



# ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS

January–June 2015

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- CST recorded **473 antisemitic incidents** across the UK in the first six months of 2015, a **53 per cent increase** on the first six months of 2014.
- The increase was most pronounced during the first three months of 2015 and is likely to reflect an **increase in the reporting** of antisemitic incidents, due to raised communal concern about antisemitism following terrorist attacks in Paris and Copenhagen, rather than a significant increase in incidents taking place.
- CST recorded **88 antisemitic incidents** that took place on **social media**, comprising 19 per cent of the total of 473 antisemitic incidents recorded from January to June 2015.
- CST recorded **44 violent antisemitic assaults** in the first half of 2015, double the 22 incidents of this type recorded during the comparable period in 2014. These incidents, two of which were categorised as 'Extreme Violence', made up 9 per cent of the overall total of 473 antisemitic incidents.
- In addition to the 473 antisemitic incidents recorded by CST, a further **333 potential incidents were reported** to CST which, after investigation, did not show evidence of antisemitic targeting, content or motivation and are not included in the statistics in this report.

## ANTISEMITIC INCIDENT NUMBERS

CST recorded 473 antisemitic incidents across the United Kingdom in the first six months of 2015.

This is an increase of 53 per cent from the 309 antisemitic incidents recorded in the first six months of 2014, which was itself an increase of 38 per cent from the 223 antisemitic incidents recorded during the first half of 2013. CST recorded 312 antisemitic incidents in the first six months of 2012, 294 in the first half of 2011 and 325 in the first half of 2010.<sup>1</sup> The highest number of antisemitic incidents recorded by CST in the January–June period came in 2009, when 629 antisemitic incidents were recorded. This was largely due to antisemitic reactions to the conflict in Gaza in January of that year.

CST recorded 1,174 antisemitic incidents during the full calendar year of 2014, which was more than double the 535 antisemitic incidents recorded during the full year of 2013 and was

the highest annual total ever recorded by CST.

In addition to the 473 antisemitic incidents recorded in the first half of 2015 by CST, a further 333 potential incidents were reported to CST which, after 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 41 per cent of the total number of 806 potential incidents reported to CST in the six-month period, involved possible hostile reconnaissance or suspicious behaviour near to Jewish locations; non-antisemitic crime affecting Jewish property or people; or anti-Israel activity that did not involve antisemitic language, imagery or targeting.

Many of these 806 potential incidents required a security-related response by CST staff or

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.

volunteers, irrespective of whether or not they subsequently appeared to be antisemitic.

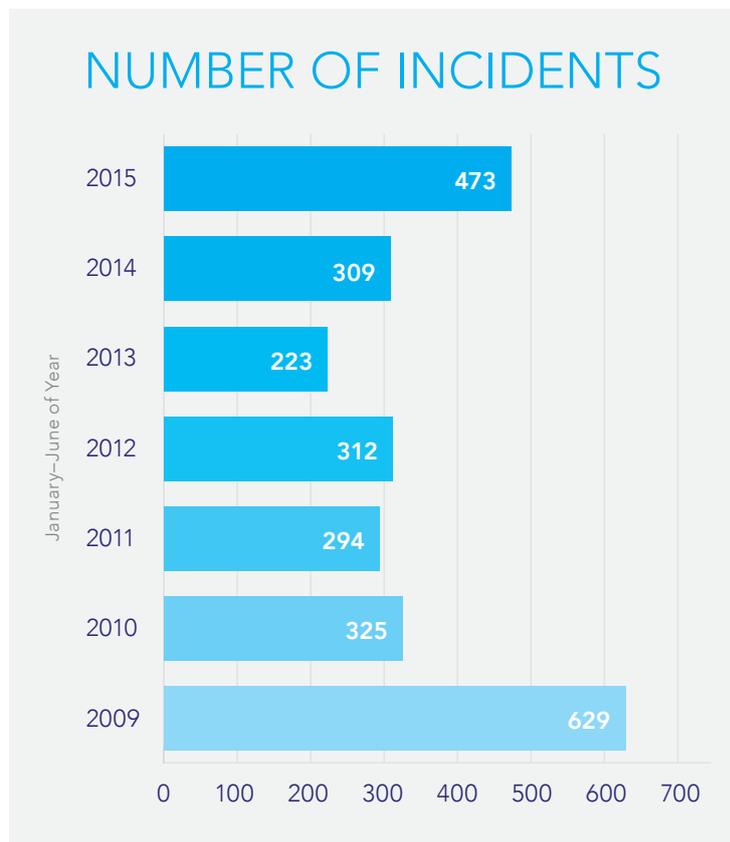
It is likely that the primary reason for the increase in antisemitic incidents recorded by CST is a rise in reporting of such incidents by victims and witnesses, due to an increase in Jewish communal concern about antisemitism.

