

# QANON

AND THE GROWING CONSPIRACY THEORY TREND ON SOCIAL MEDIA

#### **PRODUCED BY**

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## INTRODUCTION

Recently on various social media platforms, there has been a growing trend in posting false content in affiliation with conspiracy theories. In particular, the Americanbased QAnon conspiracy theory has gained a lot of traction as a means of "finding the truth" amidst the online information overload and subsequent public confusion and frustration within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The QAnon conspiracy theory centres around an anonymous individual known as 'Q', who originally emerged in 2017 on the platform 4chan. There, "Q established his legend as a government insider with top security clearance who knew the truth about a secret struggle for power involving Donald Trump, the 'deep state', Robert Mueller, the Clintons, pedophile rings, and other stuff", as explained in The Guardian. The infamous 'Q' also explains the pyramid of political and media control: "First, at the top completely, is MOSSAD (one of the three Israeli secret services). They, through a system of bribing, threats, extortion, control the big American media corporations, politicians, and alternative media. Those, afterwards, control people and other sources of influence." Most importantly, QAnon is fundamentally pro-Trump and anti-deep state. The QAnon community developed out of the initial 'clues' shared by Q and they are devoted to "second Q's messages and understanding the real truth".



Despite its prominence in a number of other countries, as is documented throughout this report, most of the QAnon discussions are clearly most concerned with American politics. Discussions of Jeffrey Epstein, Bill Gates, Obamagate, spygate, and other players and situations are twisted in ways that confirm the QAnon conspiracy theory. More specifically, QAnon conspiracy theorists believe that a "deep state" or "cabal" of global elites is responsible for all of the evil in the world. They also believe that those same elites are trying to take down President Donald Trump, whom they see as the world's only hope to defeat the deep state.

Another important element of the QAnon conspiracy theory is children, as QAnon supporters believe that children are detained underground in excruciating conditions so that the deep state can sexually exploit and torture them. Their release is the ultimate goal of Trump and QAnon. There are video clips containing horrifying scenes involving babies that are circulating among some of these groups. Ultimately, this "cause" is what QAnon uses to give legitimacy to their movement.

The QAnon conspiracy theory seems to centre around a few fundamental assumptions when taken in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The first is the need to take down the corrupt "deep state" and its elite members who are supposedly participating in an underground child sex trafficking ring and who planned the COVID-19 pandemic. The second is the motivation to the "find the truth" and to question everything you know from public health experts, which seems to be a tactic to make people more susceptible to or willing to believe conspiracy theories. The third is the idea that vaccines in general and any future COVID-19 vaccines are fake, are spreading COVID-19, are tracking people, are meant to genetically modify people, or even are used for depopulation purposes. Finally, the QAnon community often spreads rhetoric which claims that the current global state of lockdown is not about safety, but rather is a means for political actors to take control. This particular trend is often accompanied by calls for the public to protest and take back control.

QAnon, like many conspiracy theories, adapts to current trends, which is exactly what we have seen throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. It is within this context that our media monitoring takes place.

## WHAT WE MONITORED

In this report, the Get the Trolls Out! (GTTO) team of organisations from 6 European countries documented the information found in association with QAnon through media monitoring of social media platforms, primarily Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

The initial media monitoring was based on searches for specific hashtags which initially appeared to be connected to the QAnon conspiracy theory and then further exploring content, accounts, posts, groups, and external websites that came up in association with these hashtags. These hashtags are:

#wherewegoonewegoall
#wwglwga
#trusttheplan
#freethechildren

In this process, monitors focused on four main questions:

- How easily can these hashtags be found on various social media platforms?
- What is the context when these hashtags are mentioned?
- Is antisemitism involved in conspiracy theory-related content?
- Does conspiracy theory-related content ever advocate for violence?

Despite being an American-based conspiracy theory, the QAnon trend has spread all over the world. To this respect, this report includes information collected in multiple different languages and in the context of multiple European countries. The majority of the content was in English; however, the trend has also appeared to varying degrees in Dutch, French, German, Greek, and Hungarian based on the information collected by GTTO partner organisations. Additionally, there have been incidences of support for this conspiracy theory on social media in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Canada, Germany, Greece, and Hungary.

Due to the variety of national contexts in which media monitoring was conducted, the report is broken down by country and the associated context. Also, part of the information collected includes additional hashtags that were often used in conjunction with the aforementioned hashtags to promote QAnon content.

## ANTISEMITISM AND QANON



Throughout monitoring focused on antisemitic messages. Overall, we found while much of the monitored antisemitism, many of those within the QAnon movement utilised antisemitic dog whistling. In other words, QAnon supporters are repeatedly referencing certain people, terms, and narratives that may appear vague and harmless without context, but which actually signal a more insidious form of hate speech against all Jewish Specifically, dog whistling is being used as a tactic within the QAnon movement to denounce prominent Jewish public figures and the global Jewry in ways that are all too familiar. For one, Jews are being implicated in the spread and creation of coronavirus, as they have been blamed for many diseases throughout history. supporters also regularly conspiracies related to the antisemitic trope of "blood libel".

Additionally, QAnon supporters claiming that Jews are manipulating world events in a covert manner to gain power for the Jewish community and/or the Jewish state. Further, they imply that Jews are making these power grabs in order to profit from the suffering of others. It is important to note that the use of encoded language within conspiracy theories can serve as pathway to more blatantly antisemitic narratives, which is why it is crucial to examine how this dog whistling functions within QAnon.

Throughout this report we will highlight when this dog whistling takes place and explain the antisemitic tropes and narratives being used.

## BELGIUM (FRENCH-SPEAKING)

Within French-speaking Belgian social media, there were a few groups and pages entirely dedicated to QAnon theories and discussions which were monitored; **Q@non Belgium®** (fr) is a Facebook group with approximately 744 members which is dedicated to this kind of discussion. However, it was also clear that a lot of Belgian people rely on larger French-speaking groups to get QAnon related information as well. Many people are a part of two or more of these groups, which include people from France, Belgium, Québec, and Switzerland.

