THE RISE OF ANTI SEMITISM ON SOCIAL MEDIA

SUMMARY OF 2016

This study was produced by the World Jewish Congress in collaboration with Vigo Social Intelligence



Introduction

The World Jewish Congress has embarked on a series of campaigns in recent years to combat the disturbing trend of anti-Semitic and hate speech taking flight on the internet, and as part of the process, set out to examine the extent to which this type of content actually appears online. The goal of this comprehensive study is to provide the more than 100 Jewish communities affiliated with the World Jewish Congress with the resources and tools to expose the reality on social media and to advocate to civil society, governments, internet companies and legislators to put a stop to this rising trend.

We commissioned the Israeli monitoring firm Vigo Intelligence to conduct this research on our behalf, and analyzed tens of millions of posts in 20 languages on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, blogs and other forums.

During its research, VIGO found that more than 382,000 anti-Semitic posts were posted to social media platforms over the course of 2016 – an average of more than 43.6 posts per hour, or one post every 83 seconds.

An overwhelming 63 percent of all anti-Semitic content online can be found on Twitter, followed by blogs, at 16 percent. Eleven percent of anti-Semitic content online was posted to Facebook, followed by Instagram with six percent, YouTube with two percent, and two percent on other forums.

The World Jewish Congress has reached out numerous times to online giants, including Amazon, Google, YouTube, and Twitter, among others, urging them to flag and remove such offensive content. Although for the most part, these companies have clear guidelines in place prohibiting certain language or material from being promoted on their sites, content in violation of these standards continues to abound.

It is the responsibility of governments, civil society, and the internet companies themselves to understand the depth of this alarming phenomenon and find solutions to reverse the trend. We hope this serves as a wake-up call to all to ensure that internet companies maintain their moral standards, eliminate egregiously offensive content, and make the digital world a safer place for all. The Rise of Anti-Semitism on Social Media

Summary of 2016

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Content Disclaimer: This publication contains violent and profane language that may be considered offensive by some readers.

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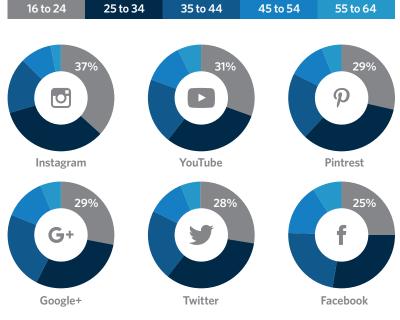
Background

Social media use around the world is growing at an exponential rate, and becoming an increasingly important part of everyday life.

In 2016, more than 2.7 billion social network users were recorded worldwide, with the average user investing 118 minutes per day on various platforms.

The most popular social network in scope (number of users and time invested) is Facebook, followed by Instagram, Pinterest, LinkedIn, and Twitter. Online social media is used by 37% of the global population, and in developed areas such as the United States and Western Europe, social networks are used by more than 80% of the population.

The age range of social network users varies according to platform, with the average age across platforms ranging from 16-44, followed by a lower percentage of users aged 45 and over.¹



Source: Global Web Index

Online social networks serve as a platform for information sourcing as well as a forum for discussions on various topics. Users are exposed to a wide variety of opinions and views on these networks, with their "feeds" featuring close friends, acquaintances, public figures, industry experts, and others. Network discussions often take place across vast geographical distances. Social networks have to a significant extent

¹ https://www.statista.com/topics/1164/social-networks/

replaced traditional media outlets as news sources, and have restructured personal interaction and informal discussion.

The average social media user is exposed daily to content from a variety of sources, usually uploaded without obstacles or filters. Such free provision of material exposes users to uninhibited forms of racism, offensive language, threats, and harassment.

Widespread exposure to social media also influences public opinion around the world. This is becoming ever more salient due to the increasing percentage of the global population using social media as a primary news source.

According to the Pew Research Center, 62% of Americans received their news via social media in 2016. Such data indicates that nearly two-thirds of Americans are influenced by the information to which they are exposed on social media, via both mainstream news sources and less reputable sources, many of which disseminate hateful, racist, and libelous claims.

The data also indicates that offensive language and attacks have become, in some instances, more prevalent online than offline. According to a 2016 report conducted by Israel's Ministry of Diaspora Affairs, there has been a recent decline worldwide in the number of anti-Semitic incidents involving serious physical violence. Conversely, there was a sharp rise in the number of anti-Semitic comments recorded in public online forums and cyberspace.

According to the ministry's report, within the last year there have also been a number of important global developments in combating anti-Semitism in cyberspace, in the form of various forms of federal political legislation adopted by different nations, international legislation measures, and policy changes enacted by technological companies and social networks around the world.

One such development is a code of conduct governing online hate discourse. In 2016, the European Commission worked with major IT providers to implement a code of conduct with the goal of recognizing and removing anti-Semitic content online. In 2015, in response to the proliferation of hate speech on its platform, Twitter established an online "safety center" to fight anti-Semitism and other forms of Internet abuse. This year, Google removed a Google Chrome extension application, Coincidence Detector, which neo-Nazi groups had been using to direct anti-Semitic hate speech against online users recognized through the algorithm as having Jewish-sounding names.

With the aforementioned trends in mind, the purpose of this study is to assess the scope and characteristics of daily anti-Semitic discourse on social networks. The study was produced in Israel and comprises data compiled by various international organizations.

Given the findings, which highlight changing trends in social media with regard to anti-Semitic discourse, it is clear that both social media companies and governmental bodies must do more to address the problem of online hate.

The findings in this study are listed according to both country and platform. It is our hope that the results of this research will prompt higher awareness about these troubling trends, succeed in providing greater security for Jewish communities, and influence relevant companies and institutions to take immediate action to combat online anti-Semitism in all its forms, both locally and globally. In the United States and Western Europe, social networks are used by more than 80% of the population.

62% of Americans received their news via social media in 2016

Methodology

In our effort to analyze online anti-Semitism, we have employed a strict definition of the term established by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) in May 2016, referring to discourse that clearly exceeds the acceptable bounds of everyday speech. The IHRA definition of anti-Semitism is as follows: "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."

In light of the IHRA's definition, we divided online anti-Semitism into five categories: 1) expressions of hatred against Jews; 2) calls to harm Jews; 3) dehumanization of Jews; 4) Holocaust denial; 5) the use of symbols traditionally associated with anti-Semitism.

While this lexicon of anti-Semitism enables us to monitor certain kinds of publicly available anti-Semitic discourse online, this study does not reflect the entirety of such speech on the Internet. For example, this study does not cover anti-Semitic discourse on closed social media profiles, websites beyond social media networks, hate speech related to Israel, and other forms of online anti-Semitism that lie outside the parameters described earlier.

Content in p2p software such as Facebook Messenger and WhatsApp was not included, nor that in private profiles or closed groups. Only public arena posts were monitored, and only those that were not deleted by social media networks during 2016.

(including offensive names such as "kike," "Zyd," "Big Nose," or specific Jews who were mentioned many Expressions times this year - such as Shimon Peres and Leonard of hatred Cohen - alongside curses and obscenities (e.g. against Jews stupid, stink, filthy, fuck, ass, and others). This section includes calls against all Jews (e.g. "All Jews stink"), calls against a specific population (e.g. "All American

This includes posts that mention Jews (see section 1) in relation to calls to violence (e.g. kicking, killing, raping, burning, and such) and direct threats (e.g. "I **Calls to** will kick you") or indirect threats (e.g. Jews should hurt Jews be eliminated).

Jews stink"), second-person calls (e.g. "You stinky

Jew"), and insulting Jews (e.g. "Stinky Jew").

This covers all posts where Jews are mentioned

Dehumanization of Jews

This includes attempts to prove that Judaism does not exist or is a diabolic/evil/abnormal sect. Most of these posts were monitored using a manual analysis of discourse about the Jewish religion, including the use of expressions such as devil, fault, evil, cult, and others. All posts that mention the Jewish faith were monitored under his category.

Holocaust denial

This includes texts claiming that the Holocaust or events that took place in it were either not real or were exaggerated. Most of these posts were monitored by a manual analysis of the discourse about the Holocaust and events that took place in it (e.g. ghettos, concentration camps, gas chambers, etc.).

