

ANTISEMITISM & DISCUSSION OF JEWS BY NEW ZEALAND EXTREMISTS

Among a range of online harms catalysed by Covid-19, online antisemitism has seen a concerning rise during the pandemic. Recent ISD research for the European Commission found that comparing the first two months of 2020 (pre-pandemic) and 2021 (during the pandemic), there has been an enormous seven-fold increase in antisemitism across French language accounts, and over a thirteen-fold increase in German channels, with over 180,000 posts containing antisemitic keywords across Facebook, Twitter and Telegram in these languages during the period.ⁱ Common Covid-19-related antisemitic narratives ranged from conspiracy theories presenting vaccines as a Jewish plot to sterilize or control populations, to representations of Jews as unhygienic or as a “virus” themselves.

In New Zealand, concerns have been raised by community organisations about a recent rise in antisemitic incidents. Following the Israel-Palestine crisis earlier in 2021, Juliet Moses, the spokesperson of the NZ Jewish Council (NZJC), stated:

“Last year, 2020, saw 33 antisemitic incidents recorded in New Zealand - the highest number since records began in 1990. Last month alone, we recorded 16 incidents. They ranged from targeted, private antisemitic abuse of Jewish students online to a man giving the Nazi salute outside a synagogue.”ⁱⁱ

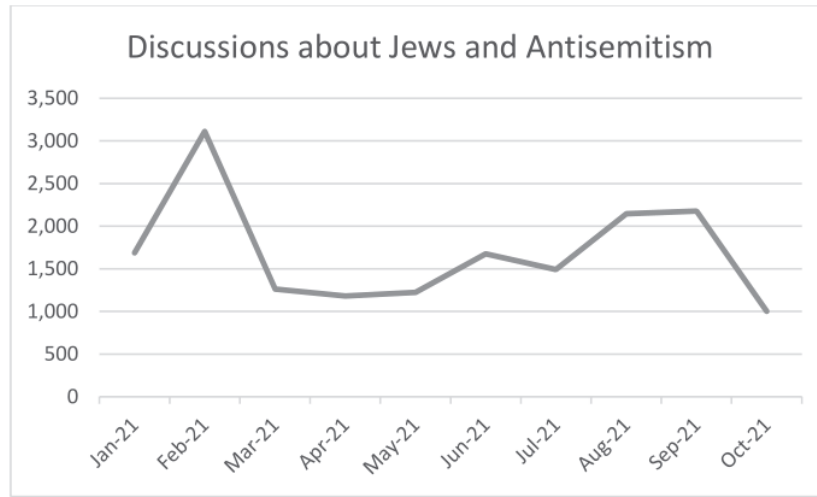
This chimes with international trends which have seen a wave of anti-Jewish hatred accompanying specific trigger events, often finding a close correlation between real world events, online hate and offline abuse.ⁱⁱⁱ Similarly, a survey published in 2020 found that (at least) 70 Jews in New Zealand’s Jewish community had experienced antisemitic abuse, and three had been physically attacked in the previous 12 months.^{iv}

In an effort to better understand this phenomenon, this briefing analyses high-level trends around online discussion about Jews and antisemitism among New Zealand online extremists, drawing on ISD’s dataset of hundreds of thousands of posts from a broad range of platforms. ISD researchers created keyword annotators based on previous analysis of online antisemitism and extremist discussion about Jews. Our analysis found that during 2021, almost 22,000 extremist posts referenced keywords related to Jews and antisemitism.

The widely adopted working definition of antisemitism by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) emphasises the importance of “taking into account the overall context” when judging whether specific statements can be classified as antisemitic.^v Due to the limited scope of this briefing and the volume of posts about Jews and antisemitism – as well as the fact that a considerable proportion of online antisemitism uses coded language – it is not possible to answer with certainty how many of the 22,000 posts are merely descriptively using relevant keywords, and how many are in fact antisemitic. The latter half of the briefing therefore provides a series of qualitative examples of antisemitic narratives within New Zealand extremist communities.