One such group is named 17FR, a private Facebook group devoted to discussion "ONLY on Q" with approximately 22,434 members and growing. This group recently changed its name from "Q ANON français", likely in an effort to hide from Facebook's efforts to start removing QAnon-related content. Additionally, the 17FR Facebook group has a Twitter account with links in its bio to duplicated content on Patreon, VK, and Gab. This provides users with access to QAnon content translated into French outside of the realm of mainstream social media in case the 17FR Facebook and/or Twitter accounts are taken down. These links are listed below:

- https://twitter.com/dan\_ad\_lumen/
- https://www.patreon.com/danyul
- https://vk.com/qanonfrancais
- https://gab.com/Qanon\_FR

Another Facebook group called <u>Le Grand Réveil #Qanon</u> had about 2,480 members when it was initially monitored and it now has reached 2,600 members. A Facebook group called <u>Q-ANON ET AUTRES SOURCES D'INFO</u> had 3,619 members when it was initially monitored and it has now reached 4,154 members. In both of these cases, it only took less than a week for the groups to experience significant jumps in their following, with Q-ANON ET AUTRES SOURCES D'INFO gaining 500+ members in this short span of time.

Overall, users within these groups frequently used the conspiracy-related hashtags. Specifically, use of #Qanon, #wwglwga, and #trusttheplan was quite common while #freethechildren was less frequently used. These groups are generally focused on conversations around Q, an individual presenting himself on the internet as someone close to the American president who is leaking sensitive information. This led to a movement where Q positioned himself strongly against the traditional media (referred to as "merdias" in French) since the official media are supposedly controlled by the "deep state".

One specific tactic of the QAnon movement is the release of videos and "documentaries" to further illuminate and spread awareness of their conspiracy theories. In the process of monitoring some of these videos, there are many references to the well-known Rothschild family and the philanthropist George Soros. Some examples are linked below:



One well-known documentary in particular called "Out of Shadows" (in French, Hors de l'ombre ou En pleine lumière) has recently been translated to French and shared by hundreds of thousands of people around the world. This documentary follows a theme of trying to unveil how the mainstream media and Hollywood entertainment industry supposedly manipulate crowds.

The man who narrated and directed this documentary is able to establish his credibility as he was the greatest stuntman in Hollywood for more than 30 years and knows many key players in film and media circles. The documentary can be accessed in English from YouTube and it has over 12 million views so far. Translated quotes from the film explain in more depth some of the content of the documentary:

- "The documentary Out of Shadows is an excellent introduction for those who do not know different connected themes such as trafficking and exploitation of children (Pizzagate, The Finders, NXVIM, Spirit Cooking, PedoWood, etc.), influence of the CIA on the media, the use of Hollywood, the dark records of the MK Ultra program, the behavioral techniques of the Tavistock Institute and others."
- "The Illuminati are recruiting active members of the new world order when they have not asked to be. The latter are surprised to be recruited from their youth."
- "Macron is one of those people who has supposedly been raped by his wife when he was young."

# THE ROTHSCHILD FAMILY AND GEORGE SOROS AND THEIR NEGATIVE CHARACTERIZATION AS BEING ELITES

Before the dissemination of coronavirus conspiracy theories and even the QAnon conspiracy theory, both the Rothschild family members and George Soros were condemned, slandered, and blamed for supposedly trying to take control of the world and profiting from it because they are both wealthy and Jewish. QAnon supporters have continued to use this method of implicating the Rothschild family and George Soros within the context of their many conspiracy theories. In fact, through media monitoring of QAnon content, this appears to be the most commonly used antisemitic dog whistle.

One general claim often used by QAnon supporters is that the Rothschild family and George Soros are deeply involved in the "evil project of billionaires" and are "exploiters of the pandemic" who own the COVID-19 "patents" that were supposedly used to manufacture the disease. In one video in particular that was posted in French on Facebook, George Soros is referred to as the "evil creature".

Both the Rothschilds and George Soros have also been condemned through their links to one another and to large organizations. One particularly prominent example involves the World Health Organization (WHO), which is framed as a vehicle for global elites to exert control and ultimately a global hoax supported and run by Bill Gates. QAnon supporters also frequently name the Rothschild family members and George Soros as founders and continuous funders of the WHO.

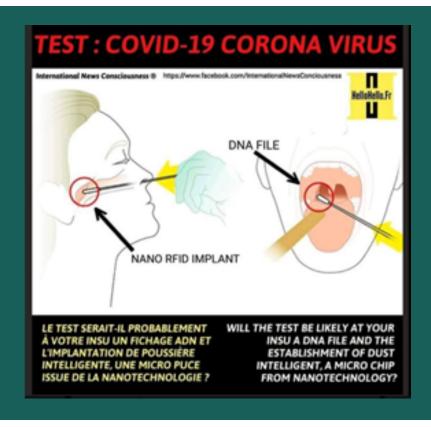
"Qanon la Tempete" is another prominent video within the context of French-speaking social media. This video features a debate between Alexis Cossette-Trudel (from Québec) and Dan Ad Lumen, the two most active individuals in the French QAnon sphere, who own the previously mentioned Facebook groups. One particular French blog provides a "quick explanation of the QAnon movement for those who do not know it". The screenshot below details some of the points the writer makes with an English translation below it:

- Le COVID-19, le confinement et toutes les lois liberticides sont des actions du Deep State qui s'efforce de mettre en place une dictature mondiale.
- 10. L'autre objectif du Deep State est une réduction massive de la surpopulation pour en finir avec le réchauffement climatique et la dégradation de l'environnement : la cible est de réduire la population mondiale de 7 milliards à un maximum de 500 millions. 1 personne sur 20.
- 11. Les élites du Deep State luttent pour échapper à une opération juridique impliquant des centaines de juges et des milliers de dossiers d'accusation pour crimes pédophiles graves, meurtres rituels, consommation d'une drogue extrêmement coûteuse appelée adrénochrome, fabriquée avec le sang hautement chargé d'endorphines d'un enfant torturé.
- "9. COVID-19, containment and all liberticide laws are actions of the Deep State which is striving to establish a world dictatorship"
- "10. The other objective of the Deep State is a massive reduction in overpopulation to end global warming and environmental degradation: the target is to reduce the world population from 7 billion to a maximum of 500 million. 1 in 20 people"
- "11. The elites of the Deep State are fighting to escape a legal operation involving hundreds of judges and thousands of indictments for serious paedophile crimes, ritual murders, consumption of an extremely expensive drug called adrenochrome, made with the highly charged blood of endorphins of a tortured child."
- "Covid-19 must be the end of Trump! You hear me! The end of Trump! This was our last hope to prevent his re-election. Liberals are incapable of accomplishing anything! Dismissal was a disaster! Collusion with Russia was a farce!"

