

ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS REPORT JANUARY-JUNE 2013

Antisemitic Incident Numbers

CST recorded 219 antisemitic incidents across the United Kingdom in the first six months of 2013.

This is a fall of 30 per cent from the 311 antisemitic incidents recorded in the first six months of 2012 and is the lowest number of incidents recorded by CST in the first half of a year since 2003, when CST recorded 186 antisemitic incidents.¹ CST recorded 294 antisemitic incidents in the first half of 2011 and 325 in the first half of 2010. The highest number of antisemitic incidents recorded by CST in the January–June period came in 2009, when 628 antisemitic incidents were recorded. This was largely due to antisemitic reactions to the conflict in Gaza in January of that year.

In addition to the 219 antisemitic incidents recorded in the first half of this year by CST, a further 228 potential incidents were reported to CST, but, on investigation, appeared not to show evidence of antisemitic motivation or targeting. These potential incidents, therefore, were not classified as antisemitic and are not included in the statistics contained in this report. Most of these rejected incidents, comprising 51 per cent of the total number of 447 potential incidents reported to CST, involved non-antisemitic crime affecting Jewish property or people; hostile reconnaissance or suspicious behaviour near to Jewish locations; or anti-Israel activity that did not involve antisemitic language, imagery or targeting.

The overall total of 447 potential incidents compares with 513 potential incidents in 2012, of which 299 were deemed antisemitic and 214 were not. Many of these 447 potential incidents required investigation or a security-related response by CST staff or volunteers, irrespective of whether or not they subsequently appeared to be antisemitic.

There has been no change in CST's methodology or in the sources of antisemitic incident reports from 2012 to 2013 that might explain the decrease in reported antisemitic incidents. The first six months of 2012 did include one 'spike' in antisemitic incidents, which followed the terrorist shooting at the Ozar Hatorah Jewish school in Toulouse, France, in March 2012. This contributed to a monthly total of 75 antisemitic incidents reported to CST from across the UK in March 2012, compared to a monthly total of 23 antisemitic incidents reported in March 2013. There was no similar 'trigger event' to cause a similar spike in antisemitic incidents during the first half of 2013. The highest monthly total came in May 2013, when CST recorded 46 antisemitic incidents. This included a cluster of eight separate tweets involving antisemitic abuse directed at a Jewish footballer on Twitter, which were reported to CST.



Number of antisemitic incidents recorded by CST in the first six months of each year, 2010–2013

1. The incident totals for past years and months in this document may differ from those previously published by CST, due to the late reporting of some incidents to CST by incident victims, witnesses or other sources.

Incident Categories²

CST recorded 29 violent antisemitic assaults in the first six months of 2013, a fall of 19 per cent from the 36 violent assaults recorded in the first half of 2012. This was itself a fall of 14 per cent from the 42 violent assaults recorded in the first half of 2011. None of the 29 assaults recorded in the first six months of 2013 were serious enough to be classified as Extreme Violence, which would involve an incident that posed a threat to life or constituted grievous bodily harm (GBH).

There were two Extreme Violence incidents recorded in the first half of 2012 and none in the first half of 2011. The 29 violent antisemitic assaults recorded in the first six months of 2013 is the lowest total for the January–June period since the first half of 2001, when 22 violent assaults were reported to CST.

There were 19 incidents of Damage & Desecration of Jewish property recorded by CST in the first six months of 2013, a fall of 34 per cent from the 29 incidents of this type recorded in the first half of 2012. There were 35 incidents recorded in this category in the first six months of 2011 and 47 during the same period in 2010.

CST recorded 18 direct antisemitic threats (categorised as Threats) during the first half of 2013, two fewer than the 20 incidents of this type recorded during the first six months of 2012. There were 15 incidents recorded in this category in the first half of 2011 and 19 during the same period in 2010. There were 151 antisemitic incidents reported to CST in the category of Abusive Behaviour in the first half of 2013, a fall of 32 per cent from the 222 incidents of this type recorded during the first six months of 2012. This category includes a wide range of antisemitic incident types, including antisemitic graffiti on non-Jewish property, one-off hate mail and antisemitic verbal abuse. There were 197 incidents of Abusive Behaviour recorded in the first half of 2011 and 211 during the same period in 2010. The 151 incidents of this type recorded in the first six months of 2013 is the lowest total for the January–June period since the first half of 2007, when 138 incidents were recorded in the Abusive Behaviour category.

