celebration in Greece or a [flyer about Jews inventing Holocaust in Glasgow](#) carry a potential to either fuel antisemitic discourse or to discourage it. Editorial responsibility for republishing derogatory statements is enormous as numerous decisions of press councils and broadcasting standards authorities demonstrate.

Cases collected in the *Get the Trolls out!* project might be scattered but they function as a repository of examples and responses to antisemitic discourse in Europe at the beginning of the 21st century. Unveiling the trolls in mainstream and social media unpacked the discriminatory nature of antisemitic talk but it also generated a number trolls-disrupting actions that carry a potential to support and assist activists, policy makers and journalists in countering antisemitism in the future.

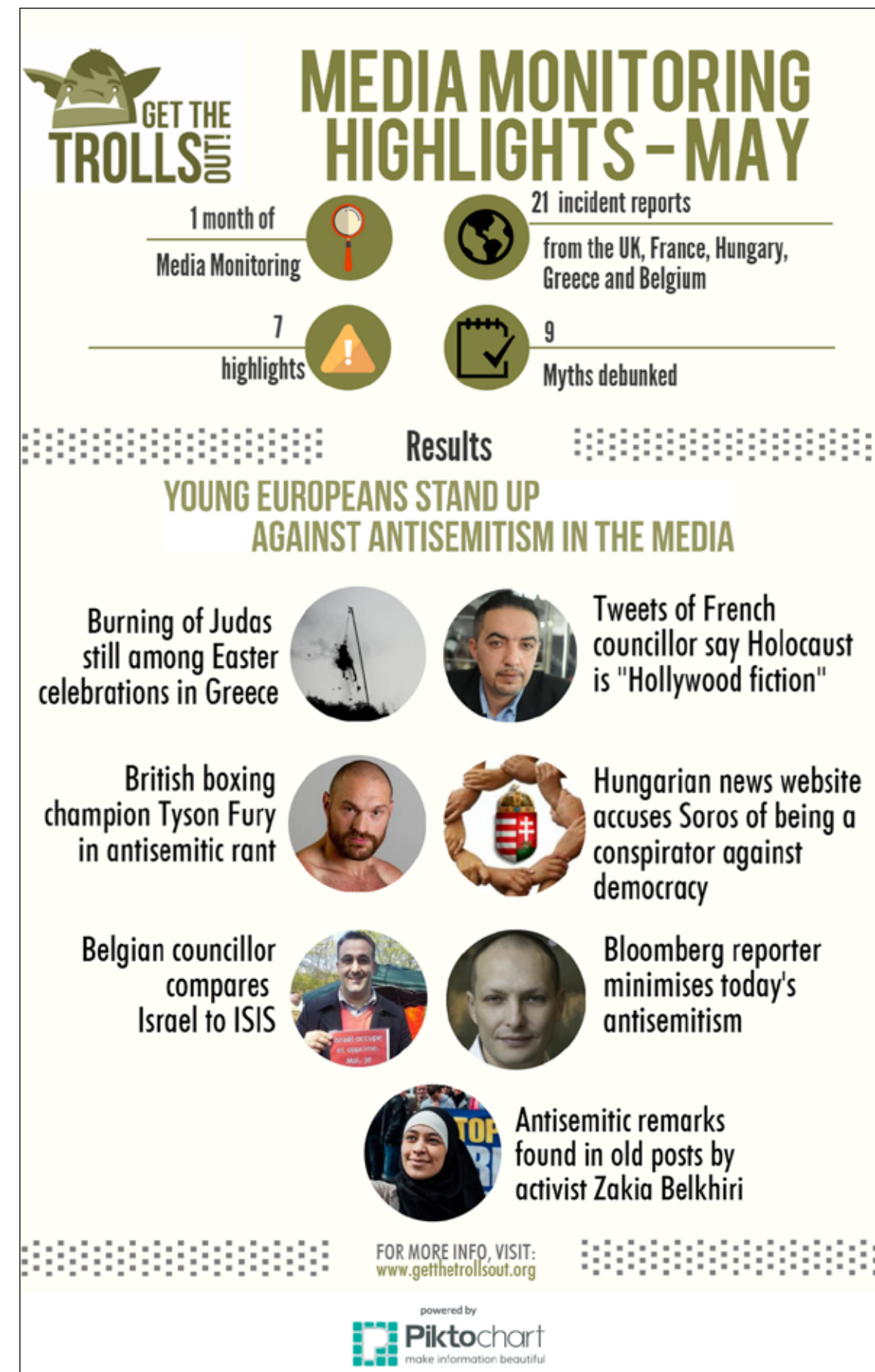
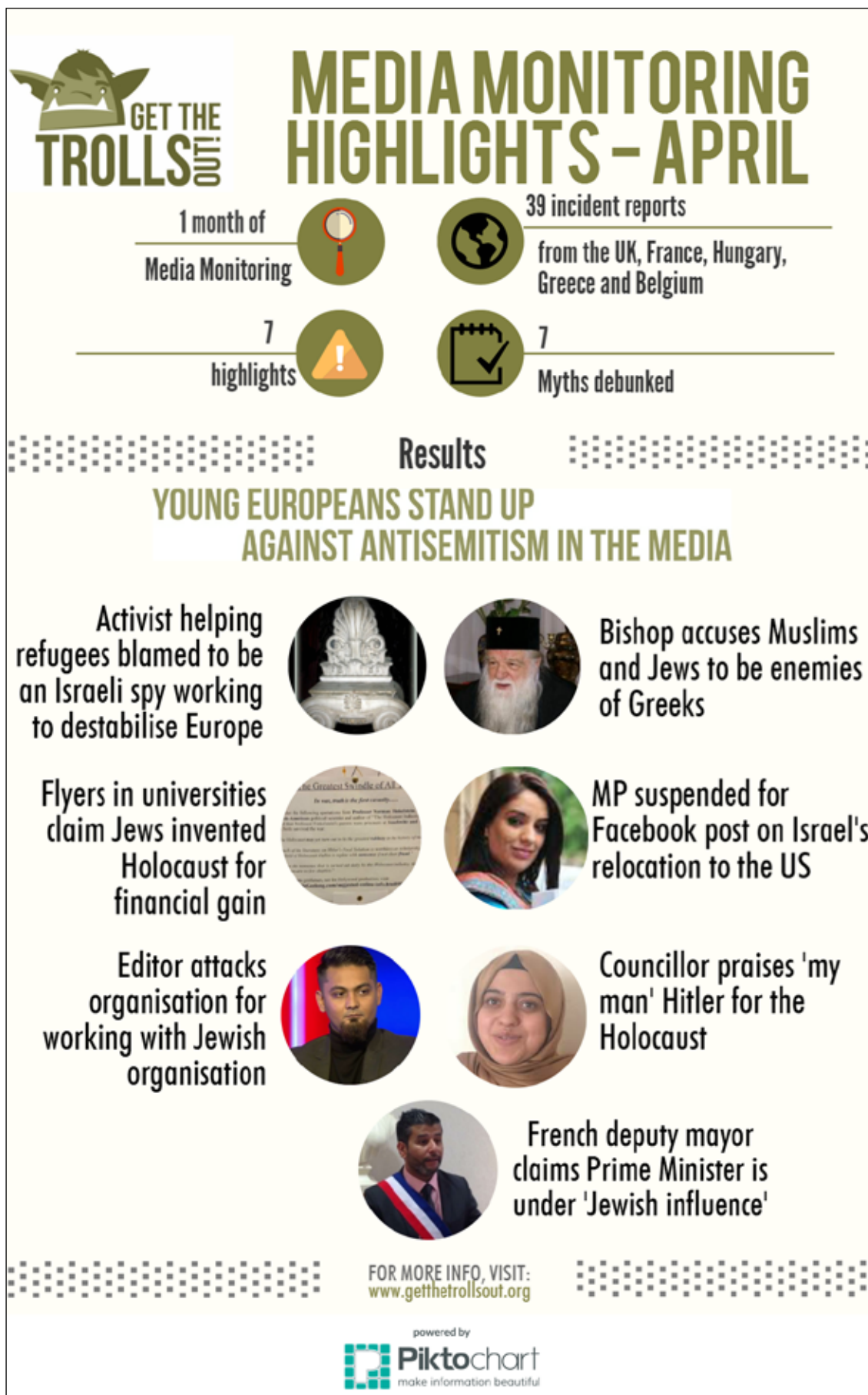
*By Verica Rupar, Associate Professor at the School of Communication Studies, AUT, New Zealand.*

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<sup>1</sup> Hardaker, C., 2010, Trolling in asynchronous computer-mediated communication: From user discussions to academic definitions Journal of Politeness Research. Available online at: <http://clok.uclan.ac.uk/4980/2/Hardaker,%20C.%202010.%20Trolling%20in%20ACMC.pdf>









## III. Complaints Mechanisms

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## BACKGROUND

Throughout the *Get the Trolls Out!* project, the project partners have gathered and analysed a total of 290 antisemitic incidents. These incidents have been discussed in bi-weekly Skype calls during which the partners discussed the best reaction to the incidents. When antisemitic speech was identified on social media, the abusive content was reported via the official reporting mechanism of the particular platform.

Between September 2015 and June 2016, partners reported 207 cases of antisemitic content: 42% were reported to Twitter, 25% to Facebook, and 25% to YouTube. Only 17% of the reports received what partners deemed to be an adequate response from the social media platforms.

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## CONSIDERATIONS

In the decision-making process regarding incident response, the partners considered:

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### SERIOUSNESS OF THE INCIDENT

- Intensity of antisemitism (ex: a stereotypical drawing of a Jew with large nose vs. a call to expulsion or death)
- Credibility of the source (ex: an opinion leader vs. a lone rant)

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### POTENTIAL IMPACT

- Numbers of people reached (a mainstream newspaper vs. a social media account with few followers)
- Risk of believability or level of absurdity (fantastical conspiracy theories vs. links to contemporary events)

Out of the incident report forms and bi-weekly Skype calls, the project partners determined complaints' responses, selected the incidents to include in the Monthly Highlights and selected who would be shamed as the (Ousted) Troll of the Month.

In the social media cases, all incidents were flagged to the service provider in addition to other responses deemed necessary. Other responses included: complaint letters to editors newspapers unions, non governmental organisations and broadcasters.

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## REPORTING GUIDELINES

What should you do when you encounter antisemitic hate speech online? Here are some guidelines to report antisemitic hate speech online on social media:

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### FACEBOOK

- On the upper right hand corner of the post, click on “Report post”
- Click on “I think it shouldn’t be on Facebook”
- Click on “It advocates violence or harm towards a person or animal”
- Click on “Submit to Facebook for Review”

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### TWITTER

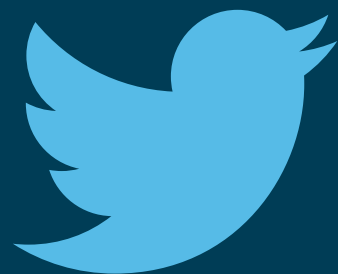
When encountering an antisemitic tweet that you want to report:

- Click on the three dots below the tweet.
- Click on “Report”
- Select “It’s abusive or harmful”
- Depending on the nature of the tweet, select “Includes targeted harassment” or “Threatening violence or physical harm”
- To the question who is targeted, select “Me” or “Someone else”
- You can then add further tweets to help investigate issues and get them resolved faster
- If you have selected that the tweet is targeting “you”, you can tell more about the nature of the tweet
- Click on “Done”

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### YOUTUBE

- Sign in to your Youtube account
- Click on the three dots “More actions” below the video
- Click on “Report”
- Select “Hateful or abusive content”
- Select “Promotes hatred or violence”
- If you want, you can provide additional details about the video
- Click on “Submit”



# STOPPING HATE

...

## HOW TO COUNTER HATE SPEECH ON TWITTER?

### WHY COUNTER SPEECH?

Counter speech is a way of responding to hateful messages.

If left unchallenged, the peddling of myths, lies, and the use of hateful rhetoric and abuse can lead to more harm being done - especially when individuals are targeted without knowing there is support out there and 'haters' gain more confidence about expressing their views both on and off-line.

## BEFORE COUNTERING ON TWITTER...



**File a report** with Twitter that someone is Tweeting abusive messages. Twitter can temporarily lock and permanently suspend accounts that violate the **Twitter rules**: <https://support.twitter.com/forms>

If you are being abused, if needs-be, use Twitter tools to stay safe:

### **BLOCK AND MUTE:**

<https://about.twitter.com/safety/three-tools-to-control-your-twitter-experience>

**Find out the law** in your country governing abuse and hate on social media. Report hateful Tweets to the police if you think they fall foul of the law.

**Find a civil society organisation** in your country involved in monitoring or countering hateful speech. Report the hateful Tweet to them.

## SAFETY FIRST



Directly countering hateful Tweets can be hazardous. Arguing back may simply provoke hatred in your direction.

If you were the original target of the hate, the sense of violation you feel will be magnified if speaking back provokes a reaction.

Even if you weren't originally the target of the hate, you may become a target if you respond.

At the very least, engaging in counter speech can lead to emotionally bruising encounters. You should ensure that you have access to support from others.

Therefore, don't work alone.

It's always best to engage in counter speech through a community or civil society organisation where you will have the support of others.

They may also help safeguard you by conducting counter speech through an organisation or group account.

Find a campaign against hate speech on social media. Volunteer your services.



## DON'T BE ABUSIVE

Make sure your words and any content you share do not spread bigotry, prejudice, or hate, or contain otherwise unlawful content.

## DON'T SPREAD THEIR HATE

Giving attention to fringe individuals with few followers and their hatred can be counterproductive. You might give them the attention and publicity that they crave.

## RESPOND PROMPTLY

Responding to old Tweets risks reviving a conversation and having the adverse effect of spreading hate speech to others who might not have seen it before. Timing is therefore critical.

## THINK ABOUT YOUR OBJECTIVES

Are you seeking to engage with the person expressing hateful speech? What for? Are you seeking to lessen the consequences of a hateful Tweet on the wider audience? Are you seeking to express support for a group or identity under attack? Thinking about your goals will help shape your response and the language you use.

## TRY TO ENLIST INFLUENTIAL SUPPORTERS

Add their usernames to Tweets. Celebrities, politicians, civic leaders and subject experts can help bring attention or add weight to your counter-narrative.

## JUMP IN ON EXISTING HASHTAGS

This will increase the chances that your message will be seen beyond the Tweeter who you may be replying to. This may help divert the tone of an otherwise negative hashtag discussion. It may also encourage others not to feel silenced and empower them to join in.

## INTRODUCE NEW HASHTAGS

...alongside those associated with a hateful message.

This will help divert the tone to a more positive and inclusive direction and provide a space where others might feel comfortable joining in.

## BUILD A NARRATIVE

- **Build up a narrative** over time. See counter speech as a long term process.
- **Post consistently over** time to increase your profile and ability to engage more widely.
- **Be prepared** to engage in a back and forth discussion if your objective is to change somebody's views. But don't feed a troll: that's what they crave.
- **Develop a resource bank** of counter-arguments, statistics, information, sources and links to support your counter narrative.
- **Subject knowledge** is important and those engaging in hateful speech may be armed with many misleading sources of information which they will use. Counter them with credible evidence from independent and reputable sources which can't be accused of being partial.

**For ideas, go to:**

[www.h8hurts.eu/social-media](http://www.h8hurts.eu/social-media)

## BE VISUAL

**Visuals** - such as carefully chosen images and videos - help drive interest and engagement with your message.

**For ideas, go to:**

<http://www.h8hurts.eu/social-media>



## CHOOSE YOUR WORDS CAREFULLY

Choosing the right words for counter speech in any given circumstance takes skill and experience. Here, though, is some general advice:



### DON'T GET PERSONAL

Challenge the message - don't attack the person who sent it. Provoking defensiveness on their part might inflame the situation and you don't want others to leap to their defence.

### THINK ABOUT YOUR TONE

- Express support to those who might be under attack.
- Actively reinforce social norms of civility, mutual respect and politeness. (It puts pressure on others to do likewise. And if they don't, their incivility is emphasised).
- Invoke notions of shared ideas and knowledge (either with the hate speech protagonist, or the observer who may be swayed).
- Appeal to common interests, identity and values.
- Express kindness, countering hate with empathy and positivity.
- Use language that will help encourage bystanders to join the debate and express their support for your message.
- Ensure your Tweets are constructive and be prepared to engage with underlying anxieties, misperceptions or fears that may have led someone to express a hateful sentiment or which may lead others to be sympathetic to a hateful message.
- Be careful if using sarcasm, humour, parody and satire, as they run the danger of being antagonistic.

## DISENGAGING FROM COUNTER SPEECH

Think about disengagement strategies that won't leave you feeling wounded. If a seemingly extreme hater targets you with a hateful Tweet you might respond with kindness by saying "Sorry you feel the need to express yourself this way. Have a nice day."

## IV. Current trends in antisemitic hate speech

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## FIVE GLOBAL TRENDS

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Antisemitic hate speech is diverse and evolving, however our media monitoring has shown that we can observe five global trends in antisemitic hate speech today: the resurgence of conspiracy theories, the importation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to Europe, linked with the confusion between the terms “Jews”, “Israelis”, and “Zionists”, the strengthening of myths and stereotypes about Jews that in many cases date back to the Middle Ages and are resurging again today, the Holocaust denial<sup>2</sup> or Holocaust support, and the denial of antisemitism. We should note that these trends are often overlapping.

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### IV. 1. RESURGENCE OF CONSPIRACY THEORIES

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This last year we have seen the resurgence of conspiracy theories. These false and absurd theories accuse Jews of mainly two distinct crises that have shaken Europe: the refugee crisis and the terror attacks in Europe, specifically the terror attacks in Paris in January and November 2015. In some cases, these conspiracy theories are linked to the importation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to Europe and the confusion between the terms “Jews”, “Israelis” and “Zionists”. For example, the arrival of refugees to Europe is seen as part of a secret “Zionist” (without any explanation of the word) plan to destabilise Europe. In some cases, this action is seen as a joint Jewish and Muslim action plan, thus accusing both Jews and Muslims of being responsible for the refugee crisis. In the case of the terror attacks, the antisemitic trend is similar to the 9/11 conspiracy theories according to which Jews were informed in advance of the attacks, and/or were behind the attacks.

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### IV. 2. CONFUSION OF THE TERMS “JEWISH”, “ISRAELI” AND “ZIONIST”, AND IMPORTATION OF THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT TO EUROPE

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Another crucial trend in antisemitic hate speech is the confusion between the adjectives “Jewish”, “Israeli” and “Zionist”. Within the project countries involved, this trend is especially strong in Belgium, France and the UK. These adjectives are often used without any distinction and are thus distorted from their original meaning: “Jewish” relates to the Jewish people. A Jewish identity has cultural, ethnic, religious, family, personal and many more implications. “Israeli” means the citizens of the State of Israel. In today’s current antisemitic discourse, “Zionist” is used as a curse and distorted from its initial meaning: Zionism is a Jewish national-political movement founded in 1896 by the Austro-Hungarian journalist Theodor Herzl with the aim of re-establishing a Jewish homeland in the Holy Land. The yearning to return to Zion<sup>3</sup> is a key element of Jewish religious life since the Jewish exile from the land two thousand years ago, and is embedded in Jewish prayer, ritual, literature and culture. This confusion goes together with the importation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to Europe, for example when European Jews are accused of being responsible for the actions of the Israeli government.

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<sup>2</sup> The systematic murder of European Jews carried out by the Nazis during the Second World War (1939-1945) is called the Shoah. Because the original meaning of the word Holocaust is “sacrificial offering”, there are objections to its use. The murder of the Jews was not an offering. Therefore, both in Israel and Jewish circles outside of Israel, people usually prefer to speak of the Shoah. Derived from Hebrew, this word means “annihilation” or “annihilating whirlwind” and was already used during the war years to refer to the extermination of the Jewish people by the Nazis in Poland. Source: CEJI manual “Overcoming Antisemitism – Handbook for educators”, © CEJI 2015.

<sup>3</sup> The hill upon which the Temple of Jerusalem was built and the biblical term for both the Land of Israel and Jerusalem

The latest trend in this antisemitic discourse is the absurd comparison between Israel and ISIS, and for the belief that Israel is behind the actions of ISIS, whereas previous deadly attacks (for example at the Jewish Museum in Brussels in May 2014 and the kosher supermarket in Paris in January 2015) have shown that Jews are key targets of ISIS terror.

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### IV. 3. STRENGTHENING OF ANTISEMITIC MYTHS AND STEREOTYPES ABOUT JEWS

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Our media monitoring has shown the resurgence and strengthening of antisemitic myths and stereotypes about Jews that in most of the cases date back to the Middle Ages. This trend is represented in all project countries, but is particularly tangible in Greece and Hungary. The recurring ancient myths about Jews which are still observed in the media today are:

1. The myth of Jews “controlling” the media and politics, whereas in fact they are not disproportionally represented in the media. The suggestion that there is something sinister about the number of Jews working in the finance and media industries is based on the myth of Jewish conspiracy, the belief that Jews get together and control, as opposed to individual Jews making career decisions which have nothing to do with their being Jewish. Historically, in almost every country that Jews have lived in, Jews have been a small minority and have experienced centuries of persecution. The success of a handful of Jews, such as the Rothschilds, is heralded as the condition of the majority, which is untrue. The impression is due to the fact that the Jewish background or name of a person, in the case of a successful career, is often highlighted in the media.
2. The myth of Jewish greed, which dates back to the Middle Ages, when some Jews became moneylenders (in part because they were forbidden to own land or join many of the craft guilds in Europe). The church and the state often appointed Jews as moneylenders and tax collectors, because Jews were not subject to Christian law, which had forbidden the practice of lending money at interest. They therefore became merchants, money-lenders and tax-collectors, which made them easy scapegoats in difficult economic or political times
3. The myth of a Jewish world domination, which is a theory directly or indirectly inspired by the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, the most famous and widely distributed antisemitic publication of modern times. The Protocols’ lies about Jews continue to circulate today, especially on the Internet. The Protocols claim to document a Jewish conspiracy to dominate the world, whereas the conspiracy and the “Elders of Zion” never existed. The version of the Protocols that has been translated into dozens of languages was first published in Russia in 1905. The exact origin of the Protocols is unknown, but its goal was to portray Jews as conspirators against the state at the beginning of anti-Jewish pogroms in the Russian Empire. It later became used to blame Jews for the Russian Revolution – a political tool used against the Bolsheviks who were portrayed as overwhelmingly Jewish. After 1917, anti-Bolshevik émigrés brought the Protocols to the West and editions were disseminated in Europe, the United States, South America, and Japan. The Protocols were translated into Arabic in the 1920s. The Protocols played an important role in the Nazi propaganda and remain the most influential antisemitic text of the past one hundred years. Today, the Protocols are widely sold and read in Arab countries despite that it has been proven to be a forgery as early as 1921, when the London Times proved that the Protocols were a “clumsy plagiarism” of a French political satire that never mentioned Jews. The Protocols are typical of what is known in literature as a “false document”: deliberately written to fool the reader into believing that what is written is truthful and accurate.

4. The myth that Jews are satanic because they killed Jesus, which was first found among some Fathers of the Church between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 5<sup>th</sup> centuries. As Romans began to convert to Christianity, they tended to clear the responsibility of Rome for the death of Jesus and promoted the idea of Jewish responsibility because the Sanhedrin decided to hand over Jesus to the Romans. The prevalence of the myth that Jews killed Christ has caused massive waves of confiscation, deportations and extermination of Jews by Christians in the following centuries. Only in 1965 did the Church deny the collective responsibility of Jews in the death of Christ, in the declaration “Nostra Aetate”.<sup>4</sup>

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#### IV. 4. HOLOCAUST DENIAL OR HOLOCAUST SUPPORT

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A constant trend in today’s antisemitic discourse is Holocaust denial, minimisation, trivialisation or Holocaust support. In essence, all of these phenomenon are a manipulation of the genocide of 6 million Jews during World War II for antisemitic purposes. Too often, the Holocaust is mis-used for political purposes, providing an antisemitic current to media concerning world events, such as making parallels between Israeli leadership and Hitler. In other cases, antisemitic hate speech both “supports” the Holocaust and at the same time accuses Jews and/or Israelis of committing the same “abuses” as the Nazis. Besides such parallels being the ultimate offense to the victims of the Holocaust and their families, likening the victims to their executioners, they are also factually inaccurate.

The conflict between Israel and the Palestinians is political and territorial – not racial – which has over the last 70 years oscillated between violence and attempts to negotiate an agreement. The Holocaust was the systematic attempt to annihilate an entire people over a short period of time, justified by a racial ideology, that resulted in the murder of 6 million Jews in addition to Roma, homosexuals and disabled people.

Not only is referring to the situation of the Palestinians as a genocide factually inaccurate and politically manipulative, not only can the origins of such propaganda be found in sources that are known for their antisemitic agenda, but it is also a tremendous disrespect for all the victims of genocide in the world which includes the Holocaust, such as Rwandans and Armenians.

Criticism of Israeli policies is a normal and necessary part of the democratic process, as should be possible with all nations of the world. The need to use offensive and inaccurate parallels, such as between Israel or Jews and the Nazis or the Holocaust, can only be considered antisemitic in intent or effect. One should ask him or herself about their need to make such a parallel, and question oneself about double standards in relation to Israel that may be rooted in antisemitic ideas. Why don’t people who are truly at risk of genocide inspire the same kind of mobilization and public outcry?

For example, today, the Rohingya Muslim ethnic minority in Burma have been called “the most oppressed people on Earth” and are considered to be the Number 1 country at risk of genocide – state-led mass killing. The 1.3 million Rohingya have been denied citizenship and stripped of all rights. They are forced to live in Apartheid conditions where they cannot travel, work or even marry without permission. Over 140,000 were forced into concentration camps after their homes and villages were burnt to the ground in 2012, and remain there today. The government of Burma denies their very existence, prohibiting the use of their name and pressuring foreign officials not even to utter the word Rohingya.

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<sup>4</sup> The description of these myths are based on CEJI manual « Overcoming Antisemitism – Handbook for Educators » © CEJI 2010.

According to Burma’s President Thein Sein, “There are no Rohingya” in Burma.” As Burma’s government persecutes the Rohingya and denies their existence, the precursors to genocide are loud and clear.<sup>5</sup>

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#### IV. 5. DENIAL OF ANTISEMITISM

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Last but not least, another important trend in antisemitic discourse in general is the denial of antisemitism today. It is of crucial importance that we acknowledge discrimination of other minorities but when tackling discrimination we should be careful not to lead to a “competition” of victimhood between minority groups and denying one kind of discrimination. Jewish organisations denouncing antisemitic attacks on people and buildings have been accused of “crying wolf”; and murders of Jewish people for example in Toulouse in March 2012, in Brussels in May 2014, in Paris in January 2015, and in Copenhagen in February 2015 started to be visible in the society at large mainly when the murder included attacks on non-Jewish people such as during the Charlie Hebdo attacks in January 2015, the terror attacks in Paris in November 2015, and the Brussels airport attack in March 2016. Also, it should be taken into consideration that the nature of the violent cases of antisemitic attacks have become more cruel, and that the “growing variety of verbal and visual antisemitic expressions, mainly on social media, have become more brutal and insulting”, as shown in the report of the [Kantor Center](#). Today in Europe, Jews have been attacked and murdered in the streets because they are Jewish or thought to be Jewish. In four years, from 2012 to mid-2016, 13 Jews have been killed solely because they were Jews.

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<sup>5</sup> For more on the situation in Burma and other countries such as Sudan, Syria, Congo and Yemen, see <http://endgenocide.org/conflict-areas/burma/>

## V. Linguistic Self-Defence Guide against Antisemitism

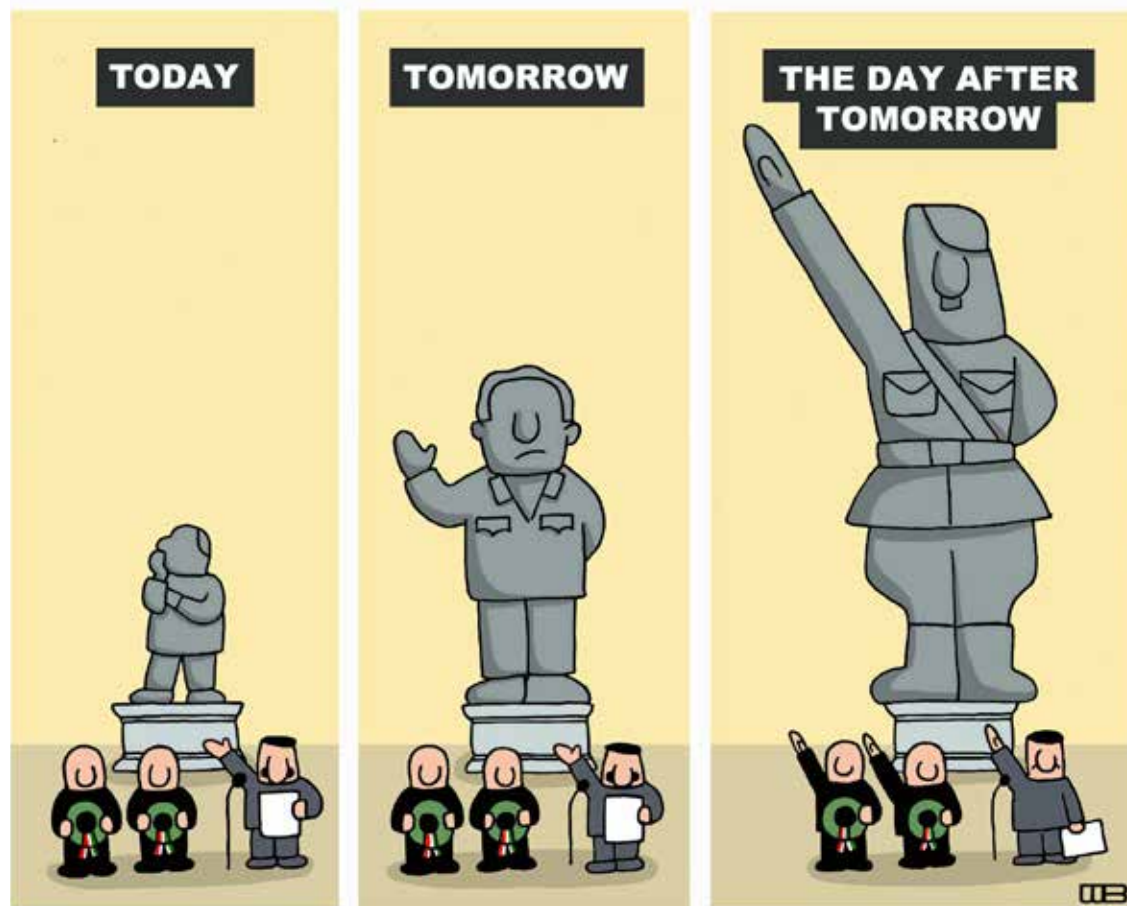




## SPOTTING AND RESISTING MANIPULATION

The [Linguistic Self-Defence Guide Against Antisemitism](#) teaches people how to spot and resist manipulation when they come across antisemitic speech. We use real-life examples, detected by *Get the Trolls Out!* monitors, and reveal the subtle rhetorical tricks that are typically employed to brainwash the public into hating and discriminating against Jewish people.