Bill Gates is often the first target of conspiracy theorists' attention because of his funding of vaccine research. Additionally, the World Health Organization (WHO in English/OMS in French) is seen as an elaborate global hoax supported by Gates. QAnon supporters often report that the WHO:

-"was founded by the Rockefellers and the Rothschilds and is currently funded by the Bill Gates Foundation and China. Bill Gates, obsessed with population reduction and owner of coronavirus patents, wants to forcefully vaccinate the entire world and has planned an electronic tattoo to find out who has been vaccinated and who hasn't. An electronic ID 2020 vaccine."

Another assumption of the QAnon conspiracy is the belief that drugs administered to treat influenza are effective against COVID-19 because there is only a small difference between COVID-19 and influenza. They also believe that face masks activate viruses and end up killing people, especially those who have received the flu vaccine. The figure below was found in the monitoring process and appears to demonstrate how the COVID-19 test supposedly implants a microchip for the purpose of controlling the individual, a theory that is often promoted by QAnon supporters:



Additionally, a number of people in the monitored groups define themselves as "anti-Zionist" in a way that attempts to claim that this is not antisemitism. Even the term "cabal", used to refer to the deep state, has Jewish origins. example, QAnon says that "The whole anti Trump cabal is orchestrated by Judeo-Zionist networks."

A website called <u>Le Saker</u> <u>Francophone</u> directly claims that people with influence around the world all have some connection to Jewish heritage:

- "The only common trait of the people we are talking about is their Jewish heritage. Some are liberal, others conservative. Some are religious, others are not. Some have a mixed Jewish heritage. do not. Some others concerned with Israel. others not. Some support Israel, others criticize it. They are politicians, journalists. academics. comedians. actors businessmen. Some come from Western Europe, others from Eastern Europe, and others from the Middle East."

Another French-speaking website called **Panamza** openly spreads antisemitic content and has a background in conspiracy theory. Articles from this website have often been shared in the Facebook groups that were monitored, as seen here:



Exactement, le sionisme dans toute son histoire et son antériorité est la toile d'araignée sous-jacente à l'état profond planétaire actuel. Je conseille très vivement les articles de Laurent Guyenot, grand connaisseur et brillant analyste de l'action souterraine israelienne au USA depuis l'avènement de l'état d'Israel en 1948. Les connexions sionistes de Lyndon Johnson déterminantes pour l'assassinat de Kennedy etc...... Ses articles se trouvent sur le site égalité et réconciliation (même pour ceux que ce site rebute!). Il a également écrit quelques livres "saillants" sur Kennedy avec le 11 septembre et également "du yavhisme au sionisme" tout un programme finement analysé et exposé.

In general, most of the groups that were monitored have antidiscrimination rules and ban people spreading religious-based hate and hate in general; "Pas d'incitation à la haine envers aucune race, aucun people, aucune religion, aucun pays."

While there were no overt calls to violence or open hatred against Jewish people within this monitoring, some clear antisemitic tropes and narratives were observed. Often when people commented in a discriminatory way, they received counter arguments in response. The activity of QAnon supporters is mostly based on collecting all kinds of information to confirm their theories and make connections between all world events. However, the information and the people incriminated in this conspiracy theory are often of a Jewish background. This also happens for Catholics and Muslims at a slightly lower rate, especially after the Muslim Brotherhood allegedly infiltrated the American government when President Obama was elected to office.



## FRANCE

The QAnon-related content in French came from users in France and also Québec. This monitoring covered Twitter, YouTube, videogames platforms and various blogs. For the most part, all accounts seemed to be a combination of fake account, trolls, and haters. One website written entirely in French disseminates conspiracy-based ideas to the French public in a supposed effort to "liberate France". Examples of these false beliefs include the government imposing quarantine on the public to install 5G towers which present a threat to public health, compulsory vaccines implanting nanotechnology to control human life, leaders rejecting the "obvious solutions" of chloroquine, high-dose vitamin C, and hydrogen peroxide as COVID-19 treatments, and more.

Another website provides a "QAnon Map" to help QAnon supporters in finding other individuals who believe in this conspiracy theory. It is unclear if the intention of this map is to encourage offline meetings to discuss QAnon; however, such moves from online to offline have occurred in many countries. The map is a "Joy in Liberty" project, which "aims to be one of the most useful websites serving the pro-QAnon, anti-deep state community". They also describe themselves as "anonymous patriots whose mission is to teach the world to think freely and discover true liberty", a veiled and encoded way of promoting the spread of dangerous disinformation by qualifying themselves as real patriots who are simply trying to "save" their country.

Some Twitter accounts (such as <a href="https://twitter.com/Dan\_ad\_lumen">https://twitter.com/Dan\_ad\_lumen</a>) translate American "articles" into French in order to assist in spreading the QAnon trend to a larger audience. Most of the time, these articles are connected to "ObamaGate", conspiracy theories about Bill Gates, homophobic and conspiracy theory-related content characterizing elites as paedophiles as part of the gay lobby, and satanism. Also, they promote the idea that "elites" are the enemy, that Macron is attempting to set up a new dictatorship in France, and that Trump is the people's saviour.

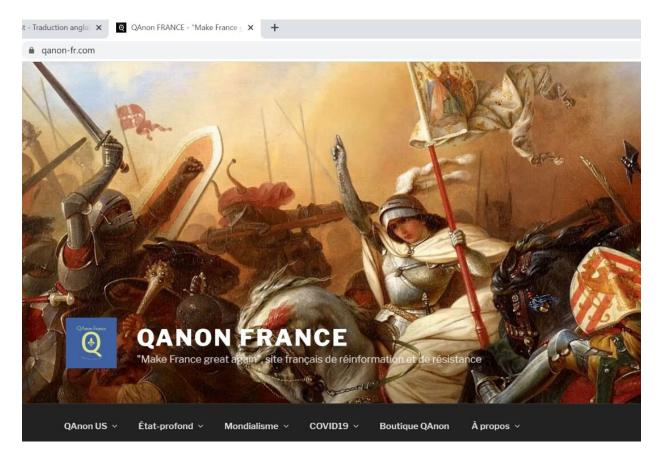
Within this monitoring, incidences of antisemitism are not explicit but underlying. However, there are certain concepts and individuals that are tied in to these conspiracy theories, which results in implied hatred against or blaming of Jews. Specifically, prominent Jewish figures George Soros and the Rothschild family are named as exploiters of the pandemic in many conspiracy theories and the Jewish-French intellectuals Jacques Attali and Bernard Henri Lévy are condemned in association with the Bilderberg group for conspiring in some form of global domination, or even to the concept of "New World Order", concept directly referring to a very well-known antisemitic theory. Additionally, French political activist Alain Soral, who is a known Holocaust-denier and has been found inciting hatred against Jews, is tagged in many conspiracy theory-related posts.

