

Distorting History

Holocaust Denial and Distortion in Italy and in International Comparison

Conference on November 13, 2024, 15.30 – 18:00

Fondazione Centro di Documentazione Ebraica Contemporanea CDEC
Piazza Edmond J. Safra 1, 20125 Milano

In Europe, the crimes of the Nazis are increasingly being instrumentalised by actors from different political camps for their own political agendas, further normalising the trivialisation and denial of the Holocaust in society. This is happening against the backdrop of very different social contexts: during the conspiracy-driven protests against the measures to contain the COVID-19 pandemic in Italy, which extended far into the centre of society, anti-vaccination activists symbolically staged themselves as the 'persecuted of the present' by wearing yellow armbands, and portrayed the Italian government as the new Nazi dictatorship. Since the massacres of 7 October 2023, against the backdrop of the war between Israel and Hamas, Israeli actions have repeatedly been equated with those of the Nazis. During 2023, the CDEC Foundation's Observatory on Antisemitism received 923 reports. After careful analysis, 454 of them were recorded as incidents of antisemitism. The data for 2023 (454) is far higher than that recorded in 2022 (241). Never had such a high number of incidents been recorded over the course of 12 months, of which 216 were recorded between October and December. The increase in Holocaust denial and distortion is not an Italian phenomenon but can be observed internationally.

- What exactly is the situation in Austria, Germany, Italy, Poland, the Czech Republic and the United Kingdom and what similarities and differences can be observed?
- How do these forms of antisemitism manifest in the context of current events, and from whom do they originate?
- How do the denial and distortion of the Holocaust affect survivors and their descendants?
- And what insights into the denial and distortion of the Holocaust are made possible by the recording of antisemitic incidents by civil society?

These questions will be examined at the "*Distorting History*" conference on the basis of the commonalities and specifics of Holocaust denial and distortion in five European countries. The basis for the comparative analysis is the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) working definition of Holocaust denial and distortion.

Conference Details

The conference “*Distorting History*” is public and aimed at experts from education, research, administration, and the media.

Admission is free of charge and is subject to registration via email at osservatorioantisemitismo@cdec.it until 12 November 2023.

The event will be held in English.

The conference is organised by the Fondazione Centro di Documentazione Ebraica Contemporanea CDEC, part of the European Network on Monitoring Antisemitism (ENMA). ENMA aims to provide internationally comparable data on antisemitic incidents.

The conference is funded as part of the project Standardised Recording of Holocaust Distortion in Five European Countries. Since June 2024 the project has been raising awareness for Holocaust denial and distortion on social media as part of the campaign #FACTSMATTER Defend Truth, Defeat Distortion.

More information about ENMA and the campaign #FACTSMATTER Defend Truth, Defeat Distortion is available at enma.eu

Conference-Schedule

[Distorting History. Holocaust denial and distortion in Italy and in international comparison](#)

Conference Moderator: Gadi Luzzatto Voghera, Fondazione CDEC

- 15:30 – 16:00 Arrival and Registration
- 16:00 – 16:10 Opening Remarks
Gadi Luzzatto Voghera, Executive Director of the CDEC Foundation
- 16:10-16:30 Distortion and Trivialization of the Shoah
Michael Whine, Co-founder of the Community Security Trust, former Senior Consultant to the World Jewish Congress, and the U.K. Member of ECRI at the Council of Europe
- 16:30-16:50 TBD
Judith Stein, Reporting Centre for Antisemitism (Antisemitismus-Meldestelle) of the Jewish Community of Vienna (IKG Wien)
- 16:50-17:15 Cases of Shoah distortion in Germany
Leeor Fink, ENMA Project Coordinator for Bundesverband RIAS
- 17:15-17:35 Educational resources to counter antisemitism in schools: experiences and reflections
Daniela Dana Tedeschi, President of Associazione Figli della Shoah
- 17:35-17:50 Q&A
- 17:50 – 18:00 Reflection and Closing Remarks

Event organisers reserve the right to exercise their domiciliary rights and to refuse entry to, or exclude from the event, persons who belong to right-wing extremist or Islamist parties or organisations, those associated with the right-wing extremist, Islamist or anti-Israeli scene, or who have previously made racist, nationalist, antisemitic or other inhumane statements.

Funding

The project *Standardised Recording of Holocaust Distortion in Five European Countries* and the campaign #FACTSMATTER. *Defend Truth, Defeat Distortion* is funded:

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#FACTSMATTER
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