Most of the recorded increase during the first half of 2015 came in the first three months of the year. CST recorded 106 antisemitic incidents in January 2015 (the sixth-highest monthly total on record), 86 antisemitic incidents in February and 81 in March. All of these were at least double the monthly totals recorded during the corresponding months in 2014, when CST recorded 53, 43 and 39 incidents respectively. There were 73 antisemitic incidents in April 2015 (compared to 58 in April 2014), 56 in May 2015 (51 in May 2014) and 71 in June 2015 (65 in June 2014).

January and February 2015 were marked by terrorist attacks against Jewish communities in Paris and Copenhagen and a sustained amount of media coverage of, and commentary about, antisemitism. If the recorded increase reflected antisemitic reactions to the terrorist attacks themselves, leading to an actual rise in the number of antisemitic incidents taking place, then this would normally be revealed by the content and timing of the incidents. However, the incidents recorded by CST during this period do not include a significant number making reference to those terrorist attacks, nor did they 'spike' in immediate, direct response to the timings of both attacks. Rather, there was a gradual

rise in the number of antisemitic incidents of all types reported to CST after the terrorist attack on a kosher supermarket in Paris on 9 January 2015, which was maintained throughout February and tailed away in March. This gradual rise is therefore more likely to be an indirect response to the heightened media focus on antisemitism and the UK Jewish community during that period, rather than being fuelled by antisemitic reactions to the terrorist attacks.

Eighty-eight of the 473 antisemitic incidents recorded by CST during the first six months of 2015 took place on social media, such as Facebook, Twitter or YouTube, comprising 19 per cent of the total. This is a similar percentage to the first six months of 2014, when CST recorded 55 antisemitic incidents on social media out of a total of 309 incidents.



## INCIDENT CATEGORIES

CST classifies antisemitic incidents according to six categories: Extreme Violence; Assault; Damage and Desecration to Jewish property; Threats; Abusive Behaviour; Antisemitic Literature. A full explanation of each category can be found in the leaflet [Definitions of Antisemitic Incidents](#).

CST recorded 44 violent antisemitic assaults in the first six months of 2015, exactly double the 22 violent assaults recorded in the first half of 2014. Two of the 44 assaults recorded in the first six months of 2015 were serious enough to be classified as Extreme Violence, which would involve an incident that constituted grievous bodily harm (GBH) or posed a threat to life. There were no Extreme Violence incidents recorded in the first half of 2014. There were 29 violent antisemitic assaults recorded by CST in the first six months of 2013, none of which were classified as Extreme Violence. Taking the categories of Assault and Extreme Violence together (to give the overall number of violent incidents), the 44 violent assaults recorded in the first six months of 2015 is the highest total for the January–June period since 2010, when 45 violent assaults were recorded. The 44 violent incidents recorded during the first half of 2015 comprised 9 per cent of the overall total, compared to 7 per cent in the first half of 2014 and 13 per cent in the first six months of 2013.

There were 35 incidents of Damage and Desecration to Jewish property recorded by CST in the first six months of 2015, an increase of 30 per cent from the 27 incidents of this type recorded in the first half of 2014. There were 20 incidents recorded in this category in the first six months of 2013. The 35 incidents of this type recorded during the first half of 2015 is the highest total for this period since 2011, when 35 incidents were also recorded in this category.