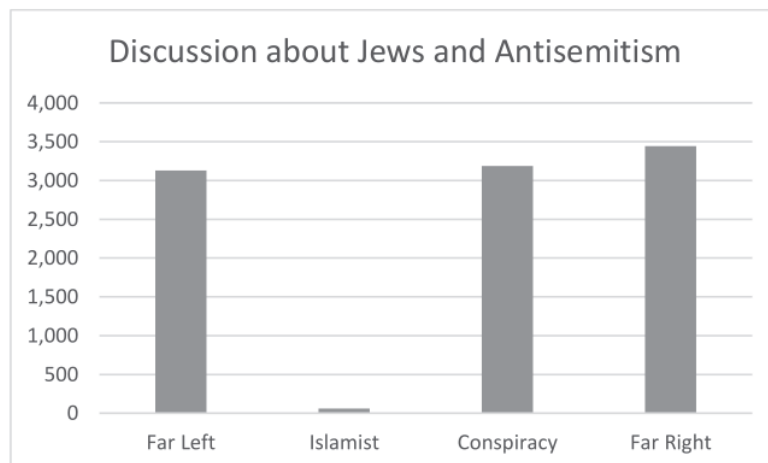
Discussion about Jews and Antisemitism over time

Exploring trends in extremist discussion in 2021, we see that mentions of Jews and antisemitic keywords fluctuate between 1,000 and 2,500 mentions per month. February (3,112 posts) appears to be an outlier. The second peak came in September (2,177 posts), which can be correlated to Rosh Hashanah and other Jewish holidays, though this was not a major theme in the antisemitic posts analysed in the subsequent qualitative sections.



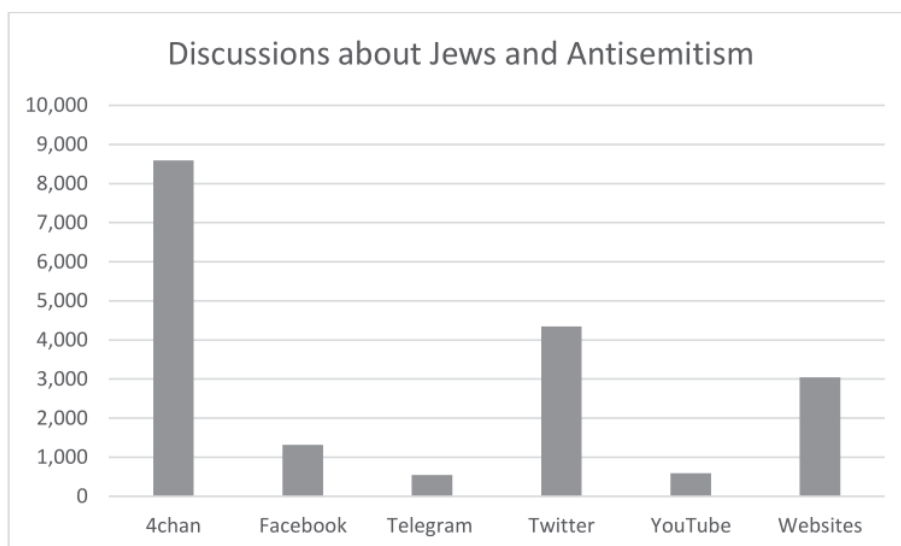
Discussion by Ideology

The distribution of posts using keywords related to Jews and antisemitism which can be associated with a specific ideological outlook is relatively even between the far-right (3,441 posts), conspiracy theories (3,118) and the far-left (3,130). It should be emphasised that the presence of posts containing specific keywords related to Jews and antisemitism does not automatically indicate these posts are antisemitic, and further in-depth analysis would be needed to make judgements of how the share of antisemitic posts differs between ideologies as well as if and how antisemitic expressions differ between different ideologies.



Platform landscape

Notably, our analysis showed that New Zealand extremist discussion of Jews and antisemitism was dominated by 4chan (8,594 posts), which had more than twice the number of posts as Twitter (4,342) and standalone websites (3,038). Facebook, Telegram and YouTube on the other hand all had less than 1,500 posts using this language.



4chan's relative prominence is in line with the widely documented prevalence of antisemitic ideas and memes on the platform.^{vi} Previous ISD research in the German context has used natural language classifiers to demonstrate that more than half of all mentions of Jews on 4chan's /pol/ board are antisemitic in nature.^{vii} While the presence of posts containing specific keywords related to Jews and antisemitism does not automatically indicate these posts are antisemitic, the subsequent qualitative sections of this briefing will provide more in-depth insights into examples of antisemitic discourse online.

