

‘A SCAR ON THE GAME’

ANTISEMITISM IN FOOTBALL



THE OFFICE OF HM GOVERNMENT'S
INDEPENDENT ADVISER ON ANTISEMITISM



Zach Normington



Billy Summer



Evie Robinson



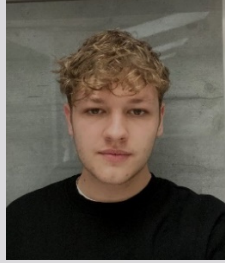
George Southern



James Milton



Jamie Fennell



Gerry Nauta-Bluer



Kishen Sedani



Alejandro Arguelles



Chloe Smith



Carys Howell



Alfie Denness



Jaya Pathak



Curtis Burbidge



Jack Nicholls

As passionate football fans and anti-racists, we have come together with Lord Mann, to compile a report which describes some of good practice and leadership that should be replicated.

Antisemitism has no place in society, never mind football.

This new report highlights a plethora of antisemitic incidents across various countries during the past decade. This report sheds further light on examples of good practice, and how the authorities and fans have themselves tackled antisemitism on the terraces.



This report must be a catalyst for footballing authorities to recognise that antisemitism is well and truly alive both in and out of the stadium, on matchdays and online, and that consistent action must be taken.

Let's tackle antisemitism for good.



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INDEPENDENT ADVISER ON ANTISEMITISM

Lord Mann is the HM Government's Independent Adviser on Antisemitism. In 2010, he chaired the FA Taskforce on Tackling Antisemitism and Islamophobia and in 2021 he was appointed as Kick It Out's Antisemitism Ambassador. Lord Mann thanks the Holocaust Educational Trust Ambassador's for their hard work in putting together this report, which highlights examples of best practice and the need for action by everyone in the footballing world.



Germany

Subject: Antisemitic player cards [1]

Date: October 2017

Incident: Football fans around North-West Germany created 'Panini' player cards depicting Anne Frank in a Schalke shirt. This was a copy of a similar incident amongst Lazio fans in Italy, with these images stuck on walls around North-West Germany and spread over the internet.

Action Taken: Dortmund told the Rheinische Post newspaper they had no information about the post and that "These stickers can barely be surpassed in their tastelessness. We distance ourselves from this action in the extreme." Borussia Dortmund (BVB) also pointed out that it works with supporters' groups to combat antisemitism and racism in the city and organizes trips to former Nazi concentration camps.

Image: Taken from Twitter



Subject: Antisemitic chants at a Chemnitzer FC game [2]

Date: August 2019

Incident: Fans of Chemnitzer FC were heard chanting antisemitic tropes, calling the club's sporting director a 'Jewish pig' and stating that they would not be blackmailed. Furthermore, they chanted "at least Daniel Frahn is not a n*gro" after his sacking as a player for far-right support.

Action taken: The team refused to acknowledge their travelling fans after the match, as is customary, as a clear sign of condemnation towards their actions. Chemnitzer FC said they were considering legal action against their own fans after the antisemitic incidents of August 2019, stating that they 'utterly reject' the chanting that took place.

Bosnia

Subject: Hijacking of pro-Palestine protest in Vienna [3]

Date: 31 March 2015

Incident: A group of Bosnian football fans visiting Vienna for a FIFA friendly against Austria joined and disrupted a pro-Palestine protest, using antisemitic slogans and slurs such as "Ubij, ubij Židove" ("Kill, kill the Jews!"). Roughly 50 fans participated.

Action Taken: According to Der Standard newspaper, police undertook an investigation into the incident; the outcome of this investigation is unclear. The Simon Wiesenthal Centre expressed shock at "the behaviour of Bosnia football fans" and urged UEFA "to take the strongest disciplinary measures against the Bosnian Football Association and [we] expect that other European clubs take care that such



behaviour be banned from any match, by the fans of any team."

Images: Taken from 'The Local' & a screenshot from YouTube video used by The Local, 5 April 2015 – Bosnian fans visible on the right.

Subject: NK Široki Brijeg v FK Sarajevo, far-right chants [4]

Date: May 2017

Incident: In May 2017, at the BiH Cup final between NK Široki Brijeg and FK Sarajevo, Široki Brijeg fans chanted far-right slogans and discriminatory religious abuse.

Action Taken: NK Široki Brijeg was sanctioned by the BiH Football Association with 7 matches behind closed doors due to fans' behaviour in May 2017.

Subject: NK Široki Brijeg and FC Zvezda 09, Praljak portrait [5]

Incident: In December 2019 at a BiH Premier League fixture between NK Široki Brijeg and FC Zvezda 09, Široki Brijeg fans displayed a portrait of far-right war criminal Slobodan Praljak. Praljak serves as a hero to the Baltic extreme right due to his actions in the Yugoslav Wars.

Actions Taken: The game was stopped and resumed once the photograph was taken. The BiH Football Association sanctioned NK Široki Brijeg with a partial stadium closure in the north stand for 3 games and a 3,000 KM fine (£1,383).



Image: Taken from Bljesak – image of Praljak circled

Poland

Subject: Widzew Lodz vs LKS Lodz, antisemitic chants in a pre-match gathering[6]

Date: 26 August 2016

Incident: Fans of Widzew Łódź gathered before a local derby against ŁKS Łódź, a team with a reputation for being a Jewish club with a large Jewish support base, to commit antisemitic acts. Around 50 fans in a train station burnt effigies seemingly of Orthodox Jews, whilst also holding a banner that read “1908, the year the Jews were named”, a reference to the founding of ŁKS Łódź, and “Let them burn, motherf*ckers”. Nazi salutes were also common. Furthermore, due to Łódź’s previous high Jewish population, both sides are subject to antisemitism when travelling around the country.