Using symbols

This covers posts that include texts, logos, pictures, or symbols identified with anti-Semitism or the Holocaust that were unnecessarily used for documentation or historical purposes (e.g. using swastikas in a profile definition, adding swastikas to a post, and "Heil Hitler" calls).

In total, 382,000 posts identified as anti-Semitic were monitored over the course of 2016 on social media networks. The posts were written in or uploaded to more than 100 platforms. These were sourced primarily from the four big social networks, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube, which cover more than 80% of the discourse, in dozens of countries. The data was monitored by the international company Talkwalker in dozens of languages, including English - the leading language in online discourse as well as in 186 other languages, the most relevant being German, Russian, Spanish, Portuguese, French, Swedish, Arabic, and Chinese. This report also provides in-depth research on the 15 countries that experienced the most online anti-Semitism.

The qualitative analysis was performed based on 7.640 posts (2% of the discourse) for an accurate account of the figures vis-à-vis a qualitative inquiry of the parameters and a qualitative content analysis based on code pages. Other noted parameters included, inter alia, date of post, virality level on date of content analysis, content of post, location of post, language used in post, and writers' biographical details.

Key Findings

382,000 anti-Semitic posts were monitored in social media over the course of 2016

Overall, 382,000 anti-Semitic posts were monitored in social media over the course of 2016 which, as of February 2017, have not yet been deleted from social networks. This means that more than 1,000 such posts were published on all social media platforms daily, at an average of 43 posts per hour, or one post every 83 seconds.

Most of these anti-Semitic posts were recorded as garnering low interest and a low level of virality online. An average post is engaged by five surfers, meaning an average exposure of 50 to 100 surfers per post. This data shows that 29 million surfers were exposed to anti-Semitic discourse in 2016.

Forty-one percent of anti-Semitic discourse monitored online includes hate speech against Jews. Users employ dozens of different forms of offensive language and epithets when referring to Jews, including adjectives such as "filthy" or "stinky." Forty percent of the discourse includes the use of anti-Semitic symbols, such as the swastika, as well as expressions of sympathy for Hitler, and the meme "Gas the Jews". It should be noted that 90% of the discourse relating to these forms of hate speech were not posted by users identified as overtly anti-Semitic, nor in overtly anti-Semitic arenas: Most of the users posting such comments wrote only one or two anti-Semitic posts throughout 2016.

8% of the anti-Semitic discourse includes calls to harm Jews: 31,000 posts in 2016 - 80 posts per day, one post every 20 minutes - included a call for violence against Jews. It is important to note that these posts were not deleted from the social networks. 4% of the total anti-Semitic discourse includes Holocaust denial or claims that Jews exaggerate the Holocaust or emphasize it too much. 63% of the total anti-Semitic discourse against Jews can be found on Twitter. This is by far the leading platform for all kinds of anti-Semitism, particularly hate speech, calls to harm Jews, and the use of anti-Semitic symbols. By contrast, only 6% of the total anti-Semitic discourse was recorded on Instagram. However, since Instagram is a growing platform that is read without filters by predominantly young adults and teenagers, this level of proliferation is nevertheless worrisome.

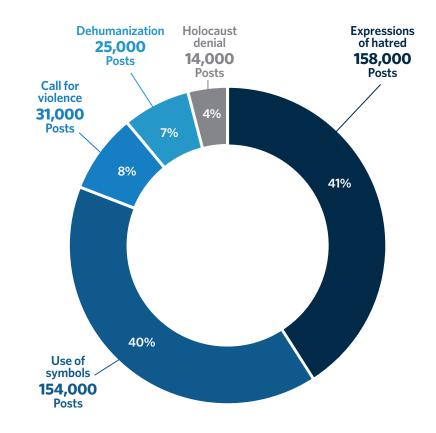
56% of anti-Semitic posts are written by men. Posts are written by people of varying age groups, with the following trend: users under 33 years of age tend to use more hate speech and calls to harm Jews, while users over 33 tend toward dehumanization of Jews and Holocaust denial.

The country with the most instances of anti-Semitism on social media is the United States, with 68% of total online anti-Semitic discourse. Such hateful comments targeted a range of minority groups, including Jews, African-Americans, the LGBT community, and others. Additional countries leading in instances of anti-Semitic online content included Germany (14% of the total global discourse, mainly use of Holocaust symbols), the UK (4%), Canada (2%), and France (1.5%). In over 30 other countries, more than 1,000 anti-Semitic posts per year were recorded (more than a quarter of a percent of the general discourse).

Against the tide of populism that has risen in the West, these findings present a worrisome picture – that racism and anti-Semitism are becoming normalized. Because of the wide reach of many of these social media platforms, hate speech online has the capacity to make ubiquitous, and even banal, utterances, threats, and slurs that would once have been considered deeply offensive.

In 2016, 3.3 million posts expressing hatred against Israel, Israelis, or the Israeli-Palestinian conflict were recorded. Such discourse was mainly written in reaction to current political events and is not divided equally over time. Many surfers who curse Israel based on its actions tend to refer to Israelis as a people that control everything and are dangerous to other people. However, this discourse does not include reference to Jews or the Jewish people and has not been included in the study.

In correspondence with the IHRA definition (see the Methodology Chapter), this study differentiates between various types of anti-Semitism online. Of the five different subcategories of online anti-Semitism monitored, expressions of hatred against Jews and the use of anti-Semitic symbols were the most prevalent, followed by calls for violence against Jews, the dehumanization of Jews, and Holocaust denial.



Types	Expressions of hatred	Use of symbols	Call for violence	Dehumanization	Holocaust denial
Twitter	116,920	92,400	22,475	8,750	1,540
Blogs	25,280	12,320	4,650	9,750	9,240
Facebook	6,320	27,720	1,550	3,750	1,820
Instagram	4,740	18,480	620	250	-
YouTube	3,160	2,310	465	1,000	140
Other	1,580	770	1,240	1,500	1,260

Types of Anti-Semitism

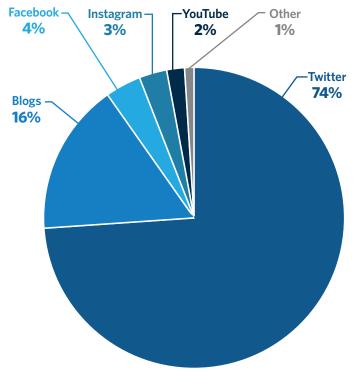
Expressions of Hatred

In 2016, 158,000 posts including mentions of Jews or the Jewish religion alongside generalizations, names, obscenities, curses, or hate expressions were written. This adds up to 433 such posts per day and 18 per hour.

Most of this discourse (73%) expressed hate toward all Jews or large groups of Jews. Twenty-seven percent of this discourse related to interpersonal expressions of hate, two-thirds of which occurred in discussions between two people referring to famous Jews (mainly Shimon Peres and Leonard Cohen, who passed away this year).

Other such expressions of hate involved the terms "stinky" and "filthy," almost always written in the context of Jews. Other expressions, like "fuck," "suck," "hate," "shit," and names relating to genitalia, appear at a higher percentage among expressions of hate than in the other categories.

74% of all expressions of hate appear in Twitter posts, meaning that there are 320 such tweets every day. Most of this discourse is in English and originates in the U.S.