DIVERSE MANIFESTATIONS OF NEW ZEALAND ANTISEMITISM

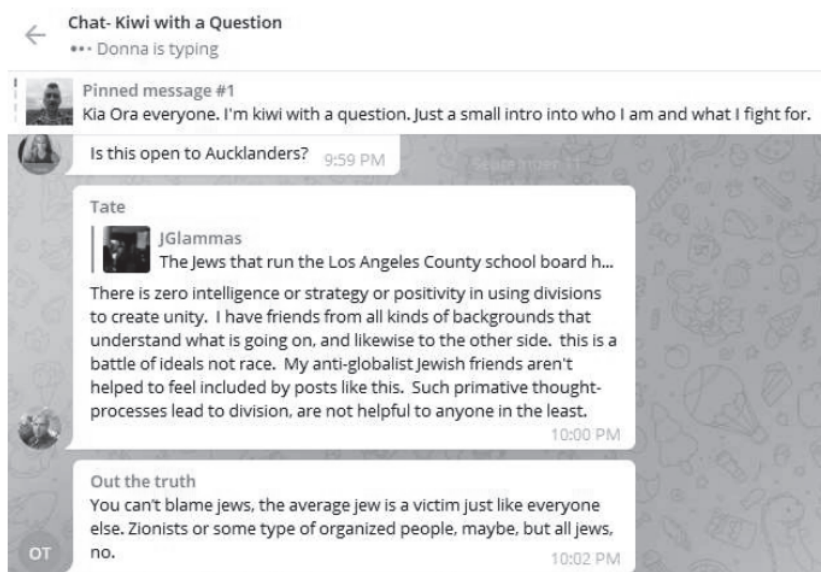
Conspiracy Theories

ISD identified a range of antisemitic conspiracy theories being spread in New Zealand far-right and conspiracy groups being monitored across different platforms.

In Facebook groups for example, antisemitism often manifested in implicit ways, for example as references to 'Rothschilds', 'Bilderbergs', the Illuminati or other cut-outs often used as coded references to Jewish people. In other cases, the content simply lists people who are supposedly Jewish or have Jewish connections, but does not directly spell out why this is significant. Much of this content is shared into New Zealand-focused groups from international sources, and don't appear to generate an unusually high level of engagement.



In some cases, as antisemitism becomes more overt we see a direct pushback against it from users. In the example below, Telegram users appear to be drawing a distinction between 'globalists' and 'Zionists', and broader Jewish populations. Such inconsistencies suggest that users who are otherwise concerned about explicit anti-Jewish rhetoric may be unaware of the antisemitic dog-whistles present in other conspiracy theories espoused.



QAnon content continues to play a notable, although not dominant, role in the propagation of antisemitic tropes and narratives, including in relation to PM Jacinda Ardern. This content is being shared from QAnon sources into more broad-based anti-vaxx Telegram channels.

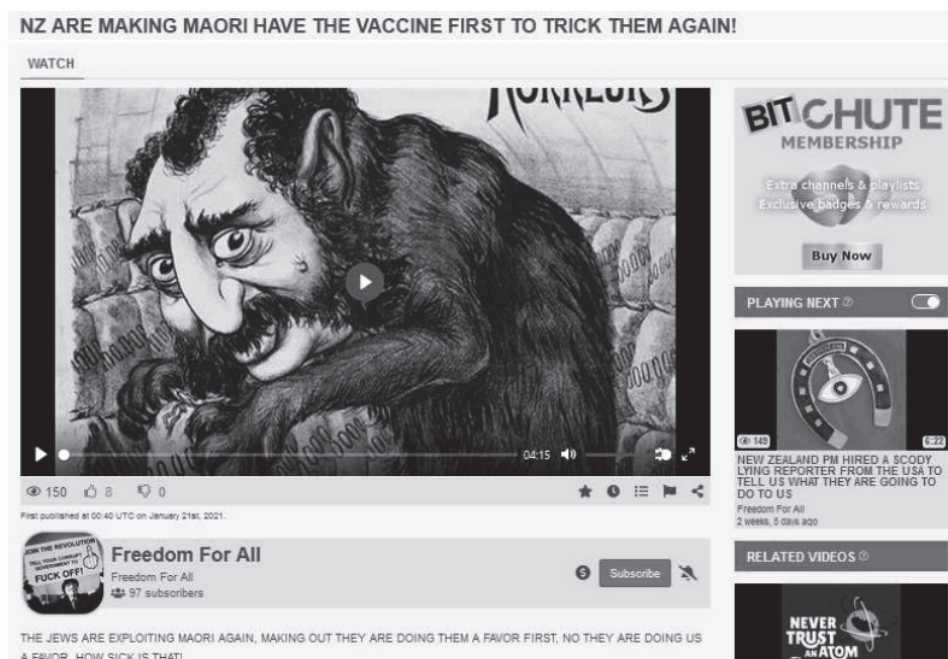


There is a particular livestreamer active on Bitchute, GoyimTV and other streaming platforms who is prolific in generating antisemitic content, who goes by the handles **Rindfleisch** and **Freedom for All (NZ)**. She has been creating content linking Covid-19 vaccines to a Jewish plot, as well as claiming that Jews are secretly pulling the strings of the New Zealand government. Her viewership appears to be small, but she is notable for her apparent fixation on the topic of Jewish people and for the volume of content she puts out.



