

**Motion**

**tabled by the CDU/CSU, SPD, FDP and Alliance 90/The Greens parliamentary groups**

**Resolutely combatting anti-Semitism**

The Bundestag is requested to adopt the following motion:

I. The Bundestag notes:

The German Bundestag condemns and rejects every form of anti-Semitism.

In the wake of the Shoah, in which six million European Jews were stripped of their rights and murdered, Germany bears a special responsibility in the fight against anti-Semitism. We must call out anti-Semitism, warn against it and counter it loudly and visibly.

The German Bundestag is grateful that following the National Socialist dictatorship and in spite of the Holocaust there is once again Jewish life and Jewish culture in Germany. Their existence enriches our society and, in view of our history, constitutes a special vote of trust and confidence in our democracy and our constitutional state based on the rule of law, which we wish to live up to and which should ever be our duty.

Combatting anti-Semitism is a task for the whole of society. It cannot be the task of the state alone, nor even less so the task of people of Jewish faith living in Germany. Parties and civil society organisations in particular must make it clear that there is no place for anti-Semitic views in their ranks.

The German Bundestag most recently established an expert group to combat hostility towards Jews in the 17th electoral term and tasked it with compiling a comprehensive stock-take of anti-Semitism in Germany and developing recommendations for action to prevent and counter anti-Semitism. The group, which received organisational and financial support from the Federal Ministry of the Interior, presented an extensive report towards the end of the last electoral term (Bundestag printed paper 18/11970). It makes it clear that a shameful level of anti-Semitism continues to exist in Germany. The majority of anti-Semitic offences continue to have right-wing motives, with anti-Semitic views very prevalent in right-wing extremist circles for decades now; new to the equation is increased anti-Semitism as a result of immigration from North African and broader Middle Eastern countries, in which anti-Semitism and hostility towards Israel find very fertile breeding ground. However, anti-Semitism is to be found in all political camps and is assuming new forms as anti-Zionism and hostility towards Israel.

The German Bundestag condemns any and every form of hostility towards Jews. This also includes all anti-Semitic statements and attacks which are voiced supposedly as criticism of the policies of the state of Israel, but which in fact are solely and singularly the expression of hate towards Jewish people and their religion. Calls to boycott Israel and insults towards Israel and Jews have existed in Germany for years, most recently in the anti-Israel demonstrations in December 2017 at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin. These are not acceptable. The German Bundestag strongly condemns

the burning of Israeli flags or other symbols of the state of Israel and Jewish symbols. The freedom of opinion and demonstration in Germany grants every person the right to peaceful protests but they provide no place for anti-Semitic incitement to hatred and violence. We cannot accept a situation in which Hanukkah celebrations have to be cancelled or can only take place with a massive police presence. Each and every form of anti-Semitism brings shame on us all – regardless of whether it constitutes a criminal offence or not.

The danger of heightened anti-Semitism as a result of immigration must be accorded the same level of attention as existing anti-Semitism in Germany. The Independent Group of Experts on Anti-Semitism noted in its report that anti-Semitic views and feeling is not just a problem associated with marginal groups, but that it extends all the way into mainstream society. We must resolutely counter all manifestations of anti-Semitism through education and constant dialogue – regardless of origin or religious beliefs.

We recognise and affirm the special responsibility Germany bears towards Israel as the Jewish and democratic state and towards its security. Israel's right to exist and its security are not negotiable for us.

Every individual living in Germany must be clear that there is no place for anti-Semitism in Germany. Whoever enters German territory enters the territory of the German Basic Law. Any attempt to call the dignity of a person of the Jewish faith into question calls into question the free society of our country as a whole and will not be tolerated. What we expect in terms of the integration of immigrants must therefore also be based on making the special responsibility our country has towards Jewish women and men living in Germany and the state of Israel clear. The full acceptance of Jewish life is a benchmark of successful integration. Whoever rejects Jewish life in Germany or questions Israel's right to exist will face our resolute opposition.

## II. The German Bundestag welcomes

the decision by the Federal Government of 20 September 2017 to bring the expanded working definition of anti-Semitism of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance into political circulation. With the help of this definition, various forms of anti-Semitism are highlighted, making it possible to identify and combat developments in the wrong direction at an early stage. It recommends including the expanded working definition in school and adult education as well as in training and education in the area of justice and the executive, whereby "Anti-Semitism is a certain perception of Jews which may be expressed as hatred towards 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 [...] Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity."

The German Bundestag hopes that as a result of this, further countries will approve the expanded working definition at national level and in doing so underscore their resolve and determination to combat anti-Semitism in all its manifestations.

