



ANTI-SEMITIC HATE SPEECH IN CENTRAL EUROPE

CURRENT TRENDS AT THE ONLINE SPHERE



This project is funded by the Rights, Equality and
Citizenship Programme of the European Union (2014-2020)

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CONTENT

Case Slovakia	2
Case Poland	6
Case Hungary	9
Case Czech Republic	12

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SLOVAKIA

General data on hate speech/hate crime in Slovakia

In the case of Slovakia, it is difficult to find any data general or more specific connected to hate speech or hate crime in the country. There are limited sources which are available from the police department, however Slovakia regularly reports police data and data on sentencing to ODIHR (Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights), which are available online. Slovakia's criminal code includes substantive offences and a specific penalty-enhancement clause affixed to a large number of base offences. Sentencing data only comprise hate crimes, police data also include hate speech offences. Data is collected by the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Justice and the Prosecutor's Office. Other sources, which amend the data available from official sources are data from NGO's, activists of individuals dealing with this topic. According to official reports, there is rapid increase in the cases in last couple of years from 3 hate crimes recorded by police in 2014 to 266 recorded in 2018.

Table 1: Hate crime reporting in Slovakia

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2018	266	130	13
2017	34	16	10
2016	10	9	3
2015	6	30	2
2014	3	Not available	4

Source: ODIHR: Hate Crime Reporting, 2019

In addition to this data there is some incidents reported by other sources there was in total 11 incidents reported in 2018. Four of them had character of racism and xenophobia, three had character of Bias against Roma and Sinti and four of them were bias against Muslims. However, we cannot guarantee how precise these data are since in different sources especially in comments and interviews given by the police representatives the number of these cases differ.

The hate speech and hate crime doesn't have specific placement in the monthly police statistics and they are defined under the section 423 and under the section 424 of Criminal Code of the Slovak republic. According to this there were 131 cases reported by the police department, which does not comply with the statistic showed previous . However, we choose in our report and further research to rely on the official

international statistics collected by the ODIHR. There is not a clear number of how many of these accidents had antisemitic roots.

According to the speaker of Slovak police is the hate speech and hate crime significantly moving to the online sphere, especially to Facebook (37 cases from 42). Most of these cases are reported for using and posting the right-extremist symbols and showing the sympathy to nondemocratic regimes. Another reason was publishing the violent and hate comment towards minorities. The significant rise of the hate speech on the internet was reported especially after murder of Filipino Henry Acorda in May 2018 in the centre of Bratislava.

Protection, prevention and punishment in laws

This crime raised many emotions and responses since the murder was at the start considered as racially motivated, which created an environment of hate against the foreigners and also hate against followers and supporters of extreme-right movements. As we mentioned above hate speech and hate crime is mainly included in sections 423 and 424 of Criminal Code of the Slovak republic. Section 423 focuses on Defamation of Nation, Race and Belief, where any person who publicly defames any nation, its language, any race or ethnic group, or any individual or a group of persons because of their affiliation to any race, nation, nationality, complexion, ethnic group, family origin, religion, or because they have no religion, shall be liable to a term of imprisonment of one to three years. The offender shall be liable to a term of imprisonment of two to five years if he commits the offence with at least two more persons, in association with a foreign power or foreign agent, in the capacity of a public official, under a crisis situation, or by reason of specific motivation.

Section 424 describes National, Racial and Ethnic Hatred, where any person who publicly threatens an individual or a group of persons because of their affiliation to any race, nation, nationality, complexion, ethnic group, family origin or their religion, if they constitute a pretext for threatening on the aforementioned grounds, by committing a felony, restricting their rights and freedoms, or who made such restriction, or who incites to the restriction of rights and freedoms of any nation, nationality, race or ethnic group, shall be liable to a term of imprisonment of up to three years. The same sentence as shall be imposed on any person who associates or assembles with others with a view to committing the offence referred above. The offender shall be liable to a term of imprisonment of two to six years if he commits the offence in association with a foreign power or foreign agent, in public, by reason of specific motivation, in the capacity of a public official, in the capacity of a member of an extremist group, or under a crisis situation.