As noted in previous briefings, conspiracy theories around the decision to prioritise Māori communities for vaccination have also been merged with antisemitic conspiracy theories. One especially concerning video on Freedom for All hosted on Bitchute claims that

prioritising Māori populations for vaccination is a Jewish plot within New Zealand, using explicitly antisemitic imagery and terminology.

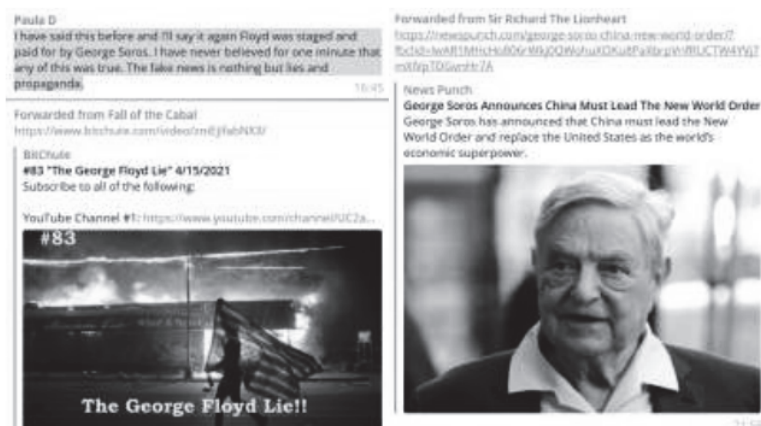


Unsurprisingly, antisemitic conspiracy theories about Covid-19 vaccines are also popular amongst New Zealand imageboard users. 4chan is well-known for its antisemitism and has more recently developed a strong anti-Covid-19 vaccine consensus (although with a persistent pro-vax minority). For example, in a thread discussing the [anti-lockdown hikoi in Auckland](#), users posted about the role of Jewish people in the pandemic.



Other implicitly antisemitic conspiracy theories were voiced in the **White Rose New Zealand** channel on Telegram. Here it was alleged that George Soros, an American-Hungarian financier and philanthropist that is a frequent target of antisemitic conspiracy theories,^{viii} “staged” the murder of George Floyd in order to undermine the United States and promote the Black Lives Matter movement. Another user in the chat claimed that Soros was supportive of Chinese leadership of the “New World Order” (Soros has in fact been very

critical of the human rights abuses and surveillance techniques employed by the Chinese Communist Party and the leadership of Xi Jinping in particular).^{ix}



Other prominent conspiracy theories identified among New Zealand extremists surround organised child abuse, which often draw upon antisemitic tropes and portray Jewish individuals and organisations as the organisers of such abuse. For example, one user on White Rose New Zealand claimed:

“We are most definitely run by a Satanic government though. Rothschild's, rockerfellers, Freemasons, Hollywood etc all of pedofilia and human trafficking.”

Similarly, users in the QAnon Australia/NZ chat on Telegram stated alleged that Israeli intelligence was involved in the child abuse scandal surrounding Jeffrey Epstein:

“Epstein had a temple, he raped children, tortured them and played hunting games. He was mossad intelligence and a satanic abuser.”

Holocaust trivialisation and denial

According to the IHRA definition of antisemitism, “Holocaust denial is discourse and propaganda that deny the historical reality and the extent of the extermination of the Jews by the Nazis and their accomplices during World War II” and it “is an expression of antisemitism” as it seeks to deny the experiences of Jews and is intimately intertwined with antisemitic conspiracy theories. Holocaust trivialisation on the other hand is designed to downplay or diminish the magnitude of Jewish suffering during the Holocaust.

Both types of content were identified within New Zealand extremist communities during the research for this briefing. For example, the conspiracy theorist **Damien De Ment** compared the systematic exclusion from public life that Jews experienced in the 1930’s during the lead-up to the Holocaust with the restrictions faced by people who refuse to be vaccinated against the COVID-19 pandemic. While there may of course be legitimate ethical and

scientific debates about whether such restrictions are effective and proportionate, De Ment's equation with Nazi policies is trivialising the historical experiences of antisemitism.

