



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY  
REPORT INTO ANTISEMITISM  
FEEDBACK AND RESPONSES

APRIL 2016

ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP AGAINST ANTISEMITISM

*This is not an official publication of the House of Commons or the House of Lords. It has not been approved by either House or its committees. All-Party Groups are informal groups of Members of both Houses with a common interest in particular issues.*

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## Overview

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Following a significant increase in antisemitic incidents during the Israel-Gaza war of July and August 2014, a group of cross-party MPs decided to examine evidence on the nature of antisemitism in the UK, with specific reference to the Middle East conflict and to consider measures to confront it. They did so, in light of the previous all-party inquiry into antisemitism of 2006 which over the previous decade had set a course for action that had led to the development and implementation of successful national frameworks and local strategies to address anti-Jewish hatred. The report contained 34 recommendations which were broadly grouped into five themes, namely: supporting fellow citizens in words and deeds, holding a responsible public debate, intensifying interfaith co-operation, modernising the fight against antisemitism and celebrating and communicating successes. Fundamentally, the inquiry provided the new parliament and government with a plan for action.

## Early Implementation of the Recommendations

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Within weeks of its publication, actions were agreed to implement a number of the recommendations of the all-party report:

### *1) A National Data Sharing agreement:*

**“In order to be totally effective and to ensure the UK is a world leader in monitoring and recording data on antisemitism, the police should enter into a national data sharing agreement with the CST and look at similar arrangements with groups like Tell Mama”.**

In late March 2015, the National Police Chief’s Council announced that the police had reached an agreement to share hate crime data with the Jewish and Muslim communal bodies Community Security Trust (CST) and Tell MAMA. The agreement enables the routine sharing of anonymous data to increase the shared understanding of the nature and extent of hostility experienced by Muslim and Jewish communities. The data sharing agreements are available on ‘True Vision’, the Police Hate Crime reporting website:

**[www.report-it.org.uk/information\\_sharing\\_agreement](http://www.report-it.org.uk/information_sharing_agreement)**

## *2) Increased Security Funding*

**“We were pleased to learn that the essential funding for security of Jewish schools in the state sector had been considered effective. Given the continuing threat of terrorism against the Jewish community, we recommend that a governmental fund be established to cover both capital and revenue costs for the security of British synagogues”.**

In response to the All-Party Inquiry into Antisemitism, the CST and a campaign by the Jewish Chronicle newspaper, all of which had sought to highlight the risk to synagogues, schools and other potentially vulnerable Jewish community buildings, Prime Minister David Cameron announced a combined total of £11.9 million funding for Jewish communal security in 2015. The Home Secretary Theresa May subsequently announced that the government had committed to provide £13.4 million for security measures in the Jewish community in 2016. The Home Secretary said the money would go towards security guards and further protection steps at independent and state Jewish schools, nurseries, synagogues and community sites.

## *3) Better Guidance for prosecutors and other improvements to Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) procedures*

**“We recommend that government together with the CPS, police and other relevant bodies work with the Jewish community to devise a communications strategy which effectively conveys the work that has been undertaken to combat antisemitism”.**

The Crown Prosecution Service developed an action plan to address religiously aggravated hate crime and specifically antisemitism, which addressed a number of the relevant recommendations of the all-party inquiry report.

The CPS has reported that it works closely with the police and liaison with forces is incorporated in the minimum standards it has in place for handling hate crime cases. The CPS has renewed its focus on working with targeted communities, raising awareness and increasing reporting. The CPS has committed to introducing measures, including expanding its stakeholder engagement and the use of Community Impact Statements, to ensure that its efforts to improve the prosecution of antisemitism will be shared with a wider community audience. The CPS will continue to capture key cases with particular resonance for local communities and relevant policy development.

There are now plans in place for the CPS to work together with the police in order to raise awareness and increase reporting amongst targeted communities. Specifically CPS action to improve the prosecution of antisemitism, will be shared with a wider community audience through collaborative efforts with key stakeholders.

**“The CPS should instigate, at speed, a better management or sampling system which allows for a simple search and analysis function for the data that it holds”.**

The CPS has a number of new assurance checks being implemented, some of which will become routine. These include improved data gathering in relation to the religion of victims of hate crime, by means of case file reviews. The CPS planned to conduct tracking exercises with relevant police forces to improve its understanding of the handling and outcomes of antisemitic and religiously aggravated crime.

It also reported plans to undertake routine dip-sampling exercises of racially and religiously aggravated crime. Local Scrutiny and Involvement Panels will make assessments of the way in which relevant (finalised) cases have been handled and report back on good practice and lessons learned.