The section 424 also includes the section 424a which refers to Incitement, Defamation and Threatening to Persons because of their Affiliation to Race, Nation, Nationality, Complexion, Ethnic Group or Family Origin, where any person publicly incites to violence or hatred

SLOVAKIA

against a group of persons or an individual because of their affiliation to any race, nation, nationality, complexion, ethnic group, family origin or their religion, if they constitute a pretext for the incitement on the aforementioned grounds, or defames such group or individual, or threatens them by exonerating an offence that is deemed to be genocide, a crime against humanity or a war crime under Articles 6, 7 and 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, or an offence that is deemed to be a crime against peace, a war crime or a crime against humanity under Article 6 of the Statute of the International Military Tribunal annexed to the Agreement of 8 August 1945 for the Prosecution and Punishment of the Major War Criminals of the European Axis, if such crime was committed against such group of persons or individual, or if a perpetrator of or abettor to such crime was convicted by a final and conclusive judgement rendered by an international court, unless it was made null and void in lawful proceedings, publicly denies or grossly derogates such offence, if it has been committed against such person or individual, shall be liable to a term of imprisonment of one to three years. The offender shall be liable to a term of imprisonment of two to five years if he commits the offence by reason of specific motivation .

Definition of antisemitism is according to current political representatives is sufficiently ensured by current legislation. Antisemitism therefore can be referred to section 424a, which includes the denial and approval of Holocaust, crimes against political regimes and crimes against humanity. Other criminal offences of extremism can be find under Section 421, expression of sympathy for movements directed at the suppression of fundamental rights and freedoms under Section 422, production of extremist materials under Section 422a, distribution of extremist materials under Section 422b, possession of extremist materials under Section 422c, denial or approval of the holocaust and the crimes of political regimes and the crimes against humanity under Section 422d.

Less serious form of antisemitic behaviour are rated as offence of extremism (§ 372/1990 c.c). National Council of Slovak Republic, however adopted in 28th of November 2018 definition of antisemitism used by International Holocaust Remembrance Association explaining the antisemitism as: "Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities ." This definition is however, not legally binding. Legal system of Slovak republic currently use the term antisemitism in three legal acts. In the legal act on donations, where is the prevention of antisemitism part of the aims of the human rights grant scheme of Ministry of Justice. Secondly it is included in the legal act on establishment of Slovak National Human Rights centre, which is according to law obliged to collect information on racism, xenophobia and antisemitism. Last one is the legal act on antifascist resistance, the role and position of Slovak Union of antifascist fighters, which says that the role of the Union is to publicly oppose extreme forces promoting nationalism, chauvinism, racism, antisemitism, neofascism, neofascism and xenophobia .

Responsible for investigating suspected hate incidents in Slovakia is National Antiterrorism Unit (NAKA), which is the division of National Criminal Agency. Part of the NAKA is also extremist screening centre, focusing on searching, monitoring and analysing of serious acts of extremism, racism and xenophobia in the online sphere. There is also email address where the hate speech can be reported (extrem@minv.sk), these are sent directly to the screening centre and if they are considered as extremists, they will be passed to another police officer who take a further action. Police department is also cooperating with some ethical hackers and also with several NGOs (for example DigiQ).

Active Civic Organisations in Slovakia

There are several civic organizations active in this area, however not many of them are focusing specifically on the antisemitic hate speech. Their focus is more general as they deal with the hate speech/hate crime as whole complex problem and do not distinguish between its form. Generally the focus is put mostly on the young people – students as one of the most vulnerable group facing and not being able to distinguish hate speech and hate crime in the online sphere. For example we can mention project of eSlovensko o.z called Nehejtuj,sk, which is multimedia project for students, teachers and institutions dealing with kids and youth through documentary movies and emotions about different kind of hate. This NGO is also creator of the project zodpovedne.sk dealing with the secure and responsible use of the internet, mobile phones and new technologies. Other organizations dealing with this topic in Slovakia and which we consider are worth to mention are VIA IURIS, People in Need Slovakia, Iuventa, Open Society Foundation, Bratislava Policy Institute, Digi Q, Amnesty International Slovensko and Institute for Public relations. We could also mention several projects such as School without hate, Live against Hate Speech, Young against fascism, No Hate Speech Movement, Stop hate against Roma, Young without hate, diskriminacia.sk or One World Film Festival. Even though none of these deals specifically with the topic of Anti-Semitic hate speech, their activities focuses on advocacy, prevention, elimination and fight against hate speech and hate crime online.

