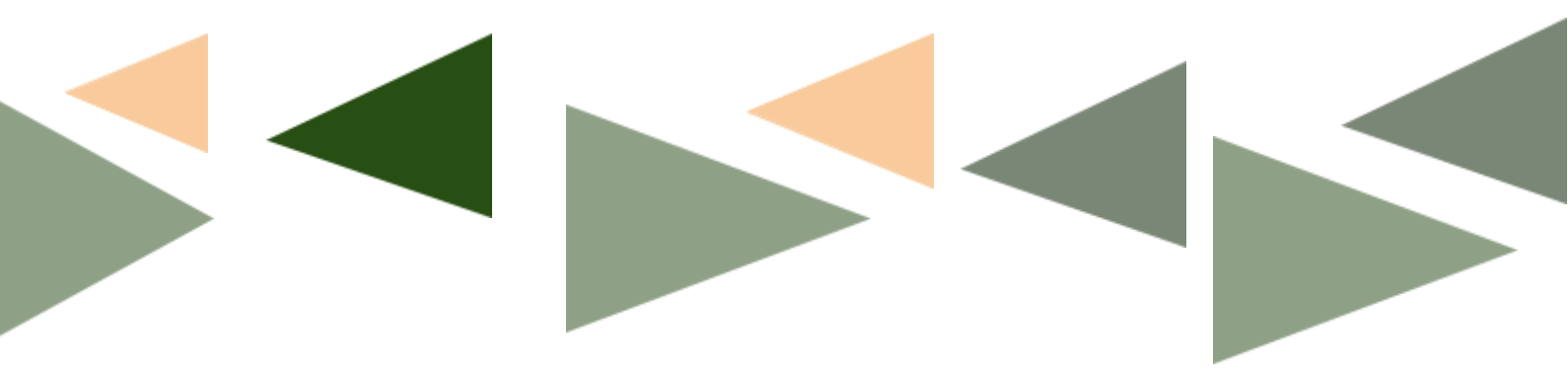

Fighting Online Antisemitism

Annual Report 2022



03.04.2023

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Main findings	5
Monitoring Antisemitic Content on Social Media	6
Content Reported per Platform	7
Removing Content	8
Categories of Antisemitism: Total Reporting and Removing Content	9
Comparison the years of 2022 and 2021	11
Volunteer Recruiting and Educational Activities	13
Activities in Israel	13
International Activities	14
Examples of removed antisemitic content	17

Contributors:

Dina Maharshak, Jacob Dallal, Barak Aharon, Darya Salomon, Jonathan Melman.

Introduction

Throughout history, antisemitism has been a constant and persistent presence; it is still considered the oldest form of hatred in the world. Over the course of human history, antisemitism has taken many forms and manifested itself in many ways.

The development of technology and the way messages are communicated enhanced humanity's potential to express hatred. Social media has become a popular venue for antisemitic factions to express their extreme views and find others who share them. Through social media platforms, individuals who hold antisemitic views are able to conceal their identities and gain rapid visibility for the antisemitic theories they propagate, which includes conspiracy theories, incitements of violence against Jews, denial and manipulation of the Holocaust, as well as the so-called "new antisemitism" which targets the State of Israel.

Online anonymity may create a sense of impunity among those who are engaged in promoting online antisemitism. This can lead to more extreme expressions of antisemitism and expressions of hatred. It mostly affects young people who are more sensitive to the content and more likely to be influenced by it.

It is evident that online antisemitism can cause real harm in the real world, where human lives are at stake. In recent years, we have witnessed an increase in threats, violence, and discrimination against Jews originating from online calls for their harm. The 2018 synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh, involved a man who posted antisemitic content online on the social media platform GAB.

Each post that spreads antisemitism or advocates for harm against Jews is like a ticking bomb that has the potential to explode into real-world consequences. Moreover, The presence of antisemitic content on such a large scale may lead to the normalization of these ideas and an increase in the motivation to commit hate crimes against Jews.