Action taken: N/A

Image: Taken from Lodz News[7]



Subject: WKS Slask Wroclaw vs IFK Goteborg, neo-Nazi banner[8]

Date: 16 July 2015

Incident: During a UEFA Europa League game between Polish side WKS Śląsk Wrocław and IFK Göteborg, Wrocław fans displayed a neo-Nazi banner. The incident was reported to UEFA.

Action taken: The UEFA CEDB ordered the partial closure of the WKS Śląsk Wrocław stadium, after their neo-Nazi banner, during their next home UEFA competition match. They also fined the club €10,000.

Subject: Hapoel Petah Tivka vs MKS Ciechanow, antisemitic attack[9]

Date: 4 August 2017

Incident: Israeli side Hapoel Petah Tivka were attacked after a game against Polish side MKS Ciechanow, with 15-20 Polish football fans charging at the squad and injuring two members of staff.

Action taken: The police investigated but failed to name the attack an antisemitic one.

Image: Taken from Daily Mail article[10]



Serbia



Subject: FK Crvena Zvezda (Red Star Belgrade) vs FK Spartaks Jūmala; FK Crvena Zvezda vs FK Sūduva [11]

Date(s): 17 July 2018 and 24th July 2018

Incident: During both games, several thousand Crvena Zvezda fans were heard singing neo-Nazi songs glorifying World War Two leaders of the Chetnik movement; men who were responsible for ethnic cleansing during that time.

Action taken: In both games a report was sent to UEFA for action. CZ were fined €72,000 and sanctioned with one match behind closed doors; a suspended sanction was activated after the match against FK Sūduva on 24th July 2018.

Subject: UEFA Nations League; Serbia vs Romania; Montenegro vs Serbia[12]

Date(s): 10 September 2018 and 17th November 2018.

Incident: In both games, Serbian fans were spotted unveiling flags with symbols from the Chetnik movement.

Action taken: Reports were sent to UEFA for action. However, there does not seem to have been any response.

Czech Republic

Subject: Islamophobia and antisemitism in a game between Viktoria Plzeň v Slavia Praha[13]

Date: 24 July 2015

Incident: On the 24 July 2015, in a Czech Synot League game between Viktoria Plzeň v Slavia Praha - Viktoria Plzeň fans displayed a large Islamophobic Tifo (Tifo is the word used to describe a colourful, vibrant and usually choreographed visual display by football supporters) and Slavia fans displayed far-right antisemitic banners.

Action Taken: The group Fare sent a letter to the Czech FA for action. As a result, the Czech FA fined Viktoria Plzeň €3700.

Subject: Sparta Praha vs Slavia Praha, Chants of Jude Slavie[14]

Date: 4 November 2018.

Incident: In the Prague derby Sparta Prague fans chanted “Jude Slavie, Jude Slavie” at Slavia Prague supporters and players. Referee Petr Ardelean, stated: “I registered it (the chant) twice during the match. But I can't imagine that I should solve it anyway. We didn't want to interrupt match.” Following the game, Tomáš Kraus, secretary of the Federation of Jewish Organisations, said talks with the Czech FA had led nowhere. “We had a meeting with the association two years ago, but we had the impression it was not a priority,” he said.

Action Taken: In response to the 4 November 2018 game, Disciplinary Committee Chairman Richard Baček stated: "If such chants are repeated to such a significant extent, the imposition of another type of punishment cannot be ruled out, such as closing part of the stadium, either unconditionally or with a longer conditional delay.”

Subject: Antisemitic chants by Sparta Prague fans in a game between Sparta Praha vs FC Fastav Zlín[15]

Date: 12 April 2019

Incident: On the 12 April 2019, in a game between Sparta Praha vs FC Fastav Zlín – Sparta fans chanted "Jude Slavia" in reference to their city rivals Slavia Praha.

Action Taken: No known action taken.



Netherlands

Subject: AZ Alkmaar chants [16]

Date: December 2017

Incident: AZ Alkmaar supporters chanted "Hamis, Hamis, Jews to the gas" during the game.

Action taken: An AZ employee, responsible for communication between AZ supporters and their club, condemned this behaviour, saying it was ‘totally unacceptable’ and ‘too sad for words’. It is unclear whether any concrete action was taken.

Subject: Chanting in Leeuwarden [17]

Date: January 2019

Incident: In Leeuwarden (a city in Friesland, Netherlands) fans of two other Dutch football clubs publicly chanted a song about burning Jews. One supporter posted the event on social media and received positive reactions from his followers, not a single negative one.

Action taken: The social media post has since been removed.

Subject: Feyenoord supporters chanting caught on video[18]

Date: February 2019

Incident: Footage emerged of a group of Feyenoord supporters chanting: "My father was with the commandos, my mother was with the SS. Together they burned Jews, because Jews who burn the best" - this took place in Rotterdam ahead of the game against Ajax on January 27th, which is International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Action taken: No known action taken.

Subject: Antisemitic graffiti in Amsterdam linked to ADO Den Haag vs Ajax[19]

Dates: 22 February 2019

Incident: A spate of antisemitic graffiti in Amsterdam was linked to supporters of rival team ADO Den Haag who were due to be playing Amsterdam team Ajax, known as a 'Jewish club', that weekend. The graffiti, included swastikas. The letters 'JHK' which are believed to have stood for 'Jews have cancer', were used to deface a Second World War memorial, and are also included in the team's postcode.



Action taken: ADO Den Haag issued a statement on 22 February describing the actions of its fans as 'disrespectful' and 'sad', while Amsterdam police investigated the incident. The World Jewish Congress responded to the incident, stating "we deeply appreciate the ADO football club's immediate rejection and condemnation of this desecration and urge its leadership to take punitive measures against any supporters found to have been involved in this outrageous act".