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POLAND

General data on hate speech/hate crime in Poland

The most important fact in the case of hate speech and hate crime in Poland, is that people are afraid of warning law enforcement. Polish Ombudsman admits that only 5% of such crimes are announced and this is the only way to start an investigation. According to the survey (conducted on the initiative of the Ombudsman), 49% of respondents admitted that the reason of discrimination in Poland may be ethnic origin or nationality. Some of hate crimes are ex officio prosecuted (by police forces and Prosecutor's Office), but still some of them are not and require individual notification. As we can see in the table below, the amount of officially reported hate crimes still increases. But it is hard to say, how many of them ended up with a penalty. There's a lack of such statistics.

Table 2: Hate crimes in Poland 2014-2017 (officially available data)

Year	Amount of officially noted crimes
2014	1365
2015	1548
2016	1631
2017	1708

Source: National Prosecutor's Office

There are some institutions and organizations which are mostly focused on reporting hate crimes in Poland. They keep lists, which are regularly updated and published at the end of each year. There are noted examples of hate crimes as: individual or group attacks on minorities, cases of devastation of property (public or private ones), hate speech in real life or online. There is report (published in the framework of project "Hate Speech Alert" 2014-2016) press research report on hate speech in public sphere in 2014.

Never More Association notes any cases of hate crimes motivated by racism, xenophobia or homophobia in Poland from 1996. They publish a report every year about current situation and short description of each case. This list is called "Brown Book", the last was published this year and contains incidents that occurred in 2019. The other base of incidents motivated by hate is made by "Association Open Republic - Against Antisemitism and Xenophobia". There is special field where anyone can report hate crime cases and due to free access, everyone can see which and how many cases were noted. Authors provided space for such data

as: details of the declarant (you can stay anonymous if needed), date, localization of an incident, type of intervention by state authorities and category of each case (e.g. antisemitism, xenophobia etc.).

Protection, prevention and punishment in laws

The unified definition of hate crimes or hate speech does not exist in Polish codes of law. There are few acts which regulate speech freedom cases or personal attacks on anybody according to nationality or origin. The most important act is Constitution (from 2.04.1997) which protects freedom of speech and provides legal protection for all citizens (Articles 31. and 54.). Any other codes are related to general provisions included in the Constitution.

The Civil Code (from 23.04.1964) contains provisions on the infringement of personal rights (Articles 23. and 24.), but in this case one must report any case of crime alone without ant support from police forces. The Penal Code (from 06.06.1997) contains provisions on verbal insult, insulting religious feelings, promotion of totalitarian regimes (Articles 212., 216., 190., 196., 256., 257.). The Article no. 256 is especially important because it says about hate motivated by national, ethnic, racial or religious prejudice. This is punishable by a fine, restriction of liberty or imprisonment of up to 2 years. The last significant act is Act on the provision of services by electronic channels (from 18.07.2002) – it regulates rights and responsibilities of virtual broadcasters (e.g. social communication platforms).

Active Civic Organisations in Poland

Hate speech, as well as other crimes motivated by hate, is in a research sphere of many institutions, mainly NGOs, but not only. The most important in Polish case is Centre for Research Prejudice , which works for Faculty of Psychology on Warsaw University. They are academic research centre and they hire or involve experts in prejudice, hate speech, hate crime or other issues connected with xenophobia, racism or homophobia. The most important publications (from Comance perspective) come from 2014 and 2016. These papers are about hate speech in Poland towards the most popular minorities in the Polish society: Jews, Roma, refugees, feminists, Muslims or Ukrainians. Moreover, they did research not only on attitudes towards many minorities, but also on reasons and consequences of such hate speech. Centre for Research Prejudice do regular prejudice surveys and any other projects connected with study on discrimination among different groups, which live in Poland: ethnic, national, sexual. All research and publications they did or information about their activity or team can be found on: <http://cbu.psychologia.pl/en/intro/>. The last report on Antisemitism in Poland comes from 2017.

