



SUB-REPORT COMMISSIONED
TO ASSIST THE ALL-PARTY
PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY
INTO ANTISEMITISM

ANTI-SEMITISM POLL SUMMARY

POPULUS
26 JANUARY 2015

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Anti-Semitism Poll Summary

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26 January 2015

Research Summary

Methodology

Populus interviewed a random sample of 1,001 adults aged 18+ between 22nd & 25th January 2015. Interviews were conducted across the country and the results have been weighted to be representative of all adults.

Populus is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules. For more information see www.populus.co.uk.

THE MEANING OF ANTI-SEMITISM

- Over half the population (55%) say they would be able to explain what anti-semitism means to someone else.
- Confidence in their ability to do so increases with age: only around two-fifths of 18-24 year olds (37%) and 25-34 year olds (40%) think they could explain anti-semitism, in contrast, two thirds (67%) of 55-64 year olds and 71% of over 65s are able to explain what anti-semitism means.

HOW MUCH OF A PROBLEM IS ANTI-SEMITISM IN BRITAIN TODAY?

- On a scale of 1 to 10 where 1 means anti-semitism isn't a problem at all and 10 means it is a serious problem, Britons rate it at 4.66. This figure is largely unchanged from 2005 – when Britons placed the problem at 4.52.
- Similar to 2005, a third of people (35% in 2015, and 34% in 2014), give it a three out of ten or lower, compared with only 14% of people who would give it a mark of eight out of ten or higher.
- Women (4.92) think anti-semitism is more of a problem than men (4.39). Over 65s (5.10) give it the highest mean score, whereas 18-24 year olds (3.92) give it the lowest mean score.
- Two-fifths of people (37%) think that the problem of anti-semitism is worse than it was 10 years ago, in contrast to 16% who think that it is better. Women are more likely to regard anti-semitism as a worsening problem; over two-fifths (43%) of women say this compared to a third (32%) of men.

RECENT INCIDENTS: ARE THEY ANTI-SEMITISM?

	% Aware	% Believing it to be anti-semitism [All]	% Believing it to be anti-semitism [All aware of incident]
The Tricycle Theatre in London refusing to host Jewish Film Week during last year's conflict in Israel/Gaza because it was part funded by the Israeli Embassy in the UK	20%	57%	52%
A placard declaring 'Hitler was right' at a Pro-Palestine/Anti-Israel rally	20%	79%	83%
A football club owner, declaring that "Jewish people chase money more than everybody else".	41%	66%	69%
An MP declaring Bradford to be an 'Israel Free zone'	25%	64%	68%
The killing of 4 Jews in a Kosher supermarket in Paris by a gunman supporting the murderers of 12 Charlie Hebdo journalists, cartoonists and staff	91%	79%	80%

- The vast majority of people (91%) have heard about the killing of four Jews in a Kosher supermarket in Paris by a gunman supporting the murderers of 12 Charlie Hebdo journalists, cartoonists and staff. Out of those aware of the incident, four-fifths (80%) regard it as an example of anti-semitism. Three-quarters of men (75%) and 83% of women regard it as an act of anti-semitism.
- Conversely, only one-fifth (20%) have heard about the Tricycle Theatre in London refusing to host Jewish Film Week and of the 'Hitler was right' placard at the Pro-Palestine/Anti-Israel rally. For the former, just over half - 52% - of those aware of the incident regard it as anti-semitic, and for the latter a much larger proportion; 83%.
- Two-fifths (41%) have heard of a football club owner declaring that "Jewish people chase money more than everybody else", with 69% who were aware of the incident considering it to be an act of anti-semitism. 18-24 year olds are most likely to think it is an act of anti-semitism: of those 18-24 year olds aware of the incident, 81% think it is an act of anti-semitism.
- A quarter of people (25%) have heard about the MP declaring Bradford to be an 'Israel Free Zone', and three-fifths of those who recall the remarks (68%) regard them as anti-semitic.

LOYALTY TO BRITAIN

- Three-fifths of people (62%) think that Jews – who have been born in the UK or who have lived here all their lives – are as loyal to Britain as any other British citizens are. Only 7% think that British Jews are more loyal to Israel than to Britain, whereas a quarter (23%) says that British Jews have divided loyalties between Israel and Britain.
- Similar percentages result when people are asked to think about Jews from families who have been in Britain for three or four generations; with this phraseology, 60% say as loyal as any other British citizen, 27% say divided loyalties, and 6% say that British Jews are more loyal to Israel than to Britain.
- These figures represent a slight improvement on 2005, when 30% - in reply to both versions of the question – said that British Jews had divided loyalties.

NUMBERS OF DIFFERENT ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS GROUPS IN BRITAIN

- When asked to estimate how many Muslims are living in Britain, over a third of people (35%) think that there are more than 5 million, with an average estimate of 3.7 million. Among 18-24 year olds, nearly three-fifths (57%) think that there are more than 5 million Muslims living in Britain. 11% say that they don't know how many Muslims there are in Britain.
- The average estimate for the number of Jews living in Britain is 2.7 million. When asked to estimate the number of Jews living in Britain, a fifth (21%) of people think that there are more than 5 million, and a further 12% estimate the figure to be between 3 and 5 million. 14% say that they don't know.
- The average estimate of the number of Hindus there are in Britain is 2.3 million, the Sikh community put just slightly smaller at 2.2 million – about twice the size of the estimate of the Buddhist community at 1.4 million.
- Compared to 2005, the estimated size of the various ethnic and religious communities has increased. The estimated size of the Muslim population has increased by a million, from 2.7 million to 3.7 million, with the estimate for the Jewish community growing by 300,000 from 2.4 million to 2.7 million.

ATTITUDES TOWARDS JEWISH PEOPLE

	% Agree	% Disagree
Jews have too much power in the UK media and politics	11%	54%
Jews talk too much about what happened to them in the Holocaust	15%	59%
Jews always defend the State of Israel whether its actions are right or wrong	32%	31%
Jews have too much influence over the direction of UK foreign policy	11%	54%

- A third of people (32%) agree that Jews always defend the State of Israel no matter whether its actions are right or wrong, compared to a third (31%) who disagree with the statement.
- One-in-ten people (11%) agree that Jews have too much power in the UK media and politics and that Jews have too much influence over the direction of UK foreign policy. In both cases, over half (54%) disagree with the statements. Around three-in-ten neither agree nor disagree that Jews have too much power and influence.
- 15% of people support the statement that Jews talk too much about what happened to them in the Holocaust, with almost three-fifths (59%) disagreeing.

PROTOCOLS OF THE ELDERS OF ZION

- 82% of people have never heard of the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, with a further 12% saying they have heard of them but don't really know what they are. Awareness of the Protocols is consistently low, with the highest awareness amongst those aged 18-24 and in socio-economic group AB (professionals and those in management roles).
- Overall, 2% of people describe them as a forgery designed to tarnish the reputation of the Jews – a figure that increases to 5% amongst 18-24s, and 6% amongst Londoners. 1% believe the Protocols are a secret plan for Jewish world domination.

ISRAEL AND THE RIGHT TO EXIST

- A very clear majority of people think that Israel has the right to exist (by 89% to 4%) and this figure is largely unchanged from 2005 (87% to 6%). Support varies little by group, but is highest amongst men (92%) and those aged 55+.
- Most people support the 'two state solution' – this is backed by 78% of people (with just 8% opposing the 'two state solution'). Indeed, more people don't know their position on the issue than actually oppose it.