CST recorded just two incidents of massproduced or mass-emailed antisemitic literature, categorised as Literature (as opposed to one-off cases of hate mail, which are classified as Abusive Behaviour), during the first six months of 2013, half the four incidents recorded in this category during the first half of 2012. There were five incidents of antisemitic literature reported to CST in the first six months of 2011 and three during the first half of 2010. Prior to that year, incidents in this category would regularly reach well into double figures for the January-June period, and there is no obvious explanation for why the number of incidents recorded in this category has fallen by so much. It may reflect the shift to electronic forms of mass mailing, which are either easily deleted or may be caught by filters designed to intercept spam or junk emails.

2. A full explanation of CST's antisemitic incident categories can be found in the leaflet "Definitions of Antisemitic Incidents", available on CST's website at www.thecst.org.uk



Graffiti reading "Put Jews in here" on a bin in Greater Manchester, January 2013

Incident Victims

There were 76 antisemitic incidents reported to CST in the first six months of 2013 in which the victims were random Jewish individuals in public. In 35 incidents the victims were visibly Jewish, due to religious or traditional clothing, Jewish school uniforms or jewellery bearing religious symbols. One hundred and five antisemitic incidents involved verbal abuse (30 of which involved abuse shouted from a passing vehicle). These three characteristics, often found in combination, reflect the most common single type of antisemitic abuse, directed at people who look Jewish, while they go about their business in public places.

There were five antisemitic incidents recorded at Jewish schools in the first six months of 2013, less than half the 13 incidents recorded at Jewish schools in the same period in 2012. A further seven incidents involved Jewish schoolchildren or staff on their way to or from school, while three incidents involved Jewish schoolchildren or staff at non-faith schools – making a total of 15 antisemitic incidents affecting people and buildings in the school sector, compared to 31 such incidents in the first half of 2012. Two of the incidents affecting Jewish schoolchildren or staff on their way to or from school came in the category of Assault.

Nineteen antisemitic incidents reported to CST in the first half of 2013 took place at people's homes and six occurred in a workplace environment. There were six antisemitic incidents affecting Jewish students, academics, student unions or other student bodies in the first half of 2013, compared to 14 in the first half of 2012 and 16 in the first six months of 2011. Five of these six incidents took place on campus, two of which occurred in the context of student political activity, and one incident involved violent assault.

There were 15 antisemitic incidents recorded during the first six months of 2013 that targeted synagogues, compared to 21 during the first half of 2012. A further 11 incidents targeted synagogue congregants or rabbis on their way to or from prayers (15 such incidents were recorded during the first half of 2012). There were 16 incidents that targeted Jewish organisations, Jewish events or Jewish-owned businesses (where there was clear evidence of antisemitism), one fewer than the 17 incidents of this type in the first half of 2012. There were 14 incidents in the first half of 2013 in which the victim was a prominent Jewish individual or public figure, compared to just five such incidents in the first half of 2012. There were no antisemitic desecrations of Jewish cemeteries in the first half of 2013, compared to two in the first half of 2012. There were three incidents reported of antisemitic hacking of Jewish websites.

CST received a description of the gender of the victim or victims for 120 of the 219 antisemitic incidents in the first half of 2013. Of these, 80, or 67 per cent, were male; 31, or 26 per cent, were female; and in 9 incidents the victims were mixed groups of males and females.

CST received a description of the approximate age of the victim or victims in 87 of the antisemitic incidents reported during the first six months of 2013. Of these, 66, or 76 per cent, involved adult victims; 15, or 17 per cent, involved victims who were minors; and in six incidents the victims were mixed groups of adults and minors.



Antisemitic card sent to a Jewish Parliamentarian. London, January 2013

Incident Offenders and Motives

Identifying the ethnicity, gender and age of antisemitic incident offenders is a difficult and imprecise task. Many antisemitic incidents involve brief public encounters in which the offenders may not be fully visible, and the evidence of victims of, or witnesses to, antisemitic incidents may be vague and disjointed. In addition, many incidents do not involve face-to-face contact between incident offender and victim, so it is not always possible to obtain a physical description of the perpetrator. This section of the report should be read with these caveats in mind.