Many organizations base on research done by the Center for Research Prejudice. They make their own publications or training programs available mostly online and being prepared in an attractive visual form. There are

POLAND

many initiatives which are dedicated to fight against hate crimes in Poland. Some projects were made under the program “Citizens for Democracy” funded by EOG. However, the data available on many sites is outdated because of the program duration (2014-2016). That is why we can read only the archive reports, but some supplements like training programs, instructions for users etc. are timeless. It is worth to say also about the reason, why there were so many anti hate speech projects and initiatives in 2016 – it is a reference to an incident, which was very popular in Polish agenda those days. During anti-immigrant manifestation a Jewish puppet had been burned. It catalysed an nationwide discussion about antisemitism and hate crimes in general.

Due to program “Citizens for Democracy” there were made special initiatives to fight against hate crime in Poland. It is worth to nice one of them especially - a project whose final product is dedicated to the hate speech issue website . There one can find not only base information about this phenomenon, but also reports on research, definitions, legal basis, educational materials or other initiatives provided in Poland or abroad. There one disadvantage of that project – its duration was only two years (from 2014 to 2016) and the database is a little bit outdated. But still one can refer to campaign held in 2015 #StopMowieNienawiści (translation: Stop Hate Speech) or any other materials and drafts.

There are also any other interesting projects to fight against hate speech, for instance dedicated website, made only for reporting cases of hate speech online. The aim is to block hateful statements in the online debate . In the educational and preventing perspective there are provided some attractive projects too. Interkulturalni PL Association and Dialog-Pheniben Foundation published handbooks for political and media environments. There are included instructions how to detect and prevent spreading hate speech . Both of them were published in the framework of project “Hate Speech Alert”. Other activities in the case of fighting against hate speech through education makes Museum of the History of Polish Jews “Polin” (especially Antisemitism) and Humanity in Action Poland Foundation..

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HUNGARY

General data on hate speech/hate crime in Hungary

In a recent study , gathering data from 2014-2016 on hate crime and speech, we see reducing numbers. Registered hate crime offenses lowered from 33 (2014) to 30 (2016), this is in correlation with the new Criminal Code of 2012, which qualifies these offenses differently than before. In total, registered cases of hate speech also lowered from a total of 67 (2014) to 38 (2016). However it is important to note, that in this study, five Budapest based NGO-s were asked (Háttér Society (Háttér Társaság), Hungarian Civil Liberties Union (Társaság a Szabadságjogokért), Hungarian Helsinki Committee (Magyar Helsinki Bizottság), Action and Defense Foundation (Tett és Védelem Alapítvány) Amnesty International Hungary (Amnesty International Magyarország) on the topic, and all of them stated that numbers don't reflect the truth. According to them, hate speech incidents in particular are registered only in extreme cases, making the number registered about 10-13 % of all cases. They also stated, that Jews are not the number one target for hate crimes in Hungary, however they are very often subject to hate speech.

Other sources corresponding with that say, that hate crimes against Jews have been declining, the Act and Protection Foundation (Tett és Védelem Alapítvány) monitored 32 cases in the year 2018, from which 19 was hate speech. They detected 37 the year before. This organization monitors media, and detect crimes committed motivated by hate, or actions, not illegal, driven by hate toward Jewish people. Focusing specifically on hate speech, according to this foundation, hate speech has been declining as well since 2016, where they detected 37, in 2017 24, and as stated above in 2018 19.

In a recent study published this year it can be concluded, that anti-Semitism, not just in hate speech nor crimes, but as a whole problem, shows very slight changes in the Hungarian society. In 2010, there was a significant rise in disliking Jewish people, which can be linked with Jobbik, a far-right wing political party gaining popularity. However, in recent years there is not much change: we can say that some form of anti-Semitism can be found in one third of the population. As this study, conducted in 2017 shows in general, Hungarian anti-Semitism is not very visible, it is hard to measure current hatred toward Jewish people, because it does not manifest in huge demonstrations, rather the internet can be a place for anti-Semitic voices to find their ways.