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## V. 1.



To avoid repeating names all the time, we often refer to people by a special group of words, called **personal pronouns** in linguistics. Some of them — like “I”, “you”, “she”, or “him” — refer to a person. Other pronouns — like “we”, “us”, “they”, or “them” — are used in place of people. Since there is nothing unusual about using personal pronouns, normally we do not pay attention to the whole thing at all. Yet, this also means that we may overlook cases when personal pronouns are used in tricky ways.

On a [BBC Radio London programme](#), for example, a phone-in caller “Andy from St Margaret” began his comment by stating: “They are trying to control us more, and more, and more.” Andy used two personal pronouns: “they” and “us”. Both are plural, they refer to groups of people. Though Andy was reluctant to admit this, **he used “they” in place of Jewish people, while “us” stood for Britons** in his statement.

When we hear or read that someone refers to groups, communities, or cultures by plural personal pronouns and says offensive remarks about them, we should be cautious. As this case shows, plural personal pronouns can be deceptive:

1. By using the pronouns “they” and “us” Andy indicated that Jews and Britons are completely different people. In this way, he **subtly excluded British Jews from the national community** of Britons.
2. By separating “they” (“the Jews”) from “us” (“the Britons”), Andy could **arbitrarily attribute different traits and behaviour** to the two groups. In this particular case, the plural personal pronouns formed the background to describe Jews as aggressive and power-hungry people who victimize Britons. Such negative clichés of Jews could evoke or fuel in the audience an irrational fear of Jewish people.
3. If we refer to a group of people by the plural personal pronouns “they” or “them”, we can **create the impression that everyone who belongs to that group is the same**. Accordingly, in case we claim that “they” are responsible for some bad deeds and/or characterised by very unlikable traits, we will, intentionally or unintentionally, indicate that this applies to the whole group. For example, Andy implied that all Jews are aggressive and power-hungry. *Get the Trolls Out!* monitors have also detected a [Greek blog post](#) in which the author attacked Jewish people in a similar fashion: “They destroyed the universe.” Even if such statements have nothing common with reality, they can covertly influence our thinking, for instance, through plural personal pronouns.
4. By using the plural personal pronoun “they” — instead of speaking directly about Jewish people, Andy created ambiguity. This **made antisemitism in his statement less salient**, protecting the speaker and misleading the listener at the same time.
5. Ambiguity could also trigger an irrational fear of Jews in the listeners through **covertly strengthening the existing negative clichés** of Jewish influence and revengefulness.

By using a personal pronoun (“they”) instead of a noun (“Jews”), the speaker implied that the people in-question (“the Jews”) are so powerful and dangerous that it was better for him not even mentioning their name.

Groups, national communities, cultures are characterized by inner diversity. Those who spread hate and discrimination want you to believe the opposite. Don’t let them trick you.

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## V. 2.

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Two family names come up frequently in *Get the Trolls Out!* media monitoring: Soros and Rothschild. By referring to these, some speakers use an old rhetorical trick which allows them to voice anti-Jewish hatred and deny antisemitism at the same time.

This figure of speech is what rhetoricians in ancient Greece called *synecdoche*. Even if you have not heard of this trope before, it is very likely that you encounter and use it frequently in your daily life. *Synecdoche* makes it possible for us to **talk about the whole by referring only to a part of it**. For example, instead of “*a person*” (the whole), you can talk about “*a face*” (the part): “*She saw many familiar faces at the concert.*” Similarly, instead of “*a car*” or “*a motorcycle*” (the whole), you can refer to “*wheels*” (the parts). Or, instead of a “*glass of wine*” (the whole), you can simply say “*a glass*” (the part).

Although normally there is nothing special about using synecdoches, this trope can be misused. In antisemitic speech, for instance, synecdoche is a popular tool for manipulation. One among all: the reference to George Soros and members of the Rothschild family.

George Soros is a billionaire businessman. Members of the Rothschild family are also among the world’s wealthiest people. It is widely known that both Soros and the Rothschilds are of Jewish decent. Of course, their Jewish background does not automatically make antisemitic any criticism towards the business and other public activities of Soros and the Rothschilds. However, being affluent and influential individuals, the **references to Soros and the Rothschilds can be misused**. First of all, they may strengthen the clichés that all Jews are rich and powerful. Additionally, in antisemitic speech, Soros and the Rothschilds most often play the role of the part which stands for the whole (Jews in general). In this way, the references to Soros and the Rothschilds can function as synecdoches and reinforce different anti-Jewish stereotypes.

In Greece, a book has been published with the title “*The Jewish-Zionist vampire Soros is thirsty for Greek blood.*” In this case, the synecdoche is combined with a ritual murder charge, an historically developed stereotypical accusation against Jews. Furthermore, the Greek far-right newspaper Eleftheri Ora, last December published an article with the [headline](#): “Rothschild snatched our money”. Here, the reference to Rothschild reinforced the **clichés of Jewish business-mindedness** and fraudulence.

Another example comes from the UK: in November 2016, the Green Party’s foreign affairs spokesperson said in [an interview](#): “*There are British oil companies such as Genel Energy, run by Nathaniel Rothschild, one of George Osborne’s friends, who are making money, who are buying oil from ISIS, who are putting money into the pot, allowing ISIS therefore to fuel their evil across the world.*” In this false accusation, **Nathaniel Rothschild stood for Jews in general**, and the synecdoche supported the antisemitic cliché that Jews are criminal world conspirators.

This antisemitic stereotype is particularly often evoked by synecdoches which involve George Soros. Since the businessman provides significant financial support to political causes and civil society initiatives, the references to Soros often help evoke images of the rich and power-hungry Jew who engages in clandestine conspiratorial activities to manipulate, exploit, undermine, and destroy innocent communities. A recent mainstream [Hungarian newspaper article](#), for example, argued that George Soros “*took advantage of the good faith and naivety of the European Union*” to bring migrants to the EU.

If you say “face”, “wheels” or “glass”, people will perfectly understand that you actually mean “a person”, “a car”, or “a glass of wine”. If you say “Soros” and “Rothschild” and evoke antisemitic clichés, it will be similarly clear for many that you are actually talking about Jews in general. However, in such cases, the synecdoche **protects from accusations of antisemitism** as speakers can claim that they are not talking about Jews in general, but about Soros and Rothschild in particular.

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### V. 3.

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Antisemitism discriminates against people simply because they are Jews or perceived as Jews. However, the idea of victimising a group of people just because of their ethnic, religious or cultural background may sound too overtly racist to many. Therefore, in antisemitic speech, manipulative rhetorical devices are used to “justify” the loathing of Jews. One common deceptive rhetorical vehicle is the victim-abuser reversal. It creates the false impression that the real victims of antisemitism, Jewish people, are actually not victims but abusers.

A recent incident from the UK may highlight how the victim-abuser reversal works. In November 2015, pro-Hitler posters were plastered over a university campus in Birmingham. The posters featured Adolf Hitler, claiming that he “was right”. A student [drew attention to this](#) antisemitic incident on Twitter and, in response, she received a number of offensive messages.

One tweet read: “I’m dismayed (not surprised) that Jews always play the victims and never try to end their parasitism on others.”

This statement contains at least four victim-abuser reversals:

- The tweet states that “Jews always play the role of the victims”. This indicates that Jews are phoney, fraudulent, and manipulative people, aiming to mislead and emotionally abuse others. Although it was the Twitter user who actually attacked Jews, this form of reversal deceitfully assigned the role of the abuser to Jewish people.
- There are two adverbials of frequency in the tweet: “always” and “never”. The first, “always”, puts the victim-abuser reversal into historical context. By saying “Jews always play the victims”, the Twitter user suggests that Jewish people have never actually been victimised throughout the history. This includes the denial of the victimhood of those millions of Jews who were systematically killed by the Nazis, especially that the tweet came in response to the appearance of pro-Hitler posters.
- By saying that Jews “never try to end their parasitism on others”, the speaker reverses the victim-abuser roles another time. Adverb “never” supports the portrayal of Jews as perpetual victimisers.
- By replying this way, the tweet also hurts all those who feel offended by the pro-Hitler posters. The victim-abuser reversal shifts the attention from the real issue (the concrete antisemitic incident) to a manipulative antisemitic claim (“Jews are abusers”). In other words, the reversal falsely implies that what matters is not anti-Jewish aggression but Jewish aggression.

It is virtually impossible to think of any existing antisemitic cliché that would not build on the victim-abuser reversal: “Jews are ritual murderers of Christians”; “Jews trick and cheat others”; “Jews control the media to brainwash people”; “Jews sponsor and organise harmful underground activities to undermine the peace and prosperity of nations”.

Antisemites even accuse Jews of racism, although antisemitism itself is a form of racism. “Once again, the vicious and deeply ingrained hate of the Jews against the white race is clear.” The previous quote from a [French blog on “White Europe”](#), detected by *Get the Trolls Out!* monitors, is an example of a victim-racist abuser reversal.

In antisemitic speech Jews are always presented as abusers who victimise others. However, the construction of Jews as abusers by antisemites is manipulative, it actually victimises Jews. By suggesting that Jewish people are dangerous, harmful and evil, the victim-abuser reversal gives justification for verbal and physical aggression against Jews.

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#### V. 4.

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It is possible to say things without actually saying them. On such occasions, messages are only suggested, conveyed — or, as British scholar Paul Grice called this form of communication —, *implicated* instead of being directly expressed.

A large part of our everyday communication consists of implications. Most of the time, we easily code and decode implications. If I say to my mother that “*I’m thirsty*”, she will understand that I would like to have a glass of water. If we organise a party and I tell my friends that “*Jane talks too much*”, they will know that I do not want to invite Jane to the party.

Politicians and the media use implications too. A newspaper headline which informs you that the American president will skip a visit to a country, may implicate that the relationship of the US and that particular country has declined in recent times.

Importantly, implications can be misused both in private and public speech. Through implications, speakers may — intentionally or unintentionally — voice unpleasant, controversial, derogatory, and abusive messages with impunity. The mechanism is simple: as it is very difficult to hold someone responsible for unsaid words, implications allow speakers to transmit messages that they would not or would only reluctantly say explicitly.

This is the main reason why implications are frequent in antisemitic speech too. If anti-Jewish hatred is spread through implications instead of explicit statements, speakers can evade responsibility.

On a recent [BBC Radio London programme](#), for example, a phone-in caller said: “*80% of corporate America, of the media, is owned by Jews*”. It is not so much the literal but rather the implicated meaning of the statement what matters in this case. By claiming that Jewish people are predominant among media entrepreneurs in the US, the caller evoked an antisemitic cliché, namely that Jews control and censor information and manipulate the public this way. In this case the implication may seem obvious, nevertheless, since the cliché was implicated and not directly expressed, it could be difficult to call the speaker to account for his words.

In antisemitic speech, implications are also widely used to spread anti-Jewish conspiracy theories. In these instances, the decoding of the implication is typically supported by such questions: “*don’t you find it strange/Isn’t it surprising that...?*”. A number of incidents detected by monitors of *Get the Trolls Out!* exemplify this form of manipulation.

In France, following the terror attacks in Paris on 13 November 2015, an article was published by a non-mainstream local website, a self-proclaimed provider of “alternative” information. Evoking anti-Jewish conspiracy theories, the piece, which attracted more than 4,000 views, accused Israel and Zionism of manipulating French politics. The author concluded the article by asking: “*How come Jews were informed on the morning of 13*



*November about the imminent attacks?”* This ending can be easily mistaken for a question. However, it is important to notice that instead of asking something, the author of the piece actually makes an arbitrary, false claim: *“Jews were informed on the morning of the 13 November about the imminent attacks”*.

Presenting an allegation in the form of a question, the author creates the false impression that his or her arbitrary, false claim is true. Additionally, this claim is an implication which evokes antisemitic clichés. The implicated message is that Jews are “evil”, “cynical”, “world-conspirators”. Though the claim conveys these stereotypes in itself, the question format also urges the readers to decode the implicated message.

Another similar example comes from Greece. Panos Leliatsos, former member of the Independent Greeks party, posted the [following message on Facebook](#) after the Paris terror attacks: *“Three months ago, the leading Rabbi of Jerusalem was calling French Jews to leave the country. 9000 Jews left [France] to go to Israel. Is this telling you something?”* In this case, a question follows an allegation. The question is used to reinforce the decoding of the antisemitic clichés evoked by the claim. The implication is that Jews engage in secret, harmful, conspiratorial activities and do not care about the life of non-Jews.

Oftentimes, it is not the literal but the implicated meaning of a statement that contains the “real” message. While it is relatively easy to decode implications, it is difficult to detect them as they are, by definition, invisible. This makes implications powerful vehicles in antisemitic and other manipulative discourses.

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## V. 5.

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Although our knowledge of the genocide of six million Jews by Nazi Germany and its collaborators is based on historical evidence, in antisemitic speech, the Holocaust is often downplayed and denied. Here we review the most common forms of manipulation that are used to minimise or deny the Holocaust.<sup>6</sup>

1. Some speakers downplay the genocide of Jews by using an inappropriate, informal vocabulary when referring to it. In March 2016, for example, the British Labour Party expelled one of its members for publishing antisemitic articles on the internet. Among other things, the politician doubted whether the extermination of six million Jews should concern the public. He [questioned](#) the *“guilt tripping over the Holocaust”*. In this case the informal language also indicates that the speaker does not take the subject seriously but rather belittles it. *“Guilt tripping”* is an informal phrase that people normally use in connection with private issues. It is fine to talk about *“guilt-tripping”* if we forget to call a friend. However, talking about *“guilt-tripping”* in the context of a genocide, the systematic murder of millions of people, is highly inappropriate and abusive.
2. Referring to the Holocaust in the context of other genocides may improve the public understanding of a genocide, an act [“committed with intend to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group”](#). However, in some cases, speakers use such comparisons to pursue a very different goal – to downplay the mass murder of six million Jews. For example, in the UK, a phone-in caller in a radio programme [said](#): *“There have been many Holocausts...”* By referring to the genocide of Jews in plural (*“Holocausts”*), the caller’s purpose was to belittle the mass murder.
3. Other times, a subtype of the [victim-abuser reversal](#), what we can call *genocide reversal* is used to downplay the Holocaust. On such occasions, Jews who were actually victims of a genocide are falsely accused of mass murder. Nearly 50,000 Greek Jews were killed in Nazi death camps. Nevertheless, in January 2016, the [Greek far-right newspaper Eleftheri Ora](#) framed a historic event, the rebellion of diaspora Jews in the Roman Empire that involved atrocities against Romans and Greeks, as a genocide. In a manipulative fashion, the newspaper talked about the *“great massacre of Greeks by Jews”* on its front page.
4. Another typical form of victim-abuser reversal is when speakers argue that people are overwhelmed by the discussions on the Holocaust. The former Lord Mayor of Bradford, England, for example, [retweeted](#) an image that featured the words: *“Your school system only tells you about Anne Frank and the 6 million Zionists that were killed by Hitler...”* The tweet evoked antisemitic clichés of Jewish privilege and manipulation. This way, the tweet presented as victims the students who learn about the Holocaust

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<sup>6</sup> See footnote no. 2 above.

in history classes rather than the six million Jewish people who were exterminated in death camps (and whom the tweet deceitfully identified as “Zionists”). This manipulative shift trivialised the Holocaust.

5. When the performance of far-right, fascist, Nazi political figures of the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s is discussed in positive terms, without any reference to the Holocaust, this constitutes an implicit form of genocide relativisation. Although it is not directly expressed, in such cases the [implication](#) is that the mass murder of Jews has no — or only a little — significance. For example, a member of the Hungarian far-right party Jobbik described Gyula Gömbös — leader of an extremist, antisemite Hungarian organisation in the 1920s and Prime Minister of Hungary between 1932 and 1936 — as a “*statesman*” in a Facebook post. Although Gyula Gömbös died in 1936, he played a crucial political role in spreading antisemitism in Hungary in the decades that preceded the Holocaust. By calling him a “*statesman*”, the politician ignored this background and therefore downplayed the genocide.

If the instances above minimise the importance of the mass murder of Jews, there are also cases of people who deny the genocide. This is usually done through superlative, exaggerated statements, as the next two examples show:

1. A Twitter user in the UK denied the Holocaust saying: “*No one is able to show us at Auschwitz or anywhere else even one of these chemical slaughterhouses.*” This person aimed to stress that the genocide of Jews is an absolute lie. In the tweet, the two indefinite pronouns (“*no one*” and “*anywhere*”) are tools of enhancement. The tweet denies the historical fact that the Nazis used gas chambers in the concentration camps to murder Jews. The pronouns reinforce this lie by falsely suggesting that no person has ever seen the gas chambers and that there is no place where they could be seen.
2. A political activist in Belgium [referred](#) to “*hoax gas-chambers built in Hollywood in 1946 with Steven Spielberg’s approval stamp*”. This statement denies the Holocaust four times. By referring to “*hoax gas chambers*”, the author suggests that the existence of the gas chambers is a lie fabricated to manipulate people. The date, “*in 1946*” implies that the gas chambers could not exist as they were built after World War Two. The references to “*Hollywood*” and “*Steven Spielberg*” suggest that the Holocaust is fiction and not fact.

A diverse rhetorical arsenal can support the downplay or the denial of the genocide of six million Jews. All of these are tools of discursive abuse and contribute to the spread of disinformation and hatred.

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## V. 6.

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In antisemitic speech, human rights values are represented in a manipulative fashion. Speakers who spread anti-Jewish hatred, routinely misuse the arguments of those institutions and individuals who respect and protect human rights. By misrepresenting the claims of real human rights defenders, antisemites aim to create the false impression that Jews violate the basic liberties of non-Jews. This form of [victim-abuser reversal](#) is employed by speakers to “justify” antisemitism.

After World War Two, the genocide of Jews and other victims - including Roma people, homosexuals, disabled people and political prisoners - by the Nazis and their collaborators put human rights at the heart of global policy making. In 1948, the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. However, the principles advocated by the UN and other organisations have been twisted by antisemites to reinforce old forms of manipulation.

As the incidents detected by monitors of *Get the Trolls Out!* show, in today’s antisemitic speech Jews are frequently constructed as human rights abusers. For instance, speakers typically accuse Jews of depriving non-Jews of the right to freedom of opinion and expression. This form of manipulation builds upon the old antisemitic cliché that Jews own and control media outlets to brainwash populations.

The old stereotype of Jewish media dominance was evoked in a recent Facebook post by a French speaker: “*In a democracy, information is meant to be free and pluralistic. In reality, the most important media outlets are entirely in the hands of Jews, and this in practically all domains.*” Assigning the role of the human rights abuser to Jewish people, this Facebook message suggested that Jews undermine democracy and the freedom of the press in France.

Indicating the pervasiveness of antisemitic stereotypes, the cliché of Jewish media dominance recurs in new guises as well. Since the emergence of the World Wide Web, antisemites argue that Jews control not only the mainstream media but also the key services on the internet. In November 2015, a French blog on “white Europe” claimed, for example, that Wikipedia is “*edited by Jews for promoting their tribal interest.*” The same blog also talked about the “*Jews of Google*” who “*censor*” information.

Antisemites also demand freedom of speech, presenting themselves this way as victims who are deprived of a fundamental right. Although on such occasions, the speakers simply refer to “freedom of speech”, they are actually arguing for the “freedom of hate speech”. This particular form of victim-abuser reversal is often reinforced by the complaint that speakers are stigmatised as racist and antisemitic if they practice “the freedom” of derogatory, offensive speech, or deny or downplay the Holocaust.

For example, the above-mentioned Facebook post on France continued with this false accusation:

*“In the Jewish world vision, the goy (goyim plural) is the non-Jew. He is considered a beast. According to the Talmud itself, by far the most influential sacred text in Judaism, he is considered less than a dog. His only vocation is thus to serve his Jewish master without ever having to complain. Otherwise, he passes as “racist”, “Antisemite” and the Jews will do everything to make him suffer the consequences.”*

In antisemitic speech the right to freedom of opinion and expression is misused to advocate verbal abuse and discrimination. Therefore, when it comes to antisemitic discourses, not to take demands for freedom of opinion and expression at face value is crucial.

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## V. 7.

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In antisemitic speech, you can often hear the words “the Jew” or “a Jew”. Although it may seem so, in this way speakers do not refer to individuals alone. In antisemitic discourses, the references to “the Jew” or “a Jew” are references to all Jewish people. This particular form of synecdoche (use the *part* to refer to the *whole*) is also known in linguistics as the “collective singular”. It is employed to manipulate people into believing stereotypes about Jewish people.

Synecdoches are widespread in antisemitic and in other forms of racist and discriminatory speech. These tropes allow speakers to talk about groups by referring to their particular members. Speakers can mean Jewry in general (“the whole”), but refer only to one person (“the part”), identifying her or him as “a Jew” or “the Jew”. If such references are combined with anti-Jewish clichés, the synecdoche is used to justify and spread antisemitism.

Normally, the choice between the indefinite (“a” and “an”) and the definite (“the”) article is of primary importance. While indefinite articles refer to entities in general, the definite article indicates that we talk about one particular thing. However, in antisemitic speech, the indefinite and the definite article in front of the word “Jew” express the same meaning. In antisemitic discourses the references to “the Jew” or “a Jew” suggest that Jewish people constitute a homogenous group of which members are fraudulent, immoral, destructive, and dangerous.

Aiming to spread anti-Jewish hatred in Hungary, the extremist website *Kuruc.info*, for example, frequently refers to “the Jew” or “a Jew” in its headlines and articles. In September 2015, *Kuruc.info* [claimed](#) that the French satirical outlet *Charlie Hebdo* “is making fun” of the tragedy of the toddler who drowned in the sea while his family was trying to escape from Syria to Greece. The Hungarian outlet also added: “*of course a Jew can do anything*”. In this case, the reference to “a Jew” (and *Charlie Hebdo*, which *Kuruc.info* identified as a Jewish publication) stood for Jews in general, and evoked the antisemitic stereotypes of Jewish cynicism, cruelty and privilege.

In February 2016, *Kuruc.info* identified the American actor and TV producer Lena Dunham as “*a degenerated Jew of the many*”. On this occasion, the outlet made it explicit that it used a synecdoche. Indeed, the derogatory, abusive reference to Dunham included all Jewish people.

Another example comes from Greece. In September 2015, the nationalistic blog *Antipliroforisi* published an image on its Facebook page which featured several antisemitic caricatures, asking: “*Who controls the world?*” The answer to this question was: “*The eternal Jew.*” This particular synecdoche, “the eternal Jew”, has historical connotations. It played a central role in the Nazi propaganda: in 1937 an exhibition was organized and in 1940 a film was produced under the title “The eternal Jew” (“Der ewige Jude”) by the Nazis. Talking about “the Jew” and “a Jew”, antisemites can argue that Jews

are evil *because* they are Jews. The figure of “*the eternal Jew*” gives emphasis to this racist and hostile claim in a powerful way, by indicating that Jewish evilness is timeless.

In antisemitic discourses, the references to “*a Jew*” or “*the Jew*” are dangerous tools of manipulation. Creating the false impression that Jews are immoral and threatening by nature, these “collective singulars” call for verbal and physical violence against Jewish people.

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## V. 8.

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In antisemitic speech, the [references to well-known, affluent and powerful individuals](#) who are Jewish or thought to be Jewish, convey negative and abusive messages concerning Jewry. Speakers also [identify individuals as “a Jew” or “the Jew”](#) to attack Jewish people.

When doing this, speakers use the rhetorical tool of synecdoche which allows them to refer to “the part” while meaning “the whole”. However, not only individuals can stand for Jews in antisemitic speech. Speakers also commonly replace Jewry as a whole with the state of Israel to foster anti-Jewish hatred.

Any country can be criticized for its domestic or foreign policies. Nevertheless, in the case of Israel, a state of which the majority of the population is Jewish, the real purpose of the criticism of the country can also be the spread of antisemitism. This happens when instead of meaningful critique, anti-Jewish clichés are evoked in the context of the Jewish state.

As monitors of *Get the Trolls Out!* unveiled, Israel has recently been falsely associated with terrorism by political figures and the media in Europe. Although speakers referred to Israel in the detected texts, they were actually speaking about Jews. Instead of the legitimate criticism of Israel, the false accusations merely expressed and triggered hostile feelings towards Jewish people.

In Belgium, France, Greece, Hungary and the UK, these false accusations primarily evoked the stereotype of Jewish world conspiracy:

On 15 November 2015, the nationalistic AnemosAnatropis.blogspot in Greece published an article, asking: “*What is so hard to understand, after all? That the Zionist State is behind the Islamic State?*”

A day after the suicide bombings in Belgium, an [activist of the British Labour Party said on Facebook](#): “*How many more attacks have to take place before the world fully understand that ISIS is run by Israel?*”

Oftentimes, the stereotype of Jewish world conspiracy was accompanied by other antisemitic clichés as well:

During a civil council committee hearing on 16 November 2015, the representative of Hungary’s ruling Fidesz party and [the mayor of the Hungarian city Szentgotthárd](#) said about the terrorist attacks in France: “*What happened in Paris is clear evidence that certain business circles, dare I say business circles which are likely to be backed by the Jewish state, are trying to pit Christian Europe against Islam.*” In this statement, besides Jewish world conspiracy, the Hungarian mayor also evoked the clichés of Jewish business-mindedness and cruelty.

In France, [a blog on “white Europe”](#) argued that “*An Israeli rabbi says that Paris*



*attacks are revenge for the Holocaust.*” In this case, the false accusation reinforced the stereotypes of Jewish world conspiracy and vengefulness at the same time.

On 20 December 2015, the former member of the Belgian parliament, [Laurent Louis](#) [posted this message on Facebook](#): “*The more ISIS cuts heads, the more Israel enlarges its hold on the region. ISIS keeps going for Israel and its Zionist allies.*” In this Facebook post, the reference to Israel, besides the stereotype of Jewish world conspiracy, also evoked the myth of Jewish bloodthirstiness that dates back to the Middle Ages.

By replacing Jewry with Israel, speakers can simultaneously voice and deny antisemitism. They may claim that they are speaking about Israel and not about Jews. Nevertheless, it is pivotal for listeners and readers not to be misled and to distinguish between the actual criticism of Israel and the antisemitic representation of the country.

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## V. 9.

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# Derogatory & Abusive Labels

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### INAPPROPRIATELY INFORMAL TERMS

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Speakers can offend others by referring to them in inappropriately casual terms. In December 2015, for instance, on [a radio programme in the UK](#), a phone-in caller referred to orthodox Jews as “*those guys with the hats and the curly hair.*” On this occasion, instead of identifying orthodox Jews in proper religious terms, the speaker used an inappropriate, informal term (“*guys*”) and referred to the way he perceived them, thus reducing them to one particular oversimplified appearance. The informal language use served the purpose of desecration. It represented orthodox Jews and the religion of Judaism in a disrespectful, belittling and stereotypical manner.

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### METONYMIES

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Yet another example comes from the UK. In February 2016, the co-chair of the Oxford University Labour Club, Alex Chalmers, resigned from his position after claiming that antisemitism is widespread among members of the club. In a [Facebook post](#), Chalmers gave examples of antisemitic behaviour he witnessed in the club. This included “*throwing around the term ‘Zio’ (a term for Jews usually confined to websites run by the Ku Klux Klan) with casual abandon.*”

The label “*Zio*” is the short form of “*Zionist*”. In antisemitic speech both “*Zionist*” and “*Zio*” function as metonymies. When speakers use this rhetorical trope, they can refer to entities by the name of another entity that is closely related to it. In the news, for example, references are frequently made to the “*White House*” for the American President or to “*Beijing*” for the Chinese government. In everyday speech, the term “*Zionist*” refers to a person who supports the development of an independent Jewish state in Israel. Yet, in antisemitic discourses, the phrases “*Zionist*” and “*Zio*” covertly identify Jews and make it possible for speakers to present their anti-Jewish hatred as a legitimate criticism of Zionism.

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### ABBREVIATIONS

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The short form “*Zio*” has specific derogatory connotations as well. In everyday language, abbreviations can express casualty and informality. However, in antisemitic and other forms of racist speech the informal character of short forms is routinely misused. As in the case of the term “*Zio*”, in discriminatory discourses, short forms indicate disrespect. Here, the intention of the speakers is to demolish the dignity of the referred people.

## METAPHORS

As a recent incident in Greece demonstrates, metonymies are not the only tropes that can be used for derogatory and abusive labelling. In January 2016, a [Greek political activist](#) falsely claimed in a blog post that Jewish people are fleeing from the United States and Europe to move to Israel after creating national conflicts and supporting terrorism. Evoking the antisemitic clichés of Jewish world conspiracy, cynicism and cowardice, the author of the piece said: “*Those rats are deserting the sinking ship.*” In this case, the blog writer used a metaphor to refer to Jewish people. The rhetorical trope of metaphor allows speakers to describe one particular entity in terms of another. Although metaphors are inherent elements of communication, in some cases, the usage of this trope has dangerous implications. By referring to Jewish people as “*rats*”, the writer suggested that Jews were not humans and aimed to evoke physical disgust with them in the readers. The Nazis and other genocidal regimes frequently labelled their victims as animals that are associated with dirt, disease, and food destruction. Through such metaphors these regimes called for mass killing, presenting the horror of genocide in rational terms, as a necessary “pesticide”.