CST recorded 36 direct antisemitic threats (categorised as Threats) during the first half

of 2015, an increase of 89 per cent from the 19 incidents of this type recorded during the first six months of 2014. There were 18 incidents recorded in this category in the first half of 2013. Twenty-four of the threats in the first six months of 2015 involved direct, face-to-face verbal abuse from offender to victim, and four took place on social media. The 36 antisemitic threats recorded by CST in the first six months of 2015 is the highest total for this period since 2004, when CST recorded 77 incidents in the category.

There were 353 antisemitic incidents reported to CST in the category of Abusive Behaviour in the first half of 2015, an increase of 49 per cent from the 237 incidents of this type recorded during the first six months of 2014. This category includes a wide range of antisemitic incident types, including antisemitic graffiti on non-Jewish property, one-off hate mail, antisemitic verbal abuse and those social media incidents that do not involve direct threats. There were 154 incidents of Abusive Behaviour recorded in the first half of 2013. The 353 incidents of this type recorded in the first six months of 2015 is the highest total for the January–June period since the first half of 2009, when 408 incidents were recorded in the Abusive Behaviour category. Eighty-four of the 353 incidents recorded in this category took place on social media; 46 involved antisemitic graffiti on non-Jewish property; seven were cases of hate mail; four involved email; and 154 involved verbal abuse.

CST recorded five incidents of mass-produced 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 2015, one more than the four incidents recorded in this category during the first half of 2014. There were two incidents of antisemitic literature reported to CST in the first six months of 2013.

## INCIDENT VICTIMS

There were 178 antisemitic incidents reported to CST in the first six months of 2015 in which the victims were random Jewish individuals in public. In at least 66 of these incidents the victims were visibly Jewish, due to religious or traditional clothing, Jewish school uniforms or jewellery bearing religious symbols. Two hundred and six antisemitic incidents across all categories involved verbal abuse. In 74 incidents, antisemitic abuse was shouted or gestured from a passing vehicle. Three characteristics, often found in combination, reflect the most common single type of antisemitic incident: random, spontaneous, verbal antisemitic abuse, directed at people who look Jewish, while they go about their business in public places.

There were 20 antisemitic incidents recorded at Jewish schools in the first six months of 2015, compared to eight recorded at Jewish schools in the same period in 2014. A further 14 incidents involved Jewish schoolchildren or staff on their way to or from school (10 during the same period in 2014), while 10 incidents involved Jewish schoolchildren or staff at non-faith schools (13 in the first half of 2014). This made a total of 44 antisemitic incidents affecting people and buildings in the school sector, compared to 31 such incidents in the first half of 2014. Three of the incidents affecting people and buildings in the school sector came in the category of Assault, seven involved Damage & Desecration of Jewish property and there were 30 in the category of Abusive Behaviour.

Thirty antisemitic incidents reported to CST in the first half of 2015 took place at people's homes and 11 occurred in a workplace environment. There were 11 antisemitic incidents affecting Jewish students, academics, student unions or other student bodies in the first half of 2015, compared to nine in the first half of 2014. Nine of these 11

academic incidents took place on campus, one in the context of student political activity. None of the 11 incidents affecting students involved violent assault.

There were 25 antisemitic incidents recorded during the first six months of 2015 that targeted synagogues, compared to six during the first half of 2014. A further 14 incidents targeted synagogue congregants or rabbis on their way to or from prayers (12 such incidents were recorded during the first half of 2014). There were 41 incidents that targeted Jewish organisations, Jewish events or Jewish-owned businesses where there was clear evidence of antisemitism, compared to 21 incidents of this type in the first half of 2014. There were 17 incidents in the first half of 2015 in which the victim was a prominent Jewish individual or public figure, compared to 11 such incidents in the first half of 2014. There was one antisemitic desecration of a Jewish cemetery in the first half of 2015, compared to five in the first half of 2014, and four cases of Jewish websites being hacked in circumstances that involved evidence of antisemitism (no such incidents were recorded in the first half of 2014).

CST received a description of the gender of the victim or victims for 244 of the 473 antisemitic incidents in the first half of 2015. Of these, 149, or 61 per cent, were male; 72, or 30 per cent, were female; and in 23 incidents (nine per cent) the victims were mixed groups of males and females.