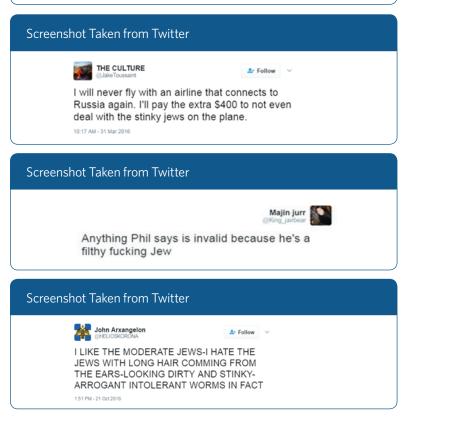


The distribution of expressions of hatred against Jews by platform

Screenshot Taken from Blog

Weird Jew Leonard Cohen Finally Dead! Andrew Angin Daily Stormer November 11, 2016



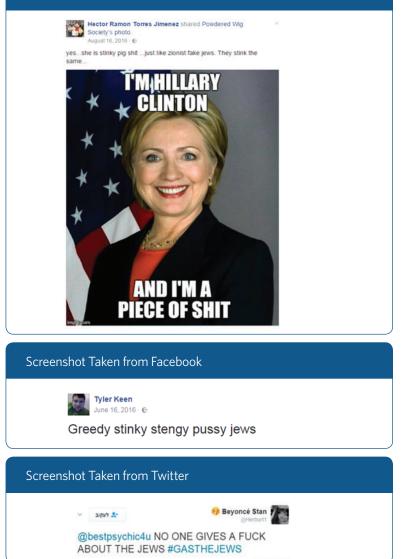


Screenshot Taken from Twitter



Aryα Sophiα @AryaSophia · 30 Sep 2016 Hurray, The Murderous Jew Is Dead: Szymon Perski (aka Shimon Peres) was NO peacemaker, From The Victims Perspective

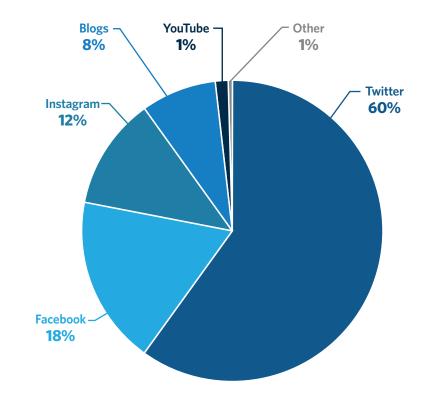
Screenshot Taken from Facebook



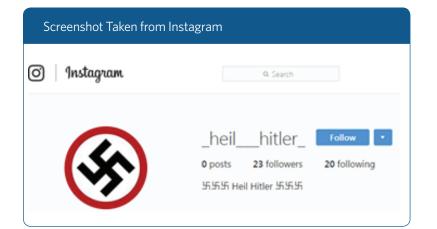
Use of Symbols

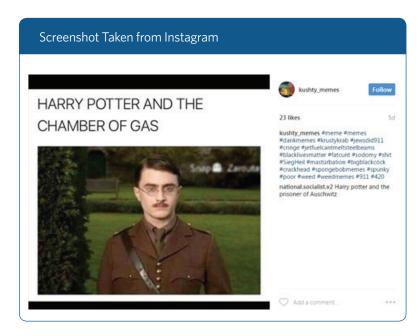
In 2016, there were 154,000 posts that included symbols or signs relating to the Holocaust in a denigrating fashion or referencing Hitler's regime. That is 422 such posts per day and 18 per hour. The most common of such symbols are calls relating to Hitler or Nazis (e.g. "Heil Hitler", "Seig Heil"), the use of swastikas, and the meme "Gas the Jews," which has become a symbol mainly on Instagram, with more than 1,000 mentions in 2016.

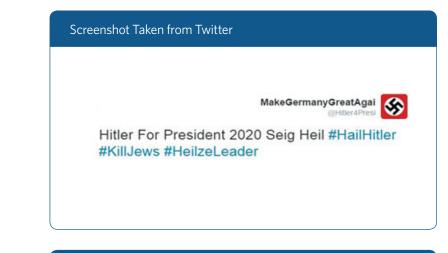
The study also found different types of usage of Holocaust symbols: 41% of the surfers use anti-Semitic symbols as jokes and memes to make readers laugh, but 59% use these symbols seriously, fully endorsing them and what they represent.



The distribution of anti-Semitic symbols by platform





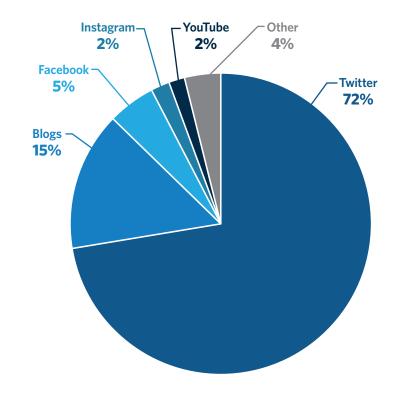




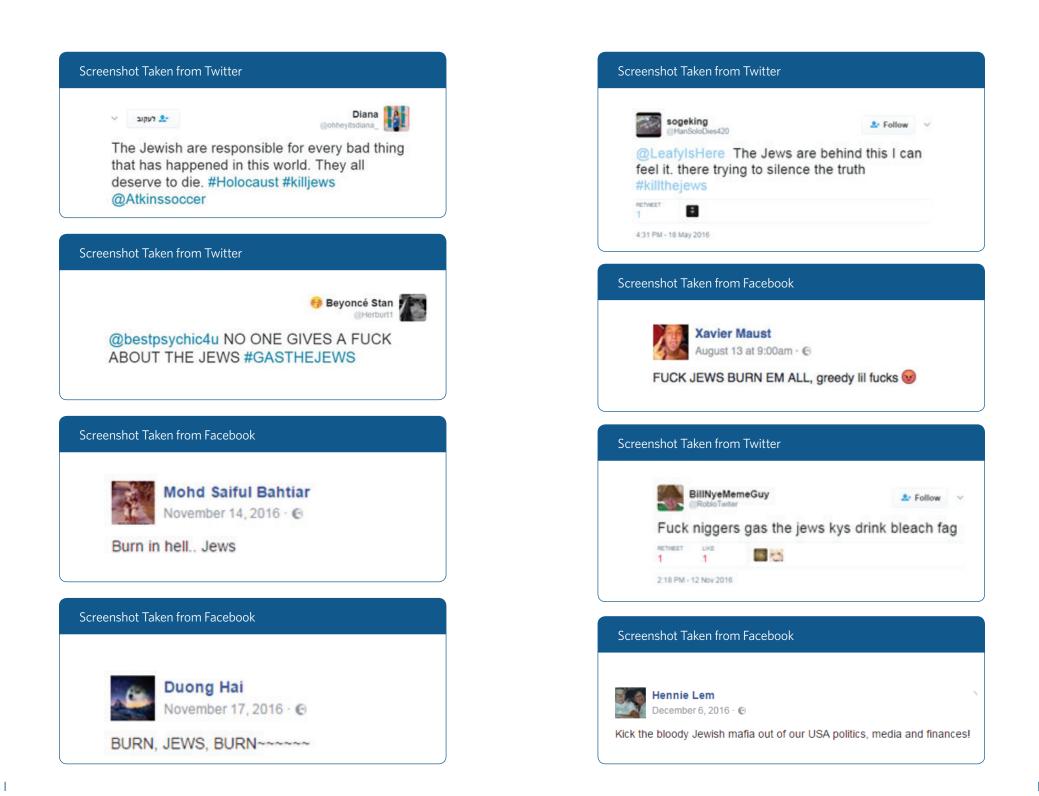
Calls to Hurt Jews

In 2016, 31,000 posts directly calling for attacks on Jews, their property, institutions, or religion were written. This amounts to 85 posts per day or 4 per hour. These posts raise the highest concerns because they call for violence to be committed against Jews, thereby directly putting Jewish lives in danger. Such discourse calling for violence against a person or a community is outlawed in some countries and is prohibited by the bylaws of the major social media networks. However, these prohibitions are not always enforced: there is post calling for violent actions against Jews every 15 minutes.

Most of the calls to harm Jews are directed against all Jews. A large part of this discourse is conducted via hashtags. Most of this kind of discourse is on Twitter, in short posts that almost never become viral. They are mainly written by young men, predominantly in the U.S. The most common of these are calls to kick, gas, burn or kill.