Damien De Ment

Similarities between the way European Jews were systematically shunned, stifled and segregated by the Nazis.

Just like the Unvaxxed folks of today. Except the imminent genocide caused by the vax will be much bigger than the holocaust. Makes me feel sick knowing what has been done to humanity.

On a brighter note, I've been thinking hard about CCCC. Covid Criminal Containment Centre(s). I bet there are thousands of low level non violent offenders who we could rehabilitate quickly to make space for COVID Communists in our current prison system.

I don't want to spend any taxpayer money on housing the COVID criminals, that will have to be paid for by their surviving family or through prison provided work schemes. All proceeds from criminal asset sales conducted by the state will be paid back directly to the NZ people.

1730 08:11

While De Ment's post itself falls under the category of trivialisation, he triggered an even more extreme debate in the comments under this post. Multiple users following De Ment started to express disappointment that he appeared to accept the reality of the "hollyhoax" (Holocaust hoax) and called it the "biggest hoax in history [sic]." Those commenting on the Holocaust denial posts generally expressed support for this sentiment, arguing that Hitler had been right, that the "greatest genocide was committed against the German people" (presumably referring to non-Jewish Germans) and that the "cabal" (a trope frequently used to describe an alleged global Jewish conspiracy) was reversing supposed historical realities.

K O

Reply

Mandy

Damien, why do you reference the hollyhoax? Do you not know ...

Im with u mandy, this cabal world is inverted, good people made to look evil and evil people look good, the greatest genocide was on the german people, not the fake jew holohoax, hitler was right, kickin these fake jews out of his country that were running the banking system n all their fukd up perversions, hitler loved his people, empowered them with kickass family traditional values and only wanted peace, mein kampf is a good read with docos like europa the last battle, hellstorm and hitler the untold story, will be good for people to start their journey on the real history of ww1/2

