

## Antisemitic and Racist Statements by Hungarian Political Leaders

The proliferation of antisemitic and discriminatory statements by elected officials in Hungary—sometimes followed by apologies, sometimes not—creates a permissive climate for hatred, discrimination, and violence against Hungarian minorities. Political parties in Hungary should take action against members who make discriminatory or hate-filled statements.

As Jobbik has gained political legitimacy in Hungary, its senior members have made an effort in recent times to tone down the party's virulent rhetoric. Gabor Vona, Jobbik's leader and a member of Parliament, explained in April 2015, "I am much more consistent now about the wild offshoots that I used to allow, look away from, or sweep under the carpet. The responsibility that flows our way from Hungary's voters demands that we do that . . . With time the (extremist) elements of Jobbik you may see as prevalent will fade out because they no longer find their calling here."

Yet Hungarian politicians' antisemitic and xenophobic statements persist:

"The number of Hungarians is not just falling disastrously, but soon we will become a minority in our own homes. When will the day come when they decide to change Hungary's name? And when will we finally tackle our country's biggest problem?" *Source: Előd Novák, Jobbik member of Parliament, [BBC](#) (2015)*

"Now they expect me to fall on my face because of the international success of the Hungarian Holocaust film. But it is not merely a joke to say that the greatest holiday of the Jews is the day the Oscars are given out." *Source: Előd Novák, Jobbik member of Parliament, [Hungarian Spectrum](#) (2015)*

"The migration that is hitting the borders of the European Union is absolutely unbearable. From the southern direction or from the eastern direction, we're having a flow of migration which is going to come to a situation whereby Europe is going to collapse, given the demographic trends in Europe, given the economic and the financial situation in Europe, and of course, given also this migration. Europe is going to disintegrate if we don't get down to business with regard to the issue of migration." *Source: Márton Gyöngyösi, Jobbik member of Parliament, [PBS](#) (2015)*

"There are all kinds of weapons: traditional, chemical, atomic. And now we see that there are also racial weapons. This is the weapon that they, the invisible hands, have employed against Europe and against the white race. . . . Why has everyone, from everywhere and all at once, decided to start heading towards Europe? Why? Let us declare loudly and level-headedly: this is an artificial, manufactured mass migration. And its goal is the final and irreversible transformation of Europe's ethnic and religious composition. And for this, they have already produced the necessary ideologies. According to the Harvard professor, the white race must be made to vanish. . . . Our leaders in Brussels want to sell Europe from over our heads and they want to destroy our Europe. . . . Anyone who dares to oppose this automatically becomes a Nazi. . . . [O]f the 500 million natives of Europe, 450 million do not want to see any more immigrants. The Hungarian prime minister represents their opinion." *Source: Zsolt Bayer, journalist, founding member of Fidesz, [Hungarian Free Press](#) (2015)*

"Sometimes they break into an empty farmhouse to sleep or change clothes. But occasionally the owner comes back when they're inside – and who would be pleased to find an Afghan or African family in their home like that? . . . Most of those who come here have destroyed their documents, so we've no idea who they are or where they're really from. And even if they come from a war zone, what did they do there? Is this person a real refugee or a jihadi?" *Source: László Toroczkai, Mayor of Ásotthalom, [The Irish Times](#) (2015)*

"I have been calling for a border fence ever since last autumn. I do not think the physical barrier will be able to tackle immigration to Western Europe, yet it will divert it from this village. Honestly, we tried to save Western Europe from the end it faces with this immigration wave; they did not care about us. Now, I am only interested in saving my village from these people." *Source: László Toroczkai, Mayor of Ásotthalom, [Deutsche Welle](#) (2015)*

"The Hungarian government must point out that the Western European leaders who are so critical of Hungary now have been actively involved in creating a crisis situation and destabilizing Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, and Libya." *Source: Márton Gyöngyösi, Jobbik member of Parliament, [Jobbik website](#)*

"For this anti-Islamic campaign they (Western far-right parties) have obtained Zionist support from Israel. Every single one of them. Since Islam and Israel, or Zionism, are enemies, they have basically formed one camp. You can see that Strache of FPÖ has made a number of pro-Israeli statements and received Zionist support. Vlaams Belang is even financed by certain Zionist communities. Wilders as well. They see immigration and Islam as the greatest danger, so they got one of the greatest enemies of Islam – Zionism – on their side. It's a completely logical approach. In Hungary we have a completely different problem. If you look at our statements and what we represent, we have been criticizing Israeli politics. We have criticized Zionism as a global phenomenon and the way it functions in the world today." *Source: Márton Gyöngyösi, Jobbik member of Parliament, [The Budapest Times](#) (2014)*