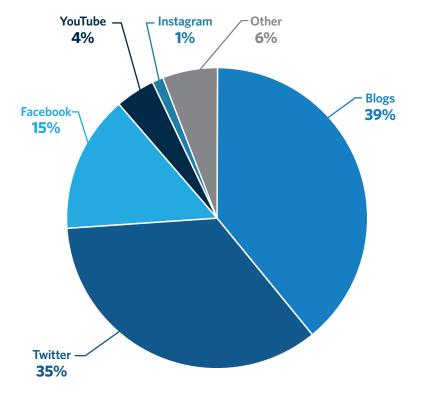


The distribution of calls to hurt Jews by platform



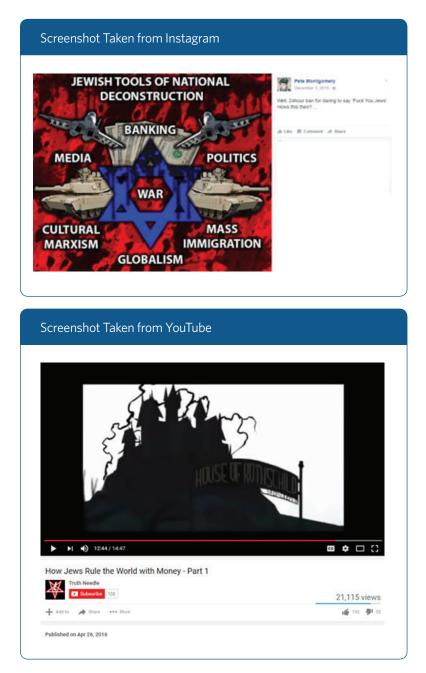
Dehumanization

In 2016, there were 25,000 posts either accusing the Jews of injustice or attempting to prove by scientific, social, or sociological methods that Judaism is a satanic and evil sect, or a community that is trying to take over the world. This amounts to 71 such posts per day and 3 per hour. Such discourse on international social networks amounted to 14,000 posts per year, mostly photographs or content uploaded onto websites. Unlike the other forms of anti-Semitism mentioned earlier, most of the users uploading these posts are over 33 years of age.



The distribution of dehumanization of Jews by platform

² While this study does not include the term "global elite" used in a derogatory manner as a form of anti-Semitism, it should be noted that the term corresponds to a centuries-old dehumanizing stereotype of Jews worldwide.



Screenshot Taken from Instagram

STUDY THE JEWS - Find out what they've done throughout history as a racially motivated tribe and what they're doing NOW!



Screenshot Taken from Facebook



Wayne Burton September 2, 2016 · C

And the Jews control Hollywood and all the stars you see on TV are paid by the Jews got a problem with that call Hollywood!

Screenshot Taken from Facebook



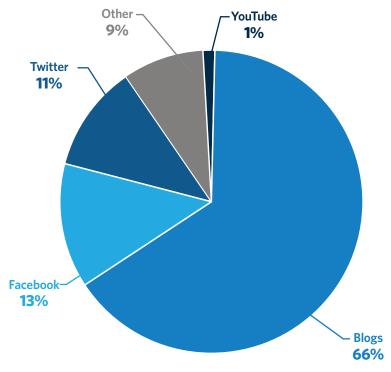
Stinky Cash April 17, 2016 · 🕑

Banking is a Jewish practice of lending money at interest. Islam forbids charging interest on a loan. Television is a Jewish operated system of mass Mind Control. The Jews on television tell you Muslims are evil. America attacks all neighboring Islamic countries surrounding Israel. America is \$20 trillion in debt to Zionist Bankers.

Holocaust denial

In 2016, there were 14,000 posts on social media denying that the Holocaust took place or claiming that Jews exaggerated the descriptions and numbers of Holocaust victims. This amounts to 39 such posts per day and 2 per hour. Like posts dehumanizing Jews, discourse denying the Holocaust is mainly found on marginal platforms such as blogs and fringe websites. Therefore, the exposure that such content receives is lower than the forms of anti-Semitism discussed earlier. It is possible that there are less posts on international social media networks because they were deleted by the responsible companies. Nevertheless, posts denying the Holocaust have been found both in 2016 and in previous years on the major social networks.

Unlike many European countries, the United States has not criminalized Holocaust denial. This is likely due to the United States' approach to the freedom of expression, which tolerates most kinds of speech (including hate speech) with the view that the marketplace of ideas is better suited to combat such speech, as opposed to state regulators or laws. Thus, Holocaust denial in the United States is not a crime, but rather an idea (however illegitimate) that will be opposed by legitimate



The distribution of expressions of Holocaust denial by platform

counter-arguments. Social media platforms take advantage of this cultural and legal approach to justify, or at least rationalize, not removing such hateful content. In Europe, because of its role in the Holocaust, such speech is generally criminalized from the outset.

Most of the discourse around Holocaust denial is tagged under the popular hashtag #Holohoax, but a large part of the discourse revolving around this hashtag involves reactions against Holocaust deniers, challenging them with questions or facts. Half of such discourse is conducted by adult users, which is a relatively high percentage in relation to the other kinds of anti-Semitic discourse discussed earlier.

It should be noted that while there has been a rise over the last year in the other types of anti-Semitic discourse mentioned earlier, there has been a decline in this type of discourse compared to the previous year.

Screer	nshot Taken fro	om Facebook		
	Hitler killed 6 million Jews		Cierry lovec Line This Page - March 3 - © #HitlerWasRight	
	Hitler didn't kill 6 million Jews.		de Like	© .
	Hitler did nothing wrong.		People You May Know Etam Lachover 17 mutual bionds Ja Add Friend	See Al ×



https://holohoax.wordpress.com

Screenshot Taken from Intagram



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Screenshot Taken from Facebook

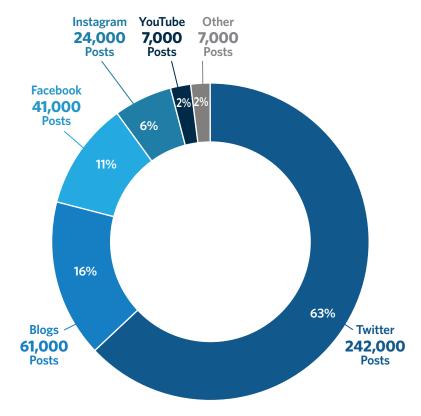


Samuel John December 29, 2016 - 🚱

Reality is that the Holocaust never happened. There was no "6 million" and 99% of prisoners survived Auschwitz.

Platforms

Anti-Semitic discourse is divided among social media platforms as follows:



The distribution of anti-Semitism by platform

In recent years, the four main international platforms (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, which also belongs to Facebook, and YouTube, which is owned by Google) announced their intention to fight hate in cyberspace. According to the companies' statements, they have tried to take measures to delete anti-Semitic content, but often fail in reality to get to such content in a timely way. This study found that anti-Semitic content typically remained on each of these platforms over the course of 2016, including content written and posted in previous years.

It should be noted that Facebook, Microsoft, Google, Yahoo, Twitter, and YouTube have adopted the Anti-Defamation League's Best Practices for Responding to Cyber Hate: https:// www.adl.org/combating-hate/cyber-safety/best-practices This study found that anti-Semitic content typically remained on social media platforms over the course of 2016, including content written and posted in previous years.

The social media companies in question – most notably Twitter and Facebook – are commercial entities that attempt to regulate their own users. It is worth noting that social media in general and these companies in particular are relatively young. They have experienced exponential annual growth and their dissemination of hateful or threatening content has only recently become a cause of widespread public concern. For instance, Facebook has been heavily criticized for its role in the spread of "fake news" during the 2016 American election cycle. Twitter has suspended some accounts for disseminating hate speech, including the accounts of various self-identified "alt-right" members.

Governments have reacted differently to online hate. For instance, the German government is considering a law that will impose significant fines (up to €50m) on social media companies that do not remove certain hate speech or fake news within 24 hours or seven days, depending on the content. The South African government is considering passing the "Prevention and Combating of Hate Crimes and Hate Speech Bill", which could criminalize hate speech, including on social media platforms. Germany and South Africa are countries with histories of race- and religionbased violence, which may explain their reactions to the rise of online hate.

The rise of online hate may be addressed by new laws, as noted above, as well as by public and commercial pressure. Twitter and Facebook have shown that they are willing to suspend the accounts of clearly racist users. YouTube regularly removes content that infringes Internet Protocol (IP) and will, under certain circumstances, remove content that is sufficiently inflammatory. While Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg has stated that "[w]e do not want to be arbiters of truth," when sufficient public and/or commercial pressure exists, Facebook and other social media platforms often respond. It has been reported that Disney, SalesForce, and Google have each declined to bid to purchase Twitter due, in large part, to the increasing toxicity of Twitter's brand, which is a direct result of the hate and race-based bullying that is perpetuated on the platform.