Additional hashtags found: #QAnon, #WWG1WGAWORLDWIDE, #MacronGates, #patriotes, #Dictature3.0, #SayNoToBillGates, #ObamaGate

## USE OF HASHTAGS AS A UNIFIED CODING SYSTEM FOR THE QANON MOVEMENT

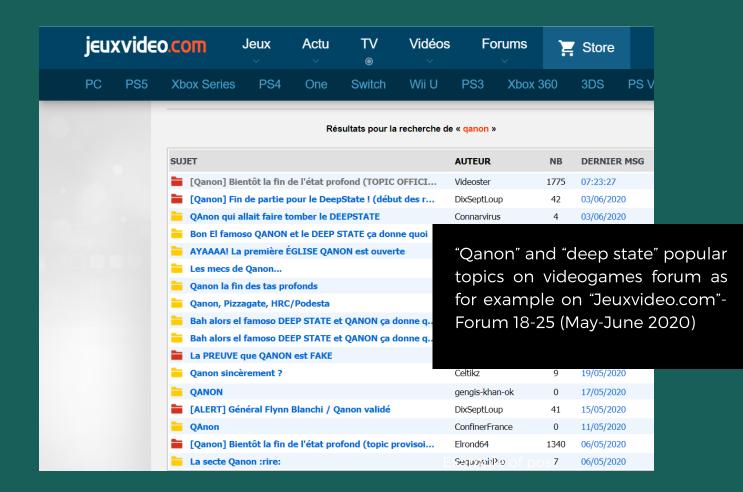
Within the social media content that is posted by QAnon supporters, there is a clear trend of including multiple hashtags in a post. These hashtags range from the generic signal of support of #WWG1WGA, to references of specific conspiracies OAnon QAnon followers such supported by as #Obamagate #Pizzagate. Many of these hashtags are quite vague and seem to have a certain context that is not clear to an outsider of the movement. These are the hashtags that often serve as dog whistles for QAnon extremists. In particular, #Globalist and #NWO allude to the repeated false narrative that Jews are trying to take control of the world and take it a step further by implicating Jewish public figures in the ominous and apparently destructive "new world order" that is to come. However, it is difficult to report and fight back against this particular tactic because the community guidelines of social media platforms often require hate speech to be explicit and these particular manifestations of antisemitism require specific context to be explained. Thus, evidence of antisemitism within the QAnon movement often only exists in the form of these types of cloaked dog whistle tactics. This allows followers to appear harmless and moderate ultimately hate is a primary motivator for many these people.

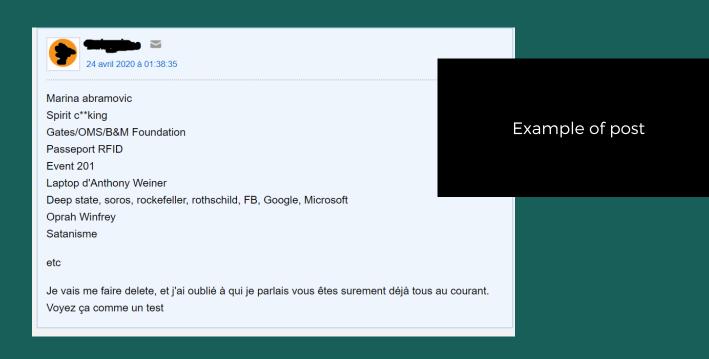
On Twitter, the account Qanon France aims at "Provid[ing] information to follow Q for non-English speaking Patriots"



This blog named "Qanon France - Make France Great Again uses many references to the French royalty (e.g. fleur de lys, the French monarchy symbol), to Jeanne d'Arc (used as a reference for the far-right for decades), and to Charles Martel ("who stopped the Arab invasion in France). These symbols are often used by the royalist far-right wing.







"Globalists, soldiers of the Evil?"

- "Georges Soros
- Jacques Attali
- BHL [reference to Bernard Henry Lévi]
- Hillary Clinton
- European Union





On the conspiracy blog "Lumière sur Gaia", many articles have been published about the QAnon revelations as for example this one titled "Qanon reveals the links between the Vatican, the Rothschild family and the reptilians" (August 2018)



## GERMANY

There are a number of QAnon-related hashtags on Twitter being posted in Germany. Some of the more prominent ones are:

#Qanon, #DeepState,

#GreatAwakening/#TheGreatAwakening,

#FollowTheWhiteRabbit, #wwg1wga, #FreeTheChildren,

#Adrenochrome, #NWO, and #PizzaGate.

Overall, users who already believe in the QAnon conspiracy narrative are the ones posting most frequently and trying to "wake up" others. A common theme within their posts is the encouragement of fellow QAnon followers through assuring one another that the movement will not only be proven correct but that things will turn out well. Apart from everyday followers, there are also a few celebrities who openly support the QAnon conspiracy theory, such as German pop singer Xavier Naidoo and German vegan cookbook author Attila Hildemann; German rappers such as Kollegah or Sido have also shared QAnon content or expressed sympathy for some of its theories. Additionally, there are a couple of known public conspiracy theorists who are contributing to the spread of the conspiracy narrative and who have managed to grow their audiences; German journalist Oliver Janich and German journalist Ken Jebsen.

The QAnon/conspiracy theory content is oftentimes not explicitly antisemitic. However, it becomes more blatant when the NWO (New World Order) and Jewish public figures like George Soros are mentioned. Specific conspiracy-backed statements of abducted children being harvested for their blood and references to the drug adrenochrome which is allegedly extracted from these children do not carry overtly antisemitic phrasing. They do, however, line up well with the New World Order conspiracy theory which could potentially serve as a pathway to more blatantly antisemitic narratives.