edited 11:54

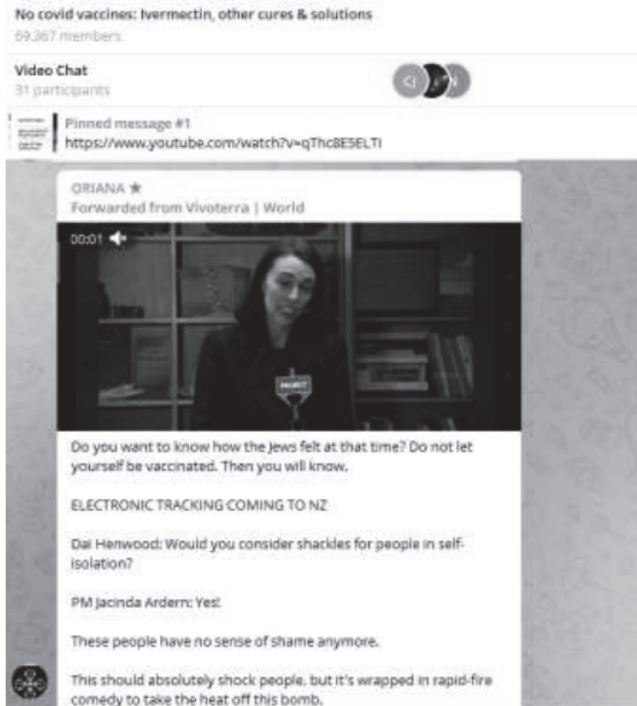
Mandy

Reply

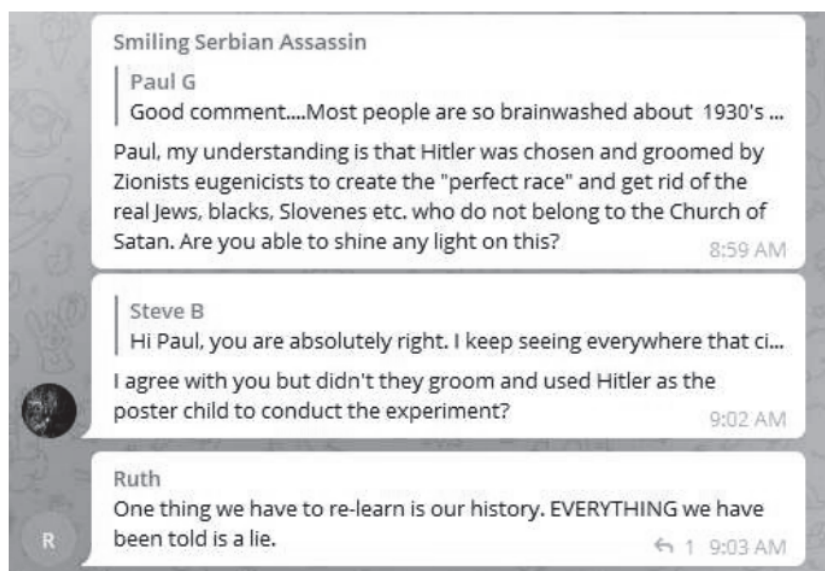
Damien, why do you reference the hollyhoax? Do you not know this is the biggest hoax in hiSTORY?...the biggest lie! I thought you were wide awake, but obviously your not. Makes me feel sick knowing how humanity has been lied to! The genocide was carried out on the German people, not the kites.

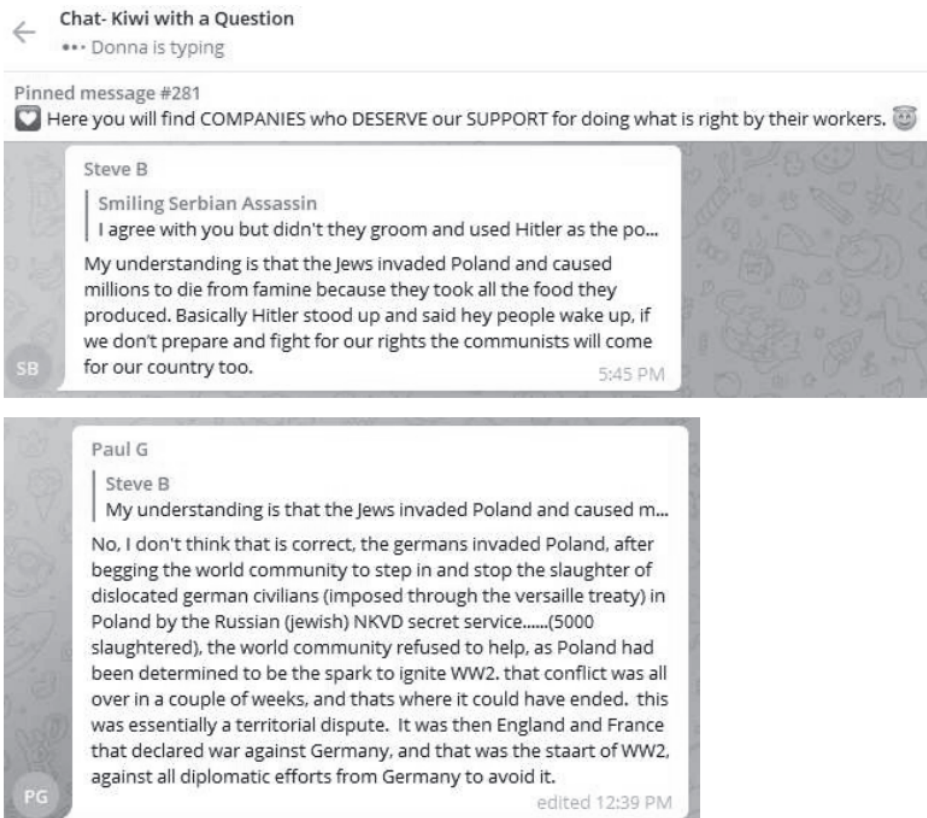
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This conspiratorial antisemitic narrative appears to be widely spread amongst Covid denialist and anti-vax communities, who also allege that the treatment of unvaccinated people in 2021 parallels the treatment of Jewish people in the lead-up to the Holocaust. Within these communities, there is therefore also an obvious (though not always acknowledged) tension between narratives which emphasize Jewish victimhood on the one hand and those which revolve around a belief in malevolent, all-powerful Jewish puppetmasters capable of manipulating historical memory on the other.



In other cases, this tension contributes to some very elaborate efforts to stitch the two views – the victimisation of Jewish people and the existence of a shadowy malicious Jewish cabal – together. In the example below, from a New Zealand Telegram channel in October, the discussion veers back and forth between the idea that Zionists manipulated Hitler to get rid of the “real Jews”, to the suggestion that Jews invaded Poland, to the idea that the Russian Jewish Secret Service was killing Germans in Poland, forcing Germany to invade as a last resort, and that this was a deliberate plot to spark WWII.