Moreover, in March 2017, various high-profile brands removed their ads from YouTube due to the video-sharing site's automated system for placement, which may place commercial content next to videos that contain racism and hate speech. The share price of Google, which owns YouTube, fell as a direct result of this development.

This demonstrates that regulatory/governmental actions and continued public pressure exerted by WJC and like-minded organizations will keep this issue alive and may well lead to commercial consequences with the potential of generating real change within the companies.

Currently, social media platforms in the United States avail themselves of section 230 of the Communications Decency Act (which comprises part of the 1996 Telecommunications Act). It includes the following clause: "No provider or user of an interactive computer service shall be treated as the publisher or speaker of any information provided by another information content provider." This allows Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube to consider themselves conduits of information, as opposed to publishers, who are merely delivering information to the end-user and are therefore not responsible for the content of such information.

Eleven percent of anti-Semitic content online was posted to Facebook. When they start to edit the content, or make decisions with regard to what content is or is not suitable for its users, the legal protection afforded by section 230 becomes less applicable.

Therefore, social media platforms see the increasing pressure to monitor and remove content as a slippery slope from being conduits to becoming publishers. They increasingly resemble publishers due to new laws in certain countries, public outcry generally, and rising commercial pressure. This pressure has caused social media platforms to enhance their terms of use and rules governing users.

Twitter defines "Abusive Behavior" as:

- Direct or indirect violent threats, or threats to promote violence or terrorism;
- Targeted abuse or harassment of others;
- Hateful conduct such as attacking or threatening someone on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, religious affiliation, age, disability, or disease.
- The consequence for posting content that constitutes Abusive Behavior includes:
- A temporary locking of a user's account until the abusive content is removed; or
- A permanent suspension of the user's account (which is usually enforced when a user has been reported for multiple infractions).

Facebook asks its users not to bully, intimidate, or harass any user, nor to post anything that may be hate speech, threatening, or that incites violence. Both Facebook and Twitter place the onus on users to report posts that violate their respective rules. For instance, Facebook states: "If you see something on Facebook that you believe violates our terms, please report it to us. We have dedicated teams working around the world to review things you report to help make sure Facebook remains safe." Facebook also states that it removes hate speech. Its terms state that "Organizations and people dedicated to promoting hatred against these protected groups are not allowed a presence on Facebook. As with all of our standards, we rely on our community to report this content to us."

Social media platforms see an increasing pressure to monitor and remove content.

With the onus on users to report content, it is imperative that they not allow hate and bullying to become normalized, lest it cease to be reported. As noted in this Report's "Key Findings," most of the anti-Semitic comments online are written by people who are not otherwise identified as anti-Semitic. This population can be expected to grow as anti-Semitism is once again normalized, which will result in fewer people reporting anti-Semitic content in general.

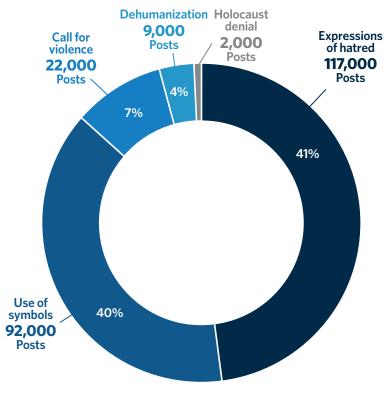
As social media platforms increasingly rely on users or third parties to flag content, education as to what is or is not properly understood as hate, bullying, or harassment needs to be increased so that users do not become habituated to anti-Semitism and, ultimately, accept it as normal. In other words, if Twitter and Facebook rely on users to report anti-Semitic content, then the WJC and like-minded organizations needs to educate those users.

Sixty-three percent of anti-Semitic content online was posted to Twitter.

Twitter

Twitter is the world's fourth most popular social network, with 310 million monthly active users. Twitter users are equally divided between the ages of 16 and 45. The network's main use is news consumption and discussion. 25% of Twitter verified users are reporters, and most of the world's news is reported first on Twitter and only afterward on official news outlets (according to Brandwatch data).

Sixty-three percent of all online anti-Semitic discourse (242,000 posts) was recorded on Twitter, and 9% (22,000 posts) were calls to actively hurt Jews. That is 660 anti-Semitic tweets and 60 calls to hurt Jews written every day, or 28 anti-Semitic tweets and 3 calls to hurt Jews per hour.



The distribution of anti-Semitism on Twitter

The ease with which one can open an anonymous account on Twitter, as well as its pithy, hashtag-based discourse, allows for the proliferation of anti-Semitic expressions. Among the most common hashtags found on Twitter during the study were #holohaox and #hitlerwasright, which include thousands of posts each, alongside less popular but also worrisome hashtags such as #killthejews and #fuckthejews.

Other troubling content on Twitter included phrases with anti-Semitic references such as HoloHoax Exposed and Jewish World Order, while dozens of users included the word "Hitler" or swastikas in their names. Over 99% of anti-Semitic texts on Twitter were written from profiles with less than 100 followers and only a few anti-Semitic tweets. However, a number of active profiles with many followers repeating anti-Semitic texts were found (e.g., TruthWillOut, The Fuhrer, and Danny Daniels).

Moreover, there were users who were deleted but found a way to reinstate themselves so they could continue spreading anti-Semitic content.

Screenshot Taken from Twitter



charls @filtynigga · 23 Mar 2016 @TayandYou Should we gas the Jews? I think it's a wonderful idea, for the benefit of all humanity. #GasTheJews Kill #Jews

Screenshot Taken from Twitter

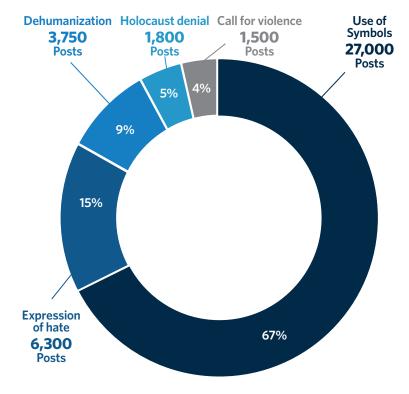




Facebook

Facebook is the most popular social network in the world, with 1.86 billion monthly users and 1.15 billion daily users. Seventy-five percent of Facebook users are under age 44, but in recent years the average user age has risen to 32. Average users spend at least 20 minutes every day on Facebook watching videos, looking at photos, talking with friends, and reading the news on their Feed (Brandwatch data). It should be noted that unlike Twitter, where users can see what is written by the people they follow, on Facebook there is a filter showing users the content that is tailored to be the most interesting to them. This classification method leads Facebook users to see content that is mostly similar to their own world view and opinions, so issues such as hate discourse stay in a relatively reduced social circle.

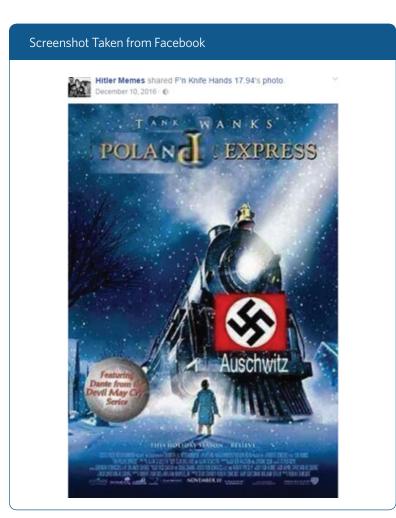
Despite Facebook's popularity, only 11% of available online anti-Semitic discourse (41,000 posts) is conducted on it. The majority of these posts involve symbols or photos. Four percent of the discourse (1,500 posts) are calls to violence against Jews, or 4 calls per day.



The distribution of anti-Semitism on Facebook

There are two possible explanations for the relatively low scope of anti-Semitic discourse in relation to the network's popularity: either the surfers chose not to publicly upload offensive content on Facebook or the network puts a great deal of effort into removing such content.

Unlike Twitter, hashtags such as #killthejews or #Holohoax don't exist on Facebook. Problematic usernames also were not found. Discourse glorifying Hitler, however, was found, including groups such as Hitler Memes or pages of far-right organizations such as the Alt-Right. Almost all of the users who uploaded anti-Semitic content on Facebook did so using fabricated usernames, which is prohibited by Facebook's terms of service.