## BLAMING OF THE CABAL OF ELITES/DEEP STATE

Most QAnon conspiracy theorists believe that a "deep state" or "cabal" of global elites are responsible for all evil in the world and subsequently frame them as the enemy of the movement. Specifically, many well-known public figures (the Rothschild family and George Soros as previously mentioned) are accused of many activities, including:

- · Trying to establish a global dictatorship and control the world
- · Implementing measures such as widespread vaccination in order to reduce the world population to end global warming and environmental degradation
- · Torturing and sexually exploiting children in a mass underground trafficking ring which allows them to produce a fictional drug called "adrenochrome"

The use of the term "cabal" to implicate wealthy public figures in this supposed plot to profit from global domination is in of itself a form of antisemitic dog whistling. The term has Jewish origins and by using it as the term to encompass all global elites, this implies that the so-called "deep state" is greatly influenced by Jewish public figures within its ranks. For example, the anonymous leader of the QAnon movement, "Q", has said that "The whole anti-Trump cabal is orchestrated by Judeo-Zionist networks".

Overall, there is a pattern of incriminating people with Jewish backgrounds within the QAnon conspiracy theory. This is mostly concentrated within the realm of "elites", which creates a direct set of targets of Jewish people of influence for individuals who may resort to violent measures in support of their extremist ideology. With the perceived sense of urgency that is amplified by QAnon supporters, there is certainly a possibility that motivated and volatile individuals could resort to extreme measures such as violence.

The average QAnon believer on Twitter does not call directly for violence. However, the nature of the narratives they are promoting generates a perceived sense of urgency which, in the worst-case scenario, might encourage volatile individuals to resort to extreme measures. At first glance, the main targets of such situations might appear to be the "elites", which would include Jewish people of influence such as George Soros. In this sense, some users are even discussing the idea of a "death penalty" for their perceived enemies. However, people who are promoting conspiracy theories such as QAnon are often conflating the few members of the elite with all Jews. Ultimately, this casts Jewish people everywhere in a bad light, and presents the threats of hate speech, attack, and violence potentially for the nearest synagogue. All in all, most of this content is quite abstract and kept in general terms, but it is important to closely follow these types of antisemitic trends in order to try to prevent more extreme offline measures.

### FOLLOWING ARE SCREENSHOTS FOUND WITHIN THE LAST 3 MONTHS IN GERMAN-SPEAKING SOCIAL MEDIA DETAILING SPECIFIC CONTENT RELATED TO **QANON:**



Wir leben in bewegten, ja historischen Zeiten. In Zeiten großer geopolitischen Veränderungen und des weltweiten Kampfes gegen Korruption, Kindermissbrauch und Verbrechen gegen die Menschlichkeit. Doch 90 % der Menschen bekommen davon kaum etwas mit.

Was haben das Amtsenthebungsverfahren in den USA, die Reaktionen auf die Wahl in Thüringen, Putins für Mai geplante Konferenz der Alliierten, der BREXIT, die Nichteröffnung des BER, der Maidan-Putsch in der Ukraine, Defender 2020, der Fall Jeffrey Epstein, die massenhafte Einwanderung illegaler Migranten und der Ausbruch des Corona-Virus in China miteinander

In den zwangsfinanzierten Medien, die weltweit nur einer handvoll Leuten. gehören (https://swprs.org/die-propaganda-matrix/) erfahren sie nur das, was das System sie wissen lassen möchte. Also: ARD, ZDF und Lügen-Verbreitungs-Zeitung links liegen lassen und auf alternativen Medien-Kanälen informieren z. B.

Verbinde die Punkte

https://www.youtube.com/cha.../UCstqeCBFycUbhXUdTk3Seiw/videos

http://www.pi-news.net/

#### Qlobal-Change

https://www.youtube.com/cha.../UCX9J\_T4Gif8Ir1mps14EnKA/videos

https://www.youtube.com/user/OliverJanich/videos

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXXoX3D69mN75vF89jvW9bg

#### **Epoch-Times**

https://www.epochtimes.de/

#### Qanon Drops

https://qmap.pub/?lang=de

#### Donald Trump auf twitter

https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump

#### Hans-Joachim Müller

https://www.youtube.com/cha.../UC4j39PjtsYHCYP2W--2uPSQ/videos https://www.facebook.com/hansioachim.mueller.39

Sie sind der Meinung, die GEZ muss abgeschafft werden! Hier können Sie mit uns den Volksantrag "Genug GEZahlt" unterstützen:

https://sachsen.genug-gezahlt.tv/unterschriftenliste/



15 February 2020: A Facebook account of an AfD district association posts links to QAnon content







3 April 2020: Conspiracy theorist Oliver Janich argues for the death penalty for "people who are responsible for the torture and murder of thousands of children". He adds, "Selfevidently, only in accordance with the rule of law".

16 April 2020: Twitter user combines talk of a forced left-wing NWO which includes "Soros, Gates, Clintons, Bilderbergers, Merkel" with the common QAnon phrase "WWG1WGA"

Die von den Hochverrätern weltweit forcierte, linke NWO, mit u.a. Soros, Gates, Clintons, Bilderbergers, Merkel nebst Entourage und Kartellparteien wird derzeit von Trump im Benehmen mit Putin vernichtet. Wenn die Wahrheit ans Licht kommt, wird es Nürnberg II geben! WWG1WGA

Translate Tweet

10:15 PM · Apr 16, 2020 · Twitter Web App



May 2020: The original tweet to which this tweet is responding says "Today is international day against homo-, bi-, inter-, and transphobia. Some girls like girls, some boys like boys. Deal with it." This Twitter user replies by stating "Some men and women like small boys and girls, too. So much so that they even drink their blood", along with conspiracy-related hashtags.

#### **BLOOD LIBEL**

Reference to blood libel is a directly antisemitic conspiracy theory. As explained by the Anti-Defamantion League, "Blood Libel "refers to a centuries-old false allegation that Jews murder Christians – especially Christian children – to use their blood for ritual purposes, such as an ingredient in the baking of Passover matzah (unleavened bread). It is also sometimes called the "ritual murder charge." The blood libel dates back to the Middle Ages and has persisted despite Jewish denials and official repudiations by the Catholic Church and many secular authorities. Blood libels have frequently led to mob violence and pogroms, and have occasionally led to the decimation of entire Jewish communities." Mentions of drinking the blood of children and keeping them for torture in underground bunkers is very reminiscent of this conspiracy theory.

4 May 2020: Twitter user asks in a tweet how long people want to be marionettes/puppets (a common antisemitic dogwhistle) to people such as Bill Gates, George Soros, and the Rockefellers.