Image: Credit World Jewish Congress

Norway

Subject: Infiltration of Vålerenga Fotball fan group by alleged Neo-Nazi Hooligans[20]

Date: August-November 2015

Incident: The Oslo police publicly stated their concern about the infiltration of the fans group of Vålerenga Fotball by hooligans and Neo-Nazis who were part of a group called the Isko Boys, with individuals involved in Isko boys with alleged links to violent crimes, organised crime and neo-Nazi groups.

Action Taken: After violence at Vålerenga's game at Strømsgodset on 8 November, Vålerenga Fotball released a statement condemning the violence and the presence of Neo-Nazis at their matches and stated that they would work with the police to ban individuals and would only communicate with the official fans group.

Image: Credit: FOTO: ALEXANDER JANSEN / DRM24[21]



Russia

Subject: Nazi banner appears during Spartak Moscow match [22]

Date: October 2013

Incident: 78 people were arrested after a period of crowd unrest during a game between Spartak Moscow and Shinnik Yaroslavl. Flares and smoke bombs were set off, seats were ripped out and Spartak fans were caught on camera holding up a Nazi banner in the stands. All trouble was believed to have come from the Spartak Moscow fans. Referee Sergey Kostevic halted the match in the 53rd minute and ordered the players off the pitch, allowing local police to restore order through the use of water cannons, but the game was restarted 20 minutes later.

Action taken: The Russian FA's disciplinary committee subsequently held a meeting to discuss the matter with the Russian sports minister Vitaly Mutko, who stated that the footballing authorities should be held responsible for the unrest. It is not clear what action, if any, was taken.

Subject: Torpedo Moscow fans banned for displaying Nazi symbol [23]

Date: April 2015

Incident: Fans of Russian Premier League club Torpedo Moscow were seen displaying a Nazi symbol during their 3-1 win against Arsenal Tula.

Action taken: Torpedo Moscow were penalised with playing two home games behind closed doors. This punishment took place in May, as Torpedo's subsequent two home matches were already condemned to be played in an empty stadium after fans had abused Zenit St. Petersburg striker Hulk with monkey chants. Only women and children were permitted to attend the club's next three away games. This was the club's fourth racism-related punishment in that season alone.

Subject: CSKA Fan Response to Jewish New Year video [24]

Date: 25 September 2016.

Incident: A video ad inviting the celebration of Jewish new year was released by the Jewish center "Zhukovka". The video featured CSKA Moscow head coach Leonid Slutsky and several shots of the CSKA bench.

- Slutsky's participation in this video and especially the feature of the CSKA emblem and symbols prompted outrage amongst CSKA fans on the internet, as well as a wave of antisemitic comments.
- 14th October = during a CSKA vs. 'Ufa' game the home fans displayed a banner which read "*2 October – shofar or Rostov – CSKA 2:0? Listen to shofar in your free time, you lousy coach*".

Action taken: It is not clear what action, if any, was taken.

Subject: Spartak fans display antisemitic banners [25]

Date: 29 October 2016

Incident: During a derby match between Spartak Moscow and CSKA Moscow, Spartak fans displayed several antisemitic banners, including an image of a Hasidic Jew reading “100% CSKA”; another banner read “Your star is missing an angle”, featuring a Star of David and “You are a team of condoms. You are a synagogue”.

Action taken: It is not clear what action, if any, was taken.

Image: Taken from FareNet report ‘A Changing Picture: Incidents of Discrimination in Russian Football 2015-2017’ [26].



Ukraine

Subject: Facebook Post regarding Nazi salutes and nationalist chanting at a football match in Lviv [27]

Date: September 2019

Incident: The Ukrainian Jewish Committee posted a video to social media showing supporters at a football match in Lviv making Nazi salutes and nationalist chants.

Action Taken: The Ukrainian Jewish Committee contacted the Ukrainian Football Federation but there has not been a response.

Image: Credit: Taken from Facebook



Subject: Instagram posts on 'Ultras shakhtar' showing banners with Far-Right symbols [28]

Dates: 14 November 2018 and 18 February 2019

Incident: 'Ultras shakhtar' an Instagram page seemingly run by supporters of Shakhtar Donetsk Football Club, posted images showing supporters holding banners with the far-right symbol the Celtic Cross, which the FARE network says 'denotes "the supremacy of the white race" [and]... is one of the most widely used racist symbols".'

This is a wider problem in Ukrainian football, as on 22 August 2015 two clubs, Dynamo Kyiv and Kapraty Lviv, were reported to the FARE network for displaying far-right banners at matches.

Action Taken: These posts remain on Instagram.

Images: Credit: Taken from Instagram



Subject: Nazi and KKK costumes, Dynamo Kiev vs Shakhtar Donetsk [29]

Dates: 21 April 2017

Incident: Dynamo Kiev fans were caught on camera wearing Nazi and KKK outfits to their match against Shakhtar Donetsk on 21 April 2017, with fans seen wearing swastikas and posing with banners that read '100% white'. A fan of Shakhtar Donetsk was photographed at the match wearing a t-shirt featuring an image of Adolf Hitler.



Action Taken: Although it was reported that a UEFA inspector was present at the match, it is unclear what action, if any, was taken.

Image: Credit YouTube Video (Sourced)

Hungary

Subject: Hungarian football federation condemns fans' antisemitism [30]

Date: August 2012

Incident: MLSZ (Football Federation) condemned fans for shouting "filthy Jews" during a football match against an Israeli team and they also turned their backs when the Israeli anthem was played while booing and whistling.

The MLSZ board launched a new security gate system to screen football fans in an effort to forestall further incidents.

Action Taken: "Such behaviour cannot be passed over in silence" even if the Israeli Ambassador to Hungary "thanked the organisers and said they did their best to prevent insulting behaviour" MLSZ said.