Protection, prevention and punishment in laws

In Hungarian law, the term „hate speech” is not included in legislative matters, however there are a number of elements in the legal system that have direct relevance. Laws that can be linked to the topic are:

- A) The Civil Code: „provides protection for the individual against verbal abuse on the basis of belonging to a group that defines an essential part of her/his identity”
- B) The Criminal Code: includes criminal offenses in connection with hate speech: “Violation of the Freedom of Conscience and Religion, Incitement Against a Community, Open Denial of Nazi Crimes and Communist Crimes, Blasphemy of National Symbol, Use of Symbols of Totalitarianism”. The Criminal Code also lists malice aforethought as an aggravating circumstance e.g. in the case of defamation.
- C) The Fundamental Law of Hungary: freedom of speech can be practiced until the point of violating the dignity of a community
- D) Media Laws: „Prohibits media contents inciting hatred against or excluding any group” and „obliges media service providers to warn viewers or listeners of media contents that may hurt their religious or other convictions” .

According to these Media Laws it does not matter what type of media is being discussed (written or online), and they focus on societal values instead of protecting individuals. As we can see, anti-Semitism can apply to the crimes regarding religion, community, and the denial of Nazi Crimes.

Media regarding Soros

In Hungary, George Soros is also relevant in defining the political discussions. The government refers to him as an enemy, as someone who will bring immigrants to the country. This act of demonization can fuel hate and anti-Semitism. These acts are also more likely contribute to the growing hate against immigrants. Those, who associate Soros with being a Jew, and it generates negative emotions in them, stagnated at the same percentage as in the years before. However, this does not mean that the campaign about Soros has no impact on society: according to this article , Hungarian Jewish people stated that they feel the hate coming from these campaigns, and the negative effects leading to anti-Semitism. Although non-Jewish Hungarians generally do not see this link as clearly. Altogether Soros’s figure is divisive, and his representation in the state media can be a source of hate towards not just Jewish people, but immigrants too.

Active Civic Organisations in Hungary

Act and Protection Foundation, who are combating hate towards Jews, monitoring media for any hate crimes and speeches committed, to make studies . Not specifically Jewish-based, however The Hungarian Helsinki Committee, who has a mission in targeting hate crimes and

hate speech, against Jewish people as well. They are a part of an important group, gathering 5 organizations, just in the means of fighting against hate. Tom Lantos Institution, focusing on firstly Jewish, but other minority group-related topics as well, protecting their rights.

Other projects focusing on hate speech

This project, carried out by the European Commission, involving Háttér Társaság in Hungary, was focusing on targeting hate speech, and getting the owners of the online platform to remove it, and register it accordingly. In their study, out of 97 cases, 30 involved some form of anti-Semitism.

This study focuses on hate crimes in Hungary, listing typical cases as well. There are many initiatives which are dedicated to fight against hate crimes in Poland. Some projects were made under the program "Citizens for Democracy" funded by EOG. However, the data available on many sites is outdated because of the program duration (2014-2016). That is why we can read only the archive reports, but some supplements like training programs, instructions for users etc. are timeless. It is worth to say also about the reason, why there were so many anti hate speech projects and initiatives in 2016 – it is a reference to an incident, which was very popular in Polish agenda those days. During anti-immigrant manifestation a Jewish puppet had been burned. It catalysed an nationwide discussion about antisemitism and hate crimes in general.

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CZECH REPUBLIC

General data on hate speech/hate crime in Czech Republic

In the case of hate crime, we are faced with the problem that incidents are often not reported to the Czech state authorities. On the one hand, there are official police statistics recording criminal offences motivated by extremism (including antisemitism), on the other hand, we have unofficial data that are different from the official ones, but suffers from both, underreporting and methodological problems. According to Czech police statistics, in 2018, offenses with an antisemitic context represented 8,4% of the total number of crimes having an extremist context.

Table 3: Offenses with an antisemitic context reported by the Police of the Czech Republic

Year	Recorded criminal offences
2012	9
2013	15
2014	45
2015	47
2016	28
2017	27
2018	15

Source: Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, 2019.