Stay alert and be careful when someone speaks about Jewish or other people by referring to them in different terms. Distorted references can hurt the feelings of the people they identify as well as foster discrimination and physical abuse against them.

## V.10.



Although there is nothing heroic about fuelling hate and discrimination, many are lured into antisemitism because it is falsely represented, by those who spread it, as extreme courageousness. In antisemitic speech, Jewish people, who are actually attacked, are constructed as abusers, while the role of the victim is assigned to those who attack them. Oftentimes, the victim-abuser reversal is further reinforced by rhetorical tricks that create the false impression that non-Jews are not only victims of Jews but indeed victims who heroically resist their abusers.

In antisemitic speech, the fake sense of heroism is commonly evoked by negative statements which contain the word “*not*” and voice rejections. In February 2016, in Greece, for example, an abbot, Elder Methodius of the Esfigmenou Monastery, gave speeches at two antisemitic rallies. First, in Athens, where he said: “*We [Greek people] don’t need their [Jewish people] money... We don’t need their money!*” Later on in the month, the abbot repeated the same claim at a demonstration in Thessaloniki: “*We don’t accept Jewish money*”. In the latter case, the abbot meant that his monastery was not accepting money from the EU — which he identified as a Jewish institution — for restoration work.

In the case of negative statements, the trick is that speakers reject non-existent phenomena, however, due to the negative structure, it may seem that they are talking about real issues. The Abbot’s dramatic “refusals”, for example, conveyed the false impression that Jews were trying to buy Greek people in general and his monastic community in particular. Additionally, by “rejecting Jewish money”, the abbot portrayed himself and non-Jewish Greek people as victim-heroes for whom moral values matter more than money, while portraying Jews as business-minded oppressors.

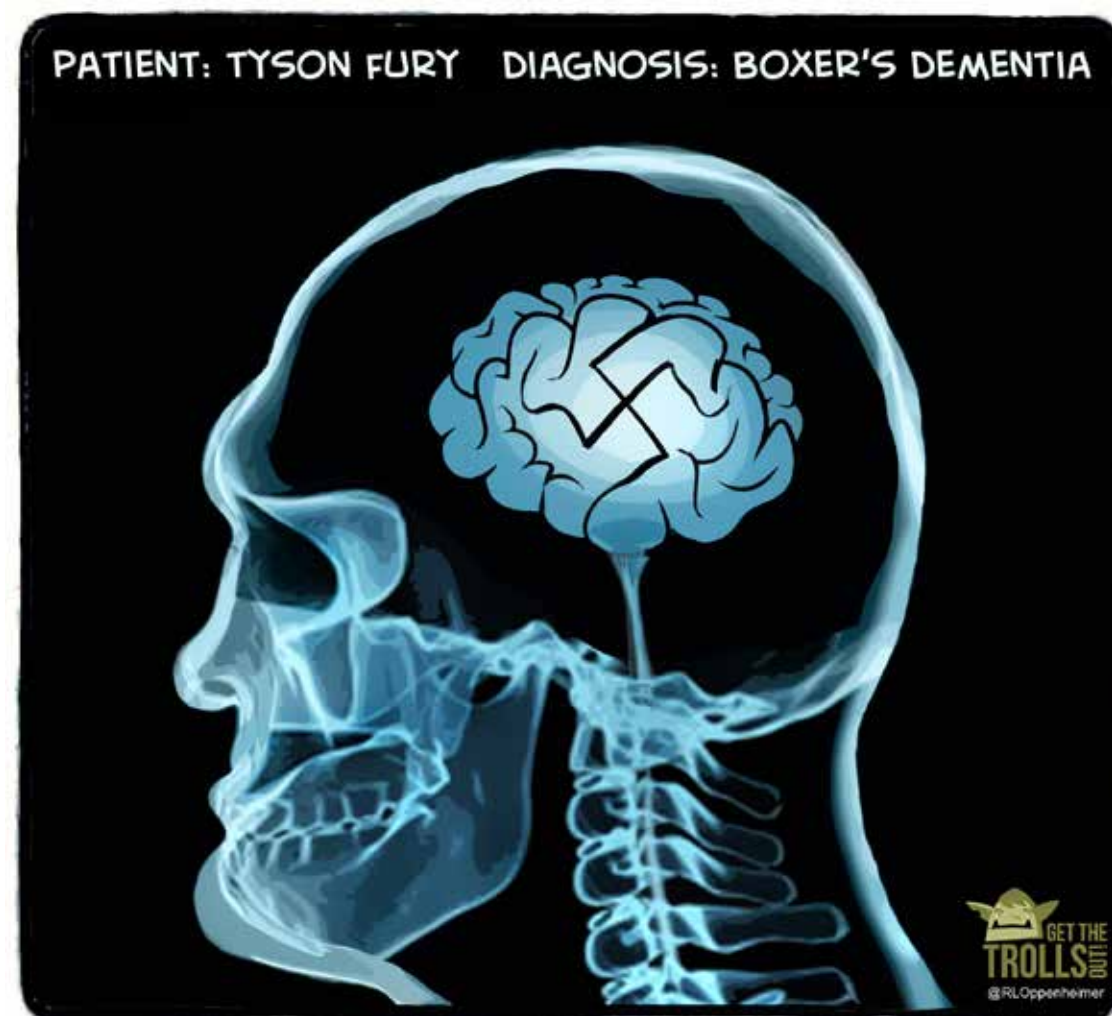
At the rally in Thessaloniki, Abbott Methodius also argued: “*We are not animals, we are human beings that God made free. We are not slaves of the Jews.*” In this case, because of the negative structures, the audience could be manipulated into believing a wide range of arbitrary claims, including the claim that Jews treat Greek people like animals and enslave them. Even if these arguments have nothing in common with reality, the negative structure reinforces them in a powerful way.

In January 2016, the parliamentary representative of the extremist, far-right Golden Dawn party urged Greek people “*not [to] be afraid to say the word “Jewish”. They are our greatest enemy.*” In this case, the negative structure implied that Jews victimise Greek people by threatening them. In addition, by encouraging Greeks not to be afraid to say the word “Jewish”, the politician presented antisemitic speech as a heroic act.

In November 2015, the representative of Hungary’s ruling Fidesz party and the mayor of the Hungarian city Szentgotthárd also [constructed an antisemitic utterance as heroism](#). The Hungarian politician commented on the terrorist attacks in France in this way: “*What happened in Paris is clear evidence that certain business circles, dare I say business*

*circles which are likely to be backed by the Jewish state, are trying to pit Christian Europe against Islam.” On this occasion, instead of a negative structure, the phrase “dare I say” indicated that the speaker is doing something “courageous” by articulating antisemitic clichés.*

The deceitfully created role of the victim-hero is a key component that attracts people in antisemitism. Do not be misled by this construction. The fake heroism evoked by antisemitic speech boosts racism and discrimination.



## VI. Monthly Highlights: European Trends



In this chapter, you will find the highlights of antisemitic hate speech, resulting from the monitoring of traditional and new media. These “Monthly Highlights” uncover antisemitic acts and speech by public and other figures. They are arranged in order of the month in which they were reported (rather than the month in which the content was originally published).

## VI. 1. SEPTEMBER

### GREECE



**Date of publication:** 18 September 2015

**Media outlet:** *Eleftheri Ora* (Ελεύθερη Όρα)

**Link:** <http://www.naftemporiki.gr/frontpages/18/09/2015/imerisies-politikes/eleytheri-ora/full>

**Headline:** “‘How [Tsipras] is playing the Zionist game’ – General Aifantis: ‘Tsipras is an Islamised Jew.’ Syriza wants to complete the murder of the Greek nation.”

**Description of the antisemitic content:** The headline includes a quote by a Greek far right-wing retired general. Though atheist, Tsipras, leader of the left-wing government party Syriza, is labelled by the general as an Islamised Jew. This description - a combination of Judaism, Islam, and Left - seems to aim at provoking the readers’ adversion. The headline implies that Syriza cannot be trusted because its leader is an “Islamised Jew”.

**About the source:** *Eleftheri Ora* is an ultra-right-wing newspaper repeatedly spreading antisemitic speech. The paper often relates what they perceive to be an “evil” or catastrophe -either national or international- with Jews.

**Myth Debunked:** This is a perfect example of combined antisemitism and islamophobia. In this article, Jews and Muslims are both made responsible for the evil of the world, specifically in a time of economic crisis. It draws on the stereotype of a world conspiracy created by minorities (here the Jewish and the Muslim one). This article also shows that antisemitism is directed not only towards Jews and the Jewish identity, but also toward people who are allegedly Jewish.

### GREECE



**Date of publication:** 15 September 2015

**Media outlet:** *Eleftheri Ora* (Ελεύθερη Όρα)

**Link:** <http://www.naftemporiki.gr/frontpages/15/09/2015/imerisies-politikes/eleytheri-ora/full>

**Headline:** “The horrible predictions concerning Jewish ‘Shmita’ – the ‘year of Lucifer’ began on September 13th!”

**Caption:** “The Rabbi: the invasion of Islam in Europe and the destruction of Christianity are ‘great news’, because this way the Messiah will come”!

**Description of the antisemitic content:** The headline links the Jewish Sabbath year (Shmita) with Lucifer and other threatening events.

**About the source:** *Eleftheri Ora* is an ultra-right-wing newspaper repeatedly spreading antisemitic speech. The paper often relates what they perceive to be an “evil” or catastrophe -either national or international- with Jews.

#### Myth Debunked:

This article shows that even today in 2015, myths from the Middle Ages are used to serve antisemitic purposes, here specifically in the extreme Christian orthodox realm. The myth of the Jews as Satanic has its origins in the Middle Ages and has reappeared constantly in antisemitic media until today. Shmita is the seventh year of the seven-year agricultural cycle mandated by the Torah, the Hebrew Bible.



## HUNGARY



**Date of publication:** 14 September 2015

**Media outlet:** Kuruc

**Link:** <https://kuruc.info/r/6/148339/>

**Headline:** “Charlie Hebdo is making fun of the drowned Syrian kid – Jews are allowed to do anything”

**Description of the antisemitic content:** The article identifies the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo with Jews and blames them for the publication of a cartoon on Aylan Kurdi, the three-year-old Syrian boy whose body was washed up on a Turkish beach while trying to reach Europe.

**About the source:** Kuruc is an antisemitic website that often identifies media owners and producers with Jews. In this piece, Kuruc distorted an article originally published by Blikk, a popular tabloid in Hungary. The original piece did not contain antisemitic features, but Kuruc.info added adjectives and details to the original piece and thus twisted the whole content. It actually discredits Blikk because this paper was quoted as a source of information.

**Myth Debunked:** Even though there were Jewish people among the victims of the Charlie Hebdo terror attack on 7 January 2015, here the identification of all Charlie Hebdo cartoonists with Jews is a simplification and distortion of reality in order to put the blame on the Jewish people for a very controversial cartoon. It draws on the myth of Jews “controlling” the media, whereas in fact they are not disproportionately represented in the media. This impression is due to the fact that the Jewish background or name of a person, in the case of a successful career, is often highlighted by the media.

## UNITED KINGDOM



**Date of publication:** 16 September 2015

**Media outlet:** BBC

**Link:** <http://www.thejc.com/news/uk-news/145124/shock-over-caricature-bbc-proms-programme>

**Description of the antisemitic content:** An antisemitic caricature of a Jewish violinist, Leopold Auer, appeared in the programme for a performance of Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto. The concert was part of the BBC Proms.

**About the source:** BBC Proms is an eight-week summer season of daily orchestral classical music concerts held annually in London. The BBC has apologised for this antisemitic incident and taken down the image from the programme. A BBC spokesperson said: “We use a range of caricatures and illustrations in our concert programmes and wanted one of Leopold Auer. We’re sorry to anyone who was offended by the image choice -this was never our intention.”

**Myth Debunked:** This publication is an example of the danger of ignorance and its short path to stereotypes, even unconscious ones. The person who published the antisemitic caricature was probably not aware of the antisemitic aspect of the drawing, whereas this kind of caricature was typical for the Nazi era and is resurging today in antisemitic media.

## VI. 2. OCTOBER

From the Merchant of Venice caricature of the former Greek minister Varufakis to the commemoration of the fascist president Gyula Gömbös by a member of the Jobbik party in Hungary, these October highlights are an overview of the most significant results of our monitoring of traditional and new media in Belgium, France, Greece, Hungary, Belgium and the United Kingdom.

### HUNGARY



**Date of publication:** 6 October 2015

**Media outlet:** Facebook

**Author:** Istvan Szávay, vice-president of radical nationalistic Jobbik party in Hungary.

**Link:** <https://www.facebook.com/szavayistvan/photos/a.504239429741752.1073741829.137090003123365/504239616408400/?type=3&permPage=1>

**Text:** “We remember a statesman – Gyula Gömbös 1886.12.26 - 1936.10.06”

**Description of the antisemitic content:** On the day when Árpád Göncz, Hungary’s first democratically elected president, died, Istvan Szávay (Jobbik) commemorated Gyula Gömbös, prime-minister of Hungary between 1932-36. Even though he died before World War II and the Holocaust, his political acts strengthened the antisemitism that led to the Holocaust in Hungary. The commemoration is followed by an anti-communist quote by Lajos Marschalko, an active propagandist of the Arrow Cross Party (the Hungarian Nazis) in the 1930-40s. While the post and the quote are not directly and clearly antisemitic, Gömbös and Marschalkó are representing a clear and symbolic message for the nationalistic followers of Szávay.

**Media coverage:** Mainstream media condemned the act of commemoration by Istvan Szávay.

**Myth Debunked:** Although this Facebook post does not contain any specific “myth” about Jews, it is a post aimed at remembering an antisemitic Hungarian politician who was active the years before World War II and the Holocaust. Hungary lost more than half of its Jewish population during the Holocaust. This Facebook post is encouraging positions that minimize the impact of the Holocaust in European history.

### UNITED KINGDOM

#### Film festival

## Event shouldn't take place in our borough

John McPartlin of Creighton Avenue N2 writes:

The Israeli film festival at the Phoenix cinema in East Finchley is one that should not be permitted (*Jewish film festival's future is under threat, October 15*). A state that is killing people, many of them children, in lands that it occupies illegally every day should not be welcomed here.

Israel as a state is a unique model of apartheid, military occupation and colonisation. During the last 60 years it has shown itself to be a violent and ruthless state that has repeatedly broken hundreds of UN resolutions, and the Geneva Convention and international law on countless occasions. In addition, illegal settlers continue to take homes and land, making normal Palestinian life impossible. It is able to do this of course because it is supported by the US and the EU.

Israel fights on the cultural front also – it targets Palestinian cultural centres for destruction and prevents free movement of cultural workers, while it sends its own theatre companies into the illegal settlements. As it uses film and art in a campaign for acceptance, this question therefore is a political one.

Israeli cinema benefits from state support, which makes it in turn a silent accomplice in these illegalities. Its government supports film and television industries that present it in an unjustified favourable light, therefore the logic is that this should not be allowed.

Israel tries to put itself forward as a cultural state and is thus susceptible to such a boycott. The festival had to be pulled from the Tricycle Theatre in Kilburn last year because public opinion was against such a thing taking place, and it should not now be given a welcome in our borough.

**Date of publication:** 22 October 2015

**Media outlet:** Ham & High - a local London newspaper

**Link:** <http://edition.pagesuite-professional.co.uk/Launch.aspx?eid=ccf50b31-1934-4db2-a3f3-3507a30ba9a5> (page 23)

**Headline:** “Event shouldn't take place in our borough”

**Description of the antisemitic content:** A reader of the newspaper Ham & High is opposing the UK Jewish Film Festival which he has renamed the “Israeli Film Festival”.

The reader calls for a boycott of the festival because, according to him, Israel is “a state [...] killing people”. The reader says that the Israeli cinema and TV industry, benefitting from state support, present Israel in “an unjustified favourable light”, concluding that “therefore the logic is that this should not be allowed”.



**About the source:** A letter signed by a man called John McPartlin, supposedly a resident of the neighbourhood, was published in Ham&High, the local newspaper of Hampstead and Highgate in London. The festival is happening in Finchley, within the same borough, in November.

**Myth Debunked:** As often in Europe, the adjectives “Jewish” (related to the Jewish people) and “Israeli” (meaning the citizens of the State of Israel) are confused and, as often in antisemitic statements, turned into an attack against Jewish people, here Jewish culture. Here, Israel is reduced to “a state [...] killing people”, not taking into consideration the complex situation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. For further information, the author’s statement that Israel’s cinema and TV industry present Israel in “an unjustified favourable light”, is wrong, as many contemporary Israeli film directors debate critically of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in their own movies and present it in an attempt to create dialogues between Israelis, Palestinians and their neighbours (cf. movies of Eytan Fox, Eran Kolirin, Ari Folman, Eran Ryklis, to name just a few examples).

## GREECE



**Date of publication:** 22 September 2015

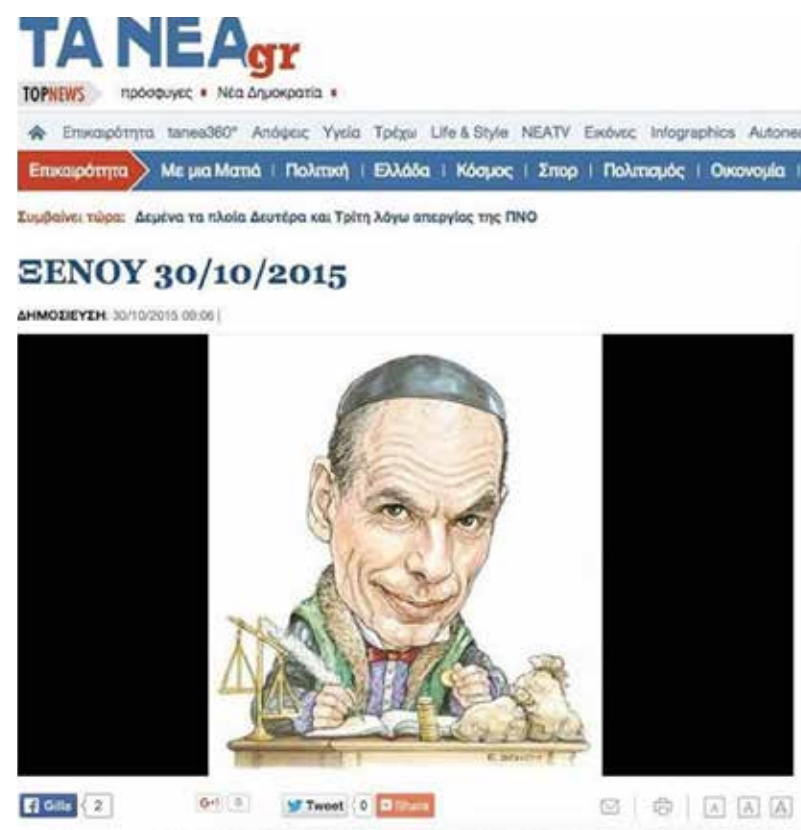
**Media outlet:** *Antipliroforisi*, blog

**Headline:** Who does actually control the world? The eternal Jew.

**Description of the antisemitic content:** This is a picture implying that Jewish people control everything in the world. It starts with the ironic question of “Who controls the world?” and while going through diverse “fields” (namely: “stock market”, “online spying”, “Hollywood and series”, “courts”, “cancer industry”, “pornography”, “wars on behalf of Israel”, “prostitution”, “supposedly opposition”) ends up with “The eternal Jew”. The picture includes the infamous caricature of a Jewish person with a big nose, rubbing his hands together and each time having the outfit of the equivalent discipline captioned above it e.g. the broker Jew, the internet spy Jew, etc.

**About the source:** *Antipliroforisi* is an ultra-nationalistic blog in Greece. Its Facebook page has more than 3,000 likes and its content is full of antisemitic post and pictures. Even its profile picture on Facebook portrays different news channels along with the Star of David, implying that the Jewish people control the world’s media.

**Myth Debunked:** This antisemitic cartoon is using the myth of Jewish control over the world and of the responsibility of Jews for the evil of the world. The cartoons are clearly reminiscent of antisemitic caricatures of Jews in the 19th and 20th centuries, and the message is the same. This time the authors try to adapt it to the 21st century.



**Date of publication:** 30 October 2015

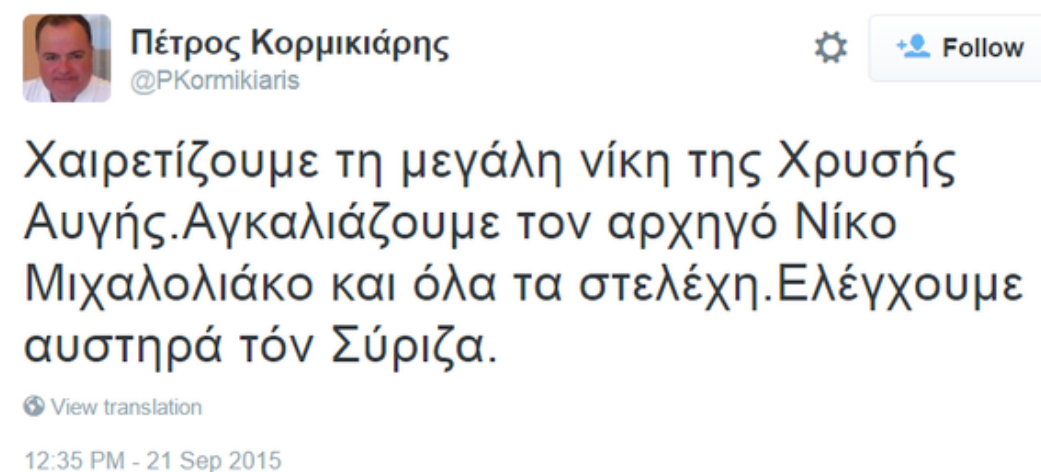
**Media outlet:** Ta Nea, Greek daily

**Link:** <http://www.tanea.gr/skitsa/tis-efis-xenou/>

**Description of the antisemitic content:** The cartoon depicts Yanis Varoufakis, former Greek minister, wearing a kippah and dressed in the style of the “Merchant of Venice” play, with scales and coins in front of him. It recalls the stereotype of the “money-lender and banker Jew” Varoufakis, the well-known academic and economist, who was Minister of Finance in the previous Syriza government.

**About the source:** Published in the centrist daily Nea, one of the main newspapers in Greece, the cartoon was used to illustrate an editorial by the well-known journalist Giorgos Papachristos. The caricature was shared by Stoxos.gr too, an ultra-nationalistic news website close to the Golden Dawn party. Varoufakis himself has condemned the cartoon, and the Jewish Community of Athens issued a public announcement addressed to the newspaper. With very weak justifications, in the following days, Papachristos rejected the accusation of antisemitism on the basis that the caricature evokes Shylock, the protagonist of the Shakespeare’s Merchant of Venice and by appealing to freedom of expression.

**Myth Debunked:** This cartoon draws on the myth relating Jewish people to money exchanges of illegitimate profit for them. The stereotype that greediness is an essential characteristic of Jews emerged in the Middle Ages. Christian law considered usury a sin but Jews were forbidden to own land or to work in the craft sector by discriminatory laws. They therefore became merchants, money-lenders and tax-collectors, which made them easy scapegoats in difficult economic or political times. (Source: [ENAR](#)).



**Date of publication:** 21 September 2015

**Media outlet:** Twitter

**Author:** Petros Kormikiaris, Secretariat General of Information and Communication

**Link:** <https://twitter.com/PKormikiaris/status/6476547973242388499>

**Tweet:** “I totally question Holocaust as an historic event. Israel state of today is my witness. NO FASCISM IN HUMAN RACE.”

**Description of the antisemitic content:** The tweet is denying the Holocaust. The author uses the politics of the State of Israel as an argument denying the genocide of the Jews in Europe during the Second World War. In Greece, Holocaust denial is considered criminal.

**About the author:** Petros Kormikiaris, author of this tweet, is a public servant working at the Secretariat General of Information and Communication. Nikos Pappas, the Secretary of State in charge of the Secretariat General submitted this case to the “Disciplinary Board” of Public Servants asking for Kormikiaris’ dismissal.

**Myth Debunked:** The systematic murder of the European Jews carried out by the Nazis during the Second World War (1939-1945) is called the Holocaust. In addition to the 6 million Jews who perished in the Holocaust, other populations were also targeted and a total of at least 11 million people in total are thought to have perished in the Holocaust, including among others Roma/Sinti, homosexuals, black people, the mentally and physically disabled, political dissidents, etc.



## BELGIUM



**Date of publication:** 5 October 2015

**Media outlet:** Facebook

**Headline:** “Les mensonges sur la création d’Israël” (“Lies about the creation of Israel”)

**Description of the antisemitic content:** The video is antisemitic because it 1) denies the existence of the Jews as a people; 2) denies that the Jews were chased out by the Romans in 70 AD, thus denying the Diaspora; 3) denies the link between the Holocaust and the creation of the State of Israel, thus minimizing the impact of the Holocaust; 4) reduces the existence of the State of Israel to – among others – an “expansion project that has no limits”. It is a clear example of how criticism of Israel can actually turn into antisemitism.

**About the source:** This video has been shared widely and is reaching a great audience in the francophone world that feels like it has just been educated and that the truth has been revealed to them. The video was shared via the “1.000.000 de j’aime contre Israël” Facebook group (“1 million of Likes against Israel”) and currently has over 112,000 views.

**Myth Debunked:** The Jews are a people that cannot be reduced to a religion. A Jewish identity has cultural, ethnic, religious, family, personal and many more implications. The creation of the State of Israel cannot be reduced to the impact of the Holocaust, but after the persecution of Jews in Europe in the late 19th century, including pogroms and a widespread discrimination, which culminated in the genocide of 6 million European Jews in the Holocaust during World War II, there was a feeling that only a Jewish State could guarantee the security of the Jewish people. Zionism is a Jewish national-political movement founded in 1896 by the Austrian journalist Theodor Herzl with the aim of re-establishing a Jewish homeland in the Holy Land. But the yearning to return to Zion (the hill upon which the Temple of Jerusalem was built and the biblical term for both the Land of Israel and Jerusalem) is a key element of Jewish religious life since the Jewish exile from the land two thousand years ago, and is embedded in Jewish prayer, ritual, literature and culture.

## VI. 3. NOVEMBER

Conspiracy theories blaming Jews and Israel of knowing in advance about the Paris attacks, as well as being the cause of the refugee crisis, have thrived online in the month of November, our media monitoring reveals. Not just ordinary people have shared antisemitic images on social media linking Jews with ISIS, but also MPs in Greece, a politician in Belgium and a mayor in Hungary have all publicly expressed these absurd claims.

These November highlights are an overview of the most significant results of our monitoring of traditional and new media in Belgium, France, Greece, Hungary, and the United Kingdom.

## GREECE



**Date of publication:** 14 November 2015

**Media outlet:** Facebook

**Link:** <http://on.fb.me/1P7KTPP>

**Text:** “Three months ago, the leading Rabbi of Jerusalem was calling French Jews to leave the country. 9,000 Jews left [France] to go to Israel. Is this telling you something?”

**Description of the antisemitic content:** Panos Leliatsos, former member of the Independent Greeks party, has shared an article on the influx of French Jews to Israel and added a comment saying that “the leading Rabbi of Jerusalem” called French Jews to leave France just three months before the Paris attacks of the 13th of November 2015. Leliatsos’ words (“Is this telling you something?”) imply that the rabbi knew in advance about the Paris attacks and tried to save French Jews, thousands of whom fled the country

after being informed. With his comment, Leliatsos has fomented one of the vicious conspiracy theories that associate Jews with terrorist attacks.

**About the author and the source:** The author of this message, Panos Leliatsos, is a former member of the Independent Greeks political party (far-right, junior party of the bipartisan ruling coalition in Greece). He was Deputy Head of Energy and Development Sector of his party and an MP candidate in the January elections. He resigned from his position last August. The Independent Greeks party's leader too, Panos Kammenos, has been previously accused of being antisemitic when he claimed that [Jews pay less taxes than other Greek citizens](#).

Leliatsos' Facebook post was [shared](#) by the blog "Anemos Anatropis". Rachel Makri – former SYRIZA MP (and former Independent Greeks MP) – tweeted the blog post on Twitter, adding that US president Obama and French president Hollande are behind the attacks too. Having been at the centre of many controversial debates before, Makri's tweet drew great attention from the public and many people, both Jews and non-Jews, accused Makri of antisemitism. After being exposed, Makri deleted her tweet.

**Myths Debunked:** This incident shows how information can be distorted by (mis)using it for one's own purpose. About 7,000 [Jews have emigrated from France to Israel in 2014](#), and in 2015, [over 6,000 French Jews have emigrated to Israel since the beginning of the year](#). This migration wave is related to the rise of antisemitism in Europe and the violent form it has often taken. Since 2012, 13 Jews have been killed only because they were Jews. Here, it is not clear to which Rabbi of Jerusalem the author of the text refers to, nor if this appeal is accurate. Panos Leliatsos uses the boom of the French Aliya (emigration to Israel) following the attacks in France this year to suspect a "Jewish conspiracy". What is implied is that Jews knew about the attacks and therefore left France. This clearly recalls the 9/11 antisemitic conspiracy claiming that no Jews were killed on the attack because they didn't go to work at the World Trade Center that day.

## GREECE

Κυριακή, 15 Νοεμβρίου 2015

### Οι Εβραίοι ιδιοκτήτες πούλησαν πρόσφατα το θέατρο Bataclan στο Παρίσι, όπου έγινε το μακελειό



**Date of publication:** 15 November 2015

**Media outlet:** Anemos Anatropis blog

**Link:** <http://anemosanatropis.blogspot.nl/2015/11/bataclan.html>

**Headline:** "Jewish owners recently sold the Bataclan theatre in Paris, where the carnage took place"

**Description of the antisemitic content:** The article explains that the Bataclan theatre in Paris, attacked by ISIS members on the 13th of November 2015, was previously owned by Jewish people, who sold it just two months before the attack. The article implies that the recent sale was not just a coincidence, thus linking Jews to the attack. This mischievous speculation fits into the conspiracy theories that have been circulating after the Paris attacks (see above) and recalls, for similarity, the one that claims that there was advance knowledge of the 9/11 attack. In addition to this, the article suggests that Israel is hiding behind IS ("What is it that you don't understand, anyway? That behind Islamic State is the State of Zion?").

