

## EUROPEAN JEWISH DIGEST: LOOKING AT THE HEADLINES ACROSS JEWISH EUROPE

OCTOBER 2014

### 1 / MANIFESTATIONS OF ANTISEMITISM

October coincided with the series of Jewish festivals that mark the beginning of the new Jewish year – Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, alongside Sukkot. Data indicate that the number of antisemitic incidents often rises at this time – not least because more visibly Jewish people are out on the streets – and certainly fears appear to have been higher than usual in Europe this year. However, based on news coverage, relatively few major incidents seem to have occurred.

This may have been the result of increased security around Jewish institutions. Notably, following the summer’s demonstrations against Israel which regularly descended into antisemitic chanting and violence, armed guards were posted outside synagogues throughout Germany on Yom Kippur. The sense that the intensity of antisemitism changed over the summer was captured by Dieter Graumann, President of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, who said that “we haven’t had this dimension at all before... people here chanting, a roaring mob chanting, Jews to be gassed, to be slaughtered, to be burned”. The most notable antisemitic incident connected to the high holydays that made the press in October occurred in Austria, shortly after Yom Kippur, when a neo-Nazi biker stopped in front of a synagogue in Vienna and began to shout out antisemitic epithets whilst waving a knife. (Note that our September edition included details of a failed firebomb attack on Rosh Hashana at the Choral Synagogue in Kiev).

Antisemitic vandalism was recorded in Poland, where vandals damaged several tombstones at a Jewish cemetery in Klodzko. The cemetery had been maintained by local volunteers working with the Foundation for the Preservation of Jewish Heritage in Poland. In Greece, at the end of the month, the Athens Holocaust memorial was vandalised for the second time this year. The logo of an ultra-nationalist group was spray painted on the monument. In Norway, also towards the end of the month, the Jewish cemetery in Trondheim was vandalised with paint and the words “Der Furher” were painted on a building nearby. And in Spain too, Jewish heritage sites in Toledo were spray painted with antisemitic graffiti. Police arrested a 32-year-old two days later. A pro-Israel group claimed that the vandalism was the result of media coverage of the recent Gaza war.

In Belgium, at the University of Liege, students in the philosophy and literature faculty planned an initiation ceremony based in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The invitation to the ceremony called for “little Palestinians to watch out for the big mean Jew”. The university’s rector Albert Corhay strongly condemned the event and has set up a team to help educate students in race sensitivity issues.

Concerns about the interplay between antisemitism and Islamic extremism also made the news. A leader of the Muslim Brotherhood in Kuwait, who has reportedly made antisemitic comments, has been invited to an Islamic conference in Brussels. In an interview with Al-Quds in 2012, Tareq Al-Suwaidan called Jews “the greatest enemy” and called Israel a deviant country that should be destroyed. A Belgian watchdog on antisemitism has asked the Belgian Foreign Ministry to bar his entry

to the country (and news came through in early November that the Ministry has done so). And in Denmark, it was reported that an imam called Jews offspring of apes and pigs in a sermon. Mohamad al-Khaled Samha, a cleric who has claimed in the past to have had links to convicted terrorists, asked his congregants “how can we, or any free Muslim with faith in his heart, accept the division of Palestine between with and a gang of Jews, the offspring of apes and pigs?”

The Simon Weisenthal Center also reported that several publishers from Arab countries at the Frankfurt Book Fair displayed books featuring antisemitic content, Holocaust denial, and terror glorification. They accused the publishers of “violating European Union and German provisions against incitement, and thereby contravening their contractual obligations to the Book Fair.”

In Hungary, the far-right, and often antisemitic party, Jobbik, became the country’s second largest after winning control of fourteen towns and cities in local elections, and coming second in eighteen out of nineteen counties. The results represent a significant increase on the previous elections, when they won control of only three cities. Gabor Vona, the 36 year-old leader of the party was in buoyant mood afterwards, saying “From 2018, Jobbik will govern this country.” In rather better news, in Greece, the government is launching a further crackdown on the Golden Dawn neo-Nazi party. A state prosecutor produced a 700-page dossier which outlines the legal case against fifty key party members, and accuses the suspects of murder and weapons offences, as well as attacks on immigrants, left-wingers and gay people. Sixteen further Golden Dawn MPs are also currently in custody awaiting trial.