CST received a description of the approximate age of the victim or victims in 131 of the antisemitic incidents reported during the first six months of 2015. Of these, 91, or 69 per cent, involved adult victims; 34, or 26 per cent, involved victims who were minors; and in six incidents the victims were mixed groups of adults and minors (five per cent).

## 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 176 of the 473 antisemitic incidents reported during the first six months of 2015.<sup>2</sup> Of these, 95, or 54 per cent, were described as white – north European; five, or three per cent, were described as white – south European; 23 (13 per cent) were described as black; 40 (23 per cent) were described as south Asian; two (one per cent) as east or south-east Asian; and 11 (six per cent) as Arab or north African.

CST received a description of the gender of the offender or offenders in 251 of the 473 antisemitic incidents reported to CST in the first half of 2015. Of these, 208 incidents, or 83 per cent, involved male offenders; 39 incidents, or 16 per cent, involved female offenders; and in four incidents the offenders were a mixed group of males and females (one per cent).

CST received a description of the approximate age of the offender or offenders in 148 incidents in the first half of 2015. Of these, 99 (67 per cent) involved adult offenders; 49 (33 per cent) involved offenders who were described as minors; and there were no incidents in which 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 473 antisemitic incidents reported to CST during the first six months of 2015, the offender or offenders used some form of political discourse in 170 incidents, or 36 per cent of the total. Of these, there were 122 incidents in which far right discourse was used; 32 in which reference was made to Israel, Zionism or the Middle East; and 16 in which Islamist discourse was used. In 15 incidents, more than one type of discourse was used.

### Antisemitic tweet, March 2015

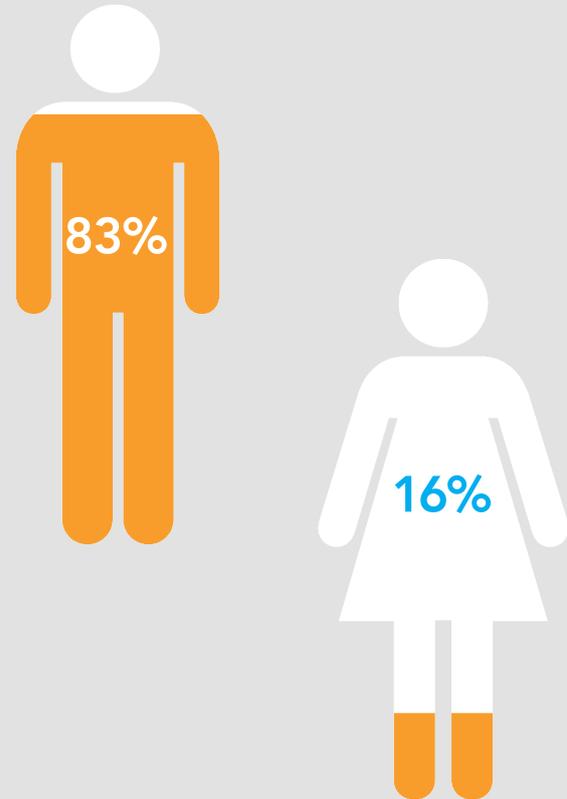


2. CST uses the 'IC1–6' system, used by the UK Police services, for categorising the ethnic appearance of incident perpetrators. This uses the codes IC1, IC2, IC3, etc, for white – north European; white – south European; black; south Asian; east or south-east Asian; and Arab or north African. This is obviously not a foolproof system and can only be used as a rough guide.

Of the 473 antisemitic incidents reported to CST during the first six months of 2015, 107, or 23 per cent, showed evidence of political motivation. Of these, 76 incidents showed evidence of far right motivation; 15 showed evidence of anti-Zionist motivation; and 16 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 2014, 114 of the 309 antisemitic incidents reported to CST involved the use of political discourse alongside the antisemitism, of which 91 used far right discourse; 21 made references to Israel, Zionism or the Middle East; and two involved Islamist discourse. In five of these incidents, more than one type of discourse was used. During the same period, there were 71 antisemitic incidents that showed evidence of political motivation, of which 54 showed evidence of far right motivation; 15 showed evidence of anti-Zionist motivation; and two showed evidence of Islamist motivation, alongside evidence of antisemitism.