## III. The German Bundestag calls on the Federal Government

1. to appoint an Anti-Semitism Commissioner. The Anti-Semitism Commissioner should be advised by an independent group appointed in consultation with the Federal Government Commissioner and which comprises Jewish and non-Jewish experts from the field of science and academia, educational practice and civil society. The Anti-Semitism Commissioner should focus on the following tasks:

- interministerial coordination of the Federal Government's measures to combat anti-Semitism,

- acting as contact person for the concerns of Jewish groups and societal organisations, including internationally in relation to the EU and UN,
- acting as contact person and mediator for combatting anti-Semitism at federal level, at federal state level and at civil society level,
- coordinating a standing Bund-Länder Commission with representatives of the relevant bodies,
- raising awareness in society of current and historical forms of anti-Semitism through outreach work and civic and cultural education;

2. to continue to extensively promote civil society work to tackle and counter anti-Semitism with continued support from federal funds. The Strategy to Prevent Extremism and the National Action Plan Against Racism, which the Federal Government adopted in 2016 and 2017, are important measures in the fight against anti-Semitism, too. Anti-Semitism prevention must be implemented as a constant part of the mandate of civic education work and prevention programmes. Reliability and long-term planning certainty for civil society actors must be ensured and improved, wherever possible. The aim is to make innovative and successful approaches a permanent feature of civic education structures;

3. to review criminal and assembly law to ascertain whether it provides the police and criminal prosecution authorities with sufficient means to take decisive and effective action against burning the Israeli flag or other symbols of the state of Israel in public and anti-Semitic attacks in the scope of public gatherings and processions;

4. whilst duly complying with principles of international law, to ensure that – given the change in jurisprudence on the use of symbols of unconstitutional organisations – criminal liability for incitement to hatred, in particular by denying or playing down the Holocaust, spread in Germany from abroad using the Internet continue to be subject to German criminal law;

5. to further improve the recording of anti-Semitic crimes by the security agencies. Establishing appropriate structures should make it easier for victims to report anti-Semitic crimes and subsequently reduce the number of unreported crimes. Anti-Semitic crimes should be reported specifically again in the Report on the Protection of the Constitution and the underlying motives of the offenders behind the crimes should be recorded more than they have been to date;

6. to encourage the federal states to systematically apply the possibilities provided in Section 54 (1) no. 5 of the Residence Act to foreigners inciting anti-Semitic hate. It is the will of the German Bundestag that acts by intellectual instigators constituting incitement to hatred against parts of the population and threatening peaceful coexistence be counteracted early on by this behaviour being categorised as an especially serious expulsion interest;

7. to resolutely counter the worldwide “Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions” movement. The German Bundestag condemns in the strongest possible terms the call to boycott Israeli businesses and goods as well as the application of “Don’t Buy” signs to goods from Israel. The independent judiciary has a duty to review to what extent a boycott may constitute a criminal offence, for instance incitement to hatred, and if so to impose appropriate penalties on the perpetrators;

8. to tackle the shortcomings in research highlighted in the report by the Independent Group of Experts on Anti-Semitism by expanding research funding accordingly. More and also more practice-related research projects which deal specifically both with the historical development and present-day forms of anti-Semitism and take into account both the perspectives of the non-Jewish and Jewish population are required here;

9. to review whether the curriculum of integration courses should be expanded even further in order to impart an awareness of history and the values of our free democratic order; to secure the support of mosque communities and Muslim institutions for the work to combat anti-Semitism and specifically promote projects in which they meet and engage in dialogue with Jewish partners and the providers of civic education to combat anti-Semitism; to make anti-Semitism in Germany and its various manifestations a subject addressed by the German Islam Conference;

10. to approach the federal states with the aim of further improving the exchange about and the coordination of measures to combat and prevent anti-Semitism. Many measures in the fight against anti-Semitism come under the remit of the federal states. Here, the Federal Government can usually only provide input. To improve the coordination of measures specific to federal states, the Anti-Semitism Commissioner should also assume a coordinating role for the measures at federal, federal state and municipal level. The federal states are called upon to embed their own measures to combat anti-Semitism in the state programmes for the prevention of extremism, to establish or improve educational campaigns tailored to different target groups and to engage in an exchange with the Federal Government on these;

11. to commission a study to evaluate the mode of operation and effectiveness of educational campaigns or historical-civic education by educational institutions and memorial sites on anti-Semitism and to make optimisation proposals;

12. to keep the memory and commemoration of the Holocaust alive and strengthen remembrance institutions, such as the Foundation for the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, the Jewish Museum in Berlin, the Centrum Judaicum and the memorial sites of National Socialist crimes and civil society education institutions; to provide sufficient funds for the memorial sites and historical and civic education work;

13. to continue to sufficiently support and fund the Jewish communities in Germany to enable active Jewish life in our country in the future, too;

14. whilst duly respecting the rights of the federal states, to promote the pedagogical discussion of anti-Semitism at education institutions and, in connection with this, to review in particular how attendance of memorial site seminars in this vein can be significantly expanded and promoted by the Federal Government; there also needs to be more teaching about present-day Jewish life in Germany and the special relationship between Germany and Israel needs to be intensified in the field of education as well;

15. to expand the German-Israel youth exchange programme into a Youth Association with bilateral structures and provide more funding so that young people who are interested are able to participate in an exchange;

16. to report to the German Bundestag on the progress of implementation and the assessment of the recommendations for action issued by the Independent Group of Experts on Anti-Semitism by 1 July 2019; to submit a progress report on the fight against anti-Semitism in Germany to the German Bundestag every four years in the future, which will then be the subject of a corresponding plenary debate;

17. in concert with the other Member States of the EU and the Institutions of the European Union, to develop and implement effective measures to combat anti-Semitism at European level.

IV. The German Bundestag renews its commitment

to combat any form of anti-Semitism as it emerges with the greatest resolve. Strong and diverse Jewish life enriches society and cements the solidarity among people of different faiths in our country and Europe.

Berlin, 16 January 2018

**Volker Kauder, Alexander Dobrindt and the CDU/CSU parliamentary group**

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