In the European Parliament UKIP (United Kingdom Independence Party) struck a deal with the extreme-right Polish party Congress of the New Right. Their leader, Janusz Korwin-Mikke, has a history of Holocaust denial and racist comments. UKIP needed the party’s MEP Robert Iwaszkiewicz to join its Europe of Freedom and Direct Democracy (EFDD) alliance in order to guarantee 25 MEPs from seven different countries and ensure that they continue to receive about £1 million a year in funding. France’s Front National party rejected an alliance with the Congress of the New Right with Marine Le Pen claiming they were too extreme even for her party. Board of Deputies Vice-President Jonathan Arkush said “Extremists and racists should be roundly rejected, not embraced... For UKIP to choose such a figure as Robert Iwaszkiewicz as a bedfellow, apparently for money, is beyond belief. Nigel Farage now has some very serious questions to answer”.

The penetration of antisemitic tropes into mainstream politics was illustrated again by the case of Sabine Wölfle, a member of parliament for the Social Democrats in the government of the southern German state of Baden-Württemberg, who posted a crude antisemitic conspiracy video about the Rothschild family on her Facebook page. The working circle of Jewish Social Democrats said that “we are shocked that a regional politician lacks basic knowledge about the connotations of conspiracy theories, in which the frequently mentioned, all-encompassing, financial power of the Rothschild family stands at the centre. We demand a clear apology for the spreading of antisemitic propaganda.” In response Wölfle closed her Facebook page and issued an apology.

The targeting of prominent Jews by antisemites also made the news. Of particular note, in Liverpool a man was jailed for four weeks for sending an antisemitic tweet to Jewish MP Luciana Berger which showed a Nazi Jewish star on the MP’s head with the hashtag “Hitler was right”. He also used social media to spread other pro-Nazi and anti-Jewish messages. Following a search of his home, police found a flag bearing the SS symbol and flags from British neo-Nazi group National Action. However since the verdict, Berger’s twitter account has been inundated with more antisemitic abuse. Fellow MP John Mann MP demanded that the social media website clamped down on racist abuse and Speaker of the House John Bercow condemned the abuse as “despicable and beneath contempt”.

The common concern within Jewish communities that antisemitic ideas are becoming acceptable dinner-table talk was backed up by media reference to a 2013 study conducted by Monika Schwartz

Friesel at Berlin's Technical University, which analysed thousands of antisemitic emails recently sent to German-Jewish institutions and discovered that "more than 60 percent of the writers, who clearly evoke antisemitic stereotypes, come from the middle of society and many of them are highly educated". In Norway, the President of the Jewish community Ervin Kohn warned that Norwegian citizens hold the most antisemitic beliefs of all Nordic countries. According to Kohn the word "Jew" has become a dirty word in many schools and many Jewish school children sometimes need to hide the fact that they are Jewish. And in Romania, the European Jewish Association (EJA) appealed to Romanian President Traian Basescu to look into the case of Elan Schwarzenberg, an Israel-Romanian businessman, who has allegedly been victim of an intense antisemitic campaign against him during his fight for control over a television station he owned. In a letter to President Basescu, EJA Director General Rabbi Menachem Margolin asked him "to take the necessary steps to prevent the continuation of what would appear to be an antisemitic bias against Mr. Schwarzenberg, and send the unequivocal message to European Jewry that Romania will not tolerate the hateful stain of antisemitism on its reputation and in its society." Margolin added that the whole affair "gives a very bad feeling about the level of antisemitism in this country."