## PERPETRATORS



### Antisemitic letter sent to synagogue in Scotland, February 2015

HITLER ATTEMPTED TO RID EUROPE OF THE  
FILTHY JEWS AND EVERYTHING THEY STAND FOR  
HE FAILED!

NEXT TIME THERE MUST BE  
NO MISTAKES MADE, THEY ARE AS WORTH  
USE ON THE PLANET AND TO HUMANITY  
AS DOGS

THE PEOPLES OF UK  
DON'T WANT YOU IN THEIR  
MIDST

## GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATIONS

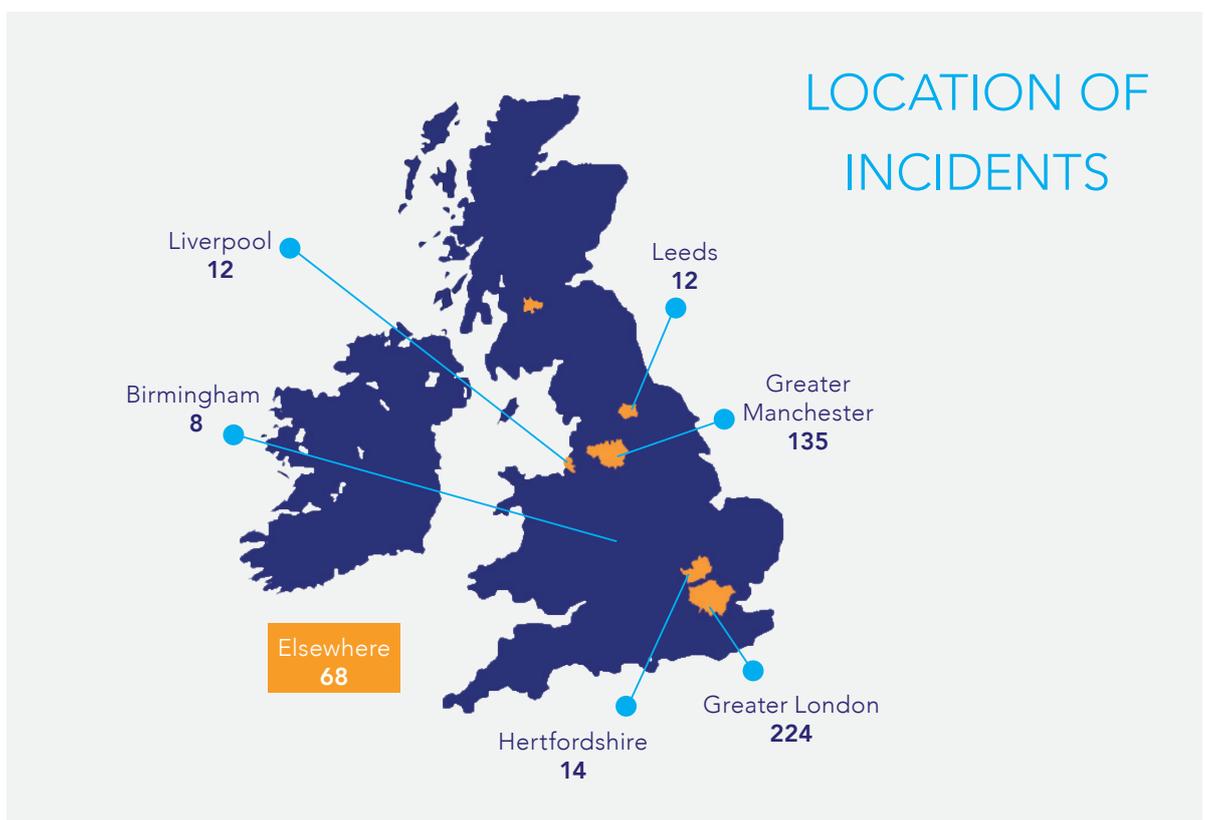
Of the 473 antisemitic incidents recorded by CST in the first six months of 2015, 359, or just over three-quarters, were recorded in the main Jewish centres of Greater London and Greater Manchester.