Additionally, Czech police data that are collected by the Informatics and Analytical Centre of the Criminal Police and the Investigation Service of the Police Presidium, the Analytical and Legislative Department of the Supreme Public Prosecutor's Office and the Informatics Department of the Ministry of Justice is transposed into official statistics of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR).

Table 4: Hate crime reporting in the Czech Republic (ODIHR)

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2014	24	32	41
2015	64	20	29
2016	49	30	72
2017	47	29	44
2018	46	47	43

Source: ODIHR: Hate Crime Reporting, 2019.

In addition to official police statistics, unofficial statistics from two non-profit organizations are also available. A non-profit organisation In IUSTITIA (see also below) is dedicated to monitoring bias-motivated violence singling out antisemitic hate crimes particularly. The cases recorded in the quarterly reports are those registered by In IUSTITIA employees during fieldwork and media and Internet monitoring. Furthermore, some cases were reported directly by victims or by witnesses. Prejudice is identified in this report as preliminary (and expert). In IUSTITIA seeks to verify incidents recorded by itself, in particular in cooperation with law enforcement authorities. However, the data remain inaccurate due to the methodology and above mentioned not-reporting.

Second important source of data are annual reports of antisemitic incidents in the Czech Republic published regularly by the Federation of Jewish Communities. While in 2009 the Federation of Jewish Communities recorded 28 antisemitic incidents, in 2013 there were 169 and two years later 221. In 2018 347 antisemitic incidents were recorded. The number of antisemitic articles published on the Internet, contributions in social networks, anonymous comments and discussion posts has been growing steadily. Antisemitic hate speech on the Internet accounts for over 90 percent of all recorded incidents. Antisemitic hate speech traditionally appears on extreme right-wing sites, however, recently there are fake news websites, often pro-Kremlin, from which more than 36 percent of all recorded incidents come from. The content of the Internet contributions was dominated by false, vulgar or stereotypical claims about Jews. It is very common to find conspiracy theories about the myth of world Jewry, its control over the media, the economy, governments and other public institutions. According to the report, in 2018 there were recorded two cases of physical aggression with an antisemitic motive, three cases of vandalism of Jewish property (by antisemitic graffiti) and nine incidents involving threats of violence, harassment or insulting, targeted to a particular person due to their actual or anticipated Jewish identity. Below, a table published by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) based on the data of the Federation of Jewish Communities is reproduced.

Table 5: Numbers and types of antisemitic incidents recorded by the Federation of Jewish Communities (2008–2018)

Year	Texts, depictions, audio-visual manifestations	Physical Attacks and attacks on property	Other	Total
2008	28	3	17	48
2009	17	6	5	28
2010	31	5	11	47
2011	26	6	11	43
2012	82	6	10	98
2013	162	4	9	175
2014	209	6	38	253
2015	193	4	34	231
2018	333	5	9	347

Accurate data for 2016 and 2017 are not available.

Source: FRA: Antisemitism. Overview of data available in the European Union 2008–2018 and Federation of Jewish Communities: Reports on Manifestations of Antisemitism in the Czech Republic.

Although violent antisemitic attacks have occurred in the Czech Republic rarely, since 2015 there has been a rapid increase in antisemitic statements, articles, pictures or videos on the Internet, especially on social networks.

Protection, prevention and punishment in laws

The term hate crime is not defined in current Czech legislation. In past, terms such as crimes motivated by racial, ethnic, national or other hatred, crimes related to extremism or crimes with an extremist (or racist) overtone were used by various state authorities. Yet, the Ministry of Interior came with a definition of hate violence and specified which criminal offenses could be considered as hate crimes. Hereby, hate crimes include those committed because of the perpetrator's hate for some of the alleged or actual characteristics of the victim: race, ethnicity, nationality, political belief, religion (but sexual orientation is omitted).