The question about the relationship between human rights and antisemitism arose in the context of concerns about bans of circumcision, which made the news again in Denmark with the publication of a YouGov poll of 1,000 Danes showing 74% support for a full or partial ban of male circumcision, against just 10% support for giving parents the right to circumcise their sons. The survey results were published in advance of a parliamentary hearing on the practice. Whilst at least two political parties support a ban, the head of Denmark's national health authority Else Smith said she saw no risks that justify recommending a ban on the non-medical circumcision of boys. At the same time, Venstre (Liberal) MP Hans Christian Schmidt, a former health minister, was quoted as saying it "goes against the [UN's] Convention on the Rights of the Child to circumcise children. I'm leaning toward a ban until the person is of legal age."

- [Anti-Semitism spike in Germany raising old fears](#) (CBS News, October 3, 2014)
- [Neo-Nazi Waves Knife Outside Vienna Synagogue](#) (Arutz Sheva, October 7, 2014)
- [Preserved Polish Jewish cemetery hit by vandals](#) (Jewish Telegraphic Agency, October 8, 2014)
- [Athens Holocaust memorial desecrated for second time](#) (Times of Israel, November 2, 2014)
- [Jewish cemetery in Norway vandalized](#) (Jewish Telegraphic Agency, October 29, 2014)
- [Anti-Semitic graffiti in Spain due to media coverage of Gaza, watchdog group says](#) (Jewish Telegraphic Agency, October 19, 2014)
- [Belgium university to address race issues following Gaza-themed student game](#) (Jewish Telegraphic Agency, October 27, 2014)
- [Anti-Semitic and anti-Israeli preacher invited to speak at Muslim fair in Brussels](#) (European Jewish Press, October 13, 2014)
- [Anti-Semitism watchdog asks Belgium to bar anti-Semitic Muslim clergyman](#) (Jewish Telegraphic Agency, October 29, 2014)
- [Danish imam calls Jews 'offspring of apes and pigs'](#) (Times of Israel, October 13, 2014)
- [Anti-Semitic books displayed at Frankfurt fair, watchdog says](#) (Times of Israel, October 14, 2014)
- [Hungarian Anti-Semitic Party Makes Gains in Local Elections](#) (Arutz Sheva, October 14, 2014)
- [Greek Nazi party faces crackdown](#) (Jewish Chronicle, October 23, 2014)
- [Jewish group attacks Nigel Farage's decision to partner Ukip with controversial Polish MEP](#) (The Telegraph, October 21, 2014)
- [Politician from Social Democratic Party in Germany withdraws anti-Semitic video](#) (Jerusalem Post, October 5, 2014)
- ['Unmasked': Merseysider jailed for anti-semitic tweet to Luciana Berger shows a 'dark side'](#) (Liverpool Echo, October 20, 2014)

- [Torrent of Anti-Semitic Twitter Abuse at MP Luciana Berger is Threat to her Personal Safety](#) (International Business Times, October 30, 2014)
- [Anti-Semitism spike in Germany raising old fears](#) (CBS News, October 3, 2014)
- [Norway: Jew? 'A Common Curse'](#) (Arutz Sheva, October 22, 2014)
- [Jewish group calls on Romanian President to stop anti-Semitic smear campaign against Jewish businessman](#) (European Jewish Press, October 8, 2014)
- [Denmark to once again look at circumcision ban](#) (The Local, October 22, 2014)

## 2 / MONITORING DEVELOPMENTS IN UKRAINE

Despite a ceasefire and tentative agreement, low level hostilities are still part of life for some areas in eastern Ukraine, and claims are being made that more Jews still live in the disputed Donbas region than previously thought. It was believed that only a few hundred Jews remained around Donetsk and Luhansk out of a pre-war total of 10,000. However officials connected the Chesed network of social service centres now estimate that over 2,000 elderly Jews still remain in the region. Reliable demographic data in this part of the world is difficult to find, but [JPR's new report on Jewish life in Ukraine](#), published this month, includes some of the more reliable sources.

In the first Ukrainian parliamentary elections since the revolution, nationalist parties suffered a noticeable drop in support, contradicting Russian claims of widespread antisemitism. The extreme-right wing Svoboda party saw its vote fall from 10% in 2012 to under 5% in this election which means they gain no seats through the proportional representation system. Svoboda won only six seats in district-based elections, compared to its 37 seats elected from districts in 2012. Josef Zissels, head of the Vaad Association of Jewish Communities, said that “the small number of right-wing radicals who made it into parliament cannot have any significant effect on the situation”.