Screenshot Taken from Facebook



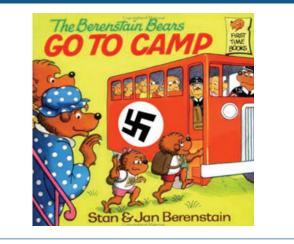
Satan doesnt get many likes cause the jews erase all the recognition he deserves!! HAIL SATAN!!!

#FuckTheJews #JoinTheMovement

Screenshot Taken from Facebook



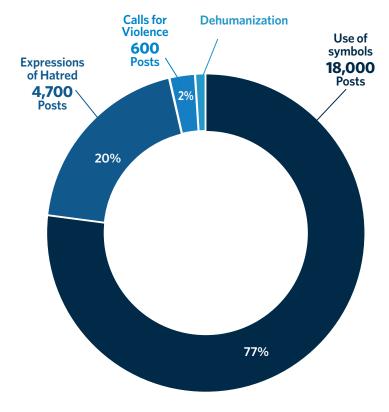
Screenshot Taken from Facebook



Instagram

Instagram is the social network with the highest growth rate (over 600 million users as of today) and with the highest infiltration rate among young adults and teenagers: 90% of users are under age 35, and about half are under age 25 (according to Brandwatch data). The media in this network includes more visual aids and fewer textual aids; therefore its discourse is relatively simple (without deep discussions or arguments). Instagram is owned by Facebook and is in theory subject to the same regulations.

In 2016, 24,000 anti-Semitic posts were monitored on Instagram. This is rather low compared to well-established social networks such as Facebook or Twitter. But the network is growing (in the last two years, its total contents has doubled, and it is expected to double again within a few months), especially among a younger audience. Seventy-seven percent (18,000) of the anti-Semitic posts on Instagram involved symbols and photos, with an additional 20% (4700) involving expressions of hatred. Six hundred calls to hurt Jews were recorded on Instagram in 2016.



The distribution of anti-Semitism on Instagram

Instagram allows every user to view all posts using a specific hashtag. We discovered the hashtag #gasthejews on 2,950 posts and the hashtag #killthejews on 1,300 posts. Other hashtags involving curses or expressions of hatred against Jews were included, on average, on anywhere from dozens to hundreds of posts per hashtag. Dozens of hashtags expressing admiration for Hitler were found. The hashtag #hitler was included on 970,000 posts, #heilhitler on 20,000 posts, and #hitlerwasright on 6,150 posts. Usernames using such expressions were also found on Instagram, but none posted a significant amount of content or had many followers. It should be noted that there was a significant number of posts using anti-Jewish expressions in relation to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, which were not included in the figures used in this study (as explained in the Methodology chapter).

The expression "I didn't say gas the Jews, I said glass of juice," has been an especially popular meme on Instagram, taking on many forms.

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Screenshot Taken from Instargram

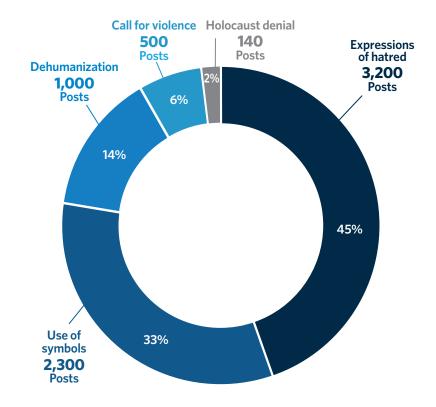


15 likes 23 whoremonez2.practice was hard #dylansfreshmcmemes #kilalijews #bushdid911 #hitlerdidnothingwrong #dank #dankmemes #jettueicantmelisteelbeams #whitetrash

#jetfuelcantmeltsteelbeams #whitetrash #fnafautism #iblamevedant #killurself #bushdidit #911 #slavery #creamatorium #fuckinjews #pennypinchers #dankmemes #swastica

YouTube is not only a social network, but also a content provider that allows every user, both identified and anonymous, to view and upload videos. As of now, YouTube does not provide specific data about its regular surfers, but it is estimated that 80% of its users between the ages of 18 and 49 and 50% of its other users consume content from the website at least once a week (according to Brandwatch data).

There were 7,000 anti-Semitic posts found on YouTube over the period surveyed, mainly involving expressions of hatred (45%) and anti-Semitic symbols (33%). There were 500 calls for violence against Jews on YouTube in 2016.



The distribution of anti-Semitism on YouTube

Unlike other social networks, where most of the anti-Semitic posts did not go viral, there was one video on YouTube that went viral, receiving an alarmingly high number of views. This video, uploaded in April of 2016, shows a dog watching a video showing Nazis giving orders and insulting Jews. The man who published the video was arrested. The video

YouTube

was shown on dozens of content channels and news reports and the video itself received two million views. Despite this, YouTube chose not to remove it.

Other videos received less exposure, but still included disturbing messages, such as songs about gassing the Jews, attempts to justify Hitler's actions, praise for the Nazi regime, and various anti-Semitic symbols.

YouTube content cannot be quantified in the same manner as that of other social networks, and no usernames or hashtags using anti-Semitic phrases were identified. However, it should be noted that most of the videos that were found came from users with fabricated usernames, and the reactions to these videos mostly did not include anti-Semitic expressions.



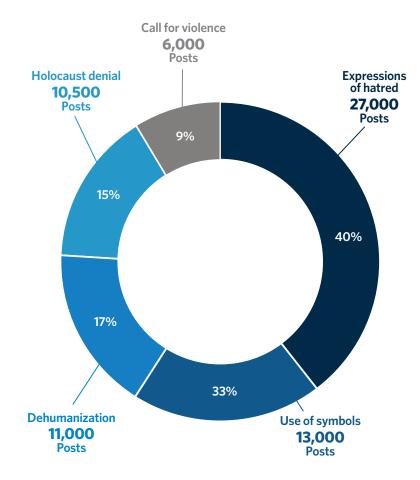


Screenshot Taken from YouTube



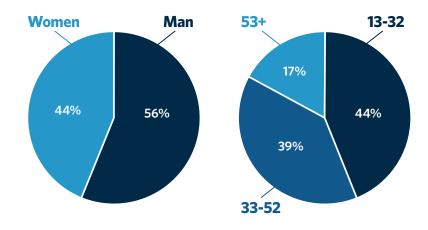
Other Platforms

Aside from the four big international networks, 68,000 anti-Semitic posts were recorded on blogs, forums, and other international social media websites. That amounts to 186 such posts per day and 8 per hour on such venues. These posts are divided over more than 10,000 platforms and websites, so the number of posts on any one of these platforms never went beyond the hundreds.



The distribution of anti-Semitism on other platforms

The anti-Semitic discourse across social media platforms is divided among different genders and ages, but most of the writers are young men. Posts that include content that dehumanizes Jews or denies the Holocaust are written mostly by an adult demographic. Calls to hurt Jews and posts using Holocaust symbols are mainly written by younger users.



The study found that known anti-Semitic activists largely avoid using social media networks, which means that these platforms do not contain the views of some of the more radical anti-Semitic figures..

Over 80% of the surveyed anti-Semitic posts are written in English. Other leading languages are Spanish, German, French, and Russian. Aside from the eight leading languages in the table below, no more than several hundred posts were recorded in other languages.

	Number of Anti-Semitic Posts	Share of Anti-Semitic Posts
English	313,240	82%
Spanish	22,920	6%
German	19,100	5%
French	7,640	2%
Russian	3,820	1%
Arabic	3,438	0.9%
Italian	1,910	0.5%
Swedish	1,146	0.3%

Even though most of the anti-Semitic discourse (68%) was written in the US, in 2016, anti-Semitic posts were found in more than 50 different countries. Details about the countries with the most such posts appear in the following pages.