**About the source:** The blog Anemos Anatropis holds a populist stance in its news reporting. Their tagline slogan reads: "Citizens owe to know the truth because an informed citizen will never be deceived". Its Facebook page reaches 6,000 followers.

**Myths Debunked:** This incident, as the one above, shows how information can be distorted by (mis)using it for one's own specific purpose. This conspiracy theory draws its conclusion from a true fact: that the former owners of the Bataclan were Jewish and that they sold it "just two months" before the attack. However, by putting together two completely unrelated, and somehow opposite, elements (the migration wave to Israel, due mainly because of antisemitism in Europe, and the jihadist attacks motivated by hatred, fueled among others by antisemitism), the chronology of the event is presented in a way that shows antisemitic ideas.



## HUNGARY – CONSPIRACY THEORIES ON THE PARIS ATTACKS

### Üzleti körök és zsidó állam a menekültek mögött?

Nem kellett sokáig várni, gyorsan jött a reakció nyilatkozatok formájában, ezekből az derült ki, hogy Szentgotthárdon nem lesz menekülttábor, a város tartalék helyszíniként szerepel a hatóságok nyilvántartásában.



**Date of publication:** 29 November 2015

**Link:** <http://bit.ly/1P7Lbqo> (HU) and <http://bit.ly/1OIKscJ> (EN)

**Headline in the papers:** Mayor of Szentgotthárd blames Jews for Paris terrorist attacks

**Description of the antisemitic content:** Gábor Huszár, mayor of Szentgotthárd, blamed the Israeli-backed “business circles”, i.e. Jews, for the Paris attacks of 13 November 2015. He said: “Everyone should just take my word for it. What happened in Paris is clear evidence that certain business circles, dare I say business circles which are likely backed by the Jewish state, are trying to pit Christian Europe against the Islamic State”. This statement was made during a session of the municipality commission on 16 November 2015 which was to decide on the planned expansion of a refugee camp near Szentgotthárd, a city at the Western border of Hungary with Austria.

**Myth Debunked:** The mayor’s belief falls within the antisemitic theory that makes Jews and/or Israel responsible for the evil of the world. Currently, this is mostly represented by IS and the latest terror attacks in Europe. It is a particularly absurd distortion of reality since Jews were and are key targets in the deeply antisemitic jihadist ideology. The killing of four Jews at a Jewish school in Toulouse in 2012 by Mohammed Merah, of four people at the Jewish Museum in Brussels in 2014 by Mehdi Nemmouche, and of four Jewish men at a kosher supermarket in Paris in 2015 by Amedy Coulibaly are only a few examples. Merah also killed three French soldiers, and Coulibaly was an accomplice of brothers Said and Cherif Kouachi who carried out the terrorist attack at the Charlie Hebdo newspaper, killing 12 people.

**Reactions:** After the mayor’s statement was revealed and opposition parties harshly criticised it, he apologised on his website for his “unfortunate expressions”. The mayor also met Ilan Mor, Ambassador of Israel in Hungary, who accepted his apology and considered the case closed, the daily Népszabadság reported. Within *Get the Trolls Out!*, [The Center for Independent Journalism](#) (CIJ) has reacted to the mayor’s antisemitic statement with a satirical cartoon which appeared in the weekly Vasárnapi Hírek on the 5th of December.

## HUNGARY – CONSPIRACY THEORIES ON THE POWER BEHIND POWER



**Date of publication:** 28 November 2015

**Media outlet:** Facebook

**Text:** “The real leaders of the EU”

**Description of the antisemitic content:** The text and the photo suggest that who is in power in Europe is not what it seems but the Jewish leaders.

**Myth Debunked:** The original picture was taken at [Holocaust Remembrance Day on 27 January 2013](#). It shows the European Parliament President Martin Schulz next to, among others, the President of the European Jewish Community Centre, and the General Director of the European Jewish Association. In this image, they are more easily identifiable as Jews than other Jewish individuals because of traditional elements (in this case the beard and in some cases also the hat). By adding the title “The real leaders of the EU” to the picture, the author of this post suggests that the real leadership of the European Union is in “Jewish hands”. It is another example of the antisemitic stereotype associating Jewish individuals with power and influence (see, among others, the [Greek examples in the October Highlights](#)).

## HUNGARY – REFUGEE CRISIS: OLD STEREOTYPES & NEW CONSPIRACY THEORIES

**Date of publication:** 30 October 2015

**Media outlet:** Facebook

**Text:** “Migrants trained by the US are coming. Islam is the gun of bankers against Europe. A similar war is taking place as in times of Mohács. [Editor’s note: The battle at Mohacs took place in 1526 when Turks invaded the Hungarian empire]. Bankers fired Islam on Europe. Not to mention that they deliberately divided the Christian military forces between the Catholic and Calvinistic forces. 1526 is the end of Christianity.”



**Description of the antisemitic content:** Whereas the text is not antisemitic per se, the picture portrays a person named “Moses”, with a yellow star on its chest and the name of “Citibank” on his head, coming out of the earth and saying “Shalom”. On the other smaller picture, Torah scrolls are “banned”, with the word “terror” and skull and crossbones. The image gathers elements that are generally associated with Jewishness for antisemitic purposes.

**Myth Debunked:** The picture represents key elements of antisemitic cartoons. Symbols such as the name “Moses”, the yellow star, the word “shalom”, and the Torah scrolls are used to identify Jews, even though the word is not mentioned. The association with the other symbols is typical of antisemitic stereotypes and prejudice: the association with the United States and thus with “power” and “wealth”; the association of the Torah scrolls with skulls and bones; the association of a caricature of a Jew with “Citibank”, i.e. money. This is a clear example of stereotypes that (in the case of the two last examples) date back to the Middle Ages and are resurging today.

## BELGIUM – CONSPIRACY THEORIES ON THE REFUGEE CRISIS



**Date of publication:** 11 November 2015

**Media outlet:** Pas L’Info on YouTube

**Link:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W5eJeowOf4g>

**Quotes:** Pas L’Info Interview: Laurent Louis.

After stating his support to the Syrian army and the government of Bashar al-Assad whom Laurent Louis calls “the only president who defends the interests of his population, of his people and who fights next to him in order to defend his interests” [“le seul président qui défend les intérêts de sa population, de son peuple et qui se bat à ses côtés pour défendre ses intérêts”], Laurent Louis affirms that “there is a will in Europe to make as many people come to Europe, in order to create racism” [“il y a une volonté en Europe de faire venir énormément de personnes pour créer le racisme”].

Laurent Louis asks (08:55): “What is the interest of Zionism in having these refugees come to Europe? As I said earlier: to create racism in Europe, and secondly: it is a whole lot easier to colonize depopulated land, a lot easier to create Greater Israel when Syria is depopulated. That is what is at the core of what is happening in the Middle East today.” [“Quel est l’intérêt du sionisme de faire venir ces réfugiés en Europe ? Comme je l’ai dit tout à l’heure : créer le racisme en Europe, et deuxièmement il est tellement plus facile de coloniser une terre qui est dépeuplée, tellement plus facile de créer le grand Israël si la Syrie est dépeuplée. Voilà ce qui se met en œuvre partout dans le Moyen Orient aujourd’hui.”]

**Description of the antisemitic content:** To blame the problem of the refugees in Europe on Israel and imply that “Zionist forces” are the reason Syrian refugees are coming to Europe portrays Israel in the exact same light in which Jews are portrayed by antisemites: manipulative, plotting and conspiring. There is no possible justification for this statement and it is clearly a conspiracy.

**About the author:** Laurent Louis, the author of the antisemitic statements, is a well-known antisemitic far-left Belgian politician. These comments were made during in an interview in which he discussed his trip to Syria.

**About the source:** Pas l’Info describes itself as an alternative news media, seeking to deliver the truth that traditional media do not disclose.

**Myth Debunked:** Laurent Louis uses the word “Zionism” without any introduction or explaining his choice of word. As often in the current European antisemitic discourse,



“Zionist” is used as a curse and distorted from its original meaning: Zionism is a Jewish national-political movement founded in 1896 by the Austrian journalist Theodor Herzl with the aim of re-establishing a Jewish homeland in the Holy Land. But the yearning to return to Zion (the hill upon which the Temple of Jerusalem was built and the biblical term for both the Land of Israel and Jerusalem) is a key element of Jewish religious life since the Jewish exile from the land two thousand years ago, and is embedded in Jewish prayer, ritual, literature and culture.

Here, Louis uses current hot topics such as the humanitarian situation in Syria, the refugee crisis, and ISIS to direct them all towards one “responsible”, namely “the Zionist”: “what is the interest of Zionism in having these refugees come to Europe? As I said earlier: to create racism in Europe, and secondly: it is a whole lot easier to colonize depopulated land, a lot easier to create Greater Israel when Syria is depopulated. That is what is at the core of what is happening in the Middle East today.” Louis thus links the refugee crisis to “Zionism” by a particularly absurd distortion of reality: according to him, refugees are forced to leave their countries, in order to create racism in Europe, and in order to depopulate Syria to create a “greater Israel”. This example shows the antisemitic stereotype of a Jewish conspiracy responsible for the evil of the world; the misuse of the word Zionism/Zionist; the hiding, in this particular context, of the word “Jew” behind the word “Zionist”.

## UNITED KINGDOM – NAZI PROPAGANDA AND VILE TROLLING



**Date of publication:** 03 November 2015

**Media outlet:** Twitter

**Link:** <http://huff.to/1l8Klqo>

**Description of the antisemitic content:** Izzy Lenga, education officer at Birmingham Guild of Students, tweeted a photo of a “Hitler was right” poster found at the University of Birmingham with the text “for those who don’t think antisemitism is a serious issue, these were plastered over campus”. After her tweet, Izzy Lenga was [harassed with antisemitic messages](#).

**The reactions:** Izzy Lenga spoke up at the National Union of Students conference and the NUS president, Megan Dunn, stood up against antisemitism on [Huffington Post](#). Several public figures, such as MP Luciana Berger and MP Jess Philips showed their support to Izzy Lenga. Thanks to the intervention of the [Community Security Trust \(CST\)](#), a few [Twitter accounts have been closed](#). CST spoke directly with Twitter and the police have been informed of the situation. *Get the Trolls Out!* ridiculed the claim of the poster with a [cartoon](#) by Ruben Oppenheimer.

**Myth Debunked:** Posting a picture of Hitler with the title “Hitler was right” is a contemporary example of antisemitism: in this specific case, it is not denying the Holocaust, but rather supporting the genocide of 6 million European Jews. Here, it is the expression of antisemitic harassment directed both at one Jewish individual, as well as at Jews in general (see the content of the tweets). It shows that both expressions are intimately connected (attacking one individual, or the identity, or the community he or she represents). In this case it is especially worrying that this antisemitic act took place at a university campus – which is meant to be a place of education, freedom of mind and critical thinking, with a strong representation of the youth – and most of all, that the antisemitic statement was strengthened through a huge amount of tweets. This also poses a serious question about the role of Twitter in controlling and monitoring hateful tweets.

VI. 4. DECEMBER

DECEMBER - MEDIA MONITORING HIGHLIGHTS

From the antisemitic phone-in caller on BBC Radio London and anti-racist organisations sponsoring an antisemitic activist in Brussels, to the ceaseless preposterous headlines of *Eleftheri Ora* in Greece: these December highlights are an overview of the most significant results of our monitoring of traditional and new media in Belgium, France, Greece, Hungary, and the United Kingdom.

UNITED KINGDOM – ANTISEMITIC CALLER REMAINS UNCHALLENGED ON BBC

**Date of publication:** 22 December 2015

**Media Outlet:** BBC Radio London – Simon Lederman Show

**Link:** <http://www.getthetrollsout.org/what-we-do/articles/item/44-caller-allowed-to-a-13-minute-antisemitic-rant-on-bbc-radio-london.html>

**Headline:** “BBC radio show presenter allows caller to opine for 13 minutes about Jewish world domination”

**Description of the antisemitic content:** A phone-in caller, “Andy from St Margaret”, was allowed to rant about antisemitic conspiracy theories on Jewish world domination for 13 minutes on the Simon Lederman Show on BBC Radio London. Andy claimed that the media and banking sectors are owned by the Jews, who are all, according to him, “Zionist Jews”. The radio presenter, Simon Lederman, only partially challenged his views but let him continue with his tirade (even telling his caller: “I’m giving you more than I have done anyone”).

**Some excerpts from the live call:**

- “They are trying to control us more and more and more. They want to put a chip up our backsides, a ring through our noses, and a visor for our horizons... the elite... the Rothschilds”
- “The Rothschilds, the people who own the Bank of England, the people who own the Federal Reserve, they’re all Zionist Jews. The people who own corporate America, the media, you’ll find if you just do a little bit of research, they’re all Zionist Jews. We are ruled by Zionist Jews.”
- “They control the money, the money, finance... 80% of corporate America, of the media, is owned by Jews. And they’re Zionist Jews.”
- “We are dominated by the Jews’ system, the financial Jewish system.”
- “We keep going on about the Jews... mainstream media, they keep banging on about the Jews and the Holocaust... we keep going on about six million Jews.”

**About the source:** Established by a Royal Charter, the BBC is the British public service broadcaster funded by the licence fee paid by UK households.

**Editorial guidelines breached:** Though it is debatable what the best way to tackle hate speech is, let alone a definition of hate speech, several BBC editorial guidelines were repeatedly breached during the phone-in call:

[Guideline 1.3.2](#), which states that the BBC must do all they can “to ensure that controversial subjects are treated with due accuracy and impartiality”;

[Section 4: Impartiality: Controversial Subjects 4.4.8](#), which states “when dealing with ‘controversial subjects’ this should be clearly signposted”;

[Impartiality: Breadth and Diversity of Opinion 4.4.2](#), which states “minority views should not necessarily be given equal weight to the prevailing consensus”;

[Impartiality: Breadth and Diversity of Opinion 4.4.4](#), which states “responses should not be given a wider significance than they merit and we should take care not to misrepresent the relative weight of opinions expressed”.

**Reactions:** Giving 13 minutes of airtime to a phone-in caller holding explicit antisemitic views prompted the reactions on many organisations in the frontline against antisemitism. Asked for a comment, a BBC spokesperson [told](#) the Jewish Chronicle: “The aim of the programme is to discuss and debate issues raised by our listeners. This was a live phone in and the caller was challenged on his views throughout the conversation.” Following the disappointing response of the BBC complaint team to the complaint filed by BBC Media Watch, the Media Diversity Institute is exploring how journalists, including Simon Lederman with the phone-in caller, should deal with hate speech and BBC is doing to prevent such incidents in the future. Furthermore, *Get the Trolls Out!* has called for the opinion of two experts in the field with two different approaches to the issue: Eric Heinze, Professor of Law at Queen Mary, University of London, author of [Hate Speech and Democratic Citizenship](#), and the [Ethical Journalism Network](#), which promotes ethics, good governance and independent regulation of media content.

**Myth Debunked:** As we can see in previous [Get the Trolls Out! Monthly Highlights](#), the visibly Jewish name “Rothschild” (here in plural) is used in a negative way to symbolise the relation between “Jews” and “money”. Excerpts of the speech also reveal a revisionist discourse about the Holocaust (“they keep banging on about the Jews and the Holocaust...we keep going on about six million Jews”). What follows is also Stereotyping (Jews, Rothschild, money) and the amalgamation between “Jews” and “Zionists”, where again the word Zionist is not defined. Another stereotype is the one about Jewish “power” in the United States. But, as some studies show, neither in [Europe](#) nor in the [United States \(see myth 1\)](#) are Jewish people richer than the average population.

See more in the “[Debunking Myths](#)” booklet by Enar.

## FRANCE – REVISIONIST THEORIES ON THE HOLOCAUST



**Date of publication:** 13 November 2015

**Media outlet:** Égalité et Réconciliation (E&R)

**Link:** <https://www.egaliteetreconciliation.fr/La-Shoah-tombeau-de-la-lutte-des-classes-dans-le-monde-juif-36077.html>

**Headline:** “La Shoah, tombeau de la lutte des classes dans le monde juif” – “The Shoah, the tomb of the class struggle in the Jewish World”

**Description of the antisemitic content:** The author of this article, Alex G., expands upon a revisionist theory about the Holocaust. He claims that the Jews killed during the Second World War were sacrificed by the Jewish capitalistic families (“the Rothschild, the Weinmann and the Petschek”). The article links this theory to the creation of Israel and the diffusion of the image of the “Jewish collaborator”. The introduction states: “In this article, we will not ask about the number of Jews killed during World War II, or about the cause of the massacres. We will ask ourselves a rather basic but on our opinion much more interesting question, a question that is seldom asked in all its simplicity: which Jews were exterminated?”

**About the source:** Equality and Reconciliation (French: Égalité et Réconciliation) (E&R) is a political association created in June 2007 by [Alain Soral](#), a former militant of the French Communist Party, and also of the central committee of the National Front (2007). Other founders are Jildaz Mahé O’Chinal and Philippe Pénière, two former activists of Groupe Union Défense (GUD), a violent extreme right student group (now disappeared).

The political association describes itself as cross factional and “left nationalist.” The association states that its intention is to bring together “citizens who are part of the nation that determines political action and social policy which are the foundations of the Brotherhood, an essential component of national unity,” and that it is “on the Left for the workers and on the Right for morals. The association belongs to the extreme right, is deeply rooted in antisemitism and is a breeding ground for future National Front activists.

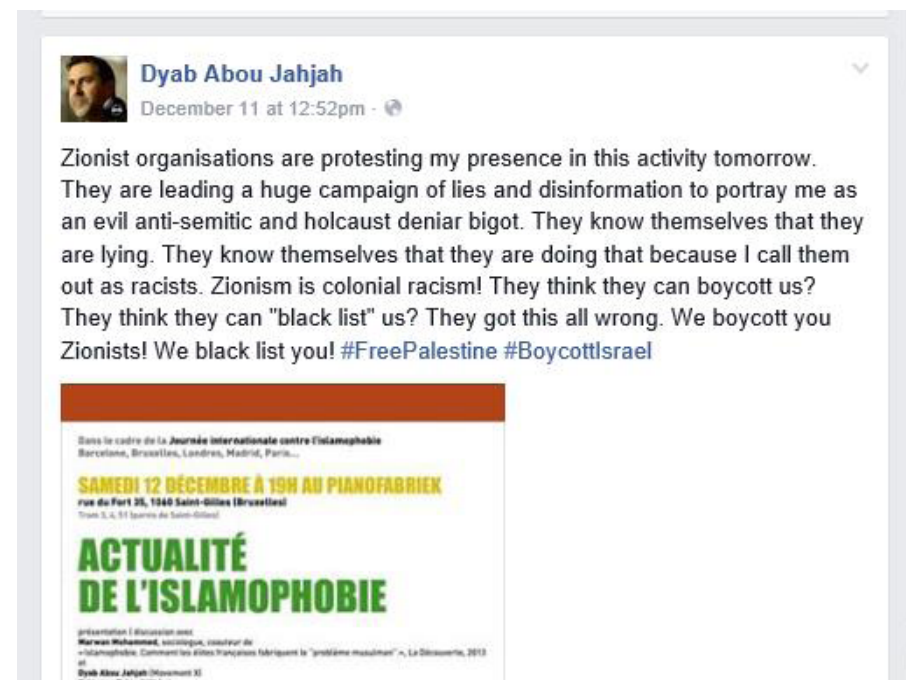
Alain Soral, sentenced by the Court of Appeal of Paris to a €5,000 fine for antisemitic insults against the Jewish journalist, was selected as our [Ousted Troll of the Month in December](#).

**Myth Debunked:** The article, by author “Alex G.”, expresses idea of historical revisionism: it states that capitalist Jewish families sacrificed poorer Jewish families during WWII and



escaped the Holocaust. It continues claiming that during WWII (as well as before and after) there was no “Jewish conscience” among Jewish “elites”, but rather a “strong class conscience” (“De 1933 à 1945 – et d’ailleurs avant comme après –, point de « conscience juive » chez les élites israéliennes, mais une solide conscience de classe dont témoignent de très nombreux parcours.”). Even though we cannot deny social differences within the Jewish community, the fate of the 6 million Jews killed in the Holocaust is a historical fact that shows that eventually class differences did not matter in the eyes of the Nazis. Today, the remembrance of the Holocaust is an important aspect of the collective Jewish identity.

## BELGIUM – ANTISEMITIC POLITICAL ACTIVIST AS ANTI-ISLAMOPHOBIA KEYSPEAKER



**Date of publication:** 12 December 2015

**Media outlet:** public event in Brussels sponsored by several anti-racism organisations

**What happened in a nutshell:** On Saturday 12 December 2015, several organisations co-sponsored an anti-islamophobia rally in Brussels, Belgium. One of the key speakers invited was Dyab Abou Jahjah, a political activist and writer well-known for his antisemitic and homophobic statements.

**Description of the antisemitic content:** These are some of [statements](#) that have appeared over the years on the website of the Arab-European League, which Jahjah founded.

- “Yes Arabs and Muslims are uptight when you touch their religious and national symbols, but Europe had made of political correctness and the cult of the Holocaust and Jew-worshipping its alternative religion and is even more uptight when you touch that.”
- “I am for the absolute freedom of speech everywhere, and that’s why I call upon every free soul among Arabs to use the Danish flag as a substitute for toilet paper. To illustrate every wall with graffiti making fun of everything Europe holds as holy: dancing rabbis on the carcasses of Palestinian children, hoax gas-chambers built in Hollywood in 1946 with Steven Spielberg’s approval stamp, and Aids spreading fagots. Let us defend the absolute freedom of speech altogether, wouldn’t that be a

noble cause?”

- For decades we have been telling the world that the European Jews are not Semitic but converted Kazars [...]. That their ancestors [...] are nothing but European colonial occupiers. Now it is scientifically proven. Zionism is based on a racist lie, there is no Jewish people [...].

Furthermore, in some Facebook posts he has denied the existence of Jewish people.

There is no doubt that Jahjah is actively importing the Israel-Palestine conflict into Europe in such a way that links Israel as oppressor to Muslims in Europe as victims. The impact of such discourse on the perception and safety of Jews in Europe has been demonstrated time and time again. His positioning is proven in the fact that one of the 5 Motions taken by Movement X is defined by a delegitimisation of the existence of the state of Israel (see quotation marks “Israel”), when the organisation otherwise is defined by fighting racism IN BELGIUM. He clearly “crosses the line” on the antisemitism litmus test.

**Reactions:** Within *Get the Trolls Out!*, CEJI – A Jewish Contribution to an Inclusive Europe, which has relations with some of the co-sponsoring organisations of this event, had [to react informally and formally](#) in writing to the co-sponsors to express their dismay. As a reaction to CEJI’s letter to all of the co-sponsoring organisations, one pulled their name off the organisers’ list, some expressed their regret at having not been aware of his background sooner, and others stood by their position.

**Myth Debunked:** Accusing Europe of the “cult of the Holocaust”, describing gas chambers as “hoax gas chambers built in Hollywood in 1946”, and also publishing cartoons representing Anne Frank in bed with Hitler saying “Write this one in your diary Anne!”, are just a few examples of the blatant Holocaust denial and antisemitism of Dyab Abou Jahjah. Another denial present in his statements is the denial of the existence of the Jewish people whose ancestors he calls “European colonial occupiers”. When his antisemitism is criticised and opposed by Jewish and non-Jewish organisations, it is clear that he uses the opportunity to import the Israel-Palestine conflict into Europe in a way that is not only unrelated to the event but is further importing antisemitism in Europe, as can be seen in his Facebook post in reaction to the opposition to his invitation on 12 December 2015: “Zionist organisations [...] are leading a huge campaign of lies and disinformation to portray me as an evil anti-semitic and holocaust denier [sic] bigot. They know themselves that they are lying. They know themselves that they are doing that because I call them out as racists. Zionism is colonial racism! They think they can boycott us? They think they can “black list” us? They got this all wrong. We boycott you Zionists! We black list you! #FreePalestine #BoycottIsrael”





**Date of publication:** 29 November 2015

**Media outlet:** *Eleftheri Ora* (Sunday edition)

**Link:** <http://bit.ly/1KDgm4>

**Headline:** Ιλλουμινати πίσω από τα γεγονότα της συρίας, το “προφητικό παιχνίδι” των σιωνιστών! “πρόβλεψαν” μέχρι και το χτύπημα στο παρίσι την... Παρασκευή και 13!

The illuminati behind the events in Syria. The “prophetic game” of the Zionists! They “predicted” even the attack in Paris on... Friday 13th!

**Description of the antisemitic content:** The headline is referring to a board game (see pictures next to the headline) that is supposedly created by Zionists. According to the paper, there are game elements in it that “predict” the Paris attacks. This is one more antisemitic article from *Eleftheri Ora*. However, it seems that they try to be more careful with their statements: they use quotes that turn their false accusations to metaphors. Maybe our response had some impact after all.



**Date of publication:** 06 December 2015

**Media outlet:** *Eleftheri Ora* (Sunday edition)

**Link:** <http://bit.ly/1Pxur73>

**Headline:** Ο ΡΟΤΣΙΛΑΝΤ άρπαξε τα λεφτά μας! -Η μεγάλη ληστεία των ελληνικών τραπεζών από κερδοσκοπικά funds συμφερόντων του Εβραίου τραπεζίτη.

ROTHCHILD snatched our money! The great robbery of Greek banks by hedge funds of interests of the Jewish banker.

**Description of the antisemitic content:** The headline mentions that the banker who owns the hedge funds that supposedly bought the Greek banks is Jewish. Here we have one more antisemitic headline from *Eleftheri Ora* and it is the second one in which they try to be more “subtle”: they only mention that Rothschild is a Jew (in small letters). The headline is related to the recent event of foreign hedge funds buying out – for a rather cheap price – the biggest Greek banks. We don’t know whether Rothschild’s hedge funds took part in it.



**Date of publication:** 17 December 2015

**Media outlet:** *Eleftheri Ora*

**Link:** <http://bit.ly/2ooXKQZ>

**Headline 1:** “Σχεδίο του διεθνούς σιωνιστικού τερατος”, Ο σεραφειμ “αφορίζει” τους βουλευτες που ψηφισαν το συμβολαιο συμβιωσης

“A plan of the international Zionist monster”, Seraphim excommunicates the parliament members who voted for the civil partnership

**Description of the antisemitic content:** The quote in the headline includes both the common myth about the international Zionist conspiracy (called a “monster” for extra flavor) and the allegation that the legislation for same-sex couples’ partnership is a plan of this “monster”. It’s another aspect of the “blame the Jews” myth, this time related to homophobia. This antisemitic headline quotes a part of the statement Piraeus’ Greek Orthodox bishop, Seraphim, released about the Greek government’s proposal for a legislation that grants same-sex couples the right to form a civil partnership. This particular bishop expresses very often antisemitic and many other ultra-right wing ideas in public. He even had supported Golden Dawn a few years ago, but he has withdrawn his support since 2013.

**Headline 2:** σορος, τσιπρας και... κεντρικο ισραηλιτικο συμβουλιο. στρατηγος αυφαντης: “οι εβραιιοι στην ελλαδα δεν πληρωνουν φορους”. “αφορολογητη και η τραπεζα της... ελλαδος που ανηκει στον ροτσαιλντ”

Soros, Tsipras and... central board of Jewish communities in Greece. General Aifantis: “Jews in Greece don’t pay taxes”, “Bank of... Greece that belongs to Rothschild is also untaxed”

**Description of the antisemitic content:** The quote repeats once again the antisemitic claim that Greek Jews are granted the privilege of complete tax exemption, which is a total lie. The headline quotes this ultra-right, conspiracy-loving retired general once again. This particular antisemitic myth is being repeated for many years now, even by the current Minister of Defense and President of the ultra-right party of the Independent Greeks, just a couple of months before he became a Minister. The myth has drawn the attention of Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece that issued a debunking statement 5 years ago.

**About the source:** *Eleftheri Ora* is an ultra-right-wing newspaper [repeatedly spreading antisemitic speech](#). The paper often relates what they perceive to be an “evil” or catastrophe – either national or international – with Jews. Symbiosis has submitted an [official complaint](#) to the Journalists’ Union of the Athens Daily Newspapers to put an end to the antisemitic fabrications spread by this daily.

**Myths Debunked:** These four headlines by *Eleftheri Ora* give us a good overview of the general antisemitic and ultra-right wing statements of the Greek newspaper. Jewish world conspiracy (the “prediction” of the 13 November attacks), Jewish money and power (“Rothschild snatched our money!”, the false statement that Greek Jews don’t pay taxes) and a fusion of antisemitism and homophobia. The fact that a national-political movement founded in 1896 (i.e. Zionism) could “predict” terror attacks with the help of a board game is sheer delirium. Further more, “Rothschild snatched our money” is a clear antisemitic message and image associating being Jewish with robbery. Also, reducing Jewish identity to a visibly Jewish name, in such a headline, clearly proves the antisemitic intention of the message. A similar accusation of Jewish money and power can be found in the statement that Greek Jews don’t pay taxes, which is utterly false. Furthermore, one of the headlines contains explicit hate speech against two minorities, Jews and LGBT.



## VI. 5. JANUARY

From several antisemitic headlines in Greece to a banned student in France due to antisemitic Facebook comments: these January highlights are an overview of the most significant results of our monitoring of traditional and new media in Belgium, France, Greece, Hungary, and the United Kingdom.

### GREECE – ELEFThERI ORA ANTISEMITIC HEADLINES



**Date of publication:** 3 January 2016

**Media Outlet:** [Eleftheri Ora](#)

**Headline:** ΓΙΑ ΝΑ ΓΝΩΡΙΖΟΥΝ ΟΙ ΝΕΟΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΕΣ ΤΟΝ ΥΠΟΨΗΦΙΟ ΑΡΧΗΓΟ ΤΟΥΣ

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΟΣ ΜΗΤΣΟΤΑΚΗΣ: Ο ΑΝΘΡΩΠΟΣ ΤΩΝ ΕΒΡΑΙΩΝ ΜΕ ΤΑ “ΔΩΡΑ” ΤΗΣ SIEMENS  
Τα “απομνημονεύματα” του μπατζανάκη του Σαμαρά λένε πολλά!!!