- [More Jews may still be in eastern Ukraine than previously reported, World Jewish Congress says](#) (Jerusalem Post, October 15, 2014)
- [Ukrainian Jews satisfied with far-right's crash in elections](#) (Jewish Telegraphic Agency, October 31, 2014)
- [Ukrainian official: Jews 'among the best protectors of our country'](#) (Jerusalem Post, October 2, 2014)

## 3 / OPENING OF NEW POLISH JEWISH MUSEUM

The long anticipated 'Polin Museum of the History of the Polish Jews' opened in Warsaw in October in the presence of both President of Poland Bronislaw Komorowski and President of Israel Reuven Rivlin. Built on the site of the Warsaw ghetto, the new museum covers Jewish life in Poland from the Middle Ages through to the present day. During the ceremony Rivlin commented “As a Jew, even if you were not born in Poland, the very name, Poland, gives rise to a shuddering in your body and a longing in your heart... We cannot erase history, a history so rich, so painful... It is not a Holocaust museum, it is a museum of life. It is a place that commemorates what was, what will never be again, and the hope for a different future”. Komorowski, said that “we cannot understand the history of Poland without the great contribution of its Jews to Polish culture.”

- [Shtetl of honour](#) (The Economist, October 18, 2014)
- [To Celebrate Its Jewish History, Poland Presents 'a Museum of Life'](#) (New York Times, October 22, 2014)
- [Polish museum celebrates 1,000 years of Jewish life](#) (BBC News, October 27, 2014)

## 4 / REVISITING HOLOCAUST ISSUES

A number of new Holocaust memorials have been unveiled or are now in development phase. In Hungary, a memorial wall marking the site of Budapest's Jewish ghetto was unveiled at the beginning of October. The memorial includes an interactive screen showing the history of the area and financially supported by the United Hungarian Jewish Community (EMIH) and the 7th district council. In Poland, a lapidarium memorial is being created for the destroyed Jewish cemetery in Wronki. It involves piecing together about 800 Jewish gravestones recovered from two cemeteries destroyed by the Nazis. The project has been largely funded by the European Union and is backed by Poland's Chief Rabbi and the Roman Catholic archbishop of Poznan, as well as local municipal officials. Also in Poland, Jewish tombstones that were used to build an arbour and walls surrounding a nursery school in playground in Warsaw's Praga neighbourhood are being returned to the Jewish Brodno cemetery. The project is being funded by the Warsaw city council. And in Belarus, thousands of Jewish tombstones are being discovered in and around the city of Brest that were used in the construction of buildings and roads. This includes hundreds that were discovered in the construction of a supermarket in May. A British based charity called The Together Plan is working to raise funds to build a memorial using the headstones at the site of the original cemetery.

Two people won significant awards for their Holocaust-related work. Patrick Modiano, was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature for his work focusing on the Nazi occupation and its effect on his country. Jewishness, the Nazi occupation and loss of identity are recurrent themes in his novels. And, in the Czech Republic, Sir Nicholas Winton was awarded the Order of the White Lion, the country's highest honour, by President Miloš Zeman for saving 669 children, most of whom were Jewish, in the famous *kindertransporte* which began in 1938.

Yet tensions around how to preserve history, and indeed what versions of history to preserve, continually arise. In Wasosz, Poland, a dispute has arisen among Jewish leaders regarding the investigation into the massacre of 250 Jews in the town in 1941. In an effort to discover who was responsible for the killings the government investigators have asked permission to dig up the bodies to help gather forensic evidence. However a dispute has arisen between Polish Chief Rabbi Michael Schudrich and Piotr Kaducik, President of the Union of Jewish Religious Communities in Poland. Schudrich is against the exhumation as a violation of Jewish law regarding the respect for the dignity of the dead. Kaducik strongly disagrees, arguing the remains should be exhumed and buried in a Jewish cemetery with a traditional religious ceremony, whilst at the same time helping to discover who was responsible.