Following categories of criminal offenses listed in the Czech Criminal Code (No. 40/2009 Coll.) may be perpetrated by the offender with hateful motives: criminal offenses against life and health (including murder, injury, torture and other inhuman treatment); offenses against freedom (e.g. deprivation of liberty, extortion); property crimes (damage to someone else's belongings – vandalism); offenses affecting the coexistence of the people (violence against a group of people and against an individual, defamation of a nation, race, ethnic or other group of persons, incitement to hatred of a group of people or to restrict their rights and freedoms) and crimes against humanity (genocide, attack against humanity, apartheid and group discrimination, establishing, supporting and promoting a movement aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms, showing sympathy for a movement aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms, denying, questioning, approving and justifying genocide). For other offences listed in the Criminal Code, a court shall also consider aggravating circumstances when determining a sentence if an act was committed by national, racial, ethnic, religious, class or other similar hatred.

As follows from the above, broad category of hate crimes include in fact dozens of types of criminal offences. As far as hate speech in Internet is concerned, following types of crimes should be emphasized. In case of defamation of a nation, race, ethnic or other group of persons (§ 355 of the Criminal Code) an offender shall be liable to a term of imprisonment of two years. If the crime is committed via the Internet, printed media, TV or broadcast, the term of imprisonment is increased to three years. Who uses or threatens violence against a group of individuals or individuals (§ 352) by killing, bodily harm or causing damage to a large extent because of their actual or presumed race, ethnicity, nationality, political belief, religion or because they are actually or allegedly without religion might be punished by imprisonment for six months to three years. This also applies where the act is committed via the Internet, radio, TV or other media. Incitement to hatred of a group of people or to restrict their rights and freedoms (§ 356) might be punished by imprisonment for up to two years.

This article explicitly mentions hatred for a nation, race, ethnic group, religion and class. Possible penalty increases by one year when the offender is an active member of a group that proclaims discrimination, violence or racial, ethnic, class, religious or other hatred or the offence is committed via the Internet, radio, TV or other media.

CZECH REPUBLIC

A person showing sympathy for a movement aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms (§ 404) might be punished by imprisonment for six months to three years. Movement aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms is defined by the previous paragraph of the Act as one that proclaims racial, ethnic, national, religious or class grudge or grudge against another group of people. As in previous cases, possible imprisonment increases up to ten years when the offence is committed via the Internet, radio, TV or other media. Anyone who publicly denies, disputes, approves or attempts to justify genocide (Nazi, Communist or other) or Nazi, Communist or other crimes against humanity or war crimes or crimes against peace will be punished by imprisonment for six months to three years (§ 405).

Recently, the Police of the Czech Republic, the Prosecutor General's Office, and intelligence services, with the support of experts, agreed to introduce a category of "bias-motivated hatred". A new official kind of hatred became part of the Interior Ministry's report on extremism in 2018. According to the report, manifestations of bias violence refer to such behaviour that is motivated by intolerance and social prejudice against a certain group of the population (usually groups defined by race, nationality, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, political or other thinking, social origin, etc.).

Manifestations of bias-motivated hatred are different from extremist (this concept was preferred in previous analyses of the Ministry) especially by not being associated with any totalitarian ideology (Nazism, Communism etc.). However, not all manifestations of bias-motivated hate may be recognised as a criminal offence. The term bias-motivated hatred has raised a sharp public debate, as one of the parliamentary parties has been identified in the report as playing a major role in the spread of racial, ethnic or religious hatred and intolerance.

Moreover, in the last three years, we have seen increased activity of the law enforcement authorities in combating cyber hate speech. Recently, there were several final verdicts of Czech courts in cases of racist hate speech in Facebook against a Roma singer Radek Banga and in case of a hateful comments related to a photograph of a multicultural classroom published online. Predominantly courts have found the perpetrators guilty of a criminal offense incitement to hatred of a group of people or to restrict their rights and freedoms. However, many court hearings in Banga case have resulted in different decisions (suspension, criminal offence / contravention unconditional / conditional penalties, different amounts of fines or community service). The experience of this case thus shows that it is necessary to initiate a debate over a change in the law on prosecution of several offenders against one victim.