CST received a description of the ethnic appearance of the offender or offenders in 73 of the 219 antisemitic incidents reported during the first six months of 2013.³ Of these, 40, or 55 per cent, were described as white – north European; three, or four per cent, were described as white – south European; three were described as black; 23, or 32 per cent, were described as south Asian; none as east or south-east Asian; and 4, or 5 per cent, as Arab or north African.

CST received a description of the gender of the offender or offenders in 109 of the 219 antisemitic incidents reported to CST in the first half of 2013. Of these, 98 incidents, or 90 per cent, involved male offenders; seven incidents, or six per cent, involved female offenders; and in four incidents the offenders were mixed groups of males and females.

CST received a description of the approximate age of the offender or offenders in 68 incidents in the first half of 2013. Of these, 42, or 62 per cent, involved adult offenders; 25, or 37 per cent, involved offenders who were described as minors; and in one incident the offenders were a mixed group of adults and minors.

CST also tries to record the number of antisemitic incidents each year in which there is evidence of political motivation alongside the evidence of antisemitism, or where political discourse is employed by the incident offender. The use of political discourse and evidence of political motivation are not synonymous; for example, a black or south Asian offender giving a Nazi salute to a Jewish victim could be described as employing far right discourse, but is unlikely to be motivated by support for neo-Nazi politics.

Of the 219 antisemitic incidents reported to

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Graffiti in a park in Greater London, May 2013

CST during the first six months of 2013, the offender or offenders used some form of political discourse in 85 cases, or 39 per cent of the total. Of these, there were 61 incidents in which far right discourse was used; 20 in which reference was made to Israel, Zionism or the Middle East; and four in which Islamist discourse was used. In seven incidents, more than one type of discourse was used.

Of the 219 antisemitic incidents reported to CST during the first six months of 2013, 58, or 26 per cent, showed some evidence of political motivation. Of these, 38 incidents showed evidence of far right motivation; 16 showed evidence of anti-Zionist motivation; and four showed evidence of Islamist motivation. All incidents needed to show evidence of antisemitism alongside any political motivation in order to be recorded by CST as an antisemitic incident.

For comparison, in the first six months of 2012, 132 of the 311 antisemitic incidents reported to CST involved the use of political discourse alongside the antisemitism, of which 89 used far right discourse; 33 made reference to Israel, Zionism or the Middle East; and 10 involved Islamist discourse. In 18 of these incidents, more than one type of discourse was used. During the same period, there were 94 antisemitic incidents that showed evidence of political motivation, of which 74 showed evidence of far right motivation; 15 showed evidence of Islamist motivation. 3. CST uses the 'IC1-6' system, used by the UK Police services, for categorising the ethnic appearance of incident perpetrators. This uses the codes IC1, IC2, IC3, etc, for white – north European; white – south European; black; south Asian; east or south-east Asian; and Arab or north African. This is obviously not a foolproof system and can only be used as a rough guide.

Geographical Locations

Of the 219 antisemitic incidents recorded by CST in the first six months of 2013, 175, or four out of every five incidents, were recorded in the main Jewish centres of Greater London and Greater Manchester. However, these two communities showed differing trends when compared to 2012.

In Greater London, CST recorded 94 antisemitic incidents, a fall of 37 per cent from the 150 antisemitic incidents recorded in the first half of 2012. There is no obvious explanation for this decrease. CST's recording methodology and sources of antisemitic incident reports have not changed over this period. This includes a programme of exchanging anonymised antisemitic incident and crime reports with the Metropolitan Police Service, a programme which has run consistently since the beginning of 2012. It remains to be seen whether this fall in incidents during the first six months of 2013 continues over a longer time period, and if so whether any patterns emerge that explain the decrease in reported incidents.

CST recorded antisemitic incidents in 17 of the 32 Metropolitan Police boroughs in London, plus one in the City of London and two in London that fell under the jurisdiction of the British Transport Police. Of the 94 antisemitic incidents recorded by CST in Greater London, 35 took place in Barnet, the borough with the largest Jewish population in the country; nine in Westminster; seven in Camden; and six in Hackney.