Fighting Online Antisemitism Organization activities demonstrate that the various Internet platforms that declare zero tolerance for online hate crimes do not do enough to prevent them. Social media providers must adopt and declare a clear and uncompromising policy to remove hate speech and propaganda and actively take steps to prevent the spread of conspiracy theories. Law enforcement must be trained to recognize and investigate online hate crimes, and governments must enact laws that discriminate against online hate mongers.

FOA educates people about the dangers of online antisemitism, by public awareness campaigns and educational programs. By raising awareness of the dangers of online antisemitism, we can create a more tolerant and inclusive society for all.

The State of Israel, Israeli society and Jewish communities worldwide must take this threat seriously and work together to combat it. Our responsibility is to fight online hatred directed at Jews, starting from the users themselves, through social media companies, law enforcement agencies, and governments.

We thank all of our donors, supporters, and volunteers who make FOA's important work possible.

Tomer Aldubi,

Founder & Executive Director

Main findings

During the past year, FOA reported higher levels of antisemitic content, Holocaust denial, and anti-Israel hate on social networks than the previous year.

64% of the monitored content was considered classic antisemitism and Holocaust-related content according to the IHRA definition.

Approximately **36%** of the content featured anti-Israel hate. The platforms do not consider anti-Israel hate content to be hate speech, and only **5%** of this content was removed, compared to **35%** of the other categories.

FOA is recognized as a “Trusted Flagger” by five leading social media platforms: Twitter, TikTok, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube, and reports content using direct channels. With FOA's direct involvement, removal rates for classical antisemitism and Holocaust denial have increased, with an average removal of 51%.

TikTok reached a 100% removal rate, whereas Twitter had the lowest at 14%.

The average removal percentage, including anti-Israel hate, has improved on **Facebook and YouTube** (35% percent in 2022 compared to 23% percent in 2021, 29% percent in 2022 compared to 25% in 2021). In 2022, **Telegram** made progress in closing several antisemitism groups.

However, platforms such as **Gab and VK** that facilitate the distribution of most antisemitic and violent content, have removed together only 15% percent of all the reported content.

Monitoring Antisemitic Content on Social Media

In 2022, FOA manually monitored antisemitic content (in accordance with the IHRA working definition of antisemitism) in multiple languages. Volunteers reported the offensive content across 10 social media platforms: Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Facebook, Tiktok, VK, Telegram, Gab, Spotify and LinkedIn.

FOA is recognized as a **“Trusted Flagger”** by five leading social media platforms: Twitter, TikTok, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube, and reports content through direct channels. FOA reports content through direct channels to other platforms such as Telegram, Spotify and LinkedIn.

FOA published four reports in 2022:

- “Expression of Holocaust Denial on Social Networks”

Research of more than two million mentions on various social networks, mainly on Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram (around 600,000 during January 2022) for content on Holocaust denial. Most of the content was distributed in the United States, followed by the United Kingdom and Israel. The most common language was English, followed by Spanish and Indonesian.

- “Manifestations of Antisemitism on Social Media following the invasion of the Ukraine”

Research project examining the rise of antisemitism since the outbreak of the Ukraine-Russian conflict.

- “The Sound of Hate - Antisemitism on Spotify”

Analysis of content found on Spotify in February and March revealed a grim picture - antisemitic content was identified as part of playlists, songs, and podcasts in numerous languages.