The football federation said it has always condemned hateful, racist, antisemitic behaviour by fans and was determined to eliminate racist behaviour from all stadiums. The Hungarian government also condemned 15th August 2012 incident in a statement.

Subject: Győri ETO FC vs Maccabi Tel-Aviv & Vojvodina vs Budapest Honvéd [31]

Date: July 2013

Incident: Győri ETO FC football fans chanted antisemitic slogans during the Champions League match between Győr and Maccabi Tel-Aviv on 17th July 2013. On 25 July 2013, at the Champions League qualifying game between Vojvodina and Budapest Honvéd, some fans shouted offensive comments to Roma and performed Nazi salutes. At an away game on 18th July 2013, Honvéd fans displayed homophobic and antisemitic behaviour while at the home game a week later, they abused the opponent's fans by chanting "Gipsies, Gipsies" and performed Nazi salutes.

Action Taken: Because of the incidents, the FARE group (Football Against Racism in Europe) turned to UEFA because of the racist behaviour of Győr and Honvéd fans at European cup games. UEFA applied two closed-door sanctions to Honvéd in its decision on 5th September 2013. In an announcement made on 10th September 2013, the leadership of Budapest Honvéd replied that they established even more rigorous safety measures.

Subject: The MLSZ is not investigating the Dorog scandal [32]

Date: 15 August 2019

Incident: Some Dorog fans repeatedly provoked MTK fans with antisemitic rhymes during the match. "Dirty-ram-Jews!", "Just-through-the-chimney!" "Flee" - chanted the local fans. According to an article in Népszava, the MLSZ did not deal with the case, although according to those published on the MTK website the same day, the club took action because of the scandalous scenes.

Action Taken: MTK Budapest announced on its Facebook that the management feels obliged to stand up for its fans, so owner Sándor Zakor, on behalf of the club, wrote to the MLSZ in a letter. In it, he highlighted the club's position, which is clear and firm: "We distance ourselves completely from all forms of racism and anti-Semitism and expect all actors and competent bodies in domestic football to do their utmost to prevent such or similar incidents from happening in the future."

Austria

Subject: Rapid Vienna Nazi salute [33]

Date: August 2016

Incident: In 2016, a member of Rapid Vienna's "ultras" was handed an 18-month prison sentence for performing a Nazi salute during a match.

The supporter said he "didn't really give it much thought" and he "had a few beers" before the match. The gesture falls foul of Austria's tough restrictions on Nazi glorification.

Action Taken: It is unclear what action, if any, was taken.

Subject: Attack of Jewish Viennese man [34]

Date: November 2020

Incident: An Austrian newspaper published a video showing a man being ordered to take off his trousers and trainers by two other men. One of the perpetrators can be heard saying "It's so easy with you Jews!".

A spokesman for the Viennese police indicated that they believed the incident to be a clash between football fans, and not racially motivated.

Action Taken: It is unclear what action, if any, was taken.

France

Subject: The Quenelle [35]

Date: 2013 – ongoing

Incident: The Quenelle is considered an antisemitic gesture, which resembles an inverted Nazi salute. The Quenelle has become a covert sign of anti-establishment within France. This is perpetuated by the French comedian Dieudonné, who believes that the establishment has been “taken hostage” by the “Jewish lobby”.

In 2013, French footballer Nicolas Anelka performed the controversial hand gesture while celebrating a goal for West Bromwich Albion. In the same year, Mathieu Deplagne performed the celebration after scoring for Montpellier. Like Anelka, he considered the salute to be anti-establishment and a dedication to their friend Dieudonné and denied all accusations of antisemitism.

Action Taken: Anelka was later banned for five matches, fined £80,000, and ordered to complete an educational course by the FA.

Images of amateur football teams performing the quenelle can be found on Dieudonné’s website.

Subject: Kylian Mbappé graffiti [36]

Date: February 2019

Incident: Racist graffiti directed at PSG striker Kylian Mbappé was discovered outside a train station in Paris. The graffiti featured antisemitic, homophobic, and racist slurs, alongside a Celtic cross – a symbol often used by far-right groups. Mbappé, now 21, is considered by many to be a symbol of “a mixed France that succeeds and wins”, a concept difficult for many to accept.

Action Taken: The French football governing body (LFP) has joined the International League Against Racism and Anti-Semitism (LICRA) in a lawsuit against the authors of the graffiti.

Subject: Flag Ban [37]

Date: 25 July 2019

Incident: Police in Strasbourg issued a directive banning the flying of flags ahead of a Europa League qualifying match between Strasbourg and Israeli side Maccabi Haifa. This was justified as “security concerns and maintaining public order”, citing the risk of antisemitic incidents.

Action Taken: The move was criticised by both French and Israeli politicians, and the Union of European Football Association, and the ban was later rescinded.



Greece

Subject: Antisemitic football graffiti in Thessaloniki [38]

Date: June 2016

Incident: Supporters of PAOK FC sprayed onto a wall in Thessaloniki, Greece's second-largest city, antisemitic graffiti which called supporters of Aris FC, also based in Thessaloniki, "sons of a bitch" and "Jews".

Action Taken: It is unclear what action, if any, was taken.

Subject: Former coach of Thessaloniki's Iraklis team made an antisemitic comment about American Israeli coach David Blatt [39]

Date: March 2019

Incident: Vangelis Alexandris (former coach of Thessaloniki's Iraklis team) said that David Blatt (an American Israeli coach) was lying about his Athens team's controversial forfeiting of a match because Blatt "has Jewish blood in him".

Action Taken: It is unclear what action, if any, was taken.



Spain

Subject: Anne Frank photos at Estadio Montilivi in Girona, Cataluna [40]

Date: April 2019

Incident: In April 2019, ultras from RCD Espanyol stuck photos of Anne Frank all over Montilivi Stadium, where she is wearing a Barcelona T-Shirt, their rivals.

