



European network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination

NEWS REPORT

Country:	The Netherlands
Title:	More racist and anti-Semite incidents registered
Date:	11 January 2016
Expert:	Rikki Holtmaat
<u>Context</u>	
Issue at stake:	Rise in registered racist and anti-Semite incidents in the Netherlands
Ground of discrimination:	Race/ethnic origin, religion/belief
Source:	Miscellaneous
Field:	Other
Applicable law:	-

Content

Policy development:

The Verwey-Jonker Institute, a social science research institute, has recently published its fourth Report on anti-Semitism, Racism and Extreme Right Violence in the Netherlands. The report was commissioned by the Anne Frank Foundation, a non-governmental organisation that endeavours to share the story of Anne Frank's life and her ideals.

The report found that the number of racist incidents has increased sharply, from 2189 in 2013 to 2764 in 2014 (an increase of 26 %). Racism against Muslims amounted to 142 of these incidents, as compared to 35 incidents in 2013. The real prevalence of this kind of discrimination is however difficult to estimate, especially because the police only started to register such incidents separately in 2013. Anti-Semitism was also reported more often, 76 times in 2014, as compared to 61 incidents in 2013. The increase in racist and anti-Semite incidents is commonly linked to Israel's military actions against Hamas in the summer of 2014 and the discussions in the Netherlands about Black Pete and the Islam.

The report found that the registration of racist incidents by police officers has been improved. The Public Prosecution Service, moreover, has improved its registration system of discriminatory incidents as per January 2015 (the report, however, only looks at 2014).

Shortly after the publication of the report, Labour Member of Parliament Ahmed Marcouch submitted parliamentary questions concerning the prevalence of discrimination, amongst others informing whether registration by the Public Prosecution Service can be further improved. These questions have not been answered yet.

Key points of analysis:

There has been a rise in registered racist and anti-Semite incidents in the Netherlands.

The improvements made by the police and the Public Prosecution Service as regards the registration of racist and anti-Semite incidents, and the separate registration of discrimination against Muslims, can serve to increase our knowledge of the prevalence of these phenomena in the Netherlands.

Internet link source:

The report is available online:

http://www.annefrank.org/ImageVaultFiles/id_17776/cf_21/Racisme_2014_VJI.PDF

The parliamentary questions submitted by MP Ahmed Marcouch can be found here:

<https://zoek.officielebekendmakingen.nl/kv-tk-2015Z24012>

All last accessed 06/01/2016.