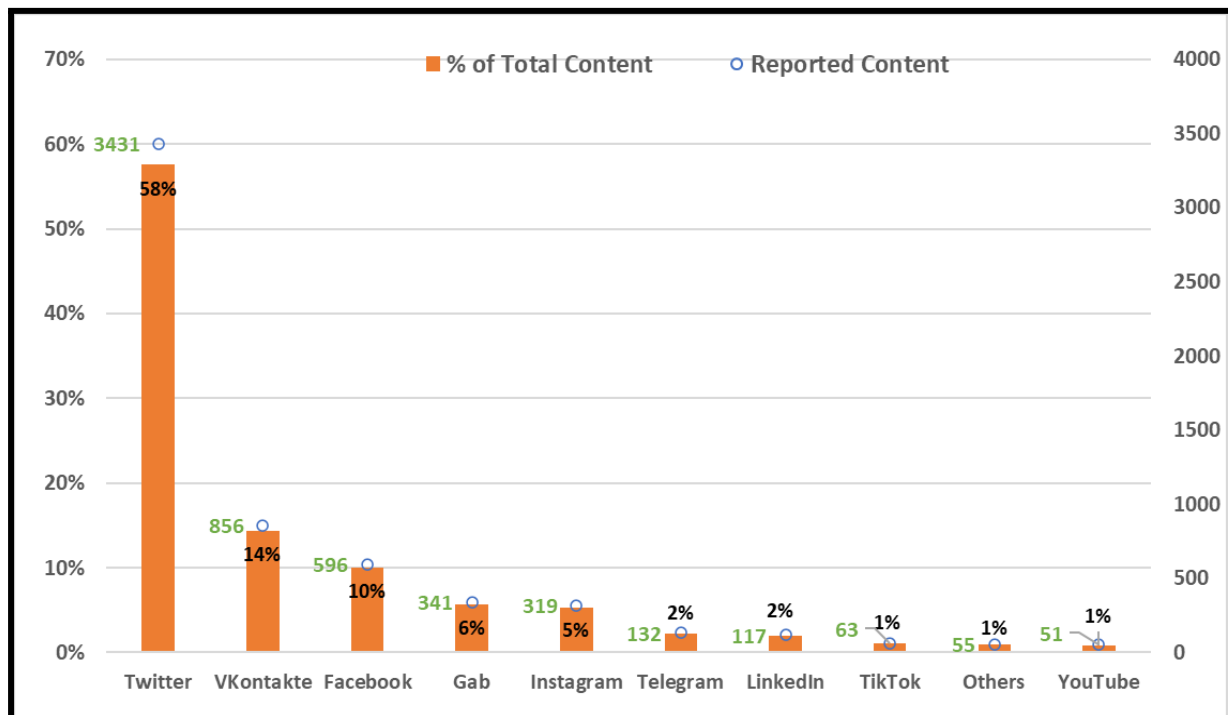
- “Monitoring in LinkedIn”

A survey conducted by Fighting Online Antisemitism (FOA) discovers at least 100 anti-Israel posts.

Content Reported per Platform

The majority of the content that was monitored by FOA was published on Twitter – almost 60% percent of all the content. 14% percent on VK, especially regarding conspiracy theories blaming the Jews for the war in Ukraine, and 10% percent on Facebook.