**Translation:** LET NEW-DEMOCRACY’S VOTERS KNOW THEIR CANDIDATE LEADER

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΟΣ ΜΙΤΣΟΤΑΚΗΣ: THE MAN OF THE JEWS WITH THE “GIFTS” FROM SIEMENS. Samaras’ brother in law’s “memoirs” say a lot!!!

**Description of the antisemitic content:** Kiriakos Mitsotakis, who is now the leader of Greece’s main opposition party (New Democracy), is accused to be “the man of the Jews”, thus implying that Mitsotakis is a puppet being controlled by the Jewish people.

**Myth debunked:** This is a classic example of stereotypes accusing the Jewish people of being the perpetrators behind world conspiracies. It draws on the antisemitic stereotype of influential and powerful Jews “manipulating” politicians. This example of stereotypes

has already been highlighted in our [November Monthly Highlights](#), specifically the Hungarian “Conspiracy theories on the power behind power”.



**Date of publication:** 12 January 2016

**Media Outlet:** [Eleftheri Ora](#)

**Headline:** ΚΑΡΤΑ ΤΟΥ ΠΟΛΙΤΗ MADE IN... ISRAEL. ΤΟΝ ΣΑΤΑΝΑ ΘΑ ΑΠΕΙΚΟΝΙΖΕΙ Η ΝΕΑ ΤΑΥΤΟΤΗΤΑ

Διαβάστε Έλληνες πώς θα σας “χαράξει” η Ισραηλινή εταιρεία “SuperCom”

**Translation:**  
CITIZEN CARD MADE IN... ISRAEL  
THE NEW IDENTITY CARD WILL BE DEPICTING SATAN

Greeks, read here how the Israeli company “SuperCom” is going to “give you the mark” [of the number of the Beast]

**Description of the antisemitic content:** This headline refers to the new electronic ID card that Greece is supposed to provide its citizens in 2016. According to the newspaper’s claims, the card will be made by an Israeli company who plans to imprint a depiction of Satan onto the card and “to give you the mark”. This quote from the headline refers to St. John’s Revelation and the Number of the Beast (Antichrist).

**Myth debunked:** In this article, the Israeli company is being labeled as Satan’s instrument. By accusing the Israeli company of printing a depiction of Satan on the card, the article draws on the old myth, dating back to the Middle Ages, of Jews representing evil.



**Date of publication:** 20 January 2016

**Media Outlet:** [Eleftheri Ora](#)

**Headline:**

ΔΕΝ ΘΕΛΟΥΝ ΜΕ ΤΙΠΟΤΑ ΝΑ ΜΑΘΕΙΣ ΑΥΤΗ ΤΗΝ ΙΣΤΟΡΙΑ  
ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΣΦΑΓΗ ΤΩΝ ΕΛΛΗΝΩΝ ΑΠΟ ΕΒΡΑΙΟΥΣ  
Η Γενοκτονία 1.000.000 συμπατριωτών μας μέσα από συγκλονιστικές μαρτυρίες

**Translation:**

THEY DON'T WANT YOU TO KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS STORY  
GREAT MASSACRE OF GREEKS BY JEWS

The Genocide of 1,000,000 compatriots [presented] via shocking testimonies

**Description of the antisemitic content:** The headline refers to the historical event of the Kitos War, a rebellion of diaspora Jews in the Roman Empire (115-117 AD). According to historians of the time, Jews committed various atrocities against Romans and Greeks during this war, though the numbers are highly exaggerated and genocide had never occurred. These events have been circulating in Greek ultra-nationalist, ultra-right wing websites (including Golden Dawn's site) for the past few years.

**Myth debunked:** This headline in particular makes an outrageous claim that the Jewish people have massacred 1,000,000 Greeks in recent times. By keeping the headline ambiguous, it gives the impression that Jews have recently perpetrated a massacre against Greeks. As usual in antisemitic language, Jews are accused of being murderers and responsible for the evil of the world.



**Date of publication:** 21 January 2016

**Media Outlet:** [Eleftheri Ora](#)

**Headline:**

ΠΡΟΦΗΤΕΙΑ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΠΑΪΣΙΟΥ ΚΑΙ "ΠΡΟΦΗΤΕΙΑ" ΣΙΩΝΙΣΤΩΝ ΓΙΑ ΤΟΝ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΛΑΟ!  
Πρωτόκολλα των Σοφών της Σιών: "Ένας ευρωπαϊκός λαός θα καταβληθεί και θα υποδουλωθεί!"

**Translation:**

SAINT PAISIOS' PROPHECY AND ZIONISTS' "PROPHECY" ABOUT THE GREEK PEOPLE!

**Protocols of the Elders of Zion:** "European people will be subjugated and enslaved"!

**Description of the antisemitic content:** This headline is referring to the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, a piece of antisemitic literature that has been forged as if it were written by Zionists. The protocols claim that there is a prophecy foreshadowing the enslavement and subjugation of "European people" – including the Greeks – by the Jewish people. The Protocols of the Elders of Zion are still sold and read in Greece as a genuine book, thus emphasizing a bigger issue regarding antisemitism in public discourse.

**About the source:** *Eleftheri Ora* is a far-right wing newspaper that is distributed on a national level in Greece. It is known in the media for its antisemitic tendencies.

**Myth Debunked:** The Protocols of the Elders of Zion is the most famous and widely distributed antisemitic publication of modern times. Its lies about Jews continue to circulate today, especially on the Internet. The Protocols claim to document a Jewish conspiracy to dominate the world, whereas the conspiracy and the "Elders of Zion" never existed. The version of the Protocols that has been translated into dozens of languages was first published in Russia in 1905. The exact origin of the Protocols is unknown, but its goal was to portray Jews as conspirators against the state. After 1917, anti-Bolshevik



émigrés brought the Protocols to the West and editions were disseminated in Europe, the United States, South America, and Japan. The Protocols were translated into Arabic in the 1920s. The fraud was first exposed in 1921, when the London Times proved that the Protocols were a “clumsy plagiarism” of a French political satire that never mentioned Jews. The Protocols played an important role in the Nazi propaganda and remain the most influential antisemitic text of the past one hundred years. Today, the Protocols are among others widely sold and read in Arab countries.

**For more information see:**

<http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007058>

<http://www.algemeiner.com/2014/09/11/the-arab-world-still-believes-in-the-protocols-of-the-elders-of-zion/>

## FRANCE – NATIONALISTIC SONGS OF LES BRINGANDES



**Date of publication:** Since November 2014 to present day

**Media Outlet:** Comité de Salut Public or ‘Committee of Public Safety’

**Link:** <https://lecomitedesalutpublic.com/category/brigandes/>

**Content:** Part of this website’s contents includes video-clips by a women’s Catholic nationalist music band: Les Brigandes.

**Some titles of Les Brigandes’ songs:**

“Les Brigandes – [Seigneur, je ne veux pas devenir Charlie](#)”

Translation: “Lord, I don’t want to be Charlie” (in reference to the “I am Charlie” after the attacks of Charlie Hebdo).

“France, notre terre”

Translation : “France, our land”

**Description of the antisemitic content:** This website, as a whole, is representative of many extreme-right and nationalist ideologies. The soundtracks by Les Brigandes contain antisemitic, racist, and homophobic contents. In addition, the soundtracks also promote conspiracy theories (such as theories against the Freemasons), as well as criticisms, for example, towards antifascist militants.

**About the source:** Many articles have been published about this music group of nationalist catholic women. For example, the magazine “[Néon](#)” described them as “racist, homophobic and proud to be it”. They are popular in the extreme-right and nationalist

wing. Their videos, posted on Youtube and Rutube (the Russian Youtube) where some of them have more 100,000 views, are shared in the website of [Alain Soral](#), but also on the English and German website.

**Myth Debunked:** The video “I don’t want to become Charlie” (“Je ne veux pas devenir Charlie”) (01:04), above the subtitle “I saw France in the shadow, far from God and the Paradise”, shows President Francois Hollande dressed up as a Jew with a fake prayer shawl and kippah, behind him former French politician Dominique Strauss Kahn giving him a big present. This depicts the antisemitic stereotype of Jewish power manipulating politicians. The song also contains clearly homophobic statements such as “I fled out of shame because now, in this world men are getting married to each other”, and the video depicts two pigs getting married by a black mouse (02:07).

## BELGIUM – LOUIS LAURENT’S ABSURD CLAIMS ON HIS SOCIAL PLATFORMS



**Date of publication:** 20 December 2015

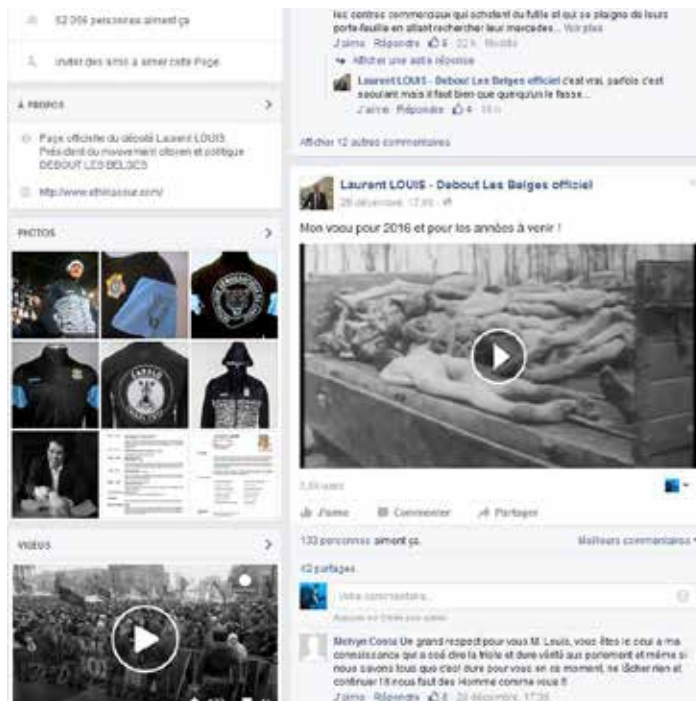
**Media Outlet:** Facebook page of Laurent Louis

**Link:** <https://www.facebook.com/laurentlouisdlob/posts/1665182943763706>

**Facebook post:** In this Facebook post, referring to an article written by 7Sur7, Laurent Louis writes:

“Through this act, by choosing to throw bombs in Syria on the courageous Hezbollah resistant fighters, Israel shows very clearly its links with the ISIS terrorists. What else do you need to understand that DAESH is a Zionist creation destined to destabilize sovereign countries while giving Islam and Muslims a horrible message? The more ISIS cuts heads, the more that Israel enlarges its hold on the region. ISIS keeps going for Israel and its Zionist allies”.

**Description of the antisemitic content:** Laurent Louis accuses Israel of being behind the Islamic State. He claims ISIS is a Zionist creation and that Israel uses ISIS to present a negative image of Islam and Muslims. As our [November Monthly Highlights](#) explain, the word “Zionist” is used without any explanation, presented as “the evil” and linked with ISIS.



**Date of publication:** 28 December 2015

**Media Outlet:** Facebook and Twitter pages of Laurent Louis

**Link:** <https://www.facebook.com/laurent.louis.mld>

**Description of the antisemitic content:** Before the New Year, Laurent Louis posted onto Facebook what appears to be a slideshow or video of disturbing Holocaust images as his New Year’s “wish” to his followers.

**Myths debunked:** The Facebook statements show the paradox of his Holocaust denial position: while denying the Holocaust his “wish” for 2016 “and the years to come” is symbolized by a posting of pictures of the Holocaust. The Facebook post can thus be considered as a praise of the Holocaust.

The tweets from his no longer existing account claim that the Nazis worked for Israel and that the Nazis and ISIS have the same direction: Zionism. Stating that Nazis and ISIS both worked for Zionism and supported Israel is a particularly absurd claim.



**Date of publication:** 15 December 2015

**Link:** Twitter Account recently deleted by Twitter (see [January Ousted Troll of the Month](#))

**Description of the antisemitic content:** On the 15th of December 2015, Louis stated on twitter how Daesh is led by Israel and how the Nazis too were led by Israel.

**Myths Debunked:** The first text makes absurd claims over ISIS and its links to Israel. It is well known that ISIS has made public accusations against Israel on various occasions. Additionally, terrorists have carried out attacks in the name of ISIS against Jewish sites in the name of vengeance for the Palestinians (i.e. the attacks on the kosher supermarket in Paris, following Charlie Hebdo). Laurent Louis continues to advocate for an existing link between Israel, the “Zionist plot”, and the creation of ISIS.

**About the source:** Laurent Louis is a Belgian politician as well as former member of the Belgian Chamber of Representatives. He is well known, especially throughout Belgium, for his antisemitic actions and statements. In June 2015, Louis was condemned for denial of the Holocaust with a €18,000 fine as well as a six month detainment in prison (via legal action by Le Centre Interfédéral pour l'égalité des Chances).

## FRANCE – ONLINE ABUSE BY SCIENCE PO STUDENT

**Date of publication:** 13 January 2016

**Link:** <http://www.worldjewishcongress.org/en/news/paris-university-expels-kuwaiti-student-for-slandering-jews-on-facebook-1-3-2016>

**Headline:** “Paris University expels Kuwaiti student for slandering Jews on Facebook”

**Description of the antisemitic content:** Facebook comments were made by Amira Jumma – now ex-student of Sciences Po in Paris – in an argument with a student online. These comments included name-calling as well as inappropriate comments regarding the Holocaust.

**Comments included:**

- “Yes you Jews deserve to learn these lessons. What did you expect, taking over people’s lands and killing them? Hugs?”
- “You don’t belong anywhere in this world - that’s why you guys are scums and rats and discriminated against wherever you are. Do not blame it on the poor Palestinians.»
- “First of all you dispersed rat, I am not an immigrant from France. I am from Kuwait so my country can buy you and your parents and put you in ovens.”

**About the source:** Amira Jumma was a student of the Institute for Political Sciences in Paris

**Myth Debunked:** In her Facebook posts, Amira Jumma is accusing Jews of being murderers and is claiming they do not belong “anywhere in this world”. She is threatening Jews that her country can put Jews “in ovens”. Her hate speech is inciting hatred against Jews and is specifically supporting the Holocaust (“my country can buy you and your parents and put you in ovens”).

## FRANCE – CONSPIRACY THEORIES ON THE STATE OF EMERGENCY

Dérapage vers le sionisme du régime socialiste au pouvoir en France



**Date of publication:** 19 January 2016

**Media Outlet:** Réseau International (French language)

**Link:** <http://reseauinternational.net/derapage-vers-le-sionisme-du-regime-socialiste-au-pouvoir-en-france/> republishing: <http://www.french.alahednews.com.lb/essaydetails.php?eid=17302&cid=324#.VqYNalJmpgx>

**Headline:** “Dérapage vers le sionisme du régime socialiste au pouvoir en France”

**Translation:** The Zionist turn of the socialist regime in France

**Description of the antisemitic content:** Starting with the shooting of the young man who attacked police officers on 7 January 2016 on the anniversary of the Charlie Hebdo attack, the article explains that France is under the influence of the “Zionist entity” and is living at the “Tel Aviv hour”. The article ends with the statement that Israelis are making these terror attacks in order to raise the Western countries against Arabs and Muslims. The article ends with a clear hint at the conspiracy theory by asking: “How come Jews were informed on the morning of the 13 November about the imminent attacks?”

**About the source:** The website “Réseau international” calls itself a “site of reflection and re-information”, with the goal of providing “alternative” media in search of the “Truth” and “Justice”.

**Myth Debunked:** The article is a perfect example of complete amalgamation between the Middle East conflict and the policies of the French government. The article criticizes the state of emergency in France (following the 13 November 2015 attacks) by explaining that French people are influenced by “Zionist” propaganda. It is clearly importing the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in Europe with the aim of strengthening hate speech against Jews. Not surprisingly, it is drawing on conspiracy theories (claiming that Jews were informed of the 13 November attacks) whereas Jews were and are key targets of the blatant antisemitic jihadist ideology.



## VI. 6. FEBRUARY

From Greek Orthodox extremists claiming the new ID cards to be “tools for Jews to enslave Greeks” to the Hungarian campaign against Soros as a scapegoat for the refugees crisis, these February highlights are an overview of the most significant results of our monitoring of traditional and new media in Belgium, France, Greece, Hungary, and the United Kingdom.

## UNITED KINGDOM – ANTISEMITISM EXPOSED IN BRITISH UNIVERSITIES



**Date:** 15 February 2016

**Description of the antisemitic content:** Alex Chalmers, co-chair of the Oxford University Labour Club (OULC), a student political organisation, resigned from his position in mid-February, after witnessing antisemitism within OULC. On a [Facebook post](#), Chalmers has claimed that a large proportion of members “have some kind of problem with Jews”.

*“Whether it be members of the Executive throwing around the term ‘Zio’ (a term for Jews usually confined to websites run by the Ku Klux Klan) with casual abandon, senior members of the club expressing their ‘solidarity’ with Hamas and explicitly defending their tactics of indiscriminately murdering civilians, or a former Co-Chair claiming that ‘most accusations of antisemitism are just the Zionists crying wolf, a large proportion of both OULC and the student left in Oxford more generally have some kind of problem with Jews” Alex Chalmers*

The Labour Club has opened an inquiry into these antisemitism allegations at Oxford student clubs.

**Myth Debunked:** The accusations Alex Chalmers is referring to show, once again, the amalgamation between the words “Jewish” and “Zionist”, which are two distinct concepts. Zionism is a Jewish national-political movement founded in 1896 with the aim of re-establishing a Jewish homeland in the Holy Land. It has been a key element of Jewish religious life since the Jewish exile from the land two thousand years ago, and is embedded in Jewish prayer, ritual, literature and culture. If true, the statements of members of the clubs are diminishing the reality of antisemitism, stating that “most accusations of antisemitism are just the Zionists crying wolf”, whereas we see that today in Europe Jews can be attacked and murdered in the streets because they are Jewish. To name a few, it happened in Toulouse in March 2012, in Brussels in May 2014, in Paris in January 2015, and in Copenhagen in February 2015.

## HUNGARY – SOROS AS SCAPEGOAT FOR REFUGEE CRISIS & TEACHER PROTESTS



**Date of publication:** January and February 2016

**Media Outlets:** [Titkolt Hirek](#), [Függetlenség](#), [Magyar Idők](#), [888](#), [Pestisracok.hu](#), [MNO](#), [Demokrata.hu](#)

**Headlines:**

## “George Soros revealed his cards in public”

“If we can make an interview with George Soros”

## “Soros Tours: Guide for homecoming Muslims”

## “Soros strikes again”

“The organiser of the teachers’ demonstration was paid by George Soros and Gyula Horn”

“George Soros and his civil organisations stood behind the teacher demonstration”

“The élite which betrayed Europe”

**Description of the antisemitic content:** In several blog posts and articles in right-wing news media outlets (some of which are connected to the Hungarian government), there have been many outrageous and antisemitic claims regarding George Soros, a Hungarian-Jewish investor and business man. Soros is accused of being able to manipulate world politics and the global economy – a classic example of antisemitic stereotyping. Some unwarranted rumors also claim that Soros and his Open Society Foundations work to help terrorists into Europe and support immigrants with the goal of tearing down Europe’s borders and bringing crime to the Union. Soros has also been accused of being behind the teachers’ protests against centralising the education system in Hungary. It is clear that Soros is being unjustly blamed and being used as a scapegoat for world events upsetting the extreme-right authors of these posts.

**About the sources:** Titkolt Hírek is a news website connected to the extreme right. Függetlenség is an extreme right-wing blog. Magyar Idők is a mainstream news organisation whose policy and target audience is connected to the right and the government party. 888 is a Hungarian right-wing mainstream media outlet. PestiSrácok is a mainstream media outlet, connected with the government. MNO and Demokrata.hu are two right-wing news websites.



**Myth Debunked:** The accusations against George Soros are based on the myth of Jewish conspiracy that sees Jews behind international politics and global economy decisions. The antisemitic stereotype of Jewish controlling of the world is one of the oldest myths about Jews. It was regularly used by Nazi propaganda. It is particularly worrying that this antisemitic stereotype is resurging in full strength today in the media.

### GREECE – ANTI-JEWISH RALLIES AGAINST THE NEW CITIZENS CARD



Picture by Sofia Christoforidou

**Dates:** 7 and 26 February 2016

**Description of the antisemitic content:** Two [rallies](#) in Greece saw protesters gather to express their dissatisfaction against the new ID cards, which the Greek government is planning to introduce in the country, merely because they are made in Israel.

Videos of both rallies in [Thessaloniki](#) on 7 February 2016 and [Thessaloniki](#) on 26 February 2016 show speakers, banners and books denouncing how Jews are plotting to enslave Greece, and humanity in general, through the new Citizen Card, social security numbers and other cards, which are considered the instrument of the Antichrist. Greek and Byzantine flags were raised alongside religious banners. One of the posters said “No to the citizen card. There is only one enemy: International Zionism.” Books and pamphlets promoting antisemitic stereotypes of Jews were also on sale.

During these demonstrations, Greek Orthodox extremists and ultra-right nationalists claimed that Israel is plotting to enslave non-Jews and destroy humanity as well as the Greek Orthodox religion. Abbot Metodius, our [February Troll of the Month](#), threatened Jews saying that a “Greek Hitler” might rise and that Jewish people should be careful. These claims are evidently unwarranted and presume the worst about the Jewish people (as well as the state of Israel) purely because of their religious identity.

*“They will impose on us one religion, one constitution, one flag, one language, and they will turn us into slaves of the Jews for the rest of our lives. My dear brothers, if Jews complain that Hitler killed them, they should be aware this time, in case a Greek Hitler appears. They should be very careful indeed, because we don’t need their money!”*

Methodius, Abbot of Esfigmenou Monastery [\[see video\]](#).

*“Boutaris [Thessaloniki’s mayor] is a Jewish antichrist”,* Anastasios Theodoridis.

*“If Jews are complaining that Hitler came and killed them, they should careful this time, because a Greek Hitler might come. They should be extremely careful! Because we don’t need their money!”* Methodius, Abbot of Esfigmenou Monastery [\[video\]](#).

Link: Videos and photos can be found at [Hellas Orthodoxy BlogSpot](#). For a more balanced reporting, see the [blog](#) of the journalist Sofia Christoforidou.

**About the authors:** The rallies were organised by both Greek Orthodox zealots and Golden Dawn members. Methodius is the Abbot of Esfigmenou Monastery in Mount Athos, northern Greece. This monastery embodies Greek Orthodox fundamentalism and has been in a bitter dispute with the Istanbul-based Ecumenical Patriarch, spiritual leader of the world’s Orthodox Christians. The Patriarchate and the rest of the Orthodox Christian Churches consider them as heretics. The monastery has strong relations with Greek ultra-right nationalistic movements, which also attended the demonstrations. Among them was Ilias Panagiotaros, MP and prominent member of Golden Dawn.

**Myth Debunked:** The sole threat of a new Greek Hitler is an outrageous statement as [Council Decision 2003/335/JHA](#) of 8 May 2003 requires all member states of the European Union to investigate and prosecute all acts of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. It is almost impossible that genocide within European borders could occur again in the present day without any serious repercussions against the perpetrators. The claim that Jews want to impose their religion and cultural way of life on others is also false: Judaism has no objective to convert other people to its faith. Lastly, the future enslavement of the world’s citizens by the Jews is also an unwarranted belief that comes from an old myth that Jews represent evil.

## FRANCE – BRAUMAN’S FALSE CLAIMS ON THE KIPPAH



**Date of publication:** 16 January 2016

**Description of the antisemitic content:** Rony Brauman, former president of Médecins Sans Frontiers (Doctors Without Borders), has implied that wearing the kippah symbolises one’s allegiance to the Israeli State. Brauman said this during an [interview with Europe1](#) regarding the [attack](#) on a teacher wearing a kippah by a 15 year old student in Marseille in January 2016. Brauman’s comment is misleading and not true as the Jewish religion is separate from the actions of the state of Israel.

*“There is now a double meaning that is attached to wearing the kippah. Political affiliation is said, a sign of fidelity to the State of Israel - why not after all - but also, and this is more problematic, a sign of allegiance to the policy of the State of Israel.” Rony Brauman*

**About the author:** Rony Brauman is medical doctor and former president of Médecins Sans Frontiers. He is currently director of HCRI (Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute) at University of Manchester, Associate Professor at L’Institut d’Études Politiques (Paris), and Director of Research at the MSF Foundation also in Paris.

**Myth Debunked:** The kippah does not symbolize any connection to the state of Israel, but rather, symbolises a religious belief deriving from Judaism. [Wearing a kippah](#) is believed to represent the recognition that there is Someone above, God, who is watching everybody’s actions. While the Jewish identity has cultural, ethnic, religious, political, family and personal implications, religious practices themselves are separate from the politics of the state of Israel.

## VI. 7. MARCH

From a French presidential candidate spreading antisemitic ideas to tweets claiming Hitler was a Zionist God, these March highlights are an overview of the most significant results of our monitoring of traditional and new media in Belgium, France, Greece, Hungary, and the United Kingdom.

### FRANCE – PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE SPREADS ANTISEMITIC IDEAS



**Date of publication:** January – March 2016

**Link:** [personal Twitter account](#) and [Twitter account for his 2017 presidential campaign](#)

**Description of the antisemitic content:** Henry de Lesquen published several tweets claiming that Jewish people are racist against all non-Jews, and are responsible for the recent terrorist attacks in Europe. In his blog, Lesquen stated that immigration into France must stop, and that Muslims should not be able to practice their customs.

**From his blog:**

- “I want to teach respect for the national identity. The ritual circumcision of children will be forbidden. The ritual slaughter of the animals will be forbidden. The wearing of the Islamic veil will be forbidden. The construction of minarets and mosques will be stopped”.
- “I want to stop the immigration-invasion (...) and the abolishment of the right asylum. I would like to develop a great national measure of re-emigration of the extra-European people who don’t want to assimilate the French culture”.



	<p>“@berrier451 the Jewish coterie (CRIF, Licra...) imposed immigration on us in the name of anti-racism. So they are responsible for the terrorist attacks.”</p>
	<p>“@tetabaffe@EstherHollstein@PhilomeneKereon@HopitalC the Jewish racist considers the non-Jewish French as beasts.”</p>
	<p>“3. It is the racism of Jews that led them to monotheism when they had taken to theirs gods the “Goyim” that they hated.”</p>

**About the source:** Henry de Lesquen is a French far-right politician as well as a journalist for “Radio Courtoisie”, a French far-right ultra-Catholic radio channel. Lesquen is going to run as a candidate for the French presidential elections in 2017.

**Myth Debunked:** Some of Lesquen’s remarks are a classic example of conspiracies against Jewish people accusing them of disliking all non-Jewish individuals. This claim is false since Judaism has no objective to converting other people to its faith. Claims that Jewish people are responsible for terrorist attacks in Europe are completely unwarranted and unjustified as antisemitism is a key aspect of jihadist ideology. Lesquen’s quest for a homogenous and purely “European” society belongs to a type of ideology which prompts a broken society where individuals feel ostracized.

FRANCE – INTERVIEW WITH EX-NAZI OFFICER PRIEBKE



**Date of publication:** 05 March 2016

**Media Outlet:** [StopMensonges.com](http://StopMensonges.com)

**Headline:** “Interview with an ex-Nazi officer Erich Priebke: a testimony to be taken in account”

**Description of the antisemitic content:** StopMesonges has re-published an old interview with Erich Priebke, ex-Nazi officer who died in 2013, framing it as a reliable testimony worthy of being taken into account. In the interview, Priebke displays no remorse for his actions in the past, nor those of the Nazi regime. Priebke justifies the encampment of Jews with the fact that they presented a “danger” to society and represented some kind of evil because of their “huge economic power”. Priebke also denies the existence of gas chambers in the camps and claims that the Americans built the chambers after the war.

**Interview excerpts:**

- “Loyalty to my past is a question of convictions. It is my way to see the world, my ideals, what, German people, we call the Weltanschauung and also a question of pride”.
- “Jews have collected in their hands a huge economic power, so as a political consequence, it was unfair because they represented an absolutely tiny fraction of the world population”.
- “During these terrible war years, confining in Lager (in Italian, the term for concentration camps) civilian populations who presented a danger was something we can consider as normal”.
- “In the camps, we never found gas chambers, except those build after the war by the Americans in Dachau”.

**About the source:** With more than 112,000 likes on Facebook, the website StopMensonges (“Stop with lies”) claims to show you “the real world where we live in”. The website was founded by Laurent Freeman, who defines himself a “truth seeker”. Freeman has been recently interviewed as “one of the most influential conspiracy theorists in France” by the French magazine “[Society](http://Society)” in an article that explains why unfounded conspiracy theories are getting very popular today.

**Myth Debunked:** The conspiracy that Jews are a danger to society is an unjustified belief that comes from an old myth that saw Jewish people represent evil. The belief that the world’s economic powers are concentrated in the hands of Jews is a classic stereotype

that is used to fuel hatred towards the Jewish population. Priebke's denial of the existence of gas chambers during the Holocaust is entirely unfounded as there are first-hand accounts throughout history about the existence and use of the chambers by the Nazis.

## UNITED KINGDOM – GERRY DOWNING'S 'JEWISH QUESTION'



Gerry Downing's blog post on the Socialist Fight website

**Date of publication:** 2014 to present; expulsion in March 2016

**Media outlet:** [Socialist Fight](#)

**Description of the antisemitic content:** A few blog posts on Socialist Fight, the website of former Labour member Gerry Downing, demands that "Marxists must address the Jewish Question". Downing refers to a "[world Jewish-Zionist Bourgeoisie](#)", making distorted statements on Zionism, and in several occasions [denies the existence of antisemitism](#). Downing also said that attacks like 9/11 should never be "condemned", which prompt the Labour leadership to expel him from the party.

### Excerpts from his blog posts:

- "How to explain the current situation then, when far from Jews being pariahs and rejected by capitalism, Jews are revered by capital and a form of Jewish nationalism – Zionism, exercises enormous power in the imperialist world? Why are Jews so overrepresented among the most strident spokespeople for capitalist reaction – the neo-conservatives and neo-liberal ideologues?"
- "Zionism is a Jewish nationalist-communist project; its supporters are highly conscious ethnocentric activists with a material base in terms of capitalist property, within the ruling classes of several imperialist countries, as well as Israel. This caste has acquired major moral and political influence among much wider layers of the imperialist bourgeoisie. If this were not true, Zionists could not have the influence they do in the current situation."