As far as antisemitism is concerned, both chambers of the Parliament of the Czech Republic adopted in 2019 the not binding definition of antisemitism by the International Holocaust Remembrance Association. Moreover, the Chamber of Deputies passed in 2019 a resolution in which the Parliament strongly condemns all manifestations of antisemitism directed against individuals, religious institutions, organizations and the State of Israel, including Holocaust denial; rejects any questioning of the right of the State of Israel to exist and defend

itself; and condemns all activities and statements by groups calling for a boycott of the State of Israel. Furthermore, the chamber calls on the Government of the Czech Republic to firmly oppose all forms of antisemitism; step up antisemitism prevention activities; promote greater security for individuals, organizations and institutions that could be the target of antisemitic attacks; refuse financial support for movements, organizations and associations calling for boycott of the State of Israel.

In general, appropriate attention is being paid by state authorities to combat antisemitism. The Ministry of the Interior, the Police of the Czech Republic and the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic, the Jewish Museum in Prague and Chabad Prague have established a coordination center that acts as a forum where regular representatives of the Ministry of Interior, security forces, intelligence services, local government and Jewish organizations meet. In addition to the preparation of security measures, all of them participate, for example, in joint exercises.

Active Civic Organisations in Czech Republic

In the Czech Republic, the above-mentioned civic organisation In IUSTITIA (www.in-ius.cz/) addresses explicitly hate violence in all its width. In IUSTITIA, among others, brings the theme of hate violence to public awareness, professional discourse and political debate, provides legal assistance to specific individuals exposed to hate violence, deals with monitoring legislative activities, seeks to improve the practices of law enforcement in cases of hate violence and is devoted to monitoring hate crime, education and training. Thus, fight against antisemitism is an integral part of organization's mission. For instance, In IUSTITIA led a project Law against anti-Semitism: legislative loopholes and practical recommendations that was financially supported by the Endowment Fund for Holocaust Victims (www.fondholocaust.cz).

There have been also several campaigns against cyber hate speech; some of them have arisen directly from the impulse from outside, e.g. from the No Hate Speech Movement of the Council of Europe. Such initiatives include for example projects organised by the National Center Safer Internet (<https://www.ncbi.cz>, <https://bezpecne-online.saferinternet.cz>): Young against hate online, Saferinternet.cz, Positive Online Content Campaign, NoHate.Cz – a Facebook community. Identifying hate speech is also one of the main objectives of the platform The Manipulators (Manipulatori.cz), which is into some extent connected to the Facebook community Against Hate Speech (www.protinnavisti.net).

The following organisations and initiatives should be also mentioned: HateFree Culture initiative (www.hatefree.cz) run by the the Agency for Social Inclusion (under the Ministry of the Regional Development of the Czech Republic), People in Need's project Support of tolerant society in real and virtual space and Hey you! Do not hate (www.jsns.cz), Terezin Memorial, Amnesty International, One World Film Festival.

As far as antisemitism is concerned, we repeatedly have to put emphasis on the activities of the Federation of Jewish Communities (www.fzo.cz) that serves as an umbrella organization for Jewish communities and other Jewish institutions in the country. As mentioned above, the organisation publishes annually reports on antisemitic incidents in the country. Data from these final reports, although unofficial and incomplete, are regularly taken over by the media and create an overall picture of antisemitism in the Czech Republic.

**CZECH
REPUBLIC**



Blocking/Deleting (Ausblenden)

Hassrednerinnen und Hassredner
stummschalten, Hassredebeiträge
löschen/ausblenden

Diese Strategie ist in deutschen Medienhäusern
derzeit eine der gängigsten, weil zwar ein gratis-
günstigsten und unaufwändigsten - aber auch
eine der am wenigsten wirksamen - aber auch
gerade vor Redaktionen im Schulunterricht die
wichtigste Rolle im Kampf gegen Hassrede
spielt. Die Betreiber von Internetplattformen
werden bei der Bekämpfung von Hassrede
durch diese Maßnahmen unterstützt.

Ignorance

Keine Reaktion
Negativkonsequenzen
kann ebenfalls
wenn auch
an redaktionelle
begrenzt
Problem für

ANTI-SEMITIC HATE SPEECH IN CENTRAL EUROPE
CURRENT TRENDS AT THE ONLINE SPHERE