In France, at more or less the same time Patrick Modiano was winning his Nobel Prize for his literary work about the Nazi occupation of France, a book focusing on the same topic, written by journalist Eric Zemmour, has become a best-seller, topping Amazon's sales list. It claims that France's collaborationist Vichy regime has been misunderstood, and actually tried to save French Jews from the death camps. Zemmour, a hugely popular figure in France and the son of Jewish Berbers who emigrated from Algeria in the 1950s, argues that three-quarters of France's Jews were "saved by the strategy of [Vichy leader] Philippe Pétain and [wartime Prime Minister] Pierre Laval in the face of German demands". His critics denounce him as sexist, homophobic and Islamophobic, pointing to his conviction for incitement to racial hatred in 2011.

In other stories related the history of that period, a Latvian musical that honours the memory of Latvian Nazi war criminal Herberts Cukurs has been condemned by the Israeli Foreign Ministry. Cukurs was deputy commander of the Arajs Kommando force that participated in the murder of Latvian Jewry after the Nazis invaded Latvia. He was assassinated by Mossad in 1965, but many Latvians see him as a hero for resisting the Russian invasion and occupation. Latvia's Foreign Minister Edgars Rinkēvičs criticised the musical on behalf of his government. And in Belgium, Interior Minister Jan Jambon said

in an interview with *La Libre Belgique* newspaper that the Flemish Belgians who fought and collaborated with Nazi Germany “had their reasons. I did not live in those times”. A representative of Flemish Jews has asked him to clarify his statements whilst some political parties called for his resignation.

There have also been several abuses of Holocaust and Nazi imagery reported in the press. In Russia, an on-line Nazi-themed beauty pageant was held where women were asked to post Nazi-themed selfies and to comment why they “love and revere the Third Reich of Adolf Hitler”. The competition was held on social media site, VKontakte. First prize was a piece of jewellery shaped as a Nordic rune favoured by Heinrich Himmler and the SS, and second prize was a pendant combining the German Iron Cross and Third Reich heraldry. The competition was officially titled “Miss Ostland”, named after the territory occupied by the Nazis in eastern Europe. And in Switzerland, Swiss retailer Migros was forced to apologise after what it called a “string of errors” which led to the printing of the faces of Hitler and Mussolini on the labels of mini cream pots which were given to customers in about a hundred restaurants and cafes around the country. The designs were developed by Karo Versand, a firm that specialises in cream pots, and were part of a 55-label series based on vintage cigar bands. Karo Versand is now facing bankruptcy after Migros said it planned to terminate its contract with them.

In other issues, the Simon Wiesenthal Center announced that it had identified dozens of former members of Nazi mobile death squads who might still be alive and had given the German government a list of eighty names for investigation. The German government has also been in the news for taking steps to establish a new centre to research the provenance of artwork that may have been stolen by the Nazis from Jewish owners. The new centre, which still needs to be approved by state and municipal governments, will be located in Magdeburg, will bring together local, state and federal workers under one roof to undertake the research.

In Italy, Mayor of Rome Ignazio Marino has made headlines this month about three separate Holocaust-related matters. He led a visit to Auschwitz for 144 high school students from 24 different schools in Rome on the annual “Memory journey” educational trip. He announced that construction work on Rome’s first Holocaust Museum would begin by January on the grounds of Villa Torlonia, the Roman residence of World War II fascist dictator Benito Mussolini. And he condemned a public commemoration in Rome of Nazi war criminal Erich Priebke. He called the improvised mass at a makeshift altar a “vulgar provocation that wounds the entire civic community and represents a real slap in the face to the city of Rome, which played a fundamental role in the Italian Resistance.”