- "Instead fake-allegations of racism against Jews have become a sure sign of support for, or capitulation to, the established order, including by currents in the workers movement who are ultimately servile to capitalism".

**About the source:** Gerry Downing, leader of a Trotskyist group called Socialist Fight, was expelled from the Labour party by the national executive committee last August. Downing appealed against his expulsion and was eventually reinstated into the party in November. In March, he was expelled again due to further evidence of his extremist views.

**Myth Debunked:** As it is clear from the excerpts above, Downing claims that Zionists are ethnocentric. Contrary to what he says, the concept of Zionism mainly pertains to the idea of "[the national movement for the return of the Jewish people to their homeland and the resumption of Jewish sovereignty in the Land of Israel](#)". This idea does not involve the dissolution of any specific religion or ethnicity. To say that Jewish people are behind global politics is also a classic example of unwarranted antisemitic stereotypes. His claims on the "fake-allegations of racism against Jews" are also contradicted by facts: in Belgium alone, there have been hate crimes committed against Jewish people, such as assault and vandalism of personal property, and murders, including the attack at the Jewish Museum in Brussels in May 2014.



## UNITED KINGDOM – TWEETS ON ADOLF HITLER



**Date of publication:** Throughout 2014, expulsion in March 2016

**Media Outlet:** Twitter, account removed.

**Description of the antisemitic content:** Vicki Kirby, vice-chair of UK Labour party's Woking branch, suggested Adolf Hitler might be a "Zionist God" and that Jews had "big noses" in some tweets dating back 2014.

**About the source:** UK Labour Party member Vicki Kirby, our [March Ousted Troll of the Month](#), was suspended was suspended in February for the second time, pending an investigation into a series of antisemitic tweets. Because of the same antisemitic tirades, Ms Kirby was first suspended in 2014, when she was running as a Labour candidate in Woking. After an investigation, she was reinstated with a warning about her future conduct and was then appointed chair of Woking Labour Party's executive committee.

**Myth Debunked:** Kirby's tweets promote a false sense of antagonism towards Jewish people. For example, Kirby places the actions of the Israeli government on the hands of the Jewish people even though Judaism is separate from the actions of Israel as a political state. Additionally, Kirby essentially expresses that Jewish people exaggerate when they make claims about being discriminated against (antisemitism), when in fact it is no exaggeration since Jewish people are no stranger to being victims of hate crimes such as physical assault, vandalism, or murder, as recently shown in Europe.

## UNITED KINGDOM – FORMER MAYOR'S CONSPIRACY THEORIES ON GREATER ISRAEL



**Date of publication:** February 2016

**Description of the antisemitic content:** Khadim Hussain, former mayor of Bradford (UK), [posted an article](#) on his Facebook page titled "ISIS Is Working on Mossad/CIA Plan to Create Greater Israel" with a comment saying "Their actions are self evident!". In a different post, he complained that the deaths of millions of Africans are not taught in schools but "your school education system only tells you about Anne Frank and the six million Zionists that were killed by Hitler".

**About the source:** Khadim Hussain, former mayor of Bradford (UK) and Labour councillor, quit the party at the end of March 2016 over what he believes are "unfounded allegations of anti-Semitism".

**Myth Debunked:** The comments made by Hussain are a classic example of stereotype against the Israeli State. It is the standard depiction of how conspiracy theorists claim "Greater Israel" will conquer the Levant. Its use is often explicitly antisemitic, such as in an [Iranian state edition](#) of the Protocols of the Elders of Zion. In general, stereotypes against the politics of the Israeli government often end up falsely accusing the Jewish people for Israel's actions even though the Jewish religion is clearly separate from the actions of a political state.

## VI. 8. APRIL

From the accusation that claims the French PM is under Jewish influence to that of a Greek activist being an Israeli spy; from a bishop feeling restrained by an anti-racism law to a British councillor praising “my man” Hitler; these April highlights are an overview of the most significant results of our monitoring of traditional and new media in Belgium, France, Greece, Hungary and the United Kingdom.

### GREECE – ACTIVIST HELPING REFUGEES ACCUSED OF BEING AN ISRAELI SPY WORKING TO DESTABILIZE EUROPE



**Date of publication:** 10 April 2016

**Media Outlet:** [Hellenic National Socialist Found blog](#). The article was originally posted on a popular news website, [Zougla.gr](#), but the post has been removed.

**Headline:** The profile of a person... in solidarity. Jews are behind “Islamization”

**Description of the antisemitic content:** This post claims that Achilles M. Peklaris, a well-known activist supporting and helping refugees in Greece, is an agent trained by Mossad, the Israeli secret services, to foster islamophobia in Europe because – the article continues – “Jews want to bring chaos and terror in everything”.

#### Antisemitic statements from the article:

- “He declares proudly not only that his name is Achilles M. Peklaris, but also his ties with Israel, having been scratched on his arm, in Hebrew of course, the “passport” that easily opens every ‘Mossad’ door!”

- “In Israel Achilles M. Peklaris made the best impression on teachers and friends and he did not fail to pledge faith in the Western Wall that all agents of Mossad are obliged to honour before taking a formal service anywhere in the world.”
- “Besides, in Israel, a large penetration campaign in Greece was prepared carefully for years and intensified after the election of SYRIZA!”
- “Achilles M. Peklaris is “coordinating”, even to the farthest end of Greece, the “mobilization” of “Islamists” whom right-wing idiots treat as “red rags” ignoring the “matador” who is behind them and on whose arm there is the “passport” of Mossad!”
- “The end of the thread will be found in some corner of Israel, sometimes in Tel Aviv, sometimes in Yotvata, either wearing Islamic headscarf or Jewish kippah, since Zionists, the inventors of international terrorism, those who invented the Haganah and Irgun that preceded Mossad, manage to fool mankind betting on its stupidity! Moreover, they had noted it in the “Protocols” in case they would have forgotten it: “We will create this and this and that because everything has to be controlled by us”.”

**About the source:** “The Hellenic National Socialist Found is governed by the Platonic Values, was founded in 1989, and promotes national socialist worldview,” says their Google+ profile. Almost all of their posts show that they are Nazis and Hitler admirers. Several ultra-right wing media outlets have shared this post. Informed about the article, Peklaris disdained it, explained the meaning of his tattoo, and chose not to press any charges against them.

**Myth Debunked:** This article is an example of joint antisemitism, islamophobia, and anti-refugee rhetoric. The author uses the current refugee crisis to fuel antisemitism and islamophobia by repeating a recent and recurrent myth of Jews wanting to destabilise Europe by encouraging the arrival of refugees and islamophobia. Jews are reduced to the entity of Israeli secret services (the Mossad), to raise fear and suspicion about their actions. We see here again the antisemitic stereotype of a Jewish conspiracy against the world. Even the Hebrew language is described as dangerous, “the ‘passport’ that easily opens every Mossad door”. The tattoo, which reads התבטיב וסראתה הטנר סליכא, actually refers to Peklaris’ engagement (“Achilles and Renata were engaged at Yotvata”).



## GREECE – BISHOP’S RANT AGAINST MUSLIMS AND JEWS AS ENEMIES OF GREEKS



**Date of publication:** 11 April 2016

**Media Outlet:** [Pentapostagma](#)

**Headline:** “Jews, Muslims and the anti-racist law”

**Description of the antisemitic content:** In a religious website, a bishop of the Greek Church, Ambrossios, has attacked Jews and Muslims as “enemies of Greeks”. Ambrossios has also claimed that he would continue further with his remarks, but the recent anti-racist law, part of the conspiracy, will be used against him.

**Antisemitic statements from the article:**

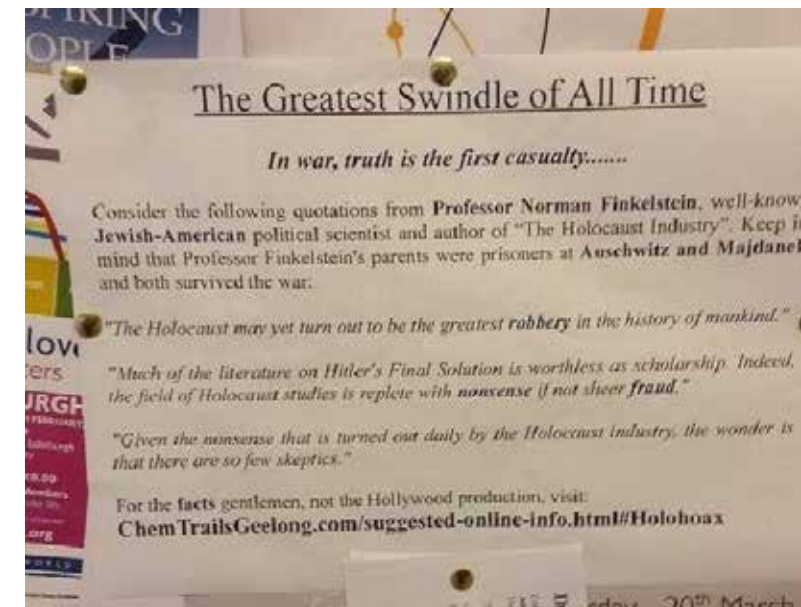
- “Both Muslims and Jews coincide in their demonic fury against Christians!”
- “And since we talk about money, isn’t Jewish money running the world even today? Isn’t Jewish money funding the movement of Islamic immigrants and refugees even in our Greece?”

**About the source:** Ambrossius, bishop of Kalavryta, is a well-known far-right wing public figure, with strong relations with the junta regime (1967-1974) and its remnants. It is not the first time that he expressed racist and antisemitic views that are widely disseminated by ultra-right-wing media.

Pentapostagma is one of the most popular religious websites in Greece.

**Myth Debunked:** The antisemitic and Islamophobic statements by the bishop of Kalavryta show how the refugee crisis is used to fuel hatred against Jews and Muslims, seen as threats and enemies of Christians. Ambrossios’ words on Pentapostagma reflect the conspiracy theories according to which a Jewish world domination is financing the refugee movement, and in particular the refugees coming to Greece. Following a trite antisemitic belief, Ambrossius says that the “Jewish money” is responsible for the refugee crisis and for terrorism. Talking about the refugee crisis, Ambrossius tells lies about how generous the Greek Orthodox behavior is towards people of different religion (as it was towards Jews during WWII) and how ungrateful both Muslims and Jews are.

## UNITED KINGDOM – FLYERS IN UNIVERSITIES CLAIM JEWS INVENTED THE HOLOCAUST FOR FINANCIAL GAIN



**Date:** 22 April 2016

**Description of the antisemitic content:** Flyers have been found in Glasgow and Edinburgh university campuses with false claims about the Holocaust, saying that Jews made it up just for financial gain, quoting professor Norman Finkelstein and calling it a “the greatest robbery in the history of mankind” and a “fraud”.

**About the source:** Both universities have condemned the flyers and the police in Scotland started an investigation. A spokesman for the University of Glasgow told the [Glasgow Guardian](#): “In common with other universities in Scotland a small number of leaflets containing objectionable comments on the Holocaust were found, and removed, from university premises. The University of Glasgow has a zero tolerance policy on racism, anti-Semitism and the distribution and display of materials that are likely to cause offence. Given the public nature of many of our buildings it is possible that someone from outwith the University was responsible for this incident. We will continue to be vigilant and to again emphasise that such literature has no place on our campus”.

[Henry de Lesquen](#), French journalist at the far-right ultra-Catholic “Radio Courtoisie” and far-right politician running for the presidential elections has also been tweeting antisemitic lies on “the industry of the Holocaust” in reference to Norman Finkelstein’s book.

**Myth Debunked:** The flyers describe the Holocaust as “the greatest swindle of all time”, deny the genocide against Jews during World War II (“for the facts gentlemen, not the Hollywood production, visit...”.) and accuse Jews of inventing it for financial purposes. In order to strengthen their arguments, and probably – as paradoxical as this may seem – also to counter any accusation of antisemitism, the authors of the flyers quote the Jewish American Professor Norman Finkelstein, author of *The Holocaust Industry*. Reflections on the Exploitation of Jewish Suffering (2000). By choosing three sentences taken out of their context, the authors manipulate and misuse the original content to suggest that the Holocaust has been invented by Jews for financial gain.



For example, the first sentence's [exact quote](#) should be "The Holocaust may yet turn out to be the 'greatest robbery in the history of mankind'" where "Greatest robbery in the history of mankind" is itself a quote from the "Guide to Compensation and Restitution of Holocaust survivors" by the Claims Conference, the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (the institution negotiating for compensation and restitution for victims of Nazi persecution and their heirs).

## UNITED KINGDOM – MP SUSPENDED FOR POST ON RELOCATION OF ISRAEL TO THE UNITED STATES



Problem solved and save u bank charges for £3 BILLION you transfer yearly! Thanks **Jamil Fazal & Bilal Sacha** for sharing 😊



**Date:** 27 April 2016

**Description of the antisemitic content:** In a Facebook post from 2014, the politician Naz Shah shared a graphic of Israel's outline superimposed on a map of the US under the headline "Solution for Israel-Palestine Conflict – Relocate Israel into United States", with the comment: "Problem solved." The graphic suggested that moving people would be cheaper than the money that is spent on defence at the moment.

**About the source:** Naz Shah, Bradford West MP for the Labour party, stepped down as the parliamentary private secretary to the shadow chancellor over the Facebook posts. Shah has then made an apology to the House of Commons on 27 April 2016: "I hope you will allow me to say that I fully acknowledge that I have made a mistake and I wholeheartedly apologise to this house for the words I used before I became a member." The Labour leader, Jeremy Corbyn, said he accepted the apology and rejected calls from the shadow energy secretary, Lisa Nandy, to suspend the backbench MP.

**Myth Debunked:** The Facebook post shared by Shah may easily be perceived as antisemitic as it is drawing upon stereotypes and generalizations ("Israelis are most loved by Americans"). The statements further refer to financial ("America will no longer have to spend \$3 billion tax payer money per year for Israel's defense"; "The transportation cost will be less than 3 years of defense spending") and territorial ("America has plenty of land to accommodate Israel as its 51st state"; "Palestinians will get their land and life back") arguments, suggesting the myth of a Jewish power shared between the United States and Israel.

## UNITED KINGDOM – COUNCILLOR PRAISES “MY MAN HITLER” FOR HOLOCAUST



Date: 10 April 2016

**Description of the antisemitic content:** Luton councillor Aysegul Gurbuz [published some antisemitic comments](#) on social media. Tweets on her profile, dating back between 2011 and 2014, praise Hitler as the “greatest man in history”, say “the Jews are so powerful in the US it’s disgusting”, and suggest Iran could develop a nuclear weapon to “wipe Israel off the map”.

**About the source:** Aysegul Gurbuz, the youngest Councillor in Luton, is also a Politics and International Relations student at the University of Warwick. Gurbuz ran for the university’s Ethnic Minorities Officer with a manifesto commitment to [raise more awareness of Holocaust Memorial Day](#). After a party investigation on her tweets, Gurbuz has been suspended from the Labour party. Her twitter account has also been deleted but Gurbuz claimed that she could not remember tweeting those antisemitic comments and that her sister must have sent the messages as it was a joint account.

**Myth Debunked:** Aysegul Gurbuz’s tweets support the “work” of Hitler and at the same time accuse the Jews of committing the same “abuse” as Hitler, as well as complain about how “Jews” are so “powerful”. The antisemitic statement according to which Jews are “performing the same abuses” (as Hitler and the Nazis) on innocent people (i.e. Palestinians) is minimising the Holocaust, the systematic murder of the European Jews carried out by the Nazis during the Second World War (1939-1945). The tweets further strengthen the antisemitic stereotype of the Jewish monopoly and power in the United States. By calling Adolf Hitler “my man Hitler” and “the greatest man in history”, Aysegul Gurbuz is clearly taking pro-Nazi positions.

## UNITED KINGDOM – “TELL MAMA” ATTACKED FOR WORKING WITH JEWISH ORGANISATION



Date of publication: 15 April 2016

**Description of the antisemitic content:** Dilly Hussain, deputy editor of 5FivePillarsUK, sent several hateful tweets against the Tell MAMA, an organisation that works to combat anti-Muslim hatred, claiming that they are “run by Zionists who support murder of children” and have “militant Zionist patrons and trustees”.

**About the source:** Muhammad Dilwar Hussain is deputy editor of 5FivePillarsUK, political blogger for the Huffington Post and a features writer for Al Jazeera.

**Myth debunked:** Tell MAMA is a British non-governmental organisation which works on tackling anti-Muslim hatred by measuring and monitoring anti-Muslim incidents as well as supporting victims of anti-Muslim hate. Since Tell MAMA works to combat anti-Muslim hatred, one would think that Dilly Hussain would be in favor of their work, but apparently he is not because they partner with the Jewish organisation CST (Community Security Trust). Dilly Hussain confuses the meaning of the words “Jewish” and “Zionist”. Zionism is a Jewish national-political movement founded in 1896 by the Austrian journalist Theodor Herzl with the aim of re-establishing a Jewish homeland in the Holy Land. As the [CST says](#), “it [antisemitism] sometimes just swaps the word “Zionist” for “Jew”, in the naïve hope that doing so will change an antisemitic statement into a political one.”



## FRANCE – PM CRITICISED FOR BEING UNDER ‘JEWISH INFLUENCE’ OF HIS WIFE



Jallal Chouaoui

8 mars, 00:33 ·

Le parti pris de Manuel Valls envers la communauté juive et bien connu notamment par le lien avec sa femme qui elle même est juive. Mais à un moment en tant que simple citoyen français, j'ai envie de dire, merde et stop ! Ca va on a compris, depuis l'élection de Hollande Valls est dévoué corps et âme à nos compatriotes de confession juive. Dans l'absolue je ne les incrimines pas au contraire pourquoi se priveraient-ils d'un soutien gouvernementale. Mais la on est dans le ridicule et l'abus total. Monsieur le Premier Ministre, vous avez un pays qui coule, en faillite, en crise, divisé et au bord d'une guerre civile. Alors ca va aller maintenant entre Dieudonné et vos centaines de déclaration d'amour, on s'occupe quand de la France et des citoyens français simplement.

Date: 8 March 2016

**Description of the antisemitic content:** A French deputy mayor, Jallal Chouaoui, [claimed](#) on Facebook that the French Prime Minister Manuel Valls should stop making financial and social decisions based on the advice of his Jewish wife, Anne Gravoine.

“The fact that Manuel Valls is loaded in favour of the Jewish community is well-known, among others because of the connection to his wife who herself is Jewish. But at a certain point and as a simple French citizen, I want to say: shit and stop! Enough, we got it: since the election of [French President] Hollande, Valls has been devoted body and soul to our fellow citizens of Jewish belief. From a global point of view I do not incriminate them, on the contrary, why would they refuse a governmental support? But this is ridiculous and sheer abuse. Mister Prime Minister, your country is drowning, is bankrupt, in crisis, divided and close to the civil war. So now it is enough, between Dieudonné and your hundreds of love declarations, when will we finally simply care about France and French citizens?”

It was not the first time Valls was accused to be under the Jewish influence of his wife.

In 2015, former Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said: “he has personal alliances, everyone knows that he’s married to someone who has an influence on him.” In 2014, the footballer Nicolas Anelka Valls’ wife influenced him to oppose Dieudonné.

**About the source:** Jallal Chouaoui is a deputy mayor of the northern municipality of Nogent-sur-Oise for the centrist UDI party. His Facebook post, made on 8 March 2016, was also praised by [EuropeBlanche](#) in a post saying “as soon as you touch the youpins [Yids, very antisemitic word], it starts a scandal.”

**Myth Debunked:** Accusing the French Prime Minister of being under “Jewish influence” because his wife is Jewish is an antisemitic statement. It recalls classic stereotype that Jews are behind global politics and the global economy. Chouaoui also states that the government is working only for the Jewish community and disregarding French citizens. In this way, Chouaoui presents two distinct entities – on one side, the Jews, and on the other, France and the French citizens – ignoring the fact that one can be French and Jewish.

## VI. 9. MAY

From the minimisation of antisemitism on Bloomberg News to the anti-Jewish hatred expressed by an anti-Islamophobia icon, from the “burning of the Jew” as a Easter traditional celebration to the antisemitic rant of boxing champion Tyson Fury, these May highlights are an overview of the most significant results of our monitoring of traditional and new media in Belgium, France, Greece, Hungary, and the United Kingdom.

## GREECE – BURNING OF THE JEW AS AN EASTER CELEBRATION



Date of publication: April and May 2016

**Media Outlets:** [Greek National Tourism Organisation](#), [Nafpaktianews](#), [Lesvos Post](#),

**Headlines:**

- The spectacular burning of the Jew tonight
- Litany and the burning of Judas in Evinokhori

**Description of the antisemitic content:** “Burning of the Jew” or “Burning of the Judas” is a [traditional practice of Easter celebration](#) in some areas of Greece. It consists in the burning of an effigy of Judas, the Disciple of Jesus Christ who betrayed him, according to the New Testament of the Christian Bible. This year the Greek National Tourism Organisation presented this custom in its official website as part of the Greek Easter attractions despite KIZ (the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece) and the Holy Synod of the Greek Orthodox Church have repeatedly demanded this custom to be abolished.

**About the source:** The Greek National Tourism Organisation (GNTO) is the governmental department for the promotion of tourism in the country of Greece. It functions under the supervision of the Hellenic Republic Ministry for Culture and Tourism. After noticing the promotion of the custom in the official website, KIZ reacted with a letter of protest addressed to GNTO, which removed the article from the organisation’s website.

Local media outlets have reported the events, considered as a part of the Easter celebration. The real “perpetrators” are the local authorities and the Christian communities that keep organising and practicing this antisemitic custom despite the protests.



**Myth Debunked:** Although Jesus’ disciples were all Jewish, it is specifically the name “Judas” that is automatically associated with “Jew” in New Testament times and later on. For Christianity, Judas [became the personification of the “evil, treacherous, money-grubbing Jew”](#). The myth that Jews killed Jesus was first found among some Fathers of the Church between the 2nd and the 5th centuries. As Romans began to convert to Christianity, they naturally tended to clear the responsibility of Rome for the death of Jesus and promoted the idea of the Jewish responsibility because the Sanhedrin decided to hand over Jesus to the Romans. The prevalence of the myth that Jews killed Christ has caused massive waves of confiscation, deportations and extermination of Jews by Christians in the following centuries. Only in 1965 did the Church deny the collective responsibility of Jews in the death of Christ, in the declaration “Nostra Aetate”.

## FRANCE – ANTISEMITIC ACCOUNT OF COUNCILLOR UNDER INVESTIGATION



**Date of publication:** May 2016

**Media Outlet:** Twitter, @DjamelBoumaaz (account suspended)

**Description of the antisemitic content:** The Twitter bio mentions the anti-Jews laws of the 1930s and the 1940s: “dogs and Jews prohibited”. The other tweets are Holocaust denialist and antisemitic.

“#Khan2016 > And the award for the best scenario goes to: Holocaust, for the 70th time. Congrats to Schlomo”. (Khan refers to the Jewish family name “Kahn” or “Cahn” as well as the Cannes festival of Cannes – the pronunciation is the same in French).

“My son and his nightmares because of the Holocaust, is it normal? I told him to not be afraid of things that don’t exist at all...”

“You know the story of the Jew who throws money out of the window? #israel #torahnotmyvoice”

**About the source:** Djamel Boumaaz is councillor of Montpellier Méditerranée Métropole and municipal councillor of Montpellier. At the end of May a Twitter account, now suspended, on his name was opened and published several antisemitic tweets. Djamel Boumaaz claims that the account on his name was false and filed a complaint for identity theft. There is an ongoing investigation. Boumaaz caused outrage when, on the day against homophobia this year (18th of May 2016), he removed the LGBT flag from the city hall of Montpellier

**Myth Debunked:** These tweets are particularly virulent and deny the Holocaust in a humoristic tone, with the help of hashtags and puns. It draws mainly on stereotypes about Jewish people, i.e. the family name “Khan” in reference to the Jewish identity (actually, the right spelling should be Kahn or Cahn), the Hebrew surname Shlomo, the antisemitic stereotype about Jews and money. The Holocaust, the systematic murder of 6 million Jews during World War II, is described as a “scenario” (also an “award-winning” scenario, hence referring again to the antisemitic stereotype of Jewish power) and as something that “does not exist”.

## UNITED KINGDOM – BOXING CHAMPION FURY IN ANTISEMITIC RANT



Tyson Fury Talking About Zionist Jews 13/05/2016

**Date of publication:** 13 May 2016

**Media Outlet:** YouTube and Twitter

**Description of the antisemitic content:** British professional boxer Tyson Fury was filmed making antisemitic comments in a video posted online. In this rant, an hour-long clip, he said: “Zionist, Jewish people ... own all the banks, all the papers, all the TV stations”. This was followed by some tweets regarding his views on Jewish people. One tweet (now removed) stated: “I see all the Zionist media outlets are on my back, because I speak the truth! u will all see the truth soon enuf, they killed my lord jesus.”

**About the source:** Tyson Fury is a world heavyweight boxing champion from Britain. After sparking outrage, Fury has apologised for his offensive comments. Fury had previously been accused of sexism and homophobia. Last year, many called for him to be dropped from the BBC’s Sports Personality of the Year shortlist after a video emerged of the new heavyweight boxing champion making a series of sexist remarks. In the comment section of YouTube, many people agreed with him and published more antisemitic statements saying the government lies and that Jews control finances and media.

**Myth Debunked:** Tyson Fury’s antisemitic tweets draw on two main myths: the myth that Jews control the media, the banks and the businesses, and the myth that Jews killed Jesus Christ. Regarding the first myth, in almost every country that Jews have lived in, they have been a small minority and have experienced centuries of persecution. The success of a handful of Jews, such as the Rothschilds, is falsely perceived as the condition of the majority. There were far more revolutionary Jews than bankers in Europe in the 19th century. Regarding the second myth, already addressed in the first Highlight above, only in 1965 (!) did the Church deny the collective responsibility of Jews in the death of Christ, in the declaration “Nostra Aetate”. The Media Diversity Institute ridiculed Fury’s claims with a cartoon by Ruben Oppenheimer.

## UNITED KINGDOM – BLOOMBERG REPORTER MINIMISES ANTISEMITIC HATRED



**Date of publication:** 4 May 2016

**Media Outlet:** [Bloomberg](#)

**Link:** <http://www.bloomberg.com/view/articles/2016-05-04/europe-s-haters-aren-t-so-focused-on-the-jews-anymore>

**Headline:** “Europe’s Haters Aren’t So Focused on the Jews Anymore”

**Description of the antisemitic content:** The article dangerously minimises the reality of antisemitism today. One of the many unfounded assumptions in the article is that when discrimination and violence against one group increases, then it decreases for another group.

The article uses the result of a new study as the truth, and misuses the statistics. To document a drop over only one year during a long-term period of heightened incidents of antisemitism is ludicrous.

In addition, as it can be seen from the controversy around leftist antisemitism, the problem does not necessarily correlate strictly to incidents of violence. Still, the author draws no distinction between different types or sources of antisemitism, instead he writes in a purely dismissive tone about ‘the new antisemitism’, linking to a Wikipedia article which he apparently did not even read, as even that piece points to various types of antisemitism which do not all manifest in the same way.

“The wave of so-called [new antisemitism](#) of recent years largely stemmed from anti-Israeli rather than racist beliefs, and had often been [linked](#) to the persistence of such attitudes among the growing Muslim population. Yet data from the 2015 report on global anti-Semitism, published on Wednesday by Tel Aviv University’s Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry, clearly show that as the refugees started coming in by the tens of thousands per day starting about a year ago, Europe became a safer place to be Jewish.”

“Along with a general tightening of security after the Paris terror attacks last year, this shift to second place in line for unwanted attention has benefited European Jews.”

**About the source:** The author is Leonid Bershidsky, who writes for the Bloomberg view. He is based in New York, but he makes false claims about antisemitism in Europe. Bloomberg is a major global provider of 24-hour financial news and information, including real-time and historic price data, financial data, trading news and analyst coverage, as well as general news and sports, based in New York.

**Myth Debunked:** The article misuses the sources it draws on. First, one year (2015) is not enough to conclude a general decrease in antisemitism. Second, the author, Bershidsky, ignores one key fact: the Protective Edge operation during the 2014 summer, in reaction to which massive antisemitic incidents took place in Europe at the same time. This showed how the importation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to Europe has direct consequences for the Jewish communities in Europe, very often expressed in antisemitic attacks against the Jewish population. Third, Bershidsky refers to only one part of the [report of the Kantor Center](#). The report states that “On the one hand, recent developments brought down the number of violent antisemitic cases perpetrated against Jews and Jewish sites, and on the other the nature of the violent cases have become more cruel, and the growing variety of verbal and visual antisemitic expressions, mainly on social media, became more brutal and insulting.” Still, the report adds that “it should be taken in consideration that 2014 was a very difficult year, especially due to the Protective Edge operation during the summer, and that the number of violent cases in 2015 is more or less equal to that of 2011”. The report further names three reasons for the decrease in violent cases: 1) the increase in special security measures 2) the arrival of more than one million refugees in Europe, thus shifting the attention to other forms of racism 3) it explains that, despite a decrease, the cruel and severe nature of each case escalated. The report concludes that “since the decrease in the violent cases does not compensate for the constant increase in insulting antisemitic verbal and visual manifestations and hostile atmosphere, Jews reconsider their future and their sense of belonging in their respective countries”.

## HUNGARY – SOROS AS A CONSPIRATOR AGAINST DEMOCRACY AND PEACE



**Date of publication:** Spring 2016

**Media Outlet:** [Civil Kontroll](#)

**Link:** <http://www.civilkontroll.com/putyin-elfogatoparancsot-adott-ki-soros-gyorgy-es-mas-penzugyi-terroristak-ellen/>

**Headline:** “Putin issued an arrest warrant by George Soros and other financial terrorists”

**Description of the antisemitic content:** George Soros and other businessmen with Jewish backgrounds are framed in this article as conspirators against democracy and peace. “Soros has no more chance to play his dirty games and speculations together with Rotschids, Rockefellers and other jackals, they want to see the global financial systems on their knees,” the article says.