**“We recommend that as part of the ongoing review of hate crime procedures by the CPS, consideration is given as a priority, to the decision making arrangements for referral to the Special Crime and Counter-Terrorism Division”.**

A detailed explanation of how the CPS organises referral of its cases has been provided to the All-Party Inquiry team. However, the CPS has said specifically that it will further strengthen the expertise available locally to prosecutors, in support of effective decision-making, by holding a joint event for force and CPS Area specialists in conjunction with the College of Policing, Ministry of Justice and Chief Police Officers. It is also developing detailed support materials for prosecutors that will target decision-making and case handling in relation to hate crime

**“We recommend that as part of the ongoing review of hate crime procedures by the CPS, consideration is given as a priority, to the suitability of existing guidance on communications sent via social media as regards racist/religious hatred. We further recommend that hate crime guidance material on grossly offensive speech be reviewed to clarify what amounts to “criminal acts” that “will be prosecuted”.**

The CPS is reviewing its guidance relating to communications sent via social media. It is also reviewing the handling of such cases within CPS Areas. In addition, it is developing material aimed at enhancing community understanding and awareness of hate crime legislation and guidance.

**“We recommend that the Crown Prosecution Service undertakes a review to examine the applicability of prevention orders to hate crime offences and if appropriate, take steps to implement them”.**

In its action plan, the CPS set out how it planned to assess the value and feasibility of deploying prevention orders in respect of antisemitism and other hate crime, including consideration of the availability and use of relevant ancillary orders. Given the link with prosecution of communications sent by social media, the CPS announced that this assessment will be undertaken in conjunction with a review of the handling of prosecutions of communications sent via social media and related guidance.

#### *4) Parliamentary and Local Accountability*

**“We recommend that government continue to report at least once per session to parliament about its work on antisemitism and commits to continuation of the world-renowned Cross-Government Working Group on Antisemitism”.**

In June 2015, Baroness Williams of Trafford, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Department for Communities and Local Government, wrote to John Mann MP, chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group Against Antisemitism as follows: “I am very happy to report back to Parliament on the progress we will make against the APPG against Antisemitism recommendations”. DCLG will now work with other departments to prepare an annual update that will be placed in the House Library.

**“We know that local authority action is almost never motivated by antisemitism but conclude that political gesturing gives out entirely the wrong messages. We call upon all local councils to do their utmost to bring people together during times of foreign conflict, particularly in the Middle East, to strengthen inter-communal ties and to avoid isolating or inspiring fear in constituents they are elected to represent”.**

A number of initiatives have been undertaken in relation to local councils. A joint letter was sent in late 2014 from the then Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government Rt Hon Sir Eric Pickles MP and the Chief Executive of the Community Security Trust David Delew to local authorities reminding them of the importance of quickly removing offensive graffiti and reporting it to the police. In a letter to the All-Party Inquiry, Sir Eric also set out very clearly his views on flying the Palestinian

flag, which he labelled “a clear political statement on an area of public policy for which the municipal body has no responsibility”. Early in 2016, the Conservative Government published guidance to make clear that procurement boycotts by public authorities are inappropriate, outside where formal legal sanctions, embargoes and restrictions have been put in place by the Government. The press notice stated that “Town hall boycotts undermine good community relations, poisoning and polarising debate, weakening integration and fuelling anti-Semitism”. Any public body found to be in breach of the regulations could be subject to severe penalties.

### *5) Enhancing Interfaith Co-Operation*

**“The UK National, Scottish, Welsh and Local Authorities were keen to highlight their support for and the significance of inter-communal and interfaith work. Given the importance of keeping communities together when events elsewhere can serve to drive them apart we recommend that the UK Government together with the devolved administrations undertake a national review of this work, including and specifically identification of good practice and case studies of where dialogue has succeeded in spite of international events”.**

Baroness Williams in her letter to John Mann MP wrote, as follows: “I am very committed to interfaith dialogue and activity and I know how it improves understanding and contributes to community cohesion, so I do feel that there is a lot to be gained by conducting a review and identifying best practice. I have asked my officials to look in to the practicalities of doing this and will let you know how best we can take this forward”. The structure, scope and extent of the review is currently under discussion with DCLG.

### *6) Sharing with and Learning from Global Partners*

**“The UK employs a number of internationally-recognised good practices in combatting antisemitism. We recommend that the government works with civil society groups to design a simple toolkit that can be distributed in European and international fora to serve both as a guide to official efforts for combatting antisemitism and as a celebration of UK achievements in the field”.**

Combating Antisemitism – A British Best Practice Guide was launched by Rt Hon Sir Eric Pickles MP and John Mann MP at the March 2016 conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Coalition for Combatting Antisemitism. It is available online at:

[www.antisemitism.org.uk/publications/materials-publications/](http://www.antisemitism.org.uk/publications/materials-publications/)

**“We further recommend that the Metropolitan Police and College of Policing organises for representatives from relevant forces to visit Paris to meet with police officials and Jewish community organisations to learn the lessons of the extreme antisemitic violence that manifested over the summer of 2014”.**

In October 2015, parliamentarians including Rt Hon Sir Eric Pickles, Wes Streeting, Tulip Siddiq and Baroness Jenny Jones together with ACC Garry Shewan, the National Police Lead for Jewish Communities, visited Paris to meet with their counterparts and other relevant bodies in order to better understand manifestations of antisemitism in France, efforts to combat it and lessons that could be learned for Britain.