"Dual citizenship is a risk. It's a national security risk. I want to be sure that a Hungarian parliamentarian, member of government or civil servant is 100% loyal and 100% committed to my nation when they are making laws or executing them. Everyone in the world thinks the same. In Israel double citizens are excluded from the Knesset. If Israel does that, then why are they hurt if I demand the same thing for Hungary? . . . With Hungarian-Israeli double citizenship I think this risk is even higher than with Zimbabwean-Hungarian double citizenship, because we have heard of malicious intentions from Mr. Shimon Perez when he spoke about the colonization of Hungary by financial and economic means." *Source: Márton Gyöngyösi, Jobbik member of Parliament, [The Budapest Times](#) (2014)*

"At a [Debrecen district] cultural committee meeting on December 19, 2013 during a presentation of a tender decision, the head of the cultural department said Hungary is preparing for two huge commemoration event in 2014: one is about the Hungarian victims, the heroes, who fell in the [Second World] war, the other is the Holocaust... excuse me, Holo -- caust... still not working, Holocaust. It was intended, excuse me." *Source: Tibor Ágoston, Jobbik Member, Debrecen City Council, [YouTube](#) (2014)*

"The Israeli conquerors, these investors, should look for another country in the world for themselves, because Hungary is not for sale." *Source: Gabor Vona, Jobbik president, member of Parliament, [International Business Times](#) (2013)*

"The facts are the following: a sizable part of the Gypsies is not fit for coexistence. Not fit to live amongst people. These segments of Gypsies are animals and behave as animals. They want to [have sex with] whomever they see whenever and wherever. Upon meeting resistance, they kill. They defecate wherever and whenever they have the instinct. Upon feeling hindered in this for whatever reason, they kill. They want to have whatever they see. If they don't get it instantly, they take it and they kill. These segments of Gypsies are incapable of humanlike communication. Mostly inarticulate noises spout from their animal skulls and the only thing they understand about this miserable world is violence." *Source: Zsolt Bayer, journalist, founding member of Fidesz, [Magyar Hírlap](#) (2013)*

"I think now is the time to assess...how many people of Jewish origin there are here, and especially in the Hungarian parliament and the Hungarian government, who pose a national security risk to Hungary." Source: *Márton Gyöngyösi, Jobbik member of Parliament, [Foreign Policy](#) (2012)*

"Now is the time to finally say: Israeli occupation is ongoing in our homeland. This is a fact, for evidence we need only to think about the overwhelming dominance of Israeli capital investments, property developments in Hungary. And the Gypsy people are a biological weapon of this [Israeli occupation]. They use them as tools against the Hungarian people." Source: *Enikő Hegedüs, Jobbik member of Parliament, [Kuruc.info](#) (2011)*

"There are national tendencies, there are greatest tragedies, striking Hungarians the widest, the deepest, and this is Gypsycrime... We need to talk about this, about who is killing Hungarian people, who is stealing their wealth, their crops... We need to talk about this, because these are the real problems." Source: *Előd Novák, Jobbik member of Parliament, [parlament.hu](#)*

### Official Jobbik Party Materials

"At the present time a segment of the Gypsy community strive [sic] for neither integration, nor employment, nor education; and wish only that society maintain them through the unconditional provision of state benefits... What is however simply beyond dispute is that certain specific criminological phenomena are predominantly and overwhelmingly associated with this minority, and that as a result such phenomena require the application of fitting and appropriate remedies." Source: *[Radical Change: A guide to Jobbik's parliamentary electoral manifesto for national self-determination and social justice](#) (2010)*

"Jobbik urges to revoke the voting rights – valid for the municipal elections – of immigrants whose applications for asylum were approved." Source: *[Jobbik website](#)*

"Have you noticed how all the news reports that refer to, and condemn, Jobbik's supposed 'rhetoric' never actually quote any of it, to let you judge it for yourself?" Source: *[Jobbik website](#)*

For more information, see Human Rights First's fact sheet: [The Jobbik Party in Hungary: History and Background](#), or contact Corinne Duffy at [DuffyC@humanrightsfirst.org](mailto:DuffyC@humanrightsfirst.org) or 202-370-3319.