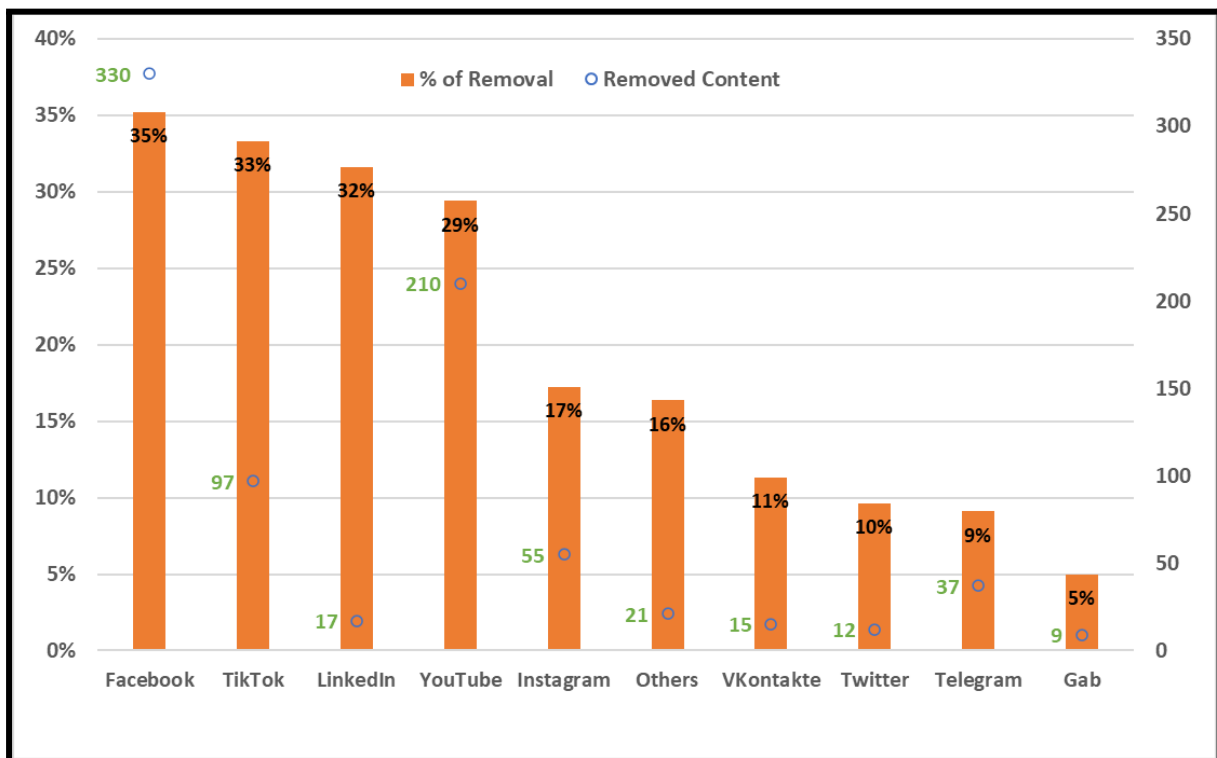
Content reported per platform



Removing Content

During 2022, the average removal rate was 20% percent. The most challenging social networks to remove content are VK and Gab. Content on those platforms is full of violent and extreme manifestations of antisemitism. Yet, we succeeded in removing 16% percent from both platforms.

Removal of antisemitic content per platform (percentage)