This is not the first time that Anne Frank's image has been used by ultra-groups.

Action taken: In an open letter, the Special State Prosecutor against hate crimes, the Spanish Football Federation and RCD Espanyol commented on the case, saying it would be heavily investigated and that measures would be taken against the people responsible for the incident. RCD Espanyol also wrote a letter, that concluded as follows - "We condemn any vinculation against antisemitism or against any other basic human right, or anything that may hinder cultural, political or racial respect.

Subject: Atletico de Madrid Ultras Nazi Salute [41]

Date: January 2020

Incident: Ultras from Atletico de Madrid performed the Nazi salute whilst entering the Eibar stadium on January 2020. This caused a major controversy on Twitter, as La Liga suspended the game Rayo Vallecano-Albacete a few weeks before the Eibar-Atletico fixture for fans calling Albacete striker, Zozulya, a Nazi. They did not, however, suspend the Eibar-Atlético de Madrid game.

Action taken: No action was taken by La Liga however it angered fans and newspapers that no action was taken.



Italy

Subject: Racist, antisemitic chanting during a Coppa Italia match by Lazio fans [42]

Date: January 2019

Incident: In January 2019 Italian football club Lazio was once again involved in controversy after racist and antisemitic chanting broke out during a Coppa Italia match. Hardcore ultra-fans aimed a series of ugly barbs at the club's bitter city rivals Roma, with taunts of "Yellow, red and Jewish" and "This Roma that looks like Africa." Lazio spokesman Arturo Diaconale said those doing the chanting were a small minority; "I am one of the 98 percent of people in the stadium who didn't hear them,"; in an attempt to downplay the event.

Action taken: It is not clear what action, if any, was taken.

Croatia



Subject: Croatia vs Norway [43]

Date: 28 March 2015

Incident: Croatian fans were heard chanting “Za dom spremni” (ready for the Homeland) at a match against Norway, an expression used during the satellite Nazi government, acting as the Croatian equivalent of the sieg heil salute.

Action taken: The Croatian Football Federation received a 55,000 euro fine and were ordered to play their following home game behind closed doors, both by FIFA.

Subject: Croatian National team, Player previously given match bans for leading Nazi chant hired as Assistant manager [44]

Date: September 2015

Incident: Josip Simunic was hired as the Croatian National team Assistant Manager. Mr Simunic had previously received a 10 games match ban from the National team in 2013, after leading a Nazi chant with fans. The chant, known as ‘Za dom spremni’, was used during the Nazi occupation of Croatia to promote the fascist regime.

Action taken: The team received no formal reprimand, and Mr Simunic kept his role as assistant manager, still currently holding a coaching role within the National team. When asked to comment, the Croatian football federation President, Davor Suker, simply responded with “we rely on Croatian brains.”

Subject: Croatian National team, singer with neo-Nazi links, invited on stage to sing with national team [45]

Date: September 2018

Incident: A parade was held in Zagreb, following Croatia’s second-place finish in the World Cup. During the celebrations, Marko Perkovic (a singer who has previously sung about Jasenovac, a Croatian death camp, in which the song also praises the leader of the Nazi-Croatian Ustase Regime) was invited upon stage to sing with the players. He began the performance with the ‘Ustase battle cry’, inciting some fans to respond with Nazi salutes, with others wearing Ustase shirts.

Action taken: The event certainly divided fans. In relation to Mr Perkovic’s use of the phrase “Za dom spremni” during many of his performances, the court of High Misdemeanors in Zagreb have ruled that his use did not violate public order.

The image shows the flag of Slovakia, which consists of a white cross on a red field, with a blue triangle at the top. The flag is set against a dark blue background.

Slovakia

Subject: Slovan Bratislava Vice-President celebrating victory with Nazi salute [46]

Date: May 2019

Incident: Vice-President of football club Slovan Bratislava, Ivan Kmotrik Jr. was caught on camera in May 2019 celebrating the victory over MFK Ruzomberok in the final of the Slovak Cup with what appeared to be a Nazi salute.

Action taken: A court in Slovakia has convicted the vice president and fined him 5,000 euros. The Slovak football association also fined Kmotrik 10,000 euros.

The image shows the flag of England, which is a white cross on a red field. The flag is set against a dark red background.

England

Subject: Huddersfield Town vs Leeds United, antisemitic chants [47]

Date: 1 December 2012

Incident: Two fans complained about antisemitic chants against Leeds United supporters during the Leeds United vs Huddersfield Town football match. The chants occurred in the John Smith Stadium in Huddersfield. This was investigated by the West Yorkshire police in collaboration with Huddersfield Town.

Action Taken: An active collaboration between the police and representatives of the team were accused of the chants. However, no one was held accountable for the antisemitism that was experienced that day. After the game, some decided to take to Reddit to discuss the event. The link between Leeds and the Jewish community was debated as well as who was offended by the chants.

Subject: West Ham vs Manchester United, antisemitic chants [48]

Date: 13 April 2019

Incident: A video making its rounds on social media appeared to show West Ham fans engaging in antisemitic chants as they travelled through Stamford Hill (an area with a high Jewish population). The fans were on their way to the Old Trafford stadium where they would play Manchester United.

Action Taken: The club released a statement promising life bans for fans attending home and away games. The club expressed their “disgust” at the video.

Subject: Arsenal vs Tottenham, antisemitic abuse and chanting

Date: December 2018

Incident: “Arsenal opened an investigation into “discriminatory and violent” behaviour by their supporters” after reports were made of antisemitic behaviour in which a supporter is alleged to have ‘hissed’ and chanted about ‘gassing Jews’. [49]

Action taken: In a statement released to The Independent, Arsenal said: “We are aware of the alleged incident and are currently investigating.