Wie lange wollt ihr noch zusehen, wie lange wollt ihr noch
Opferlamm sein, wie lange wollt ihr euch noch von d Gates, Soros u
Rockefeller MARIONETTEN Merkel, Spahn, etc. VERSKLAVEN lassen!
Wie lange?
#GibGateskeineChance

#### #WWG1WGA

Translate Tweet



#### Gates kapert Deutschland!

Unterstütze KenFM: https://www.patreon.com/KenFMde Heute, am 4. Mai 2020, findet eine sogenannte Geberkonferenz statt. ...  $\mathscr S$  youtube.com

9:29 AM · May 4, 2020 · Twitter for Android

#### **MARIONETTE'S AND PUPPET'S**

The use of the term "marionette" or "puppet" is a commonly known antisemitic dog whistle which is used to perpetuate the narrative that Jews are controlling us all without us knowing it. In this case, it is used in conjunction with the #WWGIWGA hashtag and thus support for QAnon.



7 May 2020: Pop singer Xavier Naidoo shares adrenochromerelated content on his Telegram channel 8 May 2020: Twitter user criticises people who deny the narratives promoted by conspiracy theorists Attila Hildemann and Xavier Naidoo and uses conspiracy-related hashtags

#AttilaHildmann #XavierNaidoo #WWG1WWGA #Adrenochrome #pizzagate #spiritcooking #NWO An Alle die meinen die Wahrheit durch den Dreck zu ziehen - Ihr habt Angst, dass euer verkorkstes Arbeits-Konsumleben den Bach runter geht, weil ihr absolut kein Gefühl mehr im Herzen habt.

Translate Tweet

2:12 AM · May 8, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

Alleine die Tatsache, daß Leute wie #Soros überhaupt ihren Sermon dazugeben, sollte doch viele aufhorchen lassen! #NWO #EZB #WWG1WGA #TheGreatAwakening #BRD

Translate Tweet

May 12

Relevant: augsburger-allgemeine.de/wirtschaft/Geo...
Show this thread

7:55 PM · May 12, 2020 · Twitter Web App

12 May 2020: Twitter user includes the hashtags #NWO and #wwglwga in combination with a comment about George Soros: "The fact that people like #Soros are weighing in their opinion should be reason enough to make a lot of people prick up their ears!"

13 May 2020: Twitter user shares an article titled "Soros in dire straits: Fear of his life and the end of the EU" underneath a number of QAnon-related hashtags

Soros in Bedrängnis: Angst um sein Überleben und Ende der EU

✓ youtu.be/TvmqopASDS0 via @YouTube

#QAnon #DeepState #TheStorm #GreatAwakening #DrainTheSwamp #WWG1WGA #FollowTheWhiteRabbit

Translate Tweet



Soros in Bedrängnis: Angst um sein Überleben und Ende der EU Jetzt auch auf Patreon: https://www.patreon.com/AntiilluminatenTV Quellen: https://www.watergate.tv/soros-in...

6:12 PM · May 13, 2020 · Twitter Web Client

#MKUltra #MKUltraSlaves #SoldSoul #Devil #Satan #KABALE
#Hollywood #Ritual #Jesuits #Baphomet #SteveO
#ADRENOCHROME #Adrenalised

#Fauci über #Masken #Maskenpflicht

#Q #WeAreThePeople #DrainTheSwamp #QAnon #WWG1WGA
#TheGreatAwakening #PrayForPotus #POTUS
Translate Tweet

20 May 2020: Twitter user posts a link to a video about "#Fauci on #Masks MandatoryMaskWearing". This user, too, makes reference to antisemitic narratives with the hashtags #Satan, #Kabale, and #Hollywood

23 May 2020: Twitter user translates a tweet into German about adrenochrome and the idea that late-term abortions are permitted for the sale of child body parts.

Aus diesem Grund befürwortet jemand einen späten
Schwangerschaftsabbruch. Es geht nicht um Frauenrechte, sondern
um Geld und #Adrenochrome

Translate Tweet

May 23

This is why someone support late-term abortion. It ain't for women's rights it's for money and #Adrenochrome

\$2,975
(5 fetal livers)

\$2,670
(38 fetal brains)

BRAIN

LIVER

PANCREAS

\$7,140
(12 fetal hearts)

\$3,000
(12 fetal hearts)

Bitte schaut es euch an! Unglaublich :
#UnderGroundTunnels
#DUMBS
#SatanicElite
#Cannibalism
#Adrenochrome
#SaveTheChildren
#Q #WWG1GWA
Translate Tweet

Phil Schneider über die Alien-Agenda
1995 hält ehemaliger staatlicher Baustatiker, der am Bau von unterirdischen Militärbasen für die US-Regierung beteiligt ...

y youtube.com

23 May 2020: Twitter user asks readers to check out the linked video, adding antisemitic conspiracy theory hashtags such as #SatanicElite

## GREECE

Upon searching for the QAnon hashtags, there was not a significant amount of following of the conspiracy theories in question among Greek-speaking users of Twitter. Key players, if any, mostly belonged to the Greek diaspora in the United States and Canada. In the search that was conducted between the 1st of April and the 12th of May 2020, only 11 tweets contained one of the aforementioned hashtags and appeared to have some relation to Greece. However, some of these tweets just used letters of the Greek alphabet for no particular reason and do not seem to be truly relevant. The rest of the accounts belonged to users interested in American politics who were pro-Trump, most likely members of the Greek diaspora in America.

Some of the accounts that were looked at in this process are listed below. In general, these had low frequencies of activity with a small following (all less than 250 followers except for one with 1,465 followers).

- <a href="https://twitter.com/AscalonGeorge">https://twitter.com/AscalonGeorge</a>
- https://twitter.com/GVlings
- <a href="https://twitter.com/TheEntirePie">https://twitter.com/TheEntirePie</a>
- https://twitter.com/KalamarasAnt

The screenshot below is from one of the Twitter accounts examined. This account is the only one that seems to be based in Athens, Greece. Overall, the user's tweets are vague and generic:



-"I hadn't tweeted for long. Better that way. I am joining the battle fresh. Get over with obscurantism and sepsis. Elevate patriotism and love for humans. Break the deception."

This user's tweets also targeted marginalized communities such as Roma people and immigrants from Africa and Asia without explicitly calling for violence. In general, there were very few tweets (less than 10) including #trusttheplan and #freethechildren in 2018 and 2019.

## HUNGARY

The process of social media monitoring in Hungarian began with the exploration of a seemingly innocent group called "Those who try to lessen the corona panic". However, this quickly led to a range of conspiracy theories, including those related to anti-vaccination, 5G, QAnon and adrenochrome, illuminati, satanism, and various other conspiracy theories about global "deep state" government and its financial powerhouse.