In Greater London, CST recorded 224 antisemitic incidents from January to June 2015, a rise of 54 per cent from the 145 antisemitic incidents recorded in the first half of 2014. CST recorded antisemitic incidents in 26 of the 32 Metropolitan Police boroughs in London, plus seven antisemitic incidents in London that fell under the jurisdiction of the British Transport Police. Of the 224 antisemitic incidents recorded by CST in Greater London, 78 took place in Barnet, the borough with the largest Jewish population in the country; 29 in Hackney; 23 in Camden; 13 in Westminster; and 11 in Haringey.

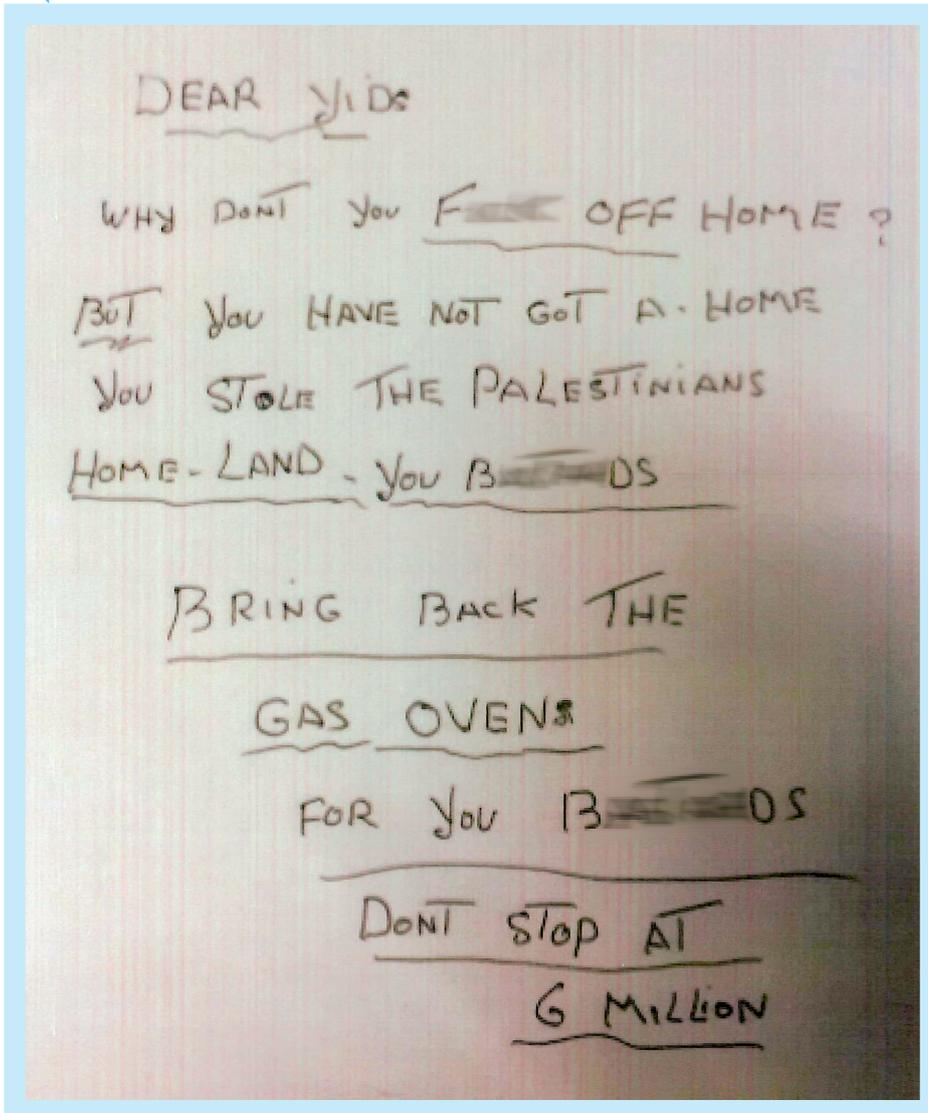
In Greater Manchester, CST recorded 135 antisemitic incidents in the first half of 2015, an

increase of 38 per cent from the 98 antisemitic incidents recorded there in the first half of 2014. The highest number of antisemitic incidents in Greater Manchester in the first half of 2015 was in the borough of Salford, with 70 antisemitic incidents. The next highest borough totals were 25 incidents in Bury and 19 in the city of Manchester.