“We do not tolerate any anti-social, discriminatory or violent behaviour at Arsenal Football Club. Anyone identified will receive a lengthy club ban and their details will be passed to the Police to commence legal proceedings.” “We are continually reminding our fans if they witness any form of discriminatory chanting at a match, they can report it to a matchday steward or use our ‘See Something, Say Something’ service... this enables us to act as quickly as possible.” [50]

Subject: Chelsea, antisemitic chants, MOL Vidi Europa League game [51]

Date: 13 December 2018

Incident: Chelsea fans sang antisemitic chants in the MOL Vidi game.

Action taken: There was strong condemnation from the Chelsea community, including from a Chelsea spokesperson. There was also a joint investigation with the Metropolitan Police and the Hungarian authorities. Discussions took place regarding banning orders on fans who have repeatedly offended. However, Chelsea as a club was not punished for the chanting seen at the game. UEFA closed the case in February 2019 due to a lack of evidence.

Scotland

Subject: Antisemitic abuse towards director of Celtic [52]

Date: November 2015

Incident: Former Director of Celtic Football Club, Lord Livingstone, released information naming and shaming those who directed antisemitic abuse towards him after a vote in Parliament about tax credits. Comments included one calling him an “Ashkenazi c***”, another describing himself and Celtic’s Israeli midfielder Nir Bitton a “fake Jew” and another who wrote: “He’s a Jew, what do you expect?”

Action taken: Lord Livingstone took it upon himself to place the comments in the public domain. The police received no formal complaint and did not take action.

Subject: ‘Anti-Israel’ demonstrations at Hampden Park [53]

Date: 4 September 2020

Incident: ‘Anti-Israel’ protestors staged a demonstration outside Hampden Park football ground before Israel were due to play Scotland in the Nations League. Leaflets at the demo stated that it was against the “genocide [of the Palestinian people] which they face at the hands of the racist state of Israel and its imperialist backers. Protestors claimed for the boycott of the match to prevent giving “legitimacy to the Israeli presence in this city”.

Action taken: No arrests were made.



Wales

Subject: Former Cardiff Manager Malky Mackay accused of sending an antisemitic text [54]

Date: 21 August 2014

Incident: Former Cardiff Manager Malky Mackay was accused of sending antisemitic, homophobic, racist, and sexist messages.

Action Taken: The FA conducted an 11-month investigation and did not charge Malky Mackay. The FA claimed they were unable to issue a charge because 'the communications were sent with a legitimate expectation of privacy'.

Israel



Subject: Hungarian fans antisemitic chanting during Hungary vs Israel friendly [55]

Date: 15th August 2012– 22nd March 2013

Incident: Hungarian fans participated in antisemitic chants, “stinking Jews” and “Heil Benito Mussolini”, on 15 August 2012 in a friendly against the Israeli national team in Budapest. Hungarian fans also turned their backs during the Israeli national anthem, and waved Palestinian and Iranian flags during match.

Action Taken: Hungary’s national soccer team faced sanctions by FIFA, who said that they “unanimously condemned the abhorrent episode of antisemitism” and actions of “political, provocative and aggressive nature perpetrated by supporters of the Hungarian national team”. FIFA also warned that repetition could lead to harsher penalties. The Hungarian national football team was made to play its World Cup qualifier vs Romania behind closed doors in March 22 as a result. They were also condemned by the Hungarian football federation.

Subject: Bosnia and Herzegovina v Israel, anti-Israel and antisemitic chants/marches [56]

Date: June 2015

Incident: In June 2015, a UEFA qualifying match between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Israel in Bosnia was preceded by a march to the stadium by Bosnian fans where fans trod on the Israeli flag. An image of the march gained over 11,000 likes on the “Bosniaks” Facebook page within days of the event. Fans also rioted in front of the hotel where Israeli players were staying, and chanted “Palestine, Palestine” during the Israeli national anthem. Some reports also mention the chanting of “Juden, auf wiedersehen” (“goodbye Jews”) throughout the match.

Action Taken: The UEFA CEED ordered the partial closure of the BiH stadium during their next UEFA competition match; the association was also fined €18,000. The post about the incident on the “Bosniaks” page has been removed, but the page itself is still running, is highly nationalist in tone and has over 160,000 followers in November 2020.

Subject: Sporting Charleroi antisemitic gestures and Nazi salutes [57]

Date: 31 July 2015

Incident: Sporting Charleroi (Belgium) fans performed antisemitic gestures and Nazi salutes whilst playing a Europa League match with Beitar Jerusalem FC.

Action taken: The club’s stadium was partially closed for their next home match and they were fined €28,000 by the UEFA CEED.

Subject: Italy vs Israel – Italian giving Nazi Salutes at Jewish fans [58]

Date: 9 September 2016

Incident: In September 2016, Italian fans were photographed giving Nazi salutes and spitting at Jewish fans whilst singing antisemitic chants during a match against Israel in Haifa.

Action Taken: Two fans were removed from the stadium but were not arrested by Israeli police.

Subject: Antisemitic tweet sent by the Polish FA [61]

Date: June 2019

Incident: The Polish Football Association Facebook page described the 4-0 Polish victory over the Israel national side as a pogrom, in a post stating “This is a pogrom! Winning over Israel 4-0!”. The post was later deleted.

Action taken: The Polish Football Association stated that the pogrom tweet is a commonly used term to describe a football thrashing. It was, however, condemned by the Polish ‘Never Again’ group, saying it would “open the floodgates” to further antisemitism.

Subject: Blood-like graffiti at Hampden Park [62]

Date: 8 October 2020

Incident: Graffiti mimicking spilt blood was left on the route the Israeli players were due to take; this was condemned by Chair of Glasgow Friends of Israel as a “well known antisemitic sign”.

Action taken: No arrests were made.

ADOPTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM

Background to IHRA:

The IHRA was founded in 1998 and is an alliance of Member States that seek to promote Holocaust remembrance and combat antisemitism. On 26 May 2016, the IHRA adopted a working definition of antisemitism, which has also been formally adopted by the United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, the United States, the European Union, and over 30 other Countries in line with the recommendations from the United Nations [63].

In 2020, Lord Mann and his international counterparts wrote a letter to UK and European football clubs asking them to adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism.

Chelsea FC, West Ham United FC and AFC Bournemouth were the first UK clubs to adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism. In December 2020, the IHRA definition of antisemitism was adopted by the Premier League and its clubs [64]. On Wednesday 27th January 2021, Holocaust Memorial Day: The English Football League [65] (EFL) and the Football Association (FA) [66] adopted the IHRA definition of antisemitism. The IHRA Definition has also been adopted by major German football clubs including Borussia Dortmund and Bayern Munich [67]. Since then, more international and lower league football clubs have adopted the definition.

INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM [68]

"Anti-Semitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities."

Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for “why things go wrong.” It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.

Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.

Antisemitic acts are criminal when they are so defined by law (for example, denial of the Holocaust or distribution of antisemitic materials in some countries). **Criminal acts are antisemitic** when the targets of attacks, whether they are people or property – such as buildings, schools, places of worship and cemeteries – are selected because they are, or are perceived to be, Jewish or linked to Jews. **Antisemitic discrimination** is the denial to Jews of opportunities or services available to others and is illegal in many countries.

EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

1) Netherlands – the KNVB’s approach to tackling antisemitism [69]

The KNVB and Dutch football authorities have asserted the eradication of antisemitism a top 'priority' off the field.

- Since 2016 the KNVB has met with Jewish groups to discuss methods of tackling antisemitic chanting.
- In 2019 the KNVB set up working and social-interest groups to tackle discrimination generally in the game. KNVB made a statement in an interview to CNN, stating that it was "important to stress that we take the matter of discrimination inside football statement very seriously, whether it be anti-Semitism of any other form of discrimination".
- Sanctions have been increased within games, with clubs given higher fines, partial stadium closures and the banning of individuals from spectating for up to five years as a result of antisemitic chanting. Educational programmes were also established focused on tackling racism and antisemitism in football.

2) Norway’s -‘Stopp Rasisme’ campaign [70]

- In the 21st round of the Eliteserien on the weekend of 17-18 October 2020, all players and referees played with a red captain's armband with the text #STOPP. During this round of fixtures on 19 October 2020, black Vålerenga player Ousmane Camara was subjected to racist chants during their match against Sandefjord. The media reported that the perpetrator had been spotted and would be banned for life.
- Following the ‘Stopp Rasisme’ campaign, the Norwegian Football Association introduced a system for police reports of football violence, whereby football clubs and football authorities will follow a system to refer incidents to the police. This followed a committee report set up in the summer on combating racism in sport, one of the recommendations of which was that racist incidents should be routinely reported to the police, in addition to being handled by the sport’s own bodies.

EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

3) Hungary's - Antisemitism education programme [71]

- An antisemitism education programme from Hungarian government took place at a match between the local Ferencváros Torna Club and Israel's Maccabi Tel Aviv in July 2018.
- Holocaust-era hero Itsvan Toth was chosen to be honoured before the game. Itsvan Toth was a former footballer and coach for the club and saved hundreds of Jews as a member of the Hungarian anti-fascist resistance. This was a joint effort by Hungarian government, in cooperation with the World Jewish Congress and Federation of Jewish communities in Hungary.



Image: Photo source: World Jewish Congress

4) Germany - Borussia Dortmund (BVB) Fanprojekt and other Fanprojekts [72]

- Fans have taken it upon themselves to attempt to root out far-right activism within football stadiums. They are independent organisations and have played a vital role in turning German football into a place where anti-racist and anti-fascist activities can thrive. According to Daniel Lörcher, a former 'ultra' who is now a fan liaison officer for Borussia Dortmund: 'if there is an incident in the stadium, many people come up and say there is an incident.'
- In October 2020, Dortmund became the first European football club to adopt the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism.



EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

5) Netherlands - Police identification of perpetrators [73]

- During an Ajax vs. Feyenoord game in January 2019, five Feyenoord supporters shouted antisemitic slurs at Ajax players as their bus arrived at the Rotterdam stadium. Feyenoord fans taunted Ajax about Holocaust victims. The police were able to identify those responsible and they were each fined €500 (\$600).

6) Tackling of the Quenelle [74]

- As mentioned earlier in the report, the quenelle salute given by West Brom striker Nicolas Anelka when he scored in their Premier League match is an antisemitic gesture. Whilst the player “insisted that it was meant as an anti-establishment jibe as opposed to the antisemitic connotations linked to what is described as an inverted Nazi salute.”
- "When the FA announced that Anelka has been given a five-match suspension, pending an appeal, in addition to an £80,000 fine after being found guilty of an aggravated breach of the FA's anti-discrimination rule, The Community Security Trust (CST) – a UK charity that campaigns to safeguard the rights of members of the Jewish community – applauded their verdict."
- "This verdict sends a strong message to Jewish players and supporters at all levels of the game that the FA will act against antisemitic acts if they are reported," said a CST statement. "Although we acknowledge Anelka's insistence that he did not intend his quenelle to be antisemitic, the FA has a zero-tolerance policy for racism in football and it is vital that this principle is applied equally to anti-Semitism as it is to other forms of racism. "Today's verdict sends out the right message to Jewish footballers and supporters and we will continue to work with the FA and other partners to eradicate antisemitism from football." [75], [76]

EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

7) France - Fan solidarity, head covering in Marseilles [77]

- In January 2016, a 35-year-old teacher was attacked with a machete by a 15-year-old who claimed to be inspired by IS. Following the attack, a Jewish leader in Marseille urged men not to wear a kippah out of caution.
- Supporters of Olympique Marseilles (OM) announced they would cover their heads in solidarity with the Jewish community in their match against Montpellier in 2016. OM's supporters club called on all fans to wear a head covering, hat, or a cap "*in order that we should never again be afraid to be who we are, that all our cultures remain rich and support our individual freedoms*".