- [Holocaust memorial in former Budapest ghetto unveiled](#) (Politics.hu, October 2, 2014)
- [Polish Jewish group planning cemetery memorial](#) (Jewish Telegraphic Agency, October 1, 2014)
- [Jewish Tombstones Used to Pave Roads Return to Cemeteries](#) (Arutz Sheva, October 24, 2014)
- [City in horror: Belarus town shocked to discover buildings and pavements built of gravestones of Jews the Nazis tried to erase](#) (Mail Online, October 31, 2014)
- [Patrick Modiano hailed a 'Marcel Proust for our time' as he's handed Nobel Prize for literature for his work exploring effects of Nazi occupation on France](#) (Mail Online, October 9, 2014)
- [Nicholas Winton honoured by Czechs for saving children from Nazis](#) (BBC News, October 28, 2014)
- [Wasosz Pogrom Mass Murder Investigation Sharply Divides Jewish Leaders](#) (NBC News, October 5, 2014)
- [Book claiming Vichy regime is 'misunderstood' and 'tried to save Jews' is France's bestseller](#) (Daily Telegraph, October 15, 2014)
- [Latvian musical celebrates life of Nazi commander](#) (Jewish Chronicle, October 24, 2014)

- [Flemish Jews ask deputy prime minister to clarify statements in Nazi collaborators](#) (Jewish Telegraphic Agency, October 20, 2014)
- [Miss Hitler 2014: The shocking beauty pageant for anti-Semitic women in Russia where entrants must include the reasons why they revere the Third Reich](#) (Mail Online, October 18, 2014)
- [Hitler coffee cream pot company faces closure](#) (The Local, October 24, 2014)
- [Wiesenthal Center hands list of 80 suspected Nazi killers to German government](#) (World Jewish Congress, October 1, 2014)
- [Germany establishes new center in search for Nazi-looted art](#) (World Jewish Congress, October 13, 2014)
- [Mayor of Rome accompanying city's high schoolers on Auschwitz trip](#) (Jewish Telegraphic Agency, October 21, 2014)
- [Rome's mayor slams Priebke tribute as 'vulgar'](#) (Jewish Telegraphic Agency, October 12, 2014)

## 5 / OTHER NEWS STORIES ABOUT JEWISH LIFE IN EUROPE YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

In Germany, a group of Israeli expats have caused controversy by encouraging other Israelis to move to Berlin, citing the lower costs of living as the main reason. Known as the “Milky” protest after demonstrating that a popular Israeli chocolate pudding of that name can be purchased for a third of the price in Berlin than in Israel, it has caused an angry backlash back in Israel. In Frankfurt, a kosher butcher admitted in court that he had falsely sold non-kosher meat as kosher, seeking to profit from the marked-up price to escape bankruptcy. He has asked his customers for forgiveness. A new German-Jewish monthly magazine called Jüdische Rundschau has been launched. It devotes many of its articles to Israel, antisemitism and Jewish culture. It was named after a Jewish weekly newspaper that was published in Germany from 1902 to 1938. Finally the leader of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, Dieter Graumann, has announced he will not seek a second term in office in the vote due at the end of November. Graumann was the community’s first leader born after the Holocaust.

In Spain, the city of Toledo held a two day-cultural celebration themed around the Jewish festival of Sukkot. It featured Sephardi music, workshops and food. In its second year, one of organisers, Hugo dos Santos, said that was “a way for this city to reconnect to a Jewish past that was so rich, it was a second Jerusalem”.

In Sweden, the Masorti affiliated Great Synagogue announced that it has appointed its first female rabbi. Rabbi Ute Steyer will take up the position in January and said “I expect there will plenty of challenges in the beginning. First, it will take some time before people get used to having a female rabbi. Second, this is a rather secular and culturally oriented community. I have to find the right balance between the religious and the intellectual aspects of Judaism in my role as rabbi.”

In the UK, the Masorti movement has taken the decision to allow its rabbis to conduct same-sex ceremonies known as shutafut. Senior Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg said: “This is an important step forward. As a movement, we will continue to strive to be inclusive and to honour the dignity of all people, within the framework of Jewish law.” In late October, orthodox communities throughout the country held a Shabbat UK as part of an international effort to promote Sabbath observance across the world, inspired by the South African Chief Rabbi Warren Goldsmith's Shabbos Project. As part of the activities for Shabbat UK, around 3000 people participated in a mass challah bake at the Allianz Park stadium in north London with the same number in other bakes around the country. And in Salford in Manchester, Ofsted school inspectors downgraded an all-girls orthodox Jewish secondary school, Beis Yaakov, from good to inadequate and placed it into special measures. Following in the wake of Trojan horse affair in Birmingham, the school has been judged to be failing on imparting British values