Outside Greater London and Greater Manchester, CST recorded 114 antisemitic incidents from 48 different locations around the UK in the first six months of 2015, compared to 66 incidents from 34 different locations in the first half of 2014. The 114 antisemitic incidents recorded around the UK included 14 in Hertfordshire (of which ten were in Borehamwood), 12 in Leeds, 12 in Liverpool and eight in Birmingham. In total, CST recorded antisemitic incidents in 27 out of 46 Police force areas in the United Kingdom (including some under the jurisdiction of British Transport Police) in the first six months of 2015.



Antisemitic letter sent to synagogue in the Midlands, January 2015



Antisemitic graffiti reading F\*\*\* Jewz Free Gaza, London March 2015



## REPORTING OF INCIDENTS

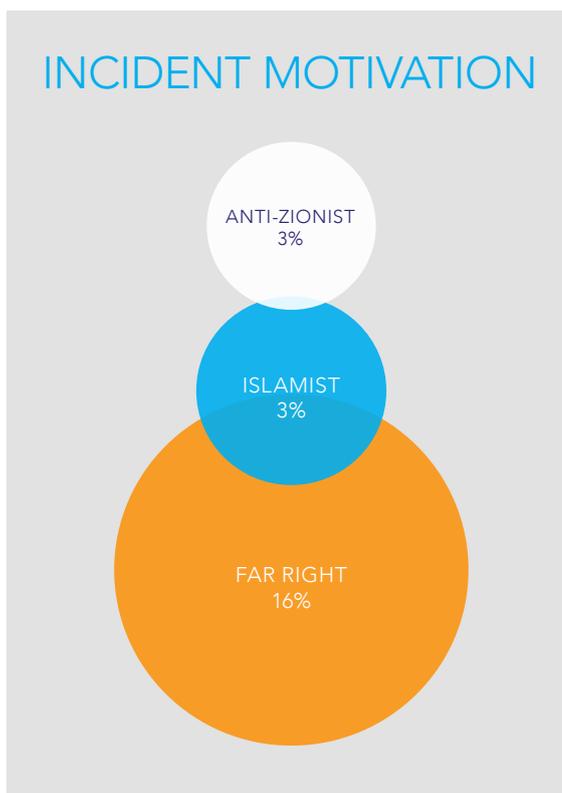
CST classifies as an antisemitic incident any malicious act aimed at Jewish people, organisations or property, where there is evidence that the victim or victims were targeted because they were (or were believed to be) Jewish. Incidents can take several forms, including physical attacks on people or property, verbal or written abuse, or antisemitic leaflets and 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 as incidents antisemitic material that is permanently hosted on websites. Nor does CST proactively 'trawl' social media platforms to look for antisemitic comments in order to record them as incidents. However, CST will record antisemitic comments posted on internet forums or blog talkbacks, or transmitted by social media, if they have been reported to CST by a member of the public who is a victim of, or witness to, the incident;

if the comment shows evidence of antisemitic content, motivation or targeting; and if the offender is based in the United Kingdom or has directly targeted a UK-based victim. Examples of antisemitic expressions that fall outside this definition of an antisemitic incident can be found in CST's [Antisemitic Discourse Report](#).

The inclusion of the number of incidents from social media recorded by CST is not intended to reflect the real number of antisemitic comments 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: by telephone, email, via the CST website, via CST's social media profiles or in person to CST staff and volunteers. 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.