**About the source:** The website Civil Kontroll presents itself as an independent movement of informal groups whose members' identity remains anonymous. It says it does not provide or receive donations, works for protecting genuine interests of the “Nation” (without mentioning if this means Hungarian or other nationalities) against multinational and global forces and big capital. It says its members want to strengthen the civic control of the parliament, political parties and all levels of decision making, and to protect the poor.

**Myth Debunked:** George Soros is a billionaire businessman of Jewish descent. In antisemitic discourses [Soros is often at the centre of conspiracy theories](#) which state that Jewish people own and control world finance. As with members of the Rothschild family, being an affluent and influential individual, the references to Soros can be misused and may strengthen the clichés that all Jews are rich and powerful.

## BELGIUM – COUNCILLOR COMPARES ISRAEL WITH DAESH



**Date of publication:** 07 May 2016

**Media Outlet:** Facebook account of Said Naji

**Description of the antisemitic content:** A councillor in Belgium has shared a picture on Facebook (no longer available) calling for the boycott of Israeli goods to support the Palestinian people with the following description: “Yup Israel=ISIS=Hate=Inhumane”

**About the source:** Said Naji is a councillor of the Socialist Party in Verviers, Eastern Belgium.

**Myth Debunked:** The latest trends in the *Get the Trolls Out!* monitoring of antisemitic events already showed the [victim-abuser reversal](#) taking place in the comparison between the State of Israel and ISIS. It is well known that ISIS has made public accusations against Israel. Previous deadly attacks (for example at the Jewish Museum in Brussels in May 2014 and at the kosher supermarket in Paris in January 2015) have shown that Jews are key targets of ISIS terror.

## BELGIUM – ANTI-ISLAMOPHOBIA ICON EXPRESSED ANTISEMITIC REMARKS IN THE PAST



**Date of publication:** 24 May 2016

**Media Outlet:** Facebook account of Zakia Belkhiri

**Description of the antisemitic content:** Years before becoming a media icon against Islamophobia, Zakia Belkhiri posted on Facebook these antisemitic remarks: “Hitler didn’t kill all the Jews so we can remember why he would kill them” and “I hate them” after making a comment about Jews.

**About the source:** Zakia Belkhiri is a young Muslim woman who stood up to far right wing protesters. She became famous for taking a selfie at an anti-Muslim protest of the right wing Vlaams Belang group in Belgium. The photos of her selfies were shared by thousands of supporters around the world. After these antisemitic remarks emerged, Ms Belkhiri offered an explanation: “My opinion many years ago was meant on the Zionist back then, that spread hate instead of love so to all the other Jews peace be upon you!” She subsequently published a lengthy statement on Twitter apologising “to everyone in the Jewish community which I’ve hurt with my comments of several years ago.”

**Myth Debunked:** Zakia Belkhiri’s antisemitic tweets include the support of the Holocaust (“Hitler didn’t kill all the Jews so we can remember why he would kill them”). It clearly shows that advocating against one form of racism does not prevent one from sharing racist judgments and statements about other people. This globally poses the difficult question of antisemitism in some anti-racist movements. Indeed, we have seen in our media monitoring and we have shown in our previous highlights that one expression of antisemitism is the reduction of the Jewish identity to the politics of the Israeli government. In the case of Zakia Belkhiri, the antisemitic statements are very clear and blatant.



GREEK: WORKERS UNION PRESIDENT SAYS “GOD CREATED JEWS BY MISTAKE”



**Date:** 27 June 2016

**Media Outlet:** Voria.gr

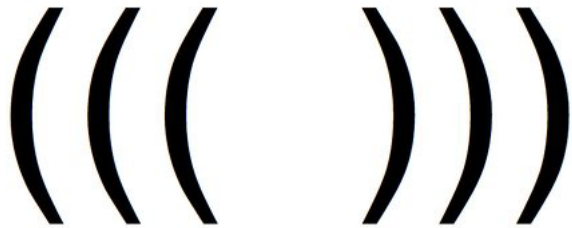
**Headline:** The president of the Workers Union of Urban Transportation in Thessaloniki is denounced for antisemitic rants.

**Description of the antisemitic content:** Dimitris Tsermenidis, president of the Workers Union for the Urban Transportation in Thessaloniki, is under fire for a number of antisemitic statements he made during a Union assembly on 24 June 2016. Voria.gr reports that Tsermenidis stated that “God created the Jews by mistake, who afterwards killed Jesus Christ” and expressed his regret for the fact that “unfortunately Hitler did not finish his work”. The Union president also made derogatory statements against Avraam Benaroya, the Jewish co-founder of “Federacion”, the first workers union in Thessaloniki. When, later on, Tsermenidis denied to a Voira journalist that he made these antisemitic statements, he was caught making a new one: “The only thing I said is that God made Jews and they crucified Christ. Majorities crucified Christ just as they burned Copernicus”.

**About the source:** Dimitris Tsermenidis is the president of the Workers Union of the Organisation of Urban Transportation in Thessaloniki. The Bus Owners Association of Thessaloniki, and the Union “Anatropi” condemned his statements.

**Myth Debunked:** By stating that God created the Jews by mistake, that they crucified Christ and by regretting that Hitler did not “finish the job” with Jews, the president of the Workers Union of Urban Transportation in Thessaloniki is fully supporting the extermination of Jews, both by denying their legitimacy to exist and by supporting the Holocaust. As in many other antisemitic discourses in general, he supports his argument by accusing Jews of having killed Jesus Christ, although the Church denied the collective responsibility of Jews for the death of Christ (declaration “Nostra Aetate”) in 1965.

UK AND OTHER COUNTRIES: (((ECHO))) SYMBOL TO SINGLE OUT NAMES OF JEWISH PEOPLE



**Date of publication:** June 2016

**Headline:** “Antisemitism watchdog adds (((echo))) symbol to hate list after Jews targeted”

**Description of the antisemitic content:** The (((echo))) sign has been used on the internet to highlight people with Jewish backgrounds. Google used to have a plug-in that could detect these triple brackets to make it easier for antisemites to find Jewish people on the internet. Google has now banned this plug-in. In reaction to this, Jewish people have enclosed their own names in the triple brackets to show pride in their Jewish names and ancestry.

**About the source:** This sign is used all over the internet by antisemites.

**Myth Debunked:** Adding triple brackets to Jewish names, in order to better identify them, is an antisemitic practice. The Anti-Defamation League has compared it to painting a Swastika on someone’s house. However, when this practice was exposed, antisemites had to deal with a wave of positive response by Jews taking pride in adding the brackets to their own names, and also by non-Jews adding the brackets to their names to confuse antisemites on the web and to further show solidarity with Jews.

## FRANCE: ANTISEMITISM RELATED TO “BREXIT”



**Date of publication:** 24 June 2016

**Media Outlet:** *Blanche Europe* (White Europe) blog

**Headline:** “Brexit: The Jew Laurent Cohen-Tanugi wants to abolish democracy”

**Description of the antisemitic content:** This blog post is an antisemitic analysis of Laurent Cohen-Tanugi’s column in the French daily *Le Monde*. In his opinion piece, Laurent Cohen-Tanugi, lawyer and essay writer, explained the key factors in understanding the decision of the British people, via a referendum, to leave the EU and called for a halt of, what he termed, the “European populist suicide”. The commentary by *Blanche Europe*, called “a translation of the article”, is an accumulation of violent antisemitic and racist clichés in words and images. The antisemitic echo symbol, used to mark Jewish people and Jewish names, is used throughout the article and directly on the photo of Laurent Cohen-Tanugi.

**Excerpts:** “On Tuesday, *Le Monde* published an article by a certain (((Laurent Cohen-Tanugi))) entitled “Stop the populist suicide”.

[...]

I will translate the title for you: “Democracy is wonderful if the *goys* vote for racial suicide. But if the Whites want to stop this global and genocidal programme, democracy goes bad, we need to initiate a dictatorship for saving progress, as for example in USSR for saving the Bolshevik revolution”.

It is clear that these kinds of Jews dream absolutely about a Bolshevik one killing all the best White people. For the others, they will be enslaved by non-Whites (who live as parasites).

[...]

For Mr Cohen-Tanugi, one of self-elected masters of the world, it was easy to elect himself as master of the European people’s destinies.

**About the source:** The *Blanche Europe* website, with a Celtic cross on the top banner, claims to be “a website of information and analysis, defending nationalism without any concession. Are you part of the White Race? Do you like your people and want to defend their interests? If so, you are in the right place to be informed and to participate in the discussion”.

**Myth Debunked:** The website and the page represent a purely fascist discourse, with the

presentation of racial theories in direct connection with the racial theories of the 19th century, followed by the Nazi theory of race superiority. By putting Jewish names in three parentheses, the authors of the article refer to the latest antisemitic online practice to “mark” Jews. The blog post interprets the opinion piece by Laurent Cohen-Tanugi as an attempt at Jewish world domination, a well-known antisemitic stereotype that has been constantly appearing in our monthly highlights.

## FRANCE: APOLOGIES OF TERRORISM BY PIR MEMBER



**Date of publication:** 08 June 2016

**Media Outlet:** Twitter

**Description of the antisemitic content:** In a tweet, Aya Ramadan, a member of the Parti des Indigènes de la République (P.I.R.) expressed her support of the two terrorists who killed four people in Tel Aviv.

**Tweet:** “Dignity and pride! Congratulations to the 2 Palestinians who have led a resistance operation in Palestine #FreePalestine”

**About the source:** Aya Ramadan is a member of the Parti des Indigènes de la République (PIR), an organisation which defines itself as an anti-racist association. Up to now, PIR has not condemned Aya Ramadan’s position and the possibility has been raised that,

according to the Code of Home Security (article L212-1), the association can be closed. PIR has been at the centre of many controversies in the past. One of its spokespeople, Houria Bouteldja, has often expressed antisemitic and homophobic statements. In 2015, Bouteldja posted a photo where she smiled and gave the thumbs-up next to a chair where it was written “Zionists at the Gulag”. In her latest book “The White, the Jews and us”, Bouteldja also wrote that “the idea of the beauty of the meeting of two cultures, the ideology of the mixed couples, it stinks”. The PIR is becoming known in France for its polemical views which tend to be homophobic, sexist, antisemitic and defend only Arabs and Black people.

**Myth Debunked:** By congratulating the two terrorists who shot dead four people in a café in Tel Aviv on 8 June 2016, Aya Ramadan’s tweets are a clear apology for terrorism. Licra decided to report it to the public prosecutors. On the internet, apology for terrorism can be punished with a maximum seven year prison sentence and a €100,000 fine.

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## VII. Examples of Complaints Mechanisms



## VII. 1. NOVEMBER 2015: LETTER OF COMPLAINT TO THE JOURNALISTS' UNION OF ATHENS DAILY NEWSPAPERS

This official complaint was sent by the Greek partner Symbiosis to the Journalists' Union of the Athens Daily Newspapers, on behalf of *Get the Trolls Out!*. The letter, also available in Greek, responds to headlines and articles reproducing antisemitic false myths and mixing them with other forms of racism such as Islamophobia. This clearly violates the Ethical Principles of Journalism, and therefore the reason for us to write to the Ethics Supervisory Body of the Journalist's Union.



Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing on behalf of *Get The Trolls Out!*, a trans-European programme responding to the concerning rise in antisemitic attitudes and statements by both politicians and the media. *Get the Trolls Out!* links civil society organisations in five EU countries working in the field of anti-discrimination and media development: the Media Diversity Institute (UK), CEJI – A Jewish Contribution to an Inclusive Europe (Belgium), Center for Independent Journalism (Hungary), International League against Racism and Anti-Semitism (France), Symbiosis (Greece). The *Get The Trolls Out!* programme raises awareness of and counters antisemitic speech in new and traditional media and promotes accurate, balanced and inclusive messages about Jews, that disprove misinformation.

With this letter, we would like to report the occurrence of unethical media practice from the Athens-based newspaper “Eleftheri Ora” (“Ελευθερη Ωρα”) which clearly violates the Ethical Principles of Journalism approved by the General Assembly of Journalist’s Union of Athens Daily Newspapers.

Within the framework of the *Get The Trolls Out!* programme, we have recently received numerous reports denouncing unacceptable media content published in Eleftheri Ora, reproducing antisemitic false myths and mixing them with other forms of racism such as Islamophobia.

In the last four months, we have identified the following six headlines – attached to this letter – breaching the standards of ethical journalism:

1. 13 July 2015: “The Jews - Freemasons Merkel and Schauble are trying to snatch Greece’s mineral wealth”;
2. 22 July 2015: “Something big will happen on September” - An arch-rabbi announced the date of... Antichrist’s arrival - He urged Jews from all over the world to return to Israel”;
3. 15 September 2015: “The horrible predictions concerning Jewish “Shmita” – The “year of Lucifer” began on September 13th!”;
4. 18 September 2015: “How [Tsipras] is playing the Zionist game” - General Aifantis: “Tsipras is an Islamised Jew.” Syriza wants to complete the murder of the Greek nation”
5. 22 September 2015: “Rabbi, Imam and... Tsipras Islamise Greece! Wake up Greeks and look who you’ve voted for.”
6. 9 October 2015: “They are concealing the Jews of Lagarde’s list [of tax evaders]!”

Despite its relatively small readership and the little credibility this particular newspaper seems to have, we believe that all citizens across Greece are exposed to the openly antisemitic headlines of its pages, visible in every kiosk or press agency in the country.

The above-mentioned headlines contain intentionally false and inaccurate information which confirms and reinforces the stereotypes of Jews as the ultimate evil, encouraging hatred against them. Observing that they breach Articles 1 and Article 2 of the Ethical Principles of Journalism approved by your General Assembly, we kindly invite your Union and its body of conduct to further investigate this issue and to ensure the abuses are addressed with the appropriate procedures against members of your Union involved in writing the aforementioned antisemitic articles.

For reasons of both transparency and awareness-raising, we wish to inform you that this letter will be published on the official website of our project.

We look forward to hearing from you and hope to be informed about the developments of this complaint and your following investigation. We remain at your disposal for any assistance as well as possible organisation of public events regarding combatting antisemitism in the Greek media.

Yours Sincerely,

On behalf of “Get the Trolls Out!”,

Ljubisa Vrancev,

NGO Symbiosis



## VII.2. NOVEMBER 2015: DON'T SENSATIONALISE ANTISEMITISM – MDI WRITES TO THE EVENING STANDARD

Dear Doug Wills,

We would like to complain about some inaccuracies in your paper when reporting on a recent act of vandalism in London.

We were surprised to see factual mistakes presented in the article [“Vandals desecrate east London Jewish memorial with raw meat”](#) (20 August), repeated in the article [“Swastika graffiti daubed on wall near synagogue in Highgate shocks Jewish community”](#) (17 November).

Bearing in mind current and recent events in France (and the rest of Europe) and the potential audience of the Evening Standard i.e. as a free paper offered to millions of London commuters every day, we believe in the importance of accuracy in your reporting. Why was the decision made to put ‘Jewish memorial’ in the title of the article, when it is clear from your story that it is not a Jewish memorial, but rather, a memorial to Queen Victoria’s Son funded by the Jewish community?

Similarly, in your article published on 17 November, the reporter used the same claim to illustrate ‘a spate of anti-Semitic crimes in London’ – this time without bothering to explain what the reporter meant by the ‘Jewish memorial’.

Swastika graffiti is bad enough. You don’t need to worsen the problem by sensationalising it. Your readers, mainly commuters, often read only the headlines and go home misled.

We are very aware of the rise of antisemitism through our *Get the Trolls Out!* programme which tries to encourage traditional and social media to report on this particular community in a responsible and professional way, as they are expected to do with any other community. The ES can do it.

Best regards,

Milica Pesic

Executive Director

Media Diversity Institute

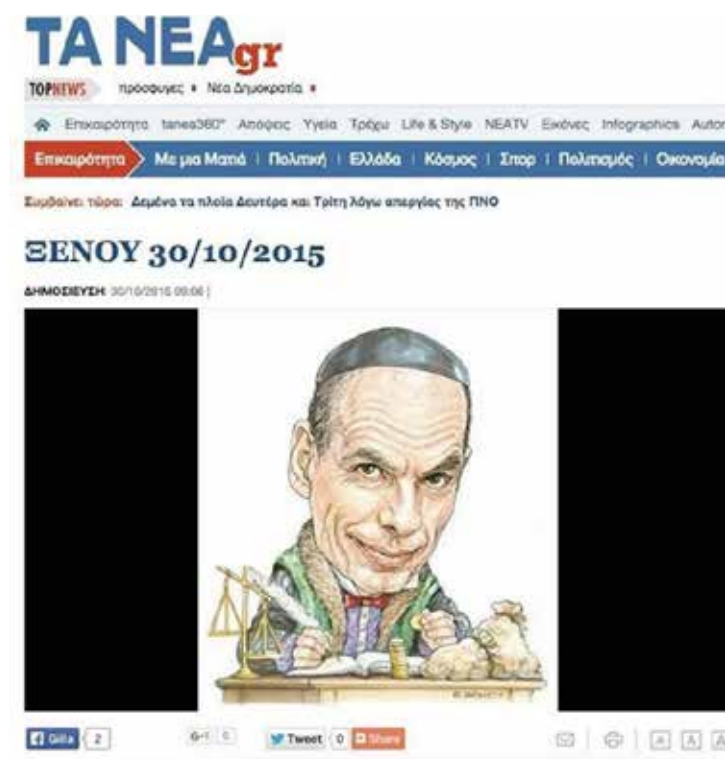
The Evening Standard, a free newspaper distributed in London area, in two occasions has been quick in labelling as antisemitic an act of vandalism that appears not to be so and has used inaccurate information about the vandalised statue.

The MDI executive director has written (see opposite) to the managing editor of the *Evening Standard* to ask the paper to keep reporting antisemitic attacks, but not to use sensationalistic headlines and inaccurate information.



## III.3. DECEMBER 2015: VAROUFAKIS CARTOON - SYMBIOSIS WRITES TO TA NEA

In response to the publication, in the paper TA NEA, of the [antisemitic cartoon of former Greece's finance minister Varoufakis](#) and the following editorial by Papachristos, [Symbiosis](#) has written to the editor of the newspaper to reaffirm the danger of spreading such antisemitic stereotypes and asked for their apologies.



To the Editor-in-chief of the Newspaper “TA NEA”, Athens

Dear Editor,

We are writing to you on behalf of *Get the Trolls Out!*, an inter-European initiative of the [Media Diversity Institute](#) (Great Britain), [CEJI – Jewish Contribution to an Inclusive Europe](#) (Belgium), the [CIJ – Center for Independent Journalism](#) (Hungary), Licra – [International League against Racism and Anti-Semitism](#) (France), and [Symbiosis](#) (Greece), aiming to respond to the alarming spread of antisemitism – by words or conduct – both in the sphere of politics and mass media. The abovementioned civil society organisations act against discriminations of any kind, and are active in the field of media, while the project *Get the Trolls Out!* aims particularly to raise awareness of antisemitic speech and to combat it in new as well as in traditional media.

With this letter we would like to complain about Ms. Efi’s Xenou unfortunate cartoon in the newspaper of 30th October 2015. We remind you that the cartoon, that accompanied an opinion article by Mr. Papachristos, was presenting a caricature of Mr. Varoufakis replicating the antisemitic stereotype of the medieval “stingy” Jewish money changer.

Although we believe that the renowned cartoonist had no intention of expressing antisemitic feelings, unfortunately, that particular choice preserves one of the best-established antisemitic myths that was used in the past with disastrous consequences. The prompt reaction of the Israeli Community of Athens – among others – towards your newspaper is not a coincidence. Thus, after those grievances, one would expect from the newspaper some kind of redress for something that could be considered as an unfortunate inadvertence.

Instead, Mr. Papachristos’s response a few days later (in absence of any other response we logically assume that this was also the newspaper’s official policy on the issue) came as an unpleasant surprise. In his reply, he more or less accuses the aggrieved of being easily “huffy”, with no reason, while their reactions are even compared to the ones after the *Charlie Hebdo* attack! In fact, your columnist’s conclusion that the cartoon is not antisemitic has been shocking for international specialists on antisemitism because of the levity of its certainty.

Mr. Papachristos’s argument that Mr. Varoufakis is presented as Shylock, namely as a character from world literature, and therefore is not a racist stereotype, is completely unfounded, since on one hand Shakespeare’s inspiration for Shylock was indeed based on an antisemitic stereotype of his times, and on the other hand it is not possible to claim, with any certainty, that contemporary readers will see the cartoon of a man wearing a kippah and think “Oh, it’s Shylock” rather than “Oh, it’s a Jew!”

So, it would be useful, in the fight against racism and antisemitism, if your paper were to publish an apology both for posting the cartoon and for the style and content of Mr. Papachristos’s response, and to commit, in public, to being more careful in future when it comes to such sensitive issues.

Finally, we inform you that for reasons of transparency and public information, this letter will be posted on our project’s official website.

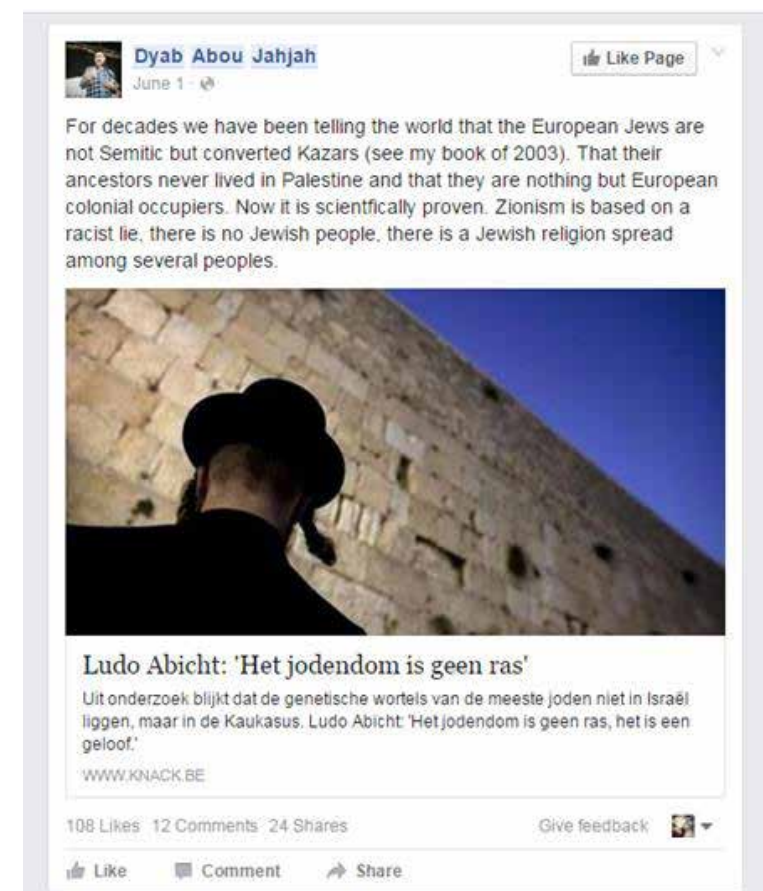
Please inform us on the progress of our request as well as on your future actions.

Yours faithfully,

on behalf of the “*Get the Trolls Out!*” project,

[Symbiosis](#) NGO

### III.4. JANUARY 2016: CEJI OPPOSES JAHJAH AS KEYNOTE SPEAKER



On Saturday 12 December 2015, several organisations co-sponsored an anti-islamophobia rally in Brussels, Belgium.

As an organisation dedicated to fighting against all forms of hatred and discrimination, [CEJI](#) – A Jewish Contribution to an Inclusive Europe welcomes the importance of an event dedicated to the common fight against islamophobia.

However, one of the key speakers invited was [Dyab Abou Jahjah](#), a political activist and writer, well-known for his [antisemitic and homophobic statements](#).

To give just a few examples, on a [blog post](#) on the website of the Arab-European League, which he founded, it is written that:

- “Yes Arabs and Muslims are uptight when you touch their religious and national symbols, but Europe had made of political correctness and the cult of the Holocaust and Jew-worshiping its alternative religion and is even more uptight when you touch that.”
- “I am for the absolute freedom of speech everywhere, and that’s why I call upon every free soul among Arabs to use the Danish flag as a substitute for toilet paper. To illustrate every wall with graffiti making fun of everything Europe holds as holy: dancing rabbis on the carcasses of Palestinian children, hoax gas-chambers built in Hollywood in 1946 with Steven Spielberg’s approval stamp, and Aids spreading fagots. Let us defend the absolute freedom of speech altogether, wouldn’t that be a noble cause?”

On Facebook posts he denies the existence of Jewish people (see image above).



Because CEJI has relations with some of the co-sponsoring organisations of this event, CEJI had to react informally and formally in writing to the co-sponsors to express their dismay.

There is no doubt that he is actively importing the Israel-Palestine conflict into Europe in such a way that links Israel as oppressor to Muslims in Europe as victims. The impact of such discourse on the perception and safety of Jews in Europe has been demonstrated time and time again. His positioning is proven by the fact that one of the 5 Motions taken by Movement X is defined by a delegitimization of the existence of the state of Israel (see quotation marks “Israel”), when the organisation otherwise is defined by fighting racism in Belgium. He clearly “crosses the line” on the antisemitism litmus test.

As a reaction to CEJI’s letter to all of the co-sponsoring organisations, one pulled their name off the organiser’s list, some expressed their regret at having not been aware of his background sooner, and others stood by their position.

Dyab Abou Jahjah’s public reaction to protests by Belgian Jewish leaders about his legitimacy as an appropriate speaker only confirmed his purposeful amalgamation of terms such as “Zionist” and “Jewish”:



## VII.5. JANUARY 2016. ARTICLE BY TOM LAW (COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER, ETHICAL JOURNALISM NETWORK): “BIGOTRY ON THE AIR: WHY BROADCASTERS NEED TO CHALLENGE HATE-MONGERS”



In 2015, hate-speech became a mainstream concern for news media. Violent propaganda from media-savvy terrorists, loose language from populist politicians and bigoted journalism from the likes of *Daily Mail* columnist Katie Hopkins over the migration and refugee crisis have all put journalists and editors on their guard.

In today’s digital environment everyone can have their say but very often the discourse is poisoned by hate and intolerance.

An example of how easy it is for unwary journalists to be caught out came on 22 December 2015 during the Simon Lederman show on BBC Radio London. [Get the Trolls Out](#), a [Media Diversity Institute](#) project to counter antisemitic hate speech in Europe, [reports](#) that a caller, “Andy from St Margaret’s”, was allowed [13 minutes on air](#) to rant about Jewish world domination.

The caller, [Get The Trolls Out says](#), received insufficient condemnation by the presenter for his statements, such as “We keep going on about the Jews... mainstream media, they keep banging on about the Jews and the Holocaust... we keep going on about six million Jews.” Several Jewish organisations have published articles condemning the incident, promising to file complaints to BBC and to Ofcom and asking readers to do the same.

This case raises serious ethical questions: How do people working on the edge of live news protect themselves – and their audience – from people with a hateful agenda? How can journalists ensure that they allow free speech, but maintain their ethical duty to do no harm? And what more should be done to help journalists to counter bigoted speech?

According to chair of the [Ethical Journalism Network](#) Dorothy Byrne, many of the answers are found by applying the regulations imposed by Ofcom, Britain’s independent state

regulator of broadcasting, but much depends she warns on how “hate speech” is defined.

A good broadcaster, she says, would cut the person off and apologise to the listeners, depending on the content, while some programmes would challenge the speaker. She quotes a recent example when a young Muslim woman attacking gay people on the radio. “Instead of cutting her off, the presenter argued with her vociferously and you could say that was the best way to deal with that,” says Byrne.

David Jordan, Director of Editorial Policy and Standards at the BBC told us that for live radio shows where members of the public phone in, presenters and producers are obliged to follow the ‘Harm and Offence’ provision of the OFCOM code, which states they must:

“...provide adequate protection for members of the public from the inclusion in such services of harmful and/or offensive material.”

The code goes on to say that offensive material must only be used where it can be justified by [journalistic context](#).

In addition, the BBC has its own [editorial guidelines on live output](#). People spouting offensive views are normally dealt with directly, says Jordan. The decision to challenge offensive speech is left to presenters and journalists. The BBC also pre-screens telephone calls into phone-in shows.

“It is not the case that people who may express views that some people may find offensive should be excluded from having their voice heard,” he says. “Famously, years ago the BBC included the leader of the British National Party, Nick Griffin, on an edition of Question Time, the BBC’s most high profile current affairs and debate programme.”

Many people found the prospect of the leader of the BNP participating in a mainstream debate organised by the BBC offensive, but the level of support the BNP had received at recent European elections justified hearing their voice.

“Whilst the views that were being expressed were undoubtedly controversial,” says Jordan, “the way in which they were being expressed didn’t fall foul of any harm and offence guidelines.”

The issue, says Jordan is not about people saying things that some people may find offensive whether it is in relation to immigration or race or the Holocaust. “It is about how those views are expressed. If they are expressed in clearly racist ways using racist phrases or words then you might cut the debate off,” he says.

Jordan uses the example of the recent media controversy in Germany over the New Year assaults in Cologne where some people discussing the issue blamed immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

“Some people may find that offensive but that is no reason to not to deal with it and challenge it in the course of the phone-in,” he says. “The phone-ins are designed to ensure that presenters do challenge the views that are put them, but not in intemperate ways, but by putting the other side of the story.”

Jordan is not convinced by the argument that the worst offenders are media-savvy groups or individuals trying to exploit media. “I think that there are times when people just get carried away and they use language and say things that are not appropriate.”

Jordan says he is unaware of a general sense of manipulation or even a large measure of that in people getting on programmes, but he admits that the BBC does not keep data in this area, which underlines the importance of monitoring on a regular basis such as that being organised by MDI and others.

Jordan does not comment on the BBC Radio London case, which is going through the complaints system, but he highlights a problem with phone-ins where anything can be

discussed. “Sometimes phone-ins are not dealing with any particular issue” he says, “there is a danger that calls will be made that the presenter might not be well informed enough to challenge adequately.”

Jordan added that even in situations where complaints are not filed, in circumstances where extreme views were not met with enough challenge then the production team would be told.