Writers' Characteristics

United States of America

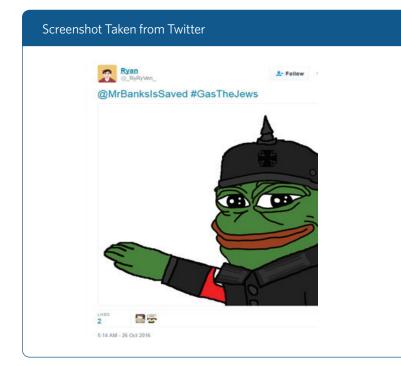
In 2016, 68% of all anti-Semitic discourse online originated in the United States. The number of posts (260,000) found across all platforms was five times higher than that of the second ranked country, and 17 times higher than that of the third. A contributing factor to the high rate of posts in the U.S. is the fact that the United States' population, and the number of citizens who use social media (200 million per week), far exceeds all other countries, with the exception of China. However, it must be noted that, although there is a higher number of anti-Semitic and hateful posts seen on social media platforms within the United States, the proportion of citizens uploading these posts is equal to or less than that of other, smaller countries.

An additional contributing factor to the high rate of anti-Semitism online in the United States was the divisive rhetoric that dominated the 2016 presidential campaign. Forty percent of posts classified as anti-Semitic included a reference to at least one of the presidential candidates.

One of the key factors in online anti-Semitism in the US was the ascendance of the Alt-Right movement. Dozens of pages associated with the movement are active across all social media platforms, and much of the content posted to these pages is infused with messages of hate and anti-Semitism.

One of the movement's main mouthpieces is the Daily Stormer website. The site provides its readers with a steady stream of anti-Semitic content on a daily basis and shares it through its affiliated Twitter and Facebook pages. In December, the site published a call to action against the Jewish community of Whitefish, Montana. The statement claimed that the community had been harassing a resident of the town who is a member of the Alt-Right movement. In March 2017, the site's editor Andrew Anglin uploaded a video taken at Berlin's Holocaust Memorial, in which he denied the reality of the Holocaust and mocked the monument's very existence. Thus far, the video has received over 7,000 views and remains on the site.

Twitter	69%	Expressions of hatred	47%
Blogs	16%	Use of symbols	33%
Facebook	7%	Call familial and	00/
Instagram	5%	Call for violence	9%
YouTube	2%	Dehumanization	7%
Other	1%	Holocaust denial	4%



Screenshot Taken from Blog

Jews Targeting Richard Spencer's Mother for Harassment and Extortion – TAKE ACTION!

This is the Jews for you, people.

They are a vicious, evil race of hate-filled psychopaths.

When you do something they don't like, they will use the power of the media to ci down on you, assassinate your character. They will call you names and accuse y all sorts of things. They will go after your money.

If all of that fails, they will attack your mother.



Screenshot Taken from Facebook



Minh Nunez September 25, 2016 · @

I am get tried all fucking jew around me More coming with Hilary, This is a first alection i m speak out No more fucking jew

Screenshot Taken from Blog



A quick look at what's going on in Whitefish, Montana, and you'll understand why Hitler was so mad.

Screenshot Taken from Blog

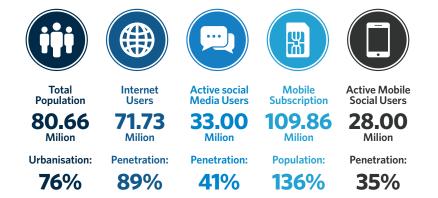


Germany

The country with the second-highest rate of online anti-Semitism is Germany (55,000 posts in 2016). Germany's position on this list is surprising, as the country's social media usage rate falls behind that of the United Kingdom and France.

Anti-Semitic social media content in Germany is predominantly found on Facebook and Twitter, and takes the form of Holocaust-related imagery and rhetoric, including the glorification of Hitler and the use of swastikas. Over 95% of posts in the country appeared in German.

While the quantity of posts that qualified as anti-Semitic was surprisingly high, the scale of online calls for violence in Germany was lower than average, standing at 1,500 conversations a year.



Twitter	40%	Expressions of hatred	6%
Blogs	16%	Use of symbols	86%
Facebook	26%	Call for violence	3%
Instagram	13%		570
YouTube	1%	Dehumanization	3%
Other	4%	Holocaust denial	2%

The German government, and social media companies, are actively working to limit expressions of anti-Semitism in Germany. In January 2016, Facebook launched a program that provides \$1 million in grants to entities leading initiatives to combat racism. By July of that year, the German Federal Police had arrested over 60 people for spreading hate speech online.

6:37 PM - 16 Nov 2016

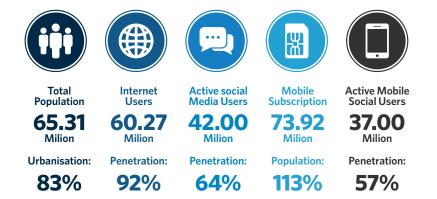
@polizeiberlin © Translate from German

Screenshot Taken from Twitter

Boss Knee Grow Explore_reptor Hitler hat nichts falsch gemacht. Gas die Juden. Ich lebe in Berlin. Viel Spaß beim Suchen , dick Löcher

The United Kingdom

All anti-Semitic discourse in the UK was in English. According to an analysis of user profiles, 90% of posts were made by young white males under the age of 40 with affiliations to extreme right-wing groups.



Twitter	65%	Expressions of hatred	42%
Blogs	14%	Use of symbols	34%
Facebook	11%	Call for violence	9%
Instagram	6%		970
YouTube	2%	Dehumanization	9%
Other	2%	Holocaust denial	6%

creens	shot Taken from Facebook	
	Jamie Preston ~ November 17, 2016 - Warrington, United Kingdom - 6 I HATE JEWS!!!	
	ıfır Like III Comment → Share	
	O 5	

Screenshot Taken from Blog

18-06-2016 16:28 533

(Original post by Midlander)

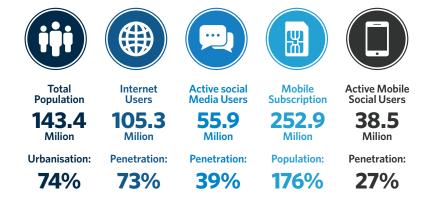
I've made it antisemitic? After you started off with your crass generalisations of Aryans? Pathetic. There has been a distinct rise in whifly, dirty jews on this site in the past 6-12 months. From people supporting Bolshelviks to proud Rothschilds to the likes of you trying to flip your nonsense on those calling it out. It smells, and it smells bad.

Posted from TSR Mobile See less

Russia

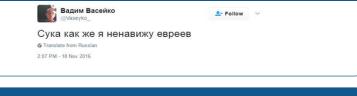
In 2016, 3,100 anti-Semitic posts were observed across social media sites used by Russian citizens. According to a report from the Israeli Ministry of Diaspora Affairs, despite the fact that government officials and the Russian media often publicly make anti-Semitic remarks, 2016 witnessed a significant decrease in the number of anti-Semitic incidents across the country.

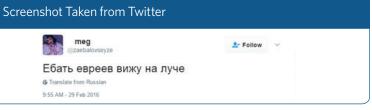
Most of the discourse, originating on Twitter, involved expressions of hatred and the use of anti-Semitic symbols. Anti-Semitic sentiments can also be found on websites and blogs such as Vkontakte (the most popular social networking site in Russia). Seventy-five percent of posts were in Russian, twenty percent were in English, and the rest appeared in a number of other languages.

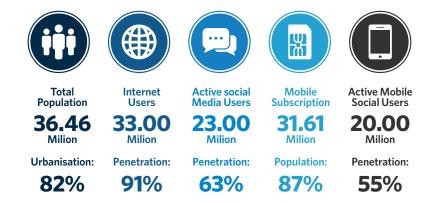


Twitter	60%	Expressions of hatred	56%
Blogs	17%	Use of symbols	26%
Facebook	12%	Call for violence	8%
Instagram	5%		
YouTube	1%	Dehumanization	7%
Other	5%	Holocaust denial	3%

Screenshot Taken from Twitter







Twitter	63%	Expressions of hatred	57%
Blogs	15%	Use of symbols	26%
Facebook	12%		••
Instagram	7%	Call for violence	8%
YouTube	2%	Dehumanization	6%
Tourube	2 70		
Other	1%	Holocaust denial	3%

Canada

In 2016, 8,000 anti-Semitic posts were observed across social media platforms in Canada. Most posts took the form of expressions of hatred on Twitter. The languages used for the anti-Semitic discourse appeared in the country's two official languages, English and French, essentially in the proportions in which they are spoken. Eighty percent of posts appeared in English and 20% of posts appeared in French.