Action Zealandia

As noted in previous ISD research, the ethno-nationalist group Action Zealandia appears more transparently supportive of antisemitic ideas and 'scientific racism' than many other like-minded far-right groups internationally.^x In the context of the Black Lives Matter protests following the death of George Floyd in the United States, for example, Action Zealandia published an article alleging that "Jewish power" controls Black Lives Matter. In an article on its website, Action Zealandia argued that

"Blacks don't have the necessary intelligence and ability to spin seductive webs of high-sounding words. But Jews do. And it's Jews who have been the most effective creators of and propagandists for the progressive dogma of absolute and unequivocal equality between all human groups."

This section outlines some of Action Zealandia's other statements about Jews, Israel and antisemitism. Key themes that emerge are a supposed Jewish conspiracy that controls key levers of power, Zionist influence on international politics and the attitudes of Action Zealandia towards Arabs and Islam.

Following the leak of Facebook's internal list of Dangerous Individuals and Organisations in October, Action Zealandia has pointed out that they are the only entity from New Zealand

that is mentioned. The group added that *“the majority of founders and higher executives as well as numerous board holders are jewish”*, likely implying that this is the reason Action Zealandia is viewed as a dangerous organisation.

Action Zealandia is similarly critical of academic Paul Spoonley, describing him as an “enemy of the people” and “an academic puppet of Jewish and Chinese money influence.”

Action Zealandia

Facebook, a firm where the majority of founders and higher executives as well as numerous board holders are jewish, has released a list of people it considers enemies.

So we made the bad boy list. The only NZ group to be deemed dangerous, even though they host pages that glorify gangs here. Apparently putting up posters and banners is worse than those who routinely commit heinous crimes, such as murder, rape, and drug manufacturing.

<https://theintercept.com/document/2021/10/12/facebook-dangerous-individuals-and-organizations-list-reproduced-snapshot/>

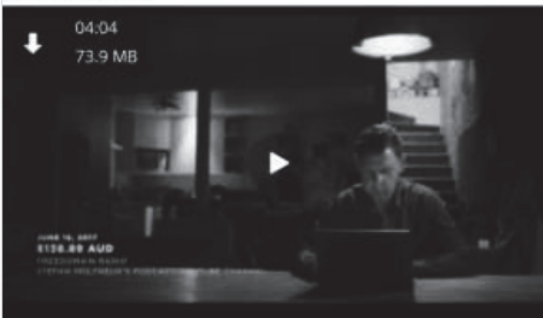
The Intercept

Facebook Dangerous Individuals and Organizations List (Reproduced Snapshot) - The...
Fearless, adversarial journalism that holds the powerful accountable.

5034 edited 02:56

Action Zealandia

04:04
73.9 MB



Imagine begging for forgiveness from an academic puppet of Jewish and Chinese moneyed influence, who steals his student's academic work, and chooses to teach a cop killer.

<https://action-zealandia.com/articles/an-enemy-of-the-people-paul-spoonley>

1017 edited 06:00

Like many other ethno-nationalist movements, Action Zealandia is critical of an interventionist foreign policy by Western countries. It views military engagement in the Middle East and other Muslim-majority countries such as Afghanistan as missions that serve “Zionist interests”. Rather than focus their “anger and resentment” at the forces fought in these wars such as the Taliban, Action Zealandia argues that the real enemy is “monetary power, Zionist interests and military industrial power.” While some of these posts draw upon language that could be viewed with sympathy from a left-wing anti-imperialist perspective, the emphasis is on opposing Jews/ Zionists.

Action Zealandia



New article by Mark Daalor

Against Zionism and a New Model Army

This article looks into the US lead wars of destabilization in the Middle East and how these wars are cheerleadered by prominent Neoconservatives and Zionist Jews.

Also looks into how our governments have supported these wars over the past two decades. The article also looks into how the army can be reformed to better suit our people and our interests. A New Model Army for a new age.

Action Zealandia



Some of the best of our generation, and that of our older brothers, were killed and maimed with traumatic injury for life, for a war which our leaders and elites did not want to win but felt wasting our lives was a noble cost they could afford to pay. The loss of Afghanistan has affected many veterans personally but they should separate their anger and resentment from the Taliban and focus on the Monetary power, Zionist interests and military industrial power that wanted them there in the first place.