In the first half of 2015, 159 of the 473 antisemitic incidents recorded by CST were reported directly to CST by the victims themselves, and 33 incidents were reported on their behalf by a relative or friend. In 87 cases, the incident was reported to CST by somebody who had witnessed the incident or, in the case of antisemitic graffiti or social media content, had witnessed the antisemitic message left by the offender. Twenty-six antisemitic incidents were reported by CST staff or volunteers or by security guards at Jewish buildings. There were four antisemitic incidents recorded on the basis of media reports. One hundred and fifty-five antisemitic

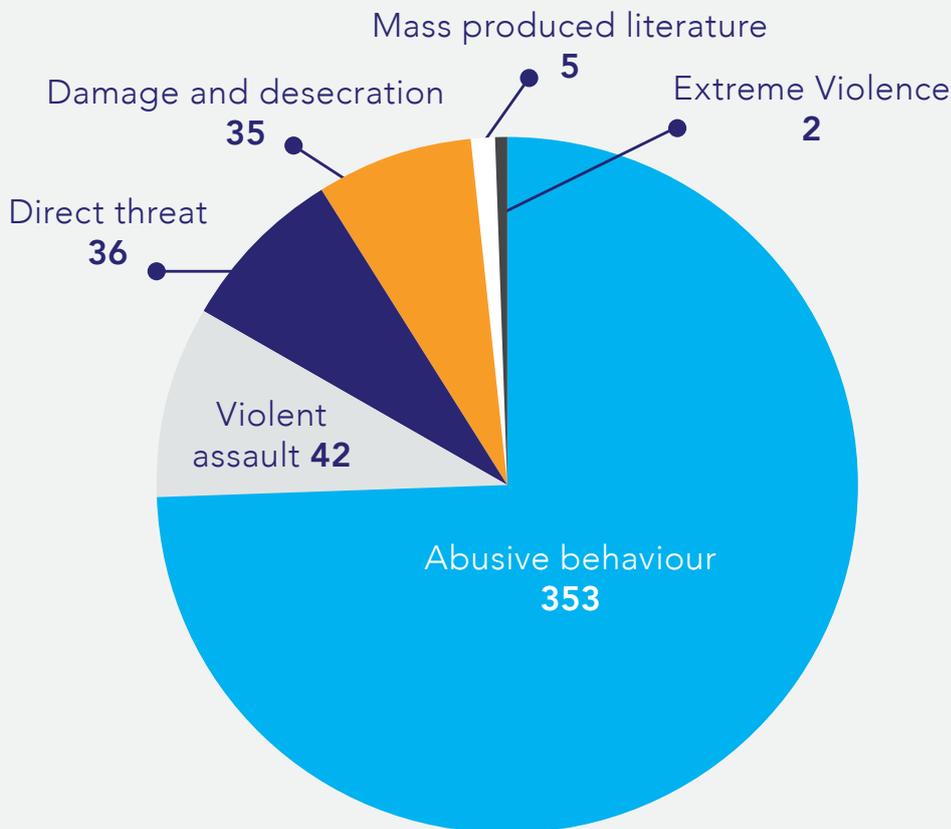


Antisemitic tweet, March 2015



incidents were reported to CST by the Police under incident data 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. Ninety-six of these 155 incidents were reported to CST by the Metropolitan Police Service and 59 by Greater Manchester Police. Any incidents reported to both CST and the Police are excluded from this process to ensure there is no 'double-counting' of incidents. Three further antisemitic incidents were reported to CST by the Police in other parts of the country on an *ad hoc* basis.

### CATEGORIES



## CST'S MISSION

- To work at all times for the physical protection and defence of British Jews.
- To represent British Jews on issues of racism, antisemitism, extremism, policing and security.
- To promote good relations between British Jews and the rest of British society by working towards the elimination of racism, and antisemitism in particular.
- To facilitate Jewish life by protecting Jews from the dangers of antisemitism, and antisemitic terrorism in particular.
- To help those who are victims of antisemitic hatred, harassment or bias.
- To promote research into racism, antisemitism and extremism; and to use this research for the benefit of both the Jewish community and society in general.
- To speak responsibly at all times, without exaggeration or political favour, on antisemitism and associated issues.

## CST CONTACT DETAILS



WEBSITE [www.cst.org.uk](http://www.cst.org.uk)



TWITTER [@CST\\_UK](https://twitter.com/CST_UK)



FACEBOOK [Community Security Trust](https://www.facebook.com/CommunitySecurityTrust)



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