



ההסתדרות הציונית העולמית
World Zionist Organization

המחלקה למאבק באנטישמיות ולחוסן הקהילות בתפוצות | Department for Combating Antisemitism & Enhancing Resilience

The Department for Combating Antisemitism & Enhancing Resilience

Department Head: Raheli Baratz Rix

About the Department

The Department for Combating Antisemitism and Enhancing Resilience operates in the sphere of formal and informal education to eradicate antisemitism and bolster the resilience of Diaspora Jewish communities.

Target audiences: Jewish and non-Jewish organizations, with an emphasis on educational institutions around the world, youth organizations and movements, Jewish institutions, student organizations, Jewish communities, and Zionist federations. There is a strong emphasis on activity and awareness-raising regarding the delegitimization of Israel.

Main activity locations: Europe, South America, North America.

Department objectives for 2023

- Raise awareness of antisemitism among young people, and to increase their involvement in efforts to eradicate it.
- Strengthen cooperation with opinion leaders around the world
- Lead projects in the sphere of community resilience
- Serve as a knowledge hub on antisemitism and identifying trends
- Combat Israel's delegitimization.

Main Department Activities During the Report Period

Enhancing resilience and Jewish-Israeli identity

In collaboration with Limmud, conferences have been held over the past two years in several locations around the world, including Warsaw, Berlin, Baku, Lublin, and Israel. The Baku conference was the first Jewish studies conference held in Azerbaijan, and drew 300 participants. Dozens of meetings were held in the course of the conference, including a discussion of the state of antisemitism past and present, and what we should do to fight it. With the aid of these conferences, we are deepening our relationship with the communities and bolstering their resilience.

Don't Preach to the Choir

As part of the Department's educational activity, several programs to raise awareness of the importance of fighting antisemitism were carried out with non-Jewish audiences:

1. Mexican educators' delegation – The Department hosted a delegation of school principals and educational staff trainers from across Mexico (including personnel from Catholic schools). The delegation members traveled to Germany, Poland, and Israel. The project was implemented in cooperation with Universidad Hebraica. Discussions were held with the participants about the current rise of antisemitism in Latin America and around the world, and about how to raise awareness of the fight against antisemitism.
2. Student exchanges in the framework of delegations marking the 50th anniversary of the murder of the 11 Israeli athletes. As part of a collaboration between Wingate College and the Technical University of Munich, 15 German students came to Israel to get to know the country. The students participated in the inauguration of the Maccabi games. A reciprocal visit of Israeli students to Munich included a bicycle ride in the Munich Massacre victims' memory, as well as participation in a ceremony in the presence of the Chancellor and President of Germany.



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3. Delegation of clerics from Guatemala and Argentina – A delegation of evangelicals came for a tour of Israel and to see “first-hand” the conflicts unique to it.
4. Delegation of Romanian students – A thousand pupils from across Romania participated in an essay contest on combatting antisemitism and commemorating the Holocaust. Outstanding essay awards were presented for 21 essays at a ceremony in Bucharest, which also marked 1700 years of Romanian Jewry. The ceremony was attended by the Romanian minister of education and culture and by European ambassadors and diplomats.
The 21 award winners came to Israel for a first-time visit, which included seminars on antisemitism and community resilience.

[Research on antisemitism, Australia](#)

A first study of its kind in Australia encompassed 33 universities across the continent and looked at the scope and forms of antisemitism. The study investigated the experiences and sentiments of Jewish students, and offered a previously unfamiliar, unreported picture of everyday antisemitism.

[Annual conference on combatting delegitimization, Israel](#)

The first annual conference on coping with the challenges of BDS and raising awareness of the issue in Israel was held at ANU - Museum of the Jewish People. The conference featured senior figures whose work pertains to the topic of delegitimization, enabling participants to hear a variety of opinions during the course of the conference. Speakers included: Professor Alan Dershowitz, Justice Hanan Melcer, Judge Oded Modrick, academics, journalists, and others.

[Education and culture](#)

Out of an understanding that books remain as community testimony, we support and encourage the publication of books relevant to the Department’s programs and agenda. Among the books that we supported over the past year was *AAA – A Brief and Visual History of Antisemitism*.

The Department participated in the publication of a memorial book for the 11 victims of the Munich Massacre, written by family members. Another book, *The List*, enumerates and reviews antisemitic events of past years. The Department also published the book *We-They*, a collection of short stories about Jewish-Zionist women written by Dan Vaknin.