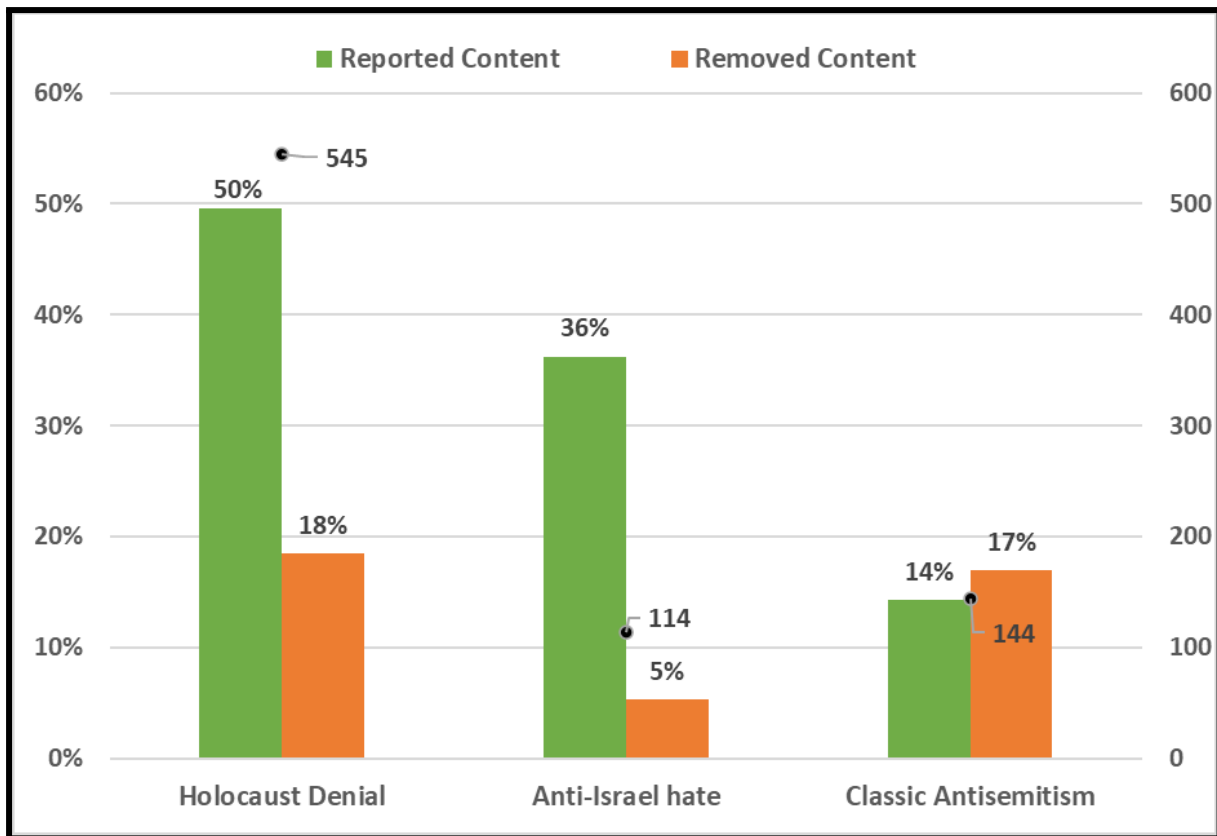


*Other platforms: Reddit, Tumblr, 9GAG, Odnoklassniki (OK), Taringa.

Categories of Antisemitism: Total Reporting and Removing Content

64% percent of the monitored content was considered to be classic antisemitism and Holocaust-related content according to the IHRA definition. About 35% percent of the content was anti-Israel hate. All the platforms do not consider anti-Israel hate as antisemitic content, and only 5% percents of this content was removed, compared to 35% percents of the other categories.

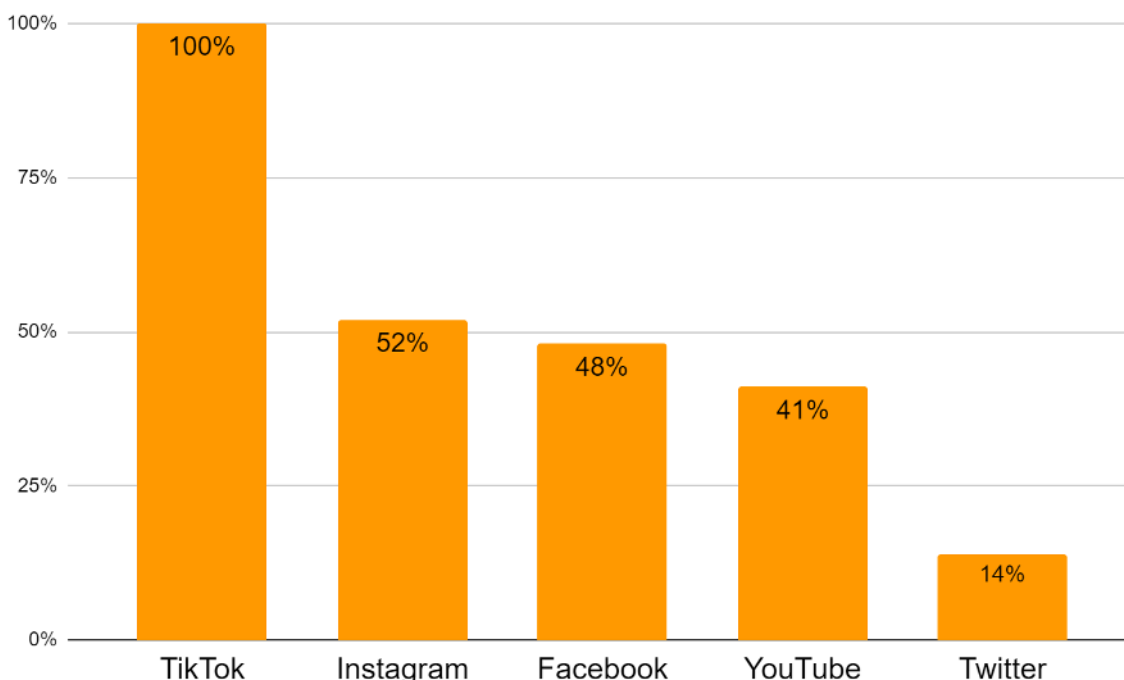
Antisemitic categories distribution: reported and removed content (Avg. per all platforms)