In Greater Manchester in the first half of 2013, CST recorded 81 antisemitic incidents, a slight increase on the 79 antisemitic incidents recorded there in the first half of 2012. However, this figure of 79 incidents in the first half of 2012 was itself a 27 per cent fall from the 125 incidents recorded there during the same period in 2011. There has been no significant change in CST's methodology or in patterns of antisemitic incident reporting to CST since the beginning of

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2011. Greater Manchester did see a cluster of 12 incidents of antisemitic egg-throwing at visibly Jewish people in April, for which three people were convicted of racially aggravated assault, but beyond this cluster there is no obvious reason for the changing trends in antisemitic incident levels in Greater Manchester from 2011 to 2013, which have gone against the national trend. The highest number of antisemitic incidents in Greater Manchester in the first half of 2013 was in the borough of Salford, with 46 antisemitic incidents. The next highest borough totals were 17 incidents in Bury and 11 in the borough of Manchester.

Outside Greater London and Greater Manchester, CST recorded 44 antisemitic incidents from 27 different locations around the UK in the first six months of 2013, compared to 81 incidents from 36 different locations in the first half of 2012. The 44 antisemitic incidents recorded around the UK included seven in Liverpool, five in Leeds and four in Hertfordshire.



My British family fought in the second world war against Germany... But, I wish Hitler had won the war and wiped you immoral Arab killing scum off the face of the earth.

May IRAN destroy the illegal state of Israel.....



The 4th Reich Brigade

Reporting of Incidents

CST classifies as an antisemitic incident any malicious act aimed at Jewish people, organisations or property, where there is evidence that the victim or victims were targeted because they are (or are believed to be) Jewish. Incidents can take several forms, including physical attacks on people or property, verbal or written abuse, or antisemitic leaflets or posters. CST does not include the general activities of antisemitic organisations in its statistics; nor does it include activities such as offensive placards or massed antisemitic chanting on political demonstrations. CST does not record static websites or offensive videos on YouTube as antisemitic incidents, nor does CST proactively search for antisemitic comments in order to record them as incidents. However, CST will record as incidents antisemitic comments reported to CST that have been posted on blogs or internet forums, or transmitted via social media, if they show evidence of antisemitic content, motivation or targeting that is comparable to the criteria by which CST classifies offline incidents. Thirty-five of the 219 antisemitic incidents recorded by CST in the first six months of 2013 were reported to CST as having taken place on social media, such as Facebook, Twitter or YouTube, compared to 21 reported antisemitic incidents in the first six months of 2012 that involved social media.

The publication of the number of incidents from social media reported to CST is not intended to reflect the real number of incidents that take place on social media, which is likely to be so large as to be effectively immeasurable, but rather to reflect the reality that social media platforms have become increasingly prominent as arenas for public expressions of antisemitism that Jewish people are more likely to view and to report, even if they are not the intended audience.

Antisemitic incidents are reported to CST in a number of ways, most commonly by telephone, email, via the CST website or via CST's social media profiles. Incidents can be reported to CST by the victim, a witness, or by somebody acting on their behalf. In 2001, CST was accorded third-party reporting status by the Police.



As shown on cover: a swastika and the word "Heil" drawn in snow in a synagogue car park, Greater Manchester, January 2013

In the first half of 2013, 96 of the 219 antisemitic incidents recorded by CST were reported directly to CST by the victims themselves, and 12 incidents were reported on their behalf by a relative or friend of the victim. In 33 cases, the incident was reported to CST by somebody who had witnessed the incident take place. Thirteen antisemitic incidents were reported by CST staff or volunteers or by security guards at Jewish buildings, and there were no antisemitic incidents recorded on the basis of media reports. Sixty-four antisemitic incidents were reported to CST by the Police under the incident exchange programmes in London and Manchester, whereby CST and the Police share antisemitic incident reports, fully anonymised to comply with data protection requirements, so that both agencies have as full a picture as possible of the number and type of reported incidents. Twenty-seven of these 64 incidents were reported to CST by the Metropolitan Police Service and 37 by Greater Manchester Police. Any incidents that had been reported to both CST and the Police are excluded from this process to ensure there is no 'double-counting' of incidents.

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