### *7) Reporting, Educating and Acting Against Discrimination*

**“True Vision ([www.report-it.org.uk](http://www.report-it.org.uk)) is a critically important framework for third-party reporting which deserves wider publicity and we recommend the government works with industry partners to organise a prominent awareness campaign about methods for reporting online racist and other abuse”.**

The True Vision site has continued to grow and further its reach. The Department for Communities and Local Government has continued to provide significant funding and in advance of the May 2016 elections, the Equality and Human Rights Commission (in implementing a recommendation of the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Electoral Conduct) worked with True Vision to improve awareness about the reporting facility it provides.

**“We recommend that relevant officials on the Cross-Government Working Group on Antisemitism identify suitable partners to seek appropriate refresh for the lack of educational resources for teachers about how to sensitively handle the Middle East conflict in the classroom and in particular to support Jewish, Muslim and other pupils in what can be difficult circumstances”.**

In 2016, Schools Linking (a part of The Linking Network) began to pilot a scheme entitled “difficult topics of conversation” in Braford. Its work, supported by the Department for Communities and Local Government, will seek to help students and teachers alike to cover issues like hate crime, immigration and the Middle East conflict, in a sensitive and calm manner. Should the pilot prove successful, there is potential for the programmes scope and reach to be extended.

**“We recommend that the Editors’ Code of Practice be reviewed and that the relevant section be extended to give recourse for groups to complain about discrimination on the grounds of race or religion whilst ensuring a sensible balance for freedom of speech”.**

Useful and positive discussions have taken place with the Secretary to the Editor's Code of Practice Committee and are ongoing. An evidence base for change is being developed by a number of organisations.

## *8) Future Work*

Work on a number of the other recommendations is ongoing. Letters have been sent to the Judicial College, a formal response from the Police is expected shortly and research into cyber hate continues. Provision for Holocaust Education is extensive and the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation is taking forward the recommendations of the Prime Minister's Holocaust Commission. The majority of the recommendations of the 2006 report of the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Antisemitism were implemented by 2015. The aim of the APPG Against Antisemitism is to see full implementation of the recommendations of the 2015 report by the end of the current parliament in 2020.

## Support for the Inquiry Report

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A number of senior political and other leaders welcomed the report and its recommendations. A select number of extracts from statements released in support of the report follows.

### *Prime Minister Rt Hon David Cameron MP*

“This is a hugely important cross-party report. Tackling antisemitism goes right to the heart of what we stand for as a country. Whatever our politics, and whatever our faith, we must work together to do everything we can to defeat it.” “Britain is proud to be a multi-ethnic, multi-faith democracy. It is something we have built over generations and which generations have given their lives to defend. We will not weaken our resolve now but instead redouble our efforts to stand up and defend the values we believe in. This report has a vital role to play. There can be no excuses. No disagreements over foreign policy or politics can ever be allowed to justify antisemitism or any other form of racism, prejudice or extremism.” ““While I am Prime Minister I promise we will fight antisemitism with everything we have got. Together we will make sure Britain remains a country that Jewish people are proud to call home – today, tomorrow and for every generation to come.”



*Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis, Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe*

“It is our responsibility, and that of society as a whole, to ensure that we don’t allow the hatred of the few to damage our shared history of valued friendship. The best way of helping police is to report all hate crime, either directly or through third-parties like the CST and Shomrim, then we can bring the law to bear on the criminals. However, as this report indicates, we need a wider response than the police and criminal justice system can deliver alone, we need society to become as vocally intolerant of faith-hatred as it is of other forms of discrimination and a clearer understanding of where freedom of speech oversteps the mark.”

*Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Rvd and Rt Hon Justin Welby*

“The All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Antisemitism..... is an extraordinary report. It is wide-ranging without being vague, and it is specific without being narrow. That is a huge achievement in a subject as complex and difficult and, let us be honest, as deeply embedded in our history and culture in Western Europe as antisemitism.

“With great clarity the Committee have communicated both the stark reality of rising antisemitism in this country, and the key responses necessary to counter it. Responses of raising public awareness and accountability – and, I hope, shock; because I think many people feel that this is something that is part of history, not part of contemporary life. And other responses, including directly confronting antisemitic discourse, and shaping a new and resilient religious literacy in our civic life. Huge amounts of the report struck me forcefully when I was reading it yesterday....

“So it is our responsibility, now, to respond to this report by acting on its recommendations. And I want to say that despite our failings, of which I am more than aware and often deeply embarrassed by, as the Church of England we commit ourselves to be both accountable and to hold others to account, and to pay attention to this report.

“This is a vital report that calls us not only to be aware of the profound dangers of antisemitism being anything but confronted, but also calls for active ways of combating it.”

*Chief Rabbi Mirvis*

“I welcome this report which is important both for its recommendations and its symbolism. As this report demonstrates, we are fortunate in the UK to have parliamentarians who are taking an active lead in the fight against antisemitism. The threat against the Jewish community is real and anxiety remains high following recent events in France and elsewhere. Today’s report could not come at a more opportune time and I welcome its practical plan of action.”



[www.antisemitism.org.uk](http://www.antisemitism.org.uk)



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The All-Party Parliamentary  
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