2036 edited 10:37

This emphasis on opposing “Zionist interests” has perhaps counter-intuitive implications for Action Zealandia’s stances on Arabs and Muslims. As the group stated in a Telegram post, “this organisation is not an anti-Islamic group or an anti-Arab group. That said, our express purpose is to be pro-white. Nonetheless, we support Palestine, and any other country that does not undermine that which belongs to our people. We detest all Zionist scoundrels and hope to see the nationalists in all Arabia free from foreign meddling, just as we wish for our people.” Based on these priorities, Action Zealandia during a recent podcast explored the “possibility of cooperation with Muslims and Christians in regards to nationalism against globalism and ZOG.” ZOG stands for Zionist Occupied Government, an antisemitic trope that alleges Jews are in control of Western governments.



Writing on Action Zealandia’s website, the fascist author Kerry Bolton also stated that the “Zionist lobby” was both instrumentalising the Christchurch attack and stirring anti-Muslim sentiment to incite “whites” and Muslims against each other. From this perspective, far-right terrorism is merely a pretext to justify ignoring legitimate political grievances around “replacement migration.” There is a tension here between Action Zealandia’s opposition to non-white migration to New Zealand, and their tactical desire to team up with Muslims, whom they view as potential allies against Jews.

SENSITIVE

ISD | Powering solutions
to extremism
and polarisation

Action Zealandia
Forwarded from Global Resistance News (Resistance Creed)



Interesting ActionZealandia article describes the Zionist Lobby using the Tarrant shooting to not only stifle White dissent, but also pit Muslims against Whites, all while promoting Islamophobia.

It concludes:

Zionist & Israel-First neocon orgs in the USA & Europe have been the primary elements behind Islamophobic propaganda, to the extent of giving financial backing to so-called 'far right extremists' such as Tommy Robinson in Britain and Geert Wilders in The Netherlands. Yet the origins of Islamophobic propaganda are deflected away from these well-funded and influential pro-Israel organisations and on to powerless 'far right' groups.



The spectre of a 'far right' terrorist threat, equated with 'white identity', serves as a red herring to obscure the actual origins of Islamophobic propaganda, and as a rationalisation for suppressing dissent across a range of issues, including globalisation, and what the United Nations calls 'replacement migration'.

Zionist 'diversity' hypocrisy EXPOSED

@Cultures_of_Resistance

971 22:00

Whether Action Zealandia draw any connection between Jewish people and the Covid-19 vaccines is less clear. In general Action Zealandia's position on the Covid-19 vaccines is somewhat ambiguous. In two posts on Telegram, Action Zealandia has expressed opposition to mandatory vaccination with 'experimental vaccines.' However, mention of vaccine mandates on a [recent podcast](#) was extremely brief and did not shed much further light on AZ's attitudes to the Covid-19 vaccines. As the group has previously also been critical of the QAnon movement, it appears that they may not prioritise supportively engaging with conspiracy theories that are gaining in popularity online.^{xi}

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ⁱ <https://www.isdglobal.org/isd-publications/the-rise-of-antisemitism-during-the-pandemic/>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PO2106/S00091/new-zealand-not-immune-from-rise-in-antisemitism.htm>

ⁱⁱⁱ https://cst.org.uk/public/data/file/4/a/The_Month_of_Hate.pdf

^{iv} <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/300215269/the-growing-issue-of-antisemitism-in-new-zealand>

^v <https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/resources/working-definitions-charters/working-definition-antisemitism>

^{vi} Tuters, Marc, and Sal Hagen. "(((They))) rule: Memetic antagonism and nebulous othering on 4chan." *New Media & Society* 22.12 (2020): 2218-2237; Zannettou, Savvas, et al. "A quantitative approach to understanding online antisemitism." *Proceedings of the International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media*. Vol. 14. 2020; Crawford, Blyth, Florence Keen, and Guillermo Suarez-Tangil. "Memes, Radicalisation, and the Promotion of Violence on Chan Sites." *The International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM)*. 2021.

^{vii} Guhl, Jakob, Julia Ebner, and Jan Rau. "The online ecosystem of the German far-right." *Institute for Strategic Dialogue* (2020).

^{viii} <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/hnsgrassegger/george-soros-conspiracy-finkelstein-birnbaum-orban-netanyahu>

^{ix} <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-46996116>

^x Comerford, Milo, Jakob Guhl, and Elise Thomas. "In the shadow of Christchurch: international lessons from New Zealand's extreme far-right." *CTC sentinel* 14.6 (2021): 48-54.

^{xi} <https://action-zealandia.com/articles/qanon-debunked>