The monitoring also led to the discovery of a very active community which translates and creates videos on the back of various conspiracy theories, including that of QAnon. Some engagement is driven by fake profiles, but the community is also growing organically. With the panic surrounding the coronavirus pandemic, it seems that these different conspiracy theories are now building off of one another and making increasingly ludicrous connections.

The main conspiracy hashtags are being used by some profiles on Facebook but have not been seen much on Twitter in Hungary. However, it is difficult to observe the true traction of this movement solely for Hungary, as QAnon supporters in the United States dominate the space. Overall, the related hashtags are not used in the traditional function of a hashtag, but rather as symbols of unity for everyone who understands the code.

TEV, a Hungarian organisation that works to uncover antisemitism, identified two antisemitic articles related to QAnon. One explicitly mentions Zionists as the controlling deeper power, but it has no shares on Facebook. The other, which made no explicit mention of Zionism, has over 10,000 Facebook interactions, of which more than 3,000 are shares. In this same vein, there is no trend of explicit antisemitism beyond mentions of globalists and the "deep state" within the conspiracy theories. The only posts with any mention of violence are those reacting angrily against vaccination and those promoting the conspiracy theory that ISIS soldiers are being commandeered to spread the virus to kill westerners,

# THE NETHERLANDS AND FLEMISH BELGIUM

Social media monitoring in Dutch was done primarily on Facebook and Twitter and focused on sources from the Netherlands. Four influential sources of various conspiracy theories were identified; QAnon Nederland, a Dutch public Facebook page with 8,500+ followers, QAnon NL, a Dutch private Facebook group with 580+ members, Nederland word wakker, a Dutch public Facebook page with 17,000+ followers, and Dutch influencer Robert Jensen, who has 57,500+ followers on Facebook and 41,500+ followers on Twitter. The first three sources did not have a Twitter equivalent. Within these sources, there were three recurrent themes that are relevant within the context of QAnon and conspiracy theories:

## News from Dutch authorities about the coronavirus crisis cannot be trusted

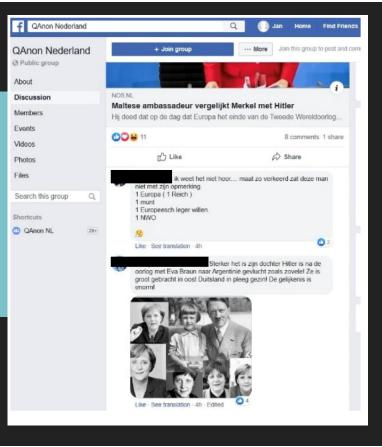




The above article by Robert Jensen claims that the coronavirus numbers provided by the Dutch government are false. These numbers include the daily death toll, the daily number of new confirmed cases, and the daily number of new hospitalized patients. This article was posted in two Facebook groups; "QAnon Nederland" and "Nederland wordt wakker". According to CrowdTangle data, this article had 14,950+ interactions on Facebook and 1,030+ interactions of Twitter.

## Cases of antisemitism are prominent

In this post, comments from two users support the theory that the German Chancellor Angela Merkel is Adolf Hitler's daughter and wishes to conquer the European continent. Here is a screenshot of these comments.



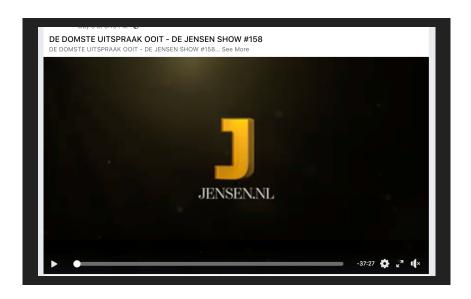
The article below claims that Israel's approach to dealing with the coronavirus crisis is no better than the methods used by the Nazi regime. Further, the Israeli government is directly linked to and associated with Nazi Germany. This article was posted in the Facebook group "QAnon Nederland". According to CrowdTangle data, references to this article had 122+ Facebook interactions and 28+ Twitter interactions.



#### Fake news around the coronavirus

Robert Jensen is a significant player in the spread of fake news related to coronavirus. He is able to disseminate false information on a widespread basis through his role as host and producer of a well-known Dutch talk show, the De Jensen Show.

- This news show includes criticism towards the Dutch government's response to the virus and the government itself by claiming those who are in charge of it are hypocrites.
- Robert Jensen also actively supports fake news and denies the necessity of finding a vaccine for the coronavirus.
- Most of the shows are watched by 45,000-55,000 viewers and include commentary with similar polarized opinions.

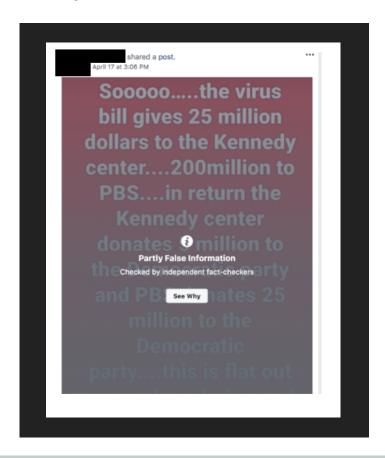


Overall, #QAnon, #wherewegoonewegoall, and #WWG1WGA were sometimes mentioned alongside conspiracy theory-related content. The context of conspiracy theories is often associated with Dutch daily news. There were not any particular cases of calls for violence on the pages mentioned above.

## THE UNITED KINGDOM

While the main source of QAnon content posted in English is the United States, there is also a great deal of conspiracy theory-related social media content based in the United Kingdom. This monitoring covers YouTube, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok, with varying degrees of traction across the different platforms. For example, one noted trend on YouTube is the uploading of videos where individuals simply pledge their support to QAnon.

Within Facebook, there are a few private groups with titles that directly reference the QAnon conspiracy theory, such as #wherewegoonewegoall. However, these groups are difficult to enter. There are also public groups as well that discuss distrust of the government, going against lockdown restrictions by protesting publicly without social distancing, and Big Pharma criticism feeding into anti-vaccination support. Often information within these groups is marked by Facebook as "partly false information", as seen in the following screenshot:



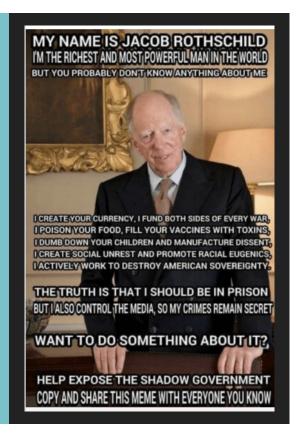
On Twitter, there is much more traction than #wherewegoonewegoall. #wwglwga However, the majority of the content in English comes from the United States. The same QAnonrelated themes of the government having too much control and encouragement of antilockdown within protests are seen posts containing the main conspiracy hashtags.