Categories of Antisemitism: Removing Content per Platform

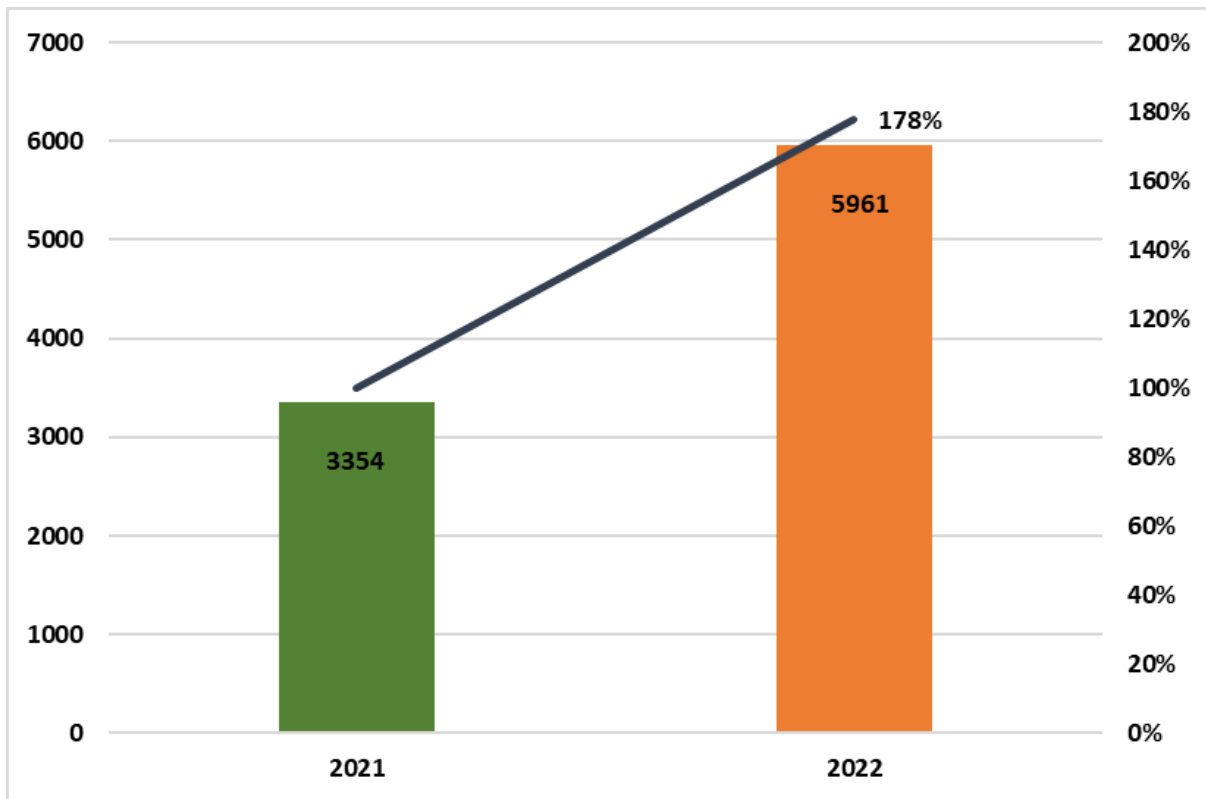
The five social media platforms depicted in this chart are among the most popular today. These platforms have established innovative collaborations with NGOs, and FOA is recognized as a “Trusted Flagger” - a member of the social platforms' support panels with NGOs working closely with them to report content through direct channels. The previous chart displays the average removal rate for three antisemitism categories, while this chart focuses on two types: classical antisemitism and Holocaust denial. TikTok achieved a 100% percent removal rate, whereas Twitter had the lowest at 14% percent. It is essential to highlight that FOA's direct involvement leads to increased removal rates, as demonstrated in the graph.