and tolerance. However protests have been made by the National Association of Orthodox Jewish Schools and the schools management claiming that pupils had been bullied by inspectors' questions about homosexuality and whether pupils had friends from other faiths. In Stamford Hill in London, the *haredi* neighbourhood patrol group 'Shomrim' has won praise for helping protect the area's large Muslim population as well as local Mosques. The police work closely with Shomrim who helped in making 197 arrests last year. Finally, towards the end of October, an estimated 2,500 Jews, Muslims and Christians joined together to condemn antisemitism at a rally in Manchester. The Say No to Antisemitism rally was organised by North West Friends of Israel (NWFI) and was attended by demonstrators from Liverpool, Birmingham, Glasgow, Leeds, London and Wales.

In Lithuania, restoration work was completed on the interior of the Red Synagogue in Joniškis. The disused synagogue lost part of its roof in a storm in 2004 and suffered a partial collapse in 2007 due to neglect. The synagogue will open to the public in 2015 and will house a permanent exhibit. The work was funded by the Lithuanian Heritage Protection Department, the Joniškis municipality as well as from grants from the European Economic Area (EEA) and the Norwegian government. The Red Synagogue, which dates from 1865, stands next to the White Synagogue which was built in 1823.

- [Israel's fury at the young Jews moving to Berlin for a cheaper life and 'abandoning their homeland for a pudding'](#) (Mail Online, October 16, 2014)
- [Kosher butcher in Germany admits selling non-kosher meat for years](#) (Jewish Telegraphic Agency, October 20, 2014)
- [Pro-Israel German-language Jewish magazine launches](#) (Jerusalem Post, October 23, 2014)
- [Germany's main Jewish leader steps down](#) (Times of Israel, October 31, 2014)
- [Spanish city reconnects to Jewish past with Sukkot cultural festival](#) (Jewish Telegraphic Agency, October 8, 2014)
- [Swedes get a female rabbi](#) (Jewish Chronicle, October 14, 2014)
- [Masorti makes history as rabbis approve same-sex marriage](#) (Jewish Chronicle, October 22, 2014)
- [Thousands join in challah bake as Shabbat UK gets off to a triumphant start](#) (Jewish Chronicle, October 24, 2014)
- [Shabbat UK: Digital detox call for the Sabbath](#) (BBC News, October 24, 2014)
- [Ofsted downgrades Jewish school for failing new 'Trojan horse' regulations](#) (The Guardian, October 29, 2014)
- [Crime-fighting London Jews protect local Muslims](#) (Times of Israel, October, 12, 2014)
- [Faiths unite as 2,500 rally against hate](#) (Jewish Chronicle, October 23, 2014)
- [Red Synagogue in Joniškis, Lithuania restoration completed](#) (Jewish Heritage Europe, October 11, 2014)

## / ABOUT JPR

The **Institute for Jewish Policy Research** (JPR) is a UK-based research unit, consultancy and think tank that specialises in contemporary Jewish issues. Formerly the Institute of Jewish Affairs, JPR has stood at the forefront of Jewish community research for several decades and is responsible for much of the data and analysis that exist on Jews in the UK and across Europe.

JPR's research and analysis offers detailed insights into a wide range of issues, including Jewish population size, geographical density, age and gender structure, education, charitable giving, volunteering, antisemitism, Jewish practice, religious outlook and communal participation. All of JPR's publications can be downloaded free of charge from our website: [www.jpr.org.uk](http://www.jpr.org.uk).

## / ABOUT THE EUROPEAN JEWISH DIGEST

The **European Jewish Digest** is a new monthly publication that summarises some of the key Jewish-interest stories in Europe, and provides links to articles about various newsworthy items. Its purpose is to provide the reader with an overview of incidents and activities that have occurred across Europe in the previous month. All details come exclusively from press reports.