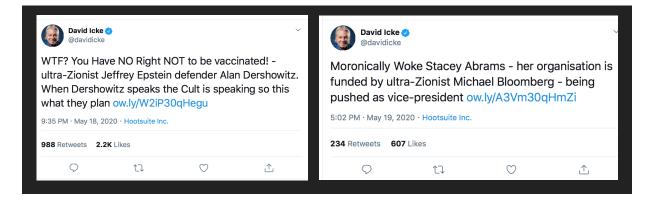
The other hashtags (#trusttheplan and #freethechildren) had less traction than the other two hashtags looked at. A lot of posts containing #freethechildren were also tagged with #pizzagate, which is related to the conspiracy theory condemning the deep state.

While there is not a lot of direct antisemitism in posts containing the main conspiracy hashtags, dog whistling techniques were spotted through our monitoring. The use of other hashtags (#globalist, #globalistagenda, #nwo) are often used to reference the stereotype that Jewish people are trying to influence world events in order to benefit the Jewish community and/or the Jewish state.

In particular, this rationale is being used to insult and implicate individuals such as Bill Gates, George Soros, and the Rothschild family in the manufacturing of COVID-19. These individuals are also often named as deceptive criminals who have gotten away with their actions, as is shown by this meme found in a Facebook group:



One particularly harmful and popular troll is David Icke, who promoted the theory that 5G towers cause coronavirus symptoms and somehow facilitate the spread of the virus. He has also been known to utilise antisemitic language to try to delegitimise and insult people he disagrees with:



For the most part, there is no clear trend of advocating for violence within QAnon content. The incidents where there have been calls for violence are usually targeted at elites like George Soros and Bill Gates.

Additional hashtags found:

#agenda21, #plandemia, #plandemicdocumentary, #thegreatawakening, #rothschild, #pizzagate, #GodWins

# CONCLUSION

As established at the beginning of this report, the QAnon conspiracy theory existed before the COVID-19 pandemic. However, this pandemic has created an environment of uncertainty and powerlessness within many aspects of human life today. Unfortunately, QAnon has successfully taken advantage of this atmosphere by expanding the scope of the conspiracy theory and using it to spread misinformation and fake news about an already complex and unsolved public health crisis. Further, QAnon supporters have even managed to garner support for the antivaccine movement and lockdown protests, to name a few cases. In this regard, COVID-19 has become a vital part of the QAnon movement itself.

Throughout this report, we have demonstrated that the QAnon conspiracy trend is not just relevant to the United States, but has also gained significant international following. At a basic level, this signals the willingness of thousands of people to accept a conspiracy theory, something which is entirely false. In the context of QAnon, it may be that a social media user simply initiates one conversation with staunch supporters of the movement and ultimately ends up in a conspiracy theory echo chamber. Regardless of the implications of the online space itself, any misinformation campaign that gains this much following across a multitude of countries is great cause for concern.

The overall intent of this report is to provide evidence of the pervasiveness of the QAnon conspiracy theory and the harmful effects of its widespread acceptance by its followers and its continued tolerance by social media users. In particular, we discovered the use of antisemitic dog whistles by QAnon supporters through the use of repeated elements, such as #NWO and scapegoating of George Soros. Dog whistling is inherently confusing for people who are viewing it without context, but it can serve as an effective way to spread hate speech when left unchecked. For this reason, it is vital to increase public awareness of the problematic nature of QAnon not just as a tool for spreading misinformation, but also as a mechanism for perpetuating stereotypes and hate speech. Unfortunately, it is often those who act in hateful ways online who continue on to act in hateful and even violent ways offline. With this in mind, there is a great need for action to refute and combat the QAnon conspiracy theory.

66 IT IS VITAL TO **INCREASE PUBLIC** AWARENESS OF THE **PROBLEMATIC** NATURE OF QANON, NOT JUST AS A TOOL FOR SPREADING MISINFORMATION. **BUT ALSO AS A** MECHANISM FOR PERPETUATING STEREOTYPES AND HATE SPEECH.

## PRODUCED BY



Led by the Media Diversity Institute (MDI) with the support of 6 partners spread throughout Europe, the campaign harnesses the power of social media to disseminate innovative media outputs and generates dialogue in order to deliver a powerful counter-narrative against diverse forms of hate speech, including antisemitism, Islamophobia and anti-Christian sentiment.



The Media Diversity Institute (MDI) works internationally to encourage and facilitate responsible media coverage of diversity. MDI encourages fair, accurate, inclusive and sensitive media coverage in order to promote understanding between different groups and cultures.



The Center for Independent Journalism (CIJ) is a non-profit and non-political organization aiming to promote ethical, fact-based journalism and independent media in Hungary. CIJ focuses its activities on journalism training, with a special emphasis on training professional journalists to contribute to ethical and high-quality journalism.



The International League against Racism and Anti-Semitism (LICRA) — established in 1927, is one of the oldest non-governmental organization fighting against racism and anti-Semitism. It fights against the growing political and social acceptance of xenophobia and discriminations and offers a free legal assistance to victims of racism and anti-Semitism.



Karpos, is a Greek organisation which develops local and European projects encouraging expression and the exchange of views and creative ideas through the use of media. They specialise in how media, image and sound can develop narratives and how they can be introduced in educational environments.



The Amadeu Antonio Stiftung is one of Germany's foremost, independent, non-governmental organizations working to strengthen democratic civic society and eliminate neo-Nazism, right-wing extremism, and anti-Semitism in Germany. The foundation funds projects and campaigns in pursuit of this goal, brings direct support to victims of hate-based violence, and promotes alternative youth cultures and community networks to weaken the social structures that intolerance and racism need to survive.



The European Union of Jewish Students (EUJS) is a pluralistic, inclusive and non-partisan umbrella organisation. EUJS supports Jewish student unions throughout Europe and represent its members in international institutions and organisations.



ENORB strives to provide a civil society platform of different religions and beliefs to facilitate dialogue and promote the rights and freedoms and in other international human rights conventions. It's core mission is to combat discrimination and promote mutual understanding among R&B groups across Europe, focusing on minorities subject to exclusion