Antisemitic categories distribution: removed content per platform



Comparison the years of 2022 and 2021

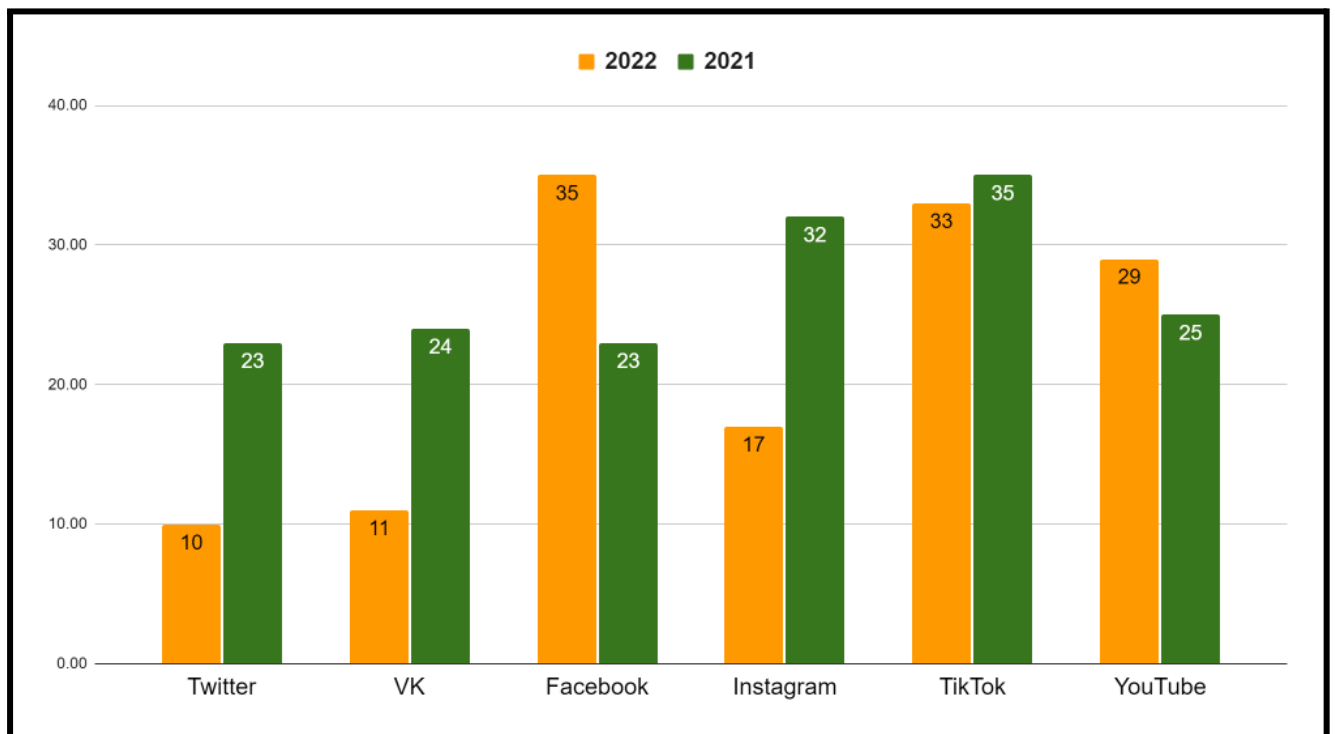
Total reported content (all platforms)



Comparison the years of 2022 and 2021: Removal rate

During 2022, the average removal rate dropped from 25% percent in 2021 to 20% percent.

Removal of antisemitic content per platform (percentage)



Volunteer Recruiting and Educational Activities

Since FOA was founded, we trained over 400 Israeli and international volunteers. This year alone, we have trained more than 200 volunteers worldwide, among them:

- We trained over 150 Israeli volunteers, among them young adults and students from various ages and genders.
- Over 50 international volunteers participated in FOA's "Remove and Eradicate Antisemitism and Cyberhate" (REACH) training program. This unique program combines theory and practice to best equip individuals and communities with the knowledge necessary to combat cyberhate on social media.

Activities in Israel

FOA carried out workshops, lectures, and training sessions in cities throughout Israel, including Ramat-Gan, Modiin, Ashdod, Rishon Lezion, Emek Hefer Regional Council, and Ashkelon. The workshops took place in collaboration with the various municipalities, the Israeli Model UN Association, and the Young Diplomat Cadet of young adults of Ashdod. In addition, a presentation on racism, hate, and antisemitism on social media was given to detainees at Shikma. FOA's educational activities included online and offline lectures, workshops and training sessions both in Israel and abroad for more than 350 participants.

