

Press release

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New report on attitudes towards Jews and Muslims in Norway: **Antisemitic attitudes in the population are decreasing**

Antisemitic attitudes in the Norwegian population as a whole are decreasing, while Islamophobic attitudes are widespread. Prejudice against Jews is widespread in the Muslim minority.

These are the key findings in the new report *Attitudes towards Jews and Muslims in Norway 2017* which was presented to Minister of Children and Equality Solveig Horne on Tuesday. On Tuesday the Center for Studies of the Holocaust and Religious Minorities launched a new report on attitudes towards Jews and Muslims in Norway in 2017. In part the report follows up the Center's population survey on attitudes towards Jews and other minorities published in 2012. The report also contains an expanded section on the population's attitudes towards Muslims and a new section on attitudes and experiences among Jews and Muslims.

Here are some of the key findings:

- Antisemitic attitudes are less widespread in Norway in 2017 than in 2011. Prejudice among the population has decreased from 12.1 to 8.3 percentage points.
- The positive downward trend in negative attitudes contrasts with Jew's own experiences. Seventy per cent of the survey's Jewish respondents say that antisemitism has become more widespread in recent years, and two of three say they sometimes hide their religious affiliation out of fear of negative attitudes.
- Islamophobic attitudes in the population are widespread: thirty-four per cent hold clear prejudices against Muslims.
- The survey reveals widespread prejudice against Jews in the Muslim minority: one-third scored high on negative perceptions of Jews. At the same time the survey shows that although many hold prejudices against Jews, they have nothing against having Jews as neighbours or in their circle of friends.
- Attitudes towards the Israeli–Palestinian conflict divide the respondents in that high degrees of antisemitism are more often seen in respondents who support the Palestinians and who hold anti-Israeli attitudes, while high degrees of Islamophobia are more often seen in those who support Israel.
- Antisemitism and Islamophobia are to a large extent related phenomena: those who display prejudices towards and a dislike of foreigners also score high on negative attitudes towards Jews and Muslims.

Visit the Center for Studies of the Holocaust and Religious Minorities' website, www.hlsenteret.no, to download the summary of the report.

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