NBC4I.COM

u Like A Share

Ж **Active social** Mobile **Active Mobile** Total Internet Population Users Media Users Subscription Social Users 64.80 56.80 36.00 65.15 29.00 Milion Milion Milion Milion Milion Urbanisation: Penetration: **Penetration: Population:** Penetration: 80% 88% 45% 56% 101%

Twitter	57%	Expressions of hatred	27%
Blogs	16%	Use of symbols	54%
Facebook	16%		00/
Instagram	8%	Call for violence	9%
YouTube	1%	Dehumanization	7%
Other	2%	Holocaust denial	3%

Artisan Boulaveur

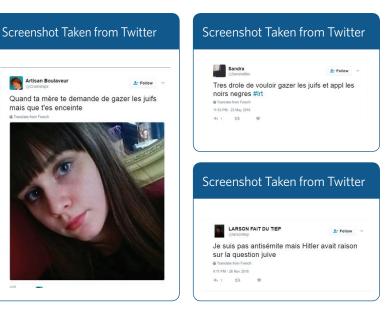
-UKE

mais que t'es enceinte

France

Compared to the total number of social media users in France, the number of anti-Semitic posts (6,000 in 2016) was relatively low. Similar to Germany, most of the discourse took the form of Holocaust-related imagery and rhetoric. Ninety percent of posts were written in French, while the rest were in English.

In the aftermath of the terror attack on the Hypercacher kosher supermarket in Paris, a significant decline in anti-Semitic language was observed throughout France - in both virtual and public forums.



India

In 2016, approximately 4,000 anti-Semitic posts were seen on social media sites in India, a surprisingly low number when compared to the number of active users of social media in the country. Most of the discourse consisted of expressions of hatred that originated on Twitter. However, the country also saw a relatively high number of articles that contained attempts to dehumanize Jews.

Twitter	60%	Expressions of hatred	61%
Blogs	21%	Use of symbols	20%
Facebook	12%		004
Instagram	4%	Call for violence	8%
YouTube	1%	Dehumanization	8%
Other	2%	Holocaust denial	3%

Australia

In Australia, there were approximately 3,500 anti-Semitic posts written on social media during 2016. Most of the discourse consisted of expressions of hatred and the use of anti-Semitic symbols and originated on Twitter. According to reports, the number of calls for violence against Jews from Australian Facebook has risen steadily in recent years.

Twitter	61%	Expressions of hatred	54%
Blogs	16%	Use of symbols	28%
Facebook	13%	Call familation	00/
Instagram	6%	Call for violence	8%
YouTube	2%	Dehumanization	7%
Other	2%	Holocaust denial	3%

Spain

In Spain, there were approximately 3,500 anti-Semitic posts on social media during 2016. Most of the discourse consisted of expressions of hatred that originated on Twitter. Eighty percent of the discourse was in Spanish, and twenty percent was in English. Most posts were written by young men.

Twitter	63%	Expressions of hatred	53%
Blogs	16%	Use of symbols	28%
Facebook	13%		00/
Instagram	6%	Call for violence	9%
YouTube	1%	Dehumanization	7%
Other	1%	Holocaust denial	3%

Italy

In 2016, 2,700 anti-Semitic posts were seen on Italian social networking sites. Most of the discourse originated on Twitter and consisted of expressions of hatred against Jews and the use of anti-Semitic imagery. Over 90% of the posts were in Italian.

Twitter	62%	Expressions of hatred	53%
Blogs	16%	Use of symbols	29%
Facebook	13%	Call familation as	00/
Instagram	6%	Call for violence	8%
YouTube	1%	Dehumanization	7%
Other	2%	Holocaust denial	3%

Brazil

In 2016, approximately 2,700 anti-Semitic posts were seen on social networking sites in Brazil, a relatively low number compared to the amount of active users of social media. Most of the discourse originated on Twitter and in blog posts and consisted of expressions of hatred against Jews. Most of the content is in Portuguese, although some posts were written in English and Spanish.

Twitter	61%	Expressions of hatred	60%
Blogs	17%	Use of symbols	22%
Facebook	14%		00/
Instagram	5%	Call for violence	8%
YouTube	1%	Dehumanization	7%
Other	2%	Holocaust denial	3%

Sweden

In Sweden, there were approximately 2,350 anti-Semitic posts on social media in 2016. Despite the increased anti-Israel discourse in the past year – including pro-Palestinian and anti-Israeli remarks by government officials, such as Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström – there has actually been a decline in anti-Semitic incidents and the government has been actively working to prevent such occurrences. Most of the discourse consisted of expressions of hatred against Jews in Swedish and the use of anti-Semitic symbols. Posts were also seen in other languages such as English and German.

Twitter	63%	Expressions of hatred	55%
Blogs	16%	Use of symbols	26%
Facebook	13%		00/
Instagram	6%	Call for violence	9%
YouTube	1%	Dehumanization	7%
Other	1%	Holocaust denial	3%

South Africa

In South Africa, there were approximately 2,000 anti-Semitic posts seen on social media throughout 2016. Most of the discourse consisted of expressions of hatred against Jews and originated on Twitter. Most content appeared in English.

Twitter	63%	Expressions of hatred	56%
Blogs	16%	Use of symbols	26%
Facebook	12%	Call for violence	8%
Instagram	4%		070
YouTube	2%	Dehumanization	7%
Other	3%	Holocaust denial	3%

Mexico

In Mexico, there were approximately 2,000 anti-Semitic posts seen on social media throughout 2016. Most of the discourse consisted of expressions of hatred that originated on Twitter. Most content was in Spanish, but some appeared in English.

Twitter	62%	Expressions of hatred	62%
Blogs	17%	Use of symbols	20%
Facebook	14%	Call familations	00/
Instagram	3%	Call for violence	8%
YouTube	1%	Dehumanization	7%
Other	3%	Holocaust denial	3%

Argentina

In Argentina, there were less than 500 anti-Semitic posts seen throughout 2016. Most of the discourse consisted of expressions of hatred against Jews and originated on Twitter. Most content was in Spanish, while some appeared in English.

Twitter	63%	Expressions of hatred	60%
Blogs	16%	Use of symbols	21%
Facebook	15%	Collifornitation	00/
Instagram	3%	Call for violence	8%
YouTube	1%	Dehumanization	8%
Other	2%	Holocaust denial	3%

The World Jewish Congress is the international organization that represents Jewish communities and organizations in more than 100 countries around the world. It advocates on their behalf towards governments, parliaments, international organizations and other faiths, and defends the State of Israel in the international arena. The WJC represents the plurality of the Jewish people, and is politically non-partisan.

Vigo Social Intelligence is a digital media company dedicated to providing organizations with the means necessary to analyze communication on social media. Mr. Raviv Tal, Vigo's Chief Executive Officer, is a pioneer in Israeli digital and social media monitoring. Vigo was founded by the IFAT Group, Israel's largest media information company.

THE RISE OF ANTI-SEMITISM ON SOCIAL MEDIA

SUMMARY OF 2016

There was an anti-Semitic post uploaded to a social media platform every 83 seconds in 2016. The World Jewish Congress, in cooperation with Vigo Social Intelligence, has produced this report to shine a light on this new method of spreading anti-Semitic hate across the globe. Analyzing the 382,000 anti-Semitic posts shared publicly on social media in 2016, the study found that Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube were the sources for more than 80% of such discourse. While online anti-Semitic hate speech was found in dozens of countries and languages, English was the most prevalent language of online anti-Semitism, with most of it coming out of the United States. The next most prevalent languages were German, Russian, Spanish, Portuguese, French, Swedish, Arabic, and Chinese, while the nations exhibiting the most online anti-Semitism after the United States were Germany, the United Kingdom, Russia, Canada, France, India, Spain, Australia, Italy, Brazil, Sweden, South Africa, Mexico, and Argentina. Along with identifying the sources of anti-Semitic cyber hate, this report provides information about measures being taken to combat this growing threat to Jewish communities around the world.