New partnerships

- A unique platform designed to help users report offensive content online has been launched by FOA and CAM (The Combat Antisemitism Movement). "Report It" provides step-by-step guides to help users report hateful content on social media sites such as Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Twitter, and YouTube.

As this provides all the essential tools to report hateful content and have it banned, it is a potentially game-changing tool for fighting online antisemitism. As offensive content is reported much faster, response times will likely improve. All antisemitic content is stored in a secure online database for future reference.

- A partnership with "Code for Israel" has been established to collaborate in developing an online monitoring tool designed to detect and report incidents of antisemitism.

Events and meetings

- FOA held a special event for its Israeli volunteers in Tel Aviv, where Mr. Wester Meijdam, Policy Officer and EC Coordinator, gave a lecture on combating antisemitism and promoting Jewish life in Europe
- A meeting with Knesset Member Abir Kara to discuss FOA efforts to eradicate antisemitic posts on social media.
- Combat Antisemitism (CAM) annual conference in Jerusalem, Israel.

International Activities

New partnerships

To maximize outreach and extend its professional network, FOA joined the Global Project Against Hate and Extremism (GPAHE), a NGO that addresses the gap in effort to stop global hate and far-right extremism movements.

FOA joined the Maspik! Coalition against antisemitism in Canada, which seeks to bring the best minds together to foster creative and innovative approaches to combating the scourge of antisemitism in Canada. With the support of the Maspik! Coalition, FOA held a REACH cycle in 2022 that was carried out in collaboration with FOA's Canadian partners –

Canadian Jewish Advocacy (The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs), Canadian Antisemitism Education Foundation (CAEF), and Doctors Against Antisemitism (DARA).

Educational activities and workshops

- RAN C&N Working Group Meeting: 'The link between online antisemitism and contemporary conspiracy theories.'
- Two webinars: 'The role of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs in combating antisemitism' with Ruth Cohen-Dar, the director of the department for combating antisemitism and Holocaust remembrance in the Israeli ministry of foreign affairs; 'Open-source intelligence and intelligence gathering on social media', with Dr Abbee S. Corb.
- The Annual Conference of the 'Next Generation Association.'
- FOA's CEO Tomer Aldubi discussed his first-hand experiences with antisemitism in an episode of the podcast 'Perspectives on Global Antisemitism'.
- The Zionist General Council's annual meeting, marking the 125th anniversary.
- 'Antisemitism in the 21st Century', a conference organized by the London Centre for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism, London.
- Seminars of the Jewish Agency in Halle, Germany, and Vilnius, Lithuania.
- A seminar organized by the Italian NGO UGEI in Tarquinia, Italy.

Meetings with Social Media official representatives

We held meetings with representatives of major social media platforms, including Twitter, TikTok, LinkedIn, Meta, Telegram and Spotify. The discussion revolved around improving the efficiency of the antisemitic content removal process.

FOA also took part in an open "Roundtable Event " with senior representatives of Twitter, TikTok, LinkedIn, YouTube, Meta, and Microsoft. The roundtable which was held online in September initiated by INACH, which brought together social media companies and INACH's members to improve the efficiency of the antisemitic content removal process.

Briefings and presentations

The following meetings were held to promote educational initiatives and campaigns on the subjects of online hate, antisemitism and racism among Jewish and non-Jewish communities in Europe:

- The Israeli ambassador in Ireland.
- The Israeli Embassy Staff in the Netherlands.
- The director of the Center for Information and Documentation Israel in the Netherlands.

In addition, FOA representatives took part in the following events held by INACH:

- INACH webinar 'The Current Online Harms Landscape and How to Mitigate them: the work of the "Global Project against Hate and Extremism"'.
● INACH members assembly in Dublin, Ireland.
● INACH strategy meeting in the Netherlands.
● INACH annual conference in Amsterdam: "2002 to 2022 - 20 years of combating cyber hate: lessons learned and future challenges".