Another book written by the Department is *Grandpa’s Goal*, which looks at an experience with a national dimension that connects our here-and-now identity with the history that shaped it. The aim was to produce an accessible book full of color and vitality that would deal with antisemitism while also conveying universal messages of accepting people as they are, and emphasizing the damage caused by antisemitism and the failure to accept the other.



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Department Activity During the Swords of Iron War

Monitoring antisemitism worldwide

The Department continuously monitors and gathers antisemitic content that appears on social media and in print and filmed/photographic media. Content is monitored in several languages: Hebrew, English, Arabic, Persian, Russian, and others. Antisemitic events have increased since October 7th by hundreds to thousands of percentage points. Violent incidents and vandalism have increased by over 500%, while on social media there has been a 1000% rise in antisemitic discourse, including calls for violence and the

denial of Israel's right to exist. As part of its efforts in this sphere, the Department produces weekly and monthly reports that summarize the main antisemitic events for Knesset members, government ministers, and communities abroad.



You're Next campaign

Social media campaigns, including a worldwide effort in which we conveyed to the free world the message that "You're Next." The campaign was created for 20 different cities and disseminated on social media as well.

Monitoring and reporting on antisemitism on social media

This international program monitors and reports on antisemitic content in the online space, along with the movement to combat antisemitism on the Internet. As part of the collaboration with the Department, dozens of webinars were held for hundreds of participants from across the globe, speakers of dozens of different languages. When the workshops conclude, the participants become activists with universal tools that enable them to operate creatively as they post content on social media, fight antisemitism, and raise awareness of the issue. This puts them on the front lines of the digital battle.

As of December 2023, there are over 3000 such activists.

During the first month of the war, 34,000 antisemitic posts (per the IHRA definition) were reported on nine different platforms. Content is being monitored in eight languages, including English (47%), Russian (27%), French (12%), and Arabic (9.5%).

Hasbara on antisemitism in wartime – what can and can't be said – FAQ pamphlet

The international legal arena has become a major battleground for Israel and the Jewish people, whether the issue at hand is the threat of terrorism, rising antisemitism, BDS, or attempts to delegitimize the Jewish state. The increase in antisemitic incidents is having a dramatic impact on everyday life in Diaspora Jewish communities. In cooperation with the International Legal Forum, pamphlets were written in English and Spanish answering major questions that arise in international discourse. Among the questions: Who is Hamas? Does international law give Israel the right to defend itself? Are Israeli actions proportionate? Can Israel strike civilian targets? Is it permissible for Israel cut off electricity, fuel, food, or water to Gaza? [Click here for the pamphlet.](#)

Additionally, 10 English-language videos were disseminated to convey accurate and important information on a number of issues pertaining to the fight against antisemitism and the legality of the war. One is an animated video explaining the massacre, the abductions, and the inception of Swords of Iron. Other videos are concerned with the issue of legality, including Israel's legal status, what the law says about Hamas's use of civilians as human shields, and more. All of the videos are accessible and visually "clean," without disturbing images, and suitable for ages 15 and over. [Click here for one of the videos.](#)



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[WZO compound at the Pan-American Maccabi games, Buenos Aires, Argentina](#)

In late December 2023/early January 2024, as part of the Maccabi games in Argentina, the Department set up a compound where educational empowerment activity was provided on the topics of connection to Israel and raising awareness of the current situation and the recent massacre. Many delegations from a large number of countries, including the US, Canada, Brazil, Mexico, Chile, Uruguay, Argentina, Panama, France, the UK, and Israel, took part in activities at the compound. A number of stations were set up, including ones dealing with the October 7th events, a Yizkor (memorial) station with the names and pictures of those murdered and abducted, an active Nova station, and a station for sending letters to Gaza Perimeter residents and soldiers.

[HaGal Sheli \(My Wave\) – Creating Waves of Hope, Israel](#)

The Department began collaborating with HaGal Sheli (an organization that empowers youth through surfing) in 2022, conducting surfing activities to empower at-risk teens and return them to educational frameworks. In the wake of October 7th, the Department conducted joint activities with HaGal Sheli that included support for 6 groups of young people aged 12-18 from localities on the confrontation line, the Sha'ar HaNegev and Eshkol regional councils, as well as survivors of the Nova festival. Together, the young people surf and receive support and assistance from the organization's counselors.

A word before you move on ... Anyone who has experienced antisemitism or needs support and/or guidance, is welcome to contact us at an e-mail address created especially in response to the sharp rise in antisemitic incidents worldwide:

care4u@wzo.org.il