“We are constantly talking to programme makers and programme teams about the editorial guidelines as they apply to the content,” he says. “In some areas that advice changes over time due to rulings made by OFCOM and the rulings made by the BBC Trust about complaints.”

Whether or not the current complaint triggers any official changes in the advice given to presenters remains to be seen. But one thing is clear, some listeners felt that the caller concerned was not put on the spot over opinions that were not just offensive, but were hateful. Many will expect the BBC to act to ensure journalists or presenters in touch with their audience are better able to answer back when hate speech is in the air.

*This article was originally [published by the Ethical Journalism Network](#)  
Tom Law is the Communications Officer of the Ethical Journalism Network.*

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## VII.6. MARCH 2016: ARTICLE BY RONNY NAFTANIEL (CEJI VICE-PRESIDENT): “TODAY’S EUROPE IS NOT NAZI GERMANY”

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*This article was translated from Dutch and originally published in [De Standaard](#) on the 12th of February*



*Jewish shops in Nazi Germany. [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons*

*Surely they are often viewed as a scapegoat, but not a single European country has introduced race laws in order to discriminate against Muslims. Ronny Naftaniel is astonished that Rachida Aziz compares their position with that of the Jews “before the War”.*

In her opinion piece “Moslims zijn de nieuwe Joden” (Muslims are the new Jews), Rachida Aziz pleads for a more nuanced view of Muslims and Islam in our society ([Belgian newspaper] [De Standaard](#) 6 February). She believes that there is a kind of obsession with Muslims and gives examples of incidents in which wrongdoing was incorrectly blamed on all Muslims.

Drawing stereotypes about an entire group of people can never be defended. Regrettably, this happens far too often, partly due to the arrival of refugees coming from the Middle East. These refugees are not coming here with the intention of raping women or to undermine our western values and norms, as some voices maliciously insist; rather, they are largely victims of the most violent conflict of this century and are simply looking for safety.

However, fighting this stereotype does not justify playing down events or misusing history. And that is precisely what Rachida Aziz is doing. She refers to a number of incidents in which Muslims were wrongly accused, such as the removal of pictures of pigs. While this may have occurred, these incidents are hardly determinative of people’s image of Muslims.

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## REMAINING SILENT ABOUT TERRORISM

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What really matters is a string of terror attacks on European soil which were committed in the name of Islam. These attacks give rise to fear in the hearts of ordinary European citizens and have brought about a security situation which is tearing our communities apart. But Aziz stifles about the terror attacks.

Building on the words of the Commission Nationale Consultative des Droits de l’Homme (French national consultative human rights commission), Aziz claims that “if you compare today with the period before the War, you could say that Muslims have replaced the Jews in our imagination and in the construct of the scapegoat”. In saying this, she completely ignores the fact that antisemitism is still a daily occurrence, not something that has been “replaced”. Yes, it is true that Muslims are often viewed as scapegoats, but this is not less true for the Jews - and especially by Muslims, as has been demonstrated by numerous studies.

And what precisely is meant by “before the War”? Is this a reference to the Weimar Republic in Germany and to 1930s in Belgium, when Jews held countless prominent functions and offices in public life, and got plenty of chances to flourish or to contribute to the societies in which they lived? Or are Aziz and the French commission referring to the situation in Hitler’s Germany before the Second World War in which race laws were introduced and the Jews were without legal protection? This seems very unlikely to me, given the fact that there is no legislation currently in place anywhere in Europe that systematically discriminates against Muslims and aims to remove them from public life - even though there may be some politicians who might like to see this happen.

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## WARNING

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Aziz probably wanted to warn us that if we are not careful, Muslims may face the same fate as the Jews in the Second World War. There is no reason for such a warning. Europe today is far removed from Hitler’s Germany. The treatment that Muslims face cannot be compared to antisemitism which is centuries old and often based on religion.

To take a stand against stereotyping Muslims and others, the public debate must unequivocally distance itself from discrimination. Criticism should be expressed if necessary, also if it relates to Muslims’ conduct, and we must be continually aware of conscious or unconscious prejudices in our thinking. Our educational system should also have a stronger focus on the democratic, pluralistic society we live in. What we definitely must not do is to play down crimes and intolerance and to misuse history according to our own way of thinking. People see through this immediately and all that it does is cause the message to lose any effect.



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## VII.7. JUNE 2016. ARTICLE BY BY ANTONIS GAZAKIS (SYMBIOSIS): ANTISEMITISM STILL SMOULDERS THROUGHOUT GREEK EASTER

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*Burning of Judas. Source: Creative Commons*

Among the various Christian Orthodox traditions in Greece during the Easter holidays, a custom stands out as an example of how deep the roots of antisemitism are in Greek society. It is the “burning of Judas” – or “the burning of the Jew”, as it is also called – still attested in many different areas of the country on Holy Saturday.

The custom begins with the creation of an effigy of Judas, Jesus Christ’s disciple who betrayed him, according to the New Testament of the Bible. The effigy is usually a human-sized doll made of rags and stuffed with flammable materials and sometimes fireworks. This hand-made “Judas” is hanged – as Judas hanged himself after betraying Christ – at a square or another central place, and burned among curses, swearing and cheering by the crowds, including children.

This custom was much more popular in the past. Almost every parish in the country used to organise it. Sometimes it was accompanied by actual assaults against houses where Jewish people were living in. In general, every Easter it revived the antisemitic feelings of a large part of the population. KIZ (the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece) have repeatedly demanded authorities to abolish this custom. The Holy Synod of the Church of Greece has also explicitly demanded this custom to be abolished as having nothing to do with Christianity.

Although urbanization, and a certain amount of common logic, have led to the abandonment of the custom in many Greek regions, the “burning of Judas/Jew” hasn’t yet been totally abolished by all of the Christian communities in the country. This year, for example, it was performed, as has been demonstrated, in some places in central Greece and on the islands of Lesbos and Crete, where local authorities organised it and promoted it as a local folkloric attraction.

As if all this wasn’t enough, on its official website, the Greek National Tourism Organization (GNTO) presented this custom as part of the Greek Easter attractions. KIZ reacted immediately with a [complaint letter](#) to the GNTO, which subsequently removed it

from its website.

Folklore and tradition are a crucial part of a culture’s identity yet should only be respected and cultivated insofar as they are not abusive, racist or unethical. In the case of the “burning of Judas” we come across all three of these, and it isn’t irrelevant that many Greek Christians claim that “Jews are cursed because they crucified Christ”.

This custom should be stopped. A dialogue with the communities where it is still celebrated would make clear that this practice is far from being innocent, even in its folkloric form and stripped off of direct aggressiveness towards Jews, as it is today.

In 2007, [Abravanel the blog](#), an English and Greek language website on Jewish life and antisemitism in Greece published an [insightful post](#) on this practice:

“In no way I think that people who participate are raging racists who yearn to burn Jews and since they can’t, they limit themselves to dolls. I’m sure that most of them consciously do not understand that what they do is wrong. The problem here is that the Greek State and generally people like the mayor of Hydra do know the racist nature of it, but still they choose not to act against it. This isn’t simply a case of Jews being oversensitive; it is the Greek Church herself who has condemned it as an act against the Christian faith and modern religious leaders describe it as atrocious.”

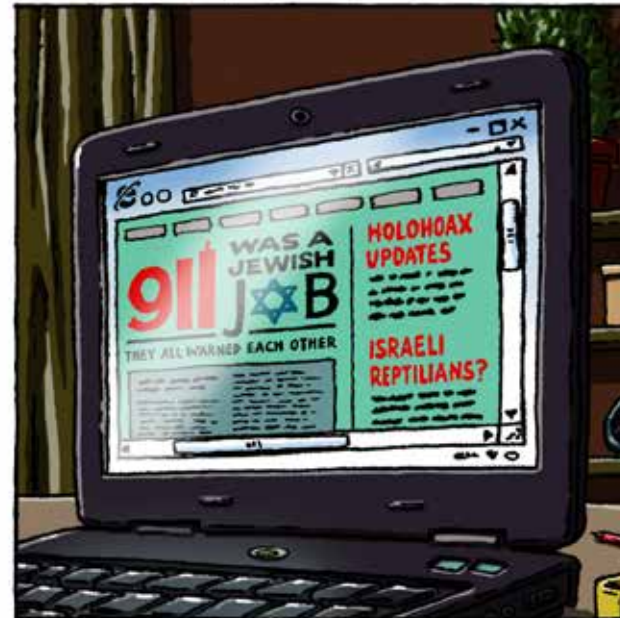
Nine years have passed but not many things have changed since then.

## VIII. Ousted Troll of the Month: positive results in the fight against antisemitism

KRISTALLNACHT



ONLINENACHT



## POSITIVE RESULTS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST ANTISEMITISM

The “Ousted Troll of the Month” is an incident the *Get the Trolls Out!* project partners chose every month to show positive outcomes in the fight against antisemitism in Europe.

### VIII. 1. SEPTEMBER: GREEK DEPUTY MINISTER KAMMENOS (GREECE)



A newly appointed Deputy Minister in Greece, known for his antisemitic and racist opinions, was forced to resign after the protests by people on social media at the end of September, setting a positive example of public response to counter antisemitism.

After national elections in September in Greece, the winning left-wing party Syriza needed to form a coalition with another party in order to reach the majority in parliament. The agreement was made with Independent Greeks (Anexartitoi Ellines, ANEL), a far right-wing party with a political position similar to the UKIP in Britain, promising a few ministries in exchange for their vote of confidence.

Dimitris Kammenos, cousin of the leader of the party, Panos Kammenos was appointed Deputy Transport Minister on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September.

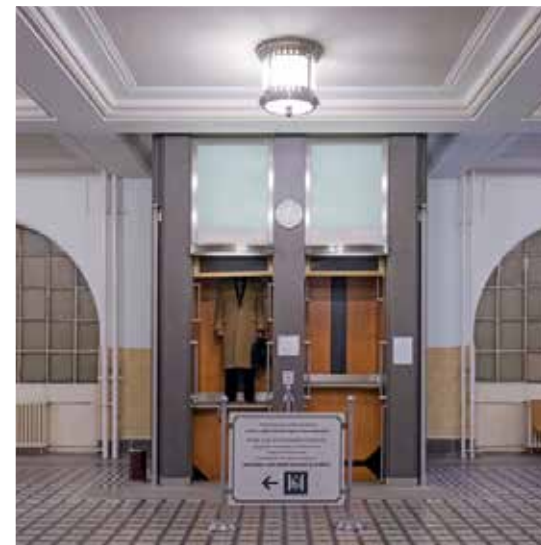
Dimitris Kammenos was well-known to the public for his offensive statements on his social media platforms ranging from antisemitism to racism and homophobia. Through tweets and Facebook posts, Kammenos spread anti-Jewish conspiracy theories (“9/11 and don’t forget: none of the 2500 Jewish employees at the WTC went to work that day”), false myths about loyalty and otherness (“Kouvelis [a Greek centre-left politician] a ‘Greek’? Jews are first of all Jews, and then anything else...”) as well as homophobic and antisemitic remarks (“Syriza identifies totally with Zionism’s demand to destroy all other societies. Why aren’t same-sex marriages allowed in Israel?”)

As soon as Kammenos was appointed, a wave of enraged tweets and posts contested the decision of the Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras. Screenshots of his abusive tweets and comments were shared in social media to call for his immediate resignation. The following day Kammenos released a statement claiming he rejects racism, “homophobism [sic]” and antisemitism and that the incriminated posts were made by his assistants that had access into his accounts. This claim was soon proven untrue thanks to social media users pointing out occasions in the past where he endorsed and defended such posts.

Following the uproar, in the evening of the same day, Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras called the leader of Independent Greeks, Panos Kammenos, asking about the authenticity of the posts and implied that if such was the case, Dimitris Kammenos should quit his position. In the night, the Independent Greece party leader announced on Twitter that Dimitris Kammenos had resigned “to make things easier until truth comes to light”.

This outcome, received with great satisfaction by the public, represents an important victory of social media users in the fight against antisemitic and racist hate speech.

## VIII. 2. OCTOBER: FACEBOOK DEFAMATION AGAINST RABBI SHLOMO KOVES (HUNGARY)



Eight people face one-year suspended prisons terms after the Pest Central District Court found them guilty of defamation via Facebook against Shlomo Koves, rabbi of the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation.

The defendants libelled the rabbi to be a Jewish terrorist threatening the nation. They produced and shared on Facebook a photo of the rabbi and a made up quote. The text, falsely attributed to him, reported that the Holocaust was invented by Jews to persecute those who would deny it. The image was widely shared by users on Facebook and social media.

As the [Action and Protection Foundation \(TEV\) reports](#), the judge declared in the verdict that although Rabbi Shlomo Köves can be considered a public figure, there must be a differentiation between various types of public figures. The threshold of tolerance for a politician who regularly appears in the press is different than that of a leader of the church who participates only in certain societal discourse. The court judgment said that naming someone a terrorist threatening the nation is beyond the must-tolerate limit.

After a two-year trial, the judgment of the first instance trial was announced on 15 October 2015 in Budapest. The court found the accused guilty, each of them received one year probation and all of them were ordered to pay the expenses of the proceedings. Of the eight people accused, seven appealed against the decision, while one apologised. Shlomo Köves accepted the apology and, as a civil claimant, dropped his accusation against the defendant.

[Image: Kristián Bódis – WLB](#)



### VIII. 3. NOVEMBER: DIEUDONNÉ M'BALA M'BALA (FRANCE)



The French comedian Dieudonné has been [sentenced for two months in jail](#) by a Belgian court for making racist and antisemitic comments he made during a show in Liege (Belgium) in 2012.

During the [show](#) he was, among other things, [questioning the existence of gas chambers and qualifying Hitler of being a “nice boy”](#) (*gentil garçon*). In the same show he also mentioned that Jesus should have been judged in Nuremberg, next to Hitler.

The Belgian court’s judgement said that “all the accusations against Dieudonné were established – both incitement to hatred and hate speech but also Holocaust denial”.

Even though Dieudonné insists he is not antisemitic, he already has several convictions for antisemitism and hate speech.

After the *Charlie Hebdo* and kosher supermarket attacks in Paris in January 2015, he asserted on social media that he feels like ‘[Charlie Coulibaly](#)’, using a perverse word game between the viral #jesuischarlie that was used in solidarity with the victims, and the name of the killer in the kosher supermarket.

Dieudonné has become more known - on a European level - for inventing the ‘[quenelle](#)’ an inverted Nazi salute, and for mocking the Holocaust and Jews in his shows. One of the striking examples is his song “[Shoahnanas](#)” in which he takes a catchy French TV kids song and puts together the word “Shoah” and “pineapple” (*ananas*). In the videoclip one can see that the pineapple juice is made out of “Zyklon B”, which was one of the killing methods during the Holocaust.

Even though Dieudonné cannot be considered as definitely ‘ousted’ yet, his sentencing to two months jail by a Belgian court for his racist and antisemitic comments is a clear progress in the European recognition of an antisemitic comic whose words and gestures had until lately been trivialised under cover of humour and freedom of speech.

*Image: Dieudonné. Photo credit: MaxPPP*

### VIII. 4. DECEMBER: ALAIN SORAL (FRANCE)



Alain Soral, French extreme-right author of polemical essays, has been sentenced by the Court of Appeal of Paris to a €5,000 fine for antisemitic insults against the Jewish journalist Frédéric Haziza.

The International League against Racism and Anti-Semitism, [Licra](#), *Get the Trolls Out!* partner in France, was among the NGOs that sued the author. The antisemitic comments were published on Soral’s website in November 2012 after Frédéric Haziza, as the grandson of a deported person during the Holocaust, refused to invite him to his TV show.

In December 2015 the Paris Court of Appeal stated the words of Soral fall within “the most stereotyped antisemitism, by referring to a community plot which aimed to suppress the freedom of speech”.

Alain Soral is well-known as one of the main actors of the French “fascist-sphere”, together with his acolyte [Dieudonné - our November’s Ousted Troll of the Month](#) sentenced by a Belgian court to jail for antisemitic comments. Soral is also close to other conspiracy and extreme-right groups, including the members of “Manif pour tous”, groups that strongly oppose same-sex marriage.

Created in 2007, his website “Egalité et Réconciliation” (“Equality and Reconciliation”), a heap of nationalism, homophobia, sexism and antisemitism, became an NGO under “Egalité & Réconciliation” and is currently a political party, “Réconciliation nationale” (“National Reconciliation”). In 2014, Soral declared: “I am not from the extreme-right, I am a National Socialist”.

Using provocative opinions based on antisemitism, Holocaust denial and conspiracy theories, Soral has created what is considered by many to be a “[fascist business](#)”. On his website, an online shop sells books, t-shirts, mugs and lighters. Furthermore, each of his trials has been strategically used by Soral himself to build up a new media buzz.

In 2013, Soral’s publishing house, Kontre Kulture, republished some XIX century French books including “La France Juive” (“The Jewish France”) by Edouard Drumont, an antisemitic pamphlet about the Jewish lobby controlling capital and state policy. In the same year, [a French court banned](#) a book edited by Kontre Kulture and censored four others. The court said the books insulted people for being of a certain religion, denied crimes against humanity and incited racial hatred.

Soral is currently on trial for doing, behind the Holocaust Memorial of Berlin, the *quenelle* gesture, [an inverted Nazi salute](#). Soral took a photo of himself doing the *quenelle* and published it on his website. On the 18th of February, the Court of Appeal of Paris will deliver a decision on the trial.

As [Dieudonné last month](#), Alain Soral cannot be completely considered as definitely “ousted” but the recurrence of sentences against him show how freedom of speech can be used to spread antisemitic ideas and incite violence.

## VIII. 5. JANUARY: LAURENT LOUIS (BELGIUM)



Laurent Louis, French-speaking Belgian politician as well as former member of the Belgian Chamber of Representatives, has been acting very regularly upon his antisemitic ideologies via Facebook and Twitter.

His Twitter account has been removed in January, thus definitely closing one fundamental channel of his hate speech online.

On the 15th of December 2015, Louis tweeted various comments expressing absurd beliefs that Israel was behind the actions of Nazi Germany and is now behind the terrorist acts of ISIS.

Again, in late December of 2015, Louis published a Facebook post to his followers regarding his beliefs towards the Islamic State being connected to the Israeli government in order to achieve “Zionist” goals.

Striking once more before the turn of the New Year, Louis posted a slideshow of Holocaust images as a New Year’s greeting to his followers – in his own words “My wish for 2016 and the years to come”, receiving over 5,000 views.

Laurent Louis’ social media outbursts in December were unfortunately not the first of his heinous displays of antisemitic ideology.

In June of 2013, Louis was seen outside of the Israeli Embassy in Brussels, trampling over the Israeli flag at a [pro-Bashar Assad rally](#) in support of a regime that is well known for using chemical weapons against its own people.

Louis has even come as far as starting his own political party Debout les Belges (which has since been dissolved due to the lack of support) presumably in promotion of antisemitic hate speech and condemnation, [though Louis denied having any of those intentions](#).

In November 2015, during a [conference](#) with Hezbollah Deputy Secretary-General Sheikh Naim Qassem, Louis reportedly went as far as saying that, «the Western leaders’ collaboration with terrorism has been exposed, despite their false claims that they are protecting democracy and human rights” (as reported by interpreters).

While Louis’ statements are clearly irrational and delusional, there is no doubt that this public figure has got a powerful influence over fueling antisemitic thoughts and actions due to his presence in the media.

Laurent Louis’ actions have not gone unnoticed by the public. The Belgian League against antisemitism filed a complaint against him in mid-2014. Furthermore, on the 23rd of June 2015, Louis was condemned – via legal action by Le Centre Interfédéral pour l’égalité des Chances – to an 18,000 euro fine as well as six months of detainment in prison for persistent denial of the Holocaust.

## VIII. 6. FEBRUARY: ABBOT METHODDIUS (GREECE)



A rally in Thessaloniki has recently gathered ultra-right nationalists and Greek Orthodox extremists, including Abbot Methodius of Mount Athos’ Esfigmenou Monastery, “to demonstrate against ‘the instruments of Antichrist and the New World Order’”.

The demonstration, held on 28 February 2016, was organised to protest against the new electronic citizen card that the Greek government is planning to introduce in the country. With the card manufacturing company based in Israel, some extremists – including the daily [Eleftheri Ora](#) – believe that the company is planning to print a depiction of Satan onto the card and “to give you the mark” (of the number of the Beast).

Journalist Sofia Christoforidou [reports](#) that speakers and banners accused Jews of “plotting to enslave Greece and humanity” through the new Citizen Card, social security numbers and other “plastic” cards, becoming thus the “instrument of the Antichrist and the New World Order”.

Methodius, the Abbot of a monastery considered as a heretic one by the official Greek Orthodox Church, said: “We are not animals; we are human beings that God made us free. We are not slaves of the Jews; we don’t accept Jewish money [from EU to restore their monastery]. Being so many, don’t we have the power to resist against the Jews?”

Greek and Byzantine flags were raised along with religious banners. One of the posters said “No to the citizen card. There is only one enemy: International Zionism.” Books and pamphlets promoting antisemitic stereotypes of Jews were also on sale.

This rally in Thessaloniki, attended by a thousand people, came after a previous similar demonstration in early February in Athens. On that occasion, Abbot Methodius was recorded saying: “if Jews complain that Hitler killed them, they should be aware this time, in case a Greek Hitler appears.”

*Image: Abbot Methodius at the rally. Photo credit: Sophia Christoforidou*



## VIII. 7. MARCH: VICKI KIRBY (UNITED KINGDOM)



Vicki Kirby, UK Labour Party member, was suspended in February for the second time, pending an investigation into a series of antisemitic tweets.

Derogatory comments about Jewish people included the suggestion, on Twitter, that Hitler was a 'Zionist God' and that Jews have big noses. Ms Kirby also wondered why ISIS has not attacked "the real oppressors". Another tweet from 2014 stated: "We invented Israel when saving them from Hitler, who now seems to be their teacher."

Because of these antisemitic tirades, Ms Kirby was first suspended in 2014, when she was running as a Labour candidate in Woking. After an investigation, she was

reinstated with a warning about her future conduct. Ms Kirby was then appointed chair of Woking Labour Party's executive committee.

Ms Kirby was suspended for the second time last March, following the [antisemitism row](#) within the Oxford University Labour Club (OULC) and several requests to Labour to take actions against antisemitism in the party.



## VIII. 8. APRIL: BDS ACTIVISTS (FRANCE)



In April, the Court of first instance of Montpellier (France) [condemned two BDS activists](#) (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement) for "incitement and Holocaust denial". The case dates back to August 2014: Saadia Ben Fakha, 26, and Husein Abu-Zaid, 58, members of "BDS France 34", the local branch located in Hérault, South of France, have shared on their public Facebook accounts a photomontage comparing Israeli army to the Nazis. They also published these comments: "Nazis and Zionists are the two faces of the same coin" and "What Hitler has made to the Jews: it was done intentionally for giving them rights and making them look appealing to the world". On their Facebook pages, there were also public photos of

dead Israeli soldiers with antisemitic comments, and photos of "quenelle" behind Jewish names of streets or cities.

The Montpellier local committee of the LDH ([Ligue des droits de l'Homme](#) – Human rights League), which often participate in BDS activities, discovered the Holocaust-denial posting and requested its removal. However, the BDS movement did not explicitly condemn it until LDH turned to justice, and even then absolved their activities of all responsibility. During their trial, both of them reiterated to be subject of a bad judgement and judicial harassment.

The Court's sentence of the 6th of April is clear: a €30,000 fine and the two activists will have to pay one symbolic euro in damages to each civil parties that joined the case: the LDH, the Licra, France-Israël association, MRAP (Movement against Racism and for the Friendship between People), Lawyers without Borders and the antisemitism watchdog, the BNVCA.

Launched in 2005, the BDS is a global movement of boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel coordinated by the Palestinian BDS National Committee, active in European countries such as the United-Kingdom, Spain and France. The BDS' main objectives are: "ending its occupation and colonization of all Arab lands occupied in June 1967 and dismantling the Wall; recognizing the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality; and respecting, protecting and promoting the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN Resolution 194."

This movement has been defined as anti-Zionist for many years. However, the line between anti-Zionism, anti-Israel feelings and antisemitism is not very clear. In France, some judicial cases have underlined the presence of antisemitic activists. In October 2015, the French Court of Cassation confirmed the decision to condemn 14 BDS activists for the offense of "incitement to discrimination, to hatred or to violence against a person or a group of persons on grounds of origins or belonging to any ethnic group, nation, race or on account of religion or lifestyle."

*Image: BDS banners in the main square of Montpellier, France.*



## VIII. 9. MAY: SFR EMPLOYEES (FRANCE)



Two employees of SFR, one of the main French telecommunications companies, have been suspended after making antisemitic and sexist insults against customers on Periscope. On the 31st of May 2016, two men working at the SFR shop in Antony, in the southern suburbs of Paris, made a video on the live video streaming app Periscope. They uploaded it in a channel named “Petit Poney” in reference to the French comedian [Dieudonné’s](#) shows. First, one of the two employees referred to a customer as a “Jewish bastard” to the hilarity of the “cameraman”, another SFR employee. They then criticised a woman passing on the street saying she was “mid-hooker, half-

subject” in reference to the French feminist movement Ni Putes Ni Soumises (“Neither whores nor submissive”).

With a tweet, Licra quickly brought the video to the attention of SFR. The company replied distancing itself from the behavior of the two employees and publicly informing Licra that the two employees were suspended. “Hi! SFR rejects those remarks. The perpetrators were identified and laid off”, said the company. The video has since been removed from Periscope but is still visible on Dailymotion.

It was not the first time that a Periscope video caused controversy. In February, the Paris St Germain football player Serge Aurier [was filmed making homophobic insults](#) against his coach Laurent Blanc and other PSG players. In March, another clip of two SFR employees setting fire to a customer’s laptop was also broadcast on Periscope. A month ago, in the city of Bordeaux, a man on the street was [filmed being physically attacked](#). The perpetrators, two teenagers, planned the aggression with the intention to live stream it on Periscope.

Periscope, launched by Twitter in 2015, has become very popular in France. A cross between YouTube and Twitter, it allows its users to live broadcast and live watch videos worldwide, as well as replay the live streams on the web for up to 24 hours after the broadcast. Live-streaming videos have become the latest bastion of bullying and harassment on the internet. In June, Periscope has introduced a new method of reporting abuse and spam in the comments section of a broadcast. With the new tool, people watching the broadcast can flag offensive comments, then a small group of randomly selected live viewers will vote on whether they agree. If the majority decides that the comment is abuse or spam, the perpetrator will be temporarily suspended from chat.

## VIII. 10. JUNE: WORKERS’ UNION PRESIDENT (GREECE)



Dimitris Tsermenidis, president of the Workers Union for the Organization of Urban Transportation in Thessaloniki, is under fire for a number of antisemitic statements he made during a Union assembly on 24 June 2016.

Voria.gr reports that Tsermenidis stated that “God created the Jews by mistake, who afterwards killed Jesus Christ” and expressed his regret for the fact that “unfortunately Hitler did not finish his work”.

The Union president also made derogatory statements against Avraam Benaroya, the Jewish co-founder of “Federacion”. Federacion, founded in the early 1900, is the first workers’ union in Thessaloniki and

the hall of the Workers’ Union Center where the assembly took place was named in his honour.

When, later on, Tsermenides denied that he made these antisemitic statements, he was caught making a new one: «The only thing I said is that God made Jews and they crucified Christ. Majorities crucified Christ just as they burned Copernicus».

The Bus Owners Association of Thessaloniki and the Workers Union “Anatropi” condemned Tsermenidis’s words. According to Anatropi’s spokesperson, Tsermenidis speaks against Jews almost in every general assembly of the Union and in many meetings of the Board. One more Union group, ΔΑΣ, (DAS), also confirmed Tsermenidis made these statements.

The Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece released a statement condemning this incident of antisemitic speech and praising the groups that promptly reacted:

“We believe that we must never underestimate or overlook any manifestation of antisemitism, regardless of its extent or intensity. The condemnation must be immediate and unequivocal. In this spirit, we are satisfied that Mr Tsermenidis’ insults were not left unanswered. Specifically, both the Bus Owners Association of Thessaloniki and the Workers Union “Anatropi” strongly condemned these statements, proving that our fellow citizens have developed sensitive reflexes against anti-Semitism.

The Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece will never be tired of condemning every antisemitic incident of offensive speech. We will keep on doing this, believing that in this way not only we defend our community, but the society as a whole, as well as democracy”.



## Further reading & links

- Abravanel, the blog  
[www.abravanel.wordpress.com](http://www.abravanel.wordpress.com)
- Antisemitisme.be  
[www.antisemitisme.be](http://www.antisemitisme.be)
- CEJI – A Jewish Contribution to an Inclusive Europe  
[www.ceji.org](http://www.ceji.org)
- Center for Independent Journalism: Független Média Központ  
[www.cij.hu](http://www.cij.hu)
- Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece  
[www.kis.gr/en](http://www.kis.gr/en)
- Community Security Trust (CST)  
[www.cst.org.uk](http://www.cst.org.uk)
- The Coordination Forum for Countering Antisemitism (CFCA)  
[www.antisemitism.org.il](http://www.antisemitism.org.il)
- Everyday antisemitism  
<http://everyday.antisemitism.uk>
- Get the Trolls Out  
[www.getthetrollsout.org](http://www.getthetrollsout.org)
- International Network Against Cyberhate (INACH)  
[www.inach.net](http://www.inach.net)
- ISCA  
[www.isca-org.com](http://www.isca-org.com)
- Ligue belge contre l'antisémitisme  
[www.lbca.be](http://www.lbca.be)
- Ligue internationale contre le racisme et l'antisémitisme (LICRA)  
[www.licra.org](http://www.licra.org)
- Maszhisz  
[www.mazsihisz.hu](http://www.mazsihisz.hu)
- Media Diversity Institute (MDI)  
[www.media-diversity.org](http://www.media-diversity.org)
- Service de protection de la communauté juive  
[www.antisemitisme.fr](http://www.antisemitisme.fr)
- Symbiosis  
[www.symbiosis.org.gr](http://www.symbiosis.org.gr)
- UK media watch  
[www.ukmediawatch.org](http://www.ukmediawatch.org)







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