8) Italy's initiative – taking fans to visit Auschwitz [78]

- In October 2017, fans of Lazio, one of Rome's teams, had left stickers in a stadium with the image of Anne Frank wearing the colours of a crosstown rival Roma in an attempt to mock that team's supporters.
- Lazio President Claudio Lotito announced in response to the incident that his club would take 200 fans every year to visit Auschwitz. Moreover, team captains and referees held copies of Primo Levi's Holocaust memoir, "If This Is a Man," and listened to a reading from Frank's diary in an attempt to educate fans.
- In response some fans turned their backs to the field and sang the Italian national anthem, however, Lazio were consequently fined €50,000 (£43,520) in January 2018.

9) Croatia – the most serious penalty ever imposed by UEFA [79]

- On 12 June 2015, a swastika was displayed on the Poljud stadium pitch before a European Championship qualifier against Italy, after it had been imprinted onto the grass by fans. The Croatian National teams' game had already taken place behind closed doors after Croatian fans' racist chants during a match against Norway in March. The team received a one-point reduction, a €100,000 fine and were ordered to play their following two games without any fans. The penalty received is understood to be the most serious ever to be imposed by UEFA.

EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

10) Czech Republic Documentary on antisemitism in football [80]

- In 2018, documentary maker Pavel Štingl created a film called 'Football in a Century of Foul'. The documentary showcased sports relationship with fascism under the occupation of Nazi Germany. This included footage of both Sparta and Slavia Prague giving Nazi salutes before a wartime derby match. The documentary also aimed to draw attention to the problem that exists today both at fan and club level. Štingl was spurred on by the lack of action taken by the Czech government and footballing authorities to tackle antisemitism.

11) Israel: Kick It Out Israel

- Since its establishment, Kick It Out Israel's aim has been to "Combat, reduce and eventually eliminate racism, incitement, violence and all forms of discrimination, including sexism and homophobia, at football matches and online." Their campaigns and activities have encouraged fans and clubs to take pro-active efforts to combat racism, emphasize gender equality, promote diversity and shared living with a focus on bridging gaps between Israel's Jewish and Arab citizens. In June 2017, it was reported "that racist chants dropped this season in Israel's Premier League from 79 incidents last season to 58 incidents this season. [81]"

12) Fare Network

- The Fare network is an umbrella organisation that brings together individuals, informal groups and organisations driven to combat inequality in football and use the sport as a means for social change." [82]
- In 2017, Fare coordinated more than 2,300 #FootballPeople events in 62 countries. Over 114,000 people involved in anti-racism tournaments, panel discussions, workshops, multicultural sports festivals, conferences, stadium initiatives and much more.

EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

13) Chelsea Football Club - Say No To Antisemitism

- In January 2018, Chelsea Football Club announced the 'Say No to Antisemitism' campaign to raise awareness and educate their players, staff, fans and the wider community about antisemitism in football. As part of this work, the Chelsea Foundation's equality and diversity workshops in primary schools is extended to talk specifically about Jewish faith and culture. The club also have an education programme for supporters banned for antisemitic behaviour, as well as helping them to understand the impact of their actions, with participation in the course potentially leading to a reduction in the length of their ban. Through the campaign, Chelsea are working with the Holocaust Educational Trust, the Jewish Museum, the Community Security Trust, Kick It Out, the World Jewish Congress, the Anne Frank House, Maccabi GB and others. [83]
- Additional activities taking place include educational talks from Holocaust survivors and visits to former concentration camps for staff, fans and stewards with the Holocaust Educational Trust, an exhibition at the Chelsea Museum on football and British Jews and screenings of Liga Terezin - a documentary about a football league run from a concentration camp during the Holocaust. [84]
- On Friday 17th January 2020, Chelsea FC became the first Premier League Club to adopt the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism at a press conference, which took place at their training ground. The event included the Club's Chairman Bruce Buck, Lord John Mann, Kathryn Meyer (IHRA) and former Chelsea manager Frank Lampard.





Ambassador Programme

The Holocaust Educational Trust was established in 1988. Our aim is to educate young people from every background about the Holocaust and the important lessons to be learned for today. The Trust works in schools, universities and in the community to raise awareness and understanding of the Holocaust, providing teacher training, an outreach programme for schools, teaching aids and resource material. One of our earliest achievements was ensuring that the Holocaust formed part of the National Curriculum for History. We continue to play a leading role in training teachers on how best to teach the Holocaust.

Over 32,000 young people have taken part in the Ambassadors Project. They've heard the firsthand testimony of a Holocaust survivor, visited Auschwitz-Birkenau where over one million people were murdered, and have shared that experience in their school or local community.

You can find them on Twitter at [@HolocaustUK](https://twitter.com/HolocaustUK)



#TakeAStand

Kick It Out's campaign Take A Stand, is encouraging people across the football community to take an action or make a pledge, in the fight against discrimination.

For those who would like to make a pledge, either individually or as an organisation, or want more information on how to do this, please contact Kick It Out at info@kickitout.org. You can also make a pledge by joining the conversation on social media, just use #TakeAStand and tag Kick It Out in your posts.

You can find them on social media as below:

- Facebook: www.facebook.com/kickitoutofficial
- Twitter: [@kickitout](https://twitter.com/kickitout)
- Instagram: [@kickitout](https://www.instagram.com/kickitout)

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