CST

PROTECTING OUR
JEWISH COMMUNITY

ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS

Report 2020

Front cover: *"Jewish Lies Matter"* graffiti, Brighton & Hove, November

Antisemitic graffiti, Birmingham, July

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **CST recorded 1,668 antisemitic incidents in the UK in 2020, the third-highest total that CST has ever recorded in a single calendar year.** This is a decrease of 8% from the 1,813 antisemitic incidents reported to CST in 2019, which remains the highest annual total that CST has ever recorded.[1]

- The total reported in 2020, although lower than in 2019, sustains a pattern of historically high antisemitic incident figures in recent years, with **more than 100 incidents recorded in 11 of the 12 months of 2020.** By way of comparison, CST only recorded monthly totals surpassing 100 incidents on six occasions between January 2006 and March 2016.[2]

- December 2020 (89 incidents reported) is the first month since December 2017 in which CST recorded fewer than 100 antisemitic incidents, and just the third month since and including April 2016.

- The landscape of antisemitism in the UK in 2020, and the decrease in reported incidents, have been **strongly influenced by the Covid-19 pandemic.** The highest monthly totals in 2020 were January (188 incidents), February (140 incidents), June (178 incidents) and July (180 incidents). They correlate neatly with the periods in the year that lockdown measures were either not-yet-existent (pre-March) or most relaxed (in the case of the latter two).

- Conversely, the **lowest monthly total in 2020 was recorded in December, with just 89 antisemitic incidents** reported to CST, the lowest number recorded since December 2017 (86 incidents).[3] This was the month when increasing amounts of the UK were placed in higher tiers with stricter regulations, and in which the country reached a peak number for confirmed Covid-19 cases in 2020.[4] **The drop in reported incidents from November (135 incidents) to December mirrors the one observed from February (140 incidents) to March and April (117 and 107 incidents respectively), the timeframe across which the measures of the first national lockdown were established.** It is likely that all of these factors – and the way the public has at large reacted to them – feed into the reduction in reports of antisemitism across the year, and particularly in the months when the tightest restrictions were implemented.

- Just as the pandemic has forced people to find new ways of communicating, it has compelled those who wish to spread anti-Jewish hate to be equally innovative in doing so. In 2020, CST received 19 reports of educational, religious and social online video events hijacked with antisemitic content. **This is an entirely new type of incident, informed by a sudden widespread reliance on such platforms, demonstrating the ability, opportunism and speed of antisemitic offenders to adapt to a new social reality.**

- The Covid-19 outbreak has not merely given rise to a new medium through which offenders

1 The incident totals for past years and months in this report 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. Figures published in this report are also subject to change for the same reason.

2 On five of these six occasions when the monthly total surpassed 100, it was mainly due to reactions to Israel-related conflicts. The outlier of this group, January 2015, was the month of an anti-Jewish terrorist attack in Paris.

3 December is historically a month with relatively low incident totals, due to the weather and closure of educational facilities for the winter holidays.

4 World Health Organisation: https://covid19.who.int/region/euro/country/gb

express antisemitic sentiment; it has provided them with new strands of antisemitic discourse as well. **In 2020, CST recorded 41 incidents that contained antisemitic rhetoric alongside reference to the pandemic.** These range from conspiracy theories about Jewish involvement in creating and spreading Covid-19 or creating and spreading the myth of Covid-19 for various malevolent and financial purposes, to simply wishing and hoping that Jewish people catch the virus and die from it.[5]

- The immediate evolution of antisemitic discourses regarding Jews and the pandemic is emblematic of a wider trend: **antisemitism follows events in the news cycle and public interest, almost irrespective of their relevance to the Jewish community.** Clusters of incidents were reported at various points throughout the year containing discourses connected to topics prominent in news, politics and media of the time. For example, 13 of the 41 incidents involving rhetoric related to Covid-19 occurred in March, more than in any subsequent month; the month that lockdown measures were first introduced in the UK, government press briefings happened daily, lives were dramatically affected, and the unfamiliarity with the situation engendered perhaps more uncertainty than at any other stage of 2020.

- In a similar vein, discourse and symbology relating to Hitler, the Nazis and the Holocaust were most prevalent in January (45 incidents), the month when both Holocaust Memorial Day in the UK and the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz were commemorated. Meanwhile, reports of Labour Party-related antisemitism peaked in October and November, with 31 and 26 such incidents respectively.[6] At the end of the former, the Equality and Human Rights Commission announced that its investigation into antisemitism in the Labour Party had found the party responsible for three breaches of the Equality Act, and Jewish communal and leadership groups published a joint statement in response. The fallout from this bled into November, when Jeremy Corbyn was reinstated as a Labour Party member and it was announced that he would not be returned the parliamentary whip. While other items dominated the news in 2020, this follows on from 2019, a year in which incident peaks corresponded to the times when the continuing controversy over allegations of antisemitism in the Labour Party was especially prominent. As a final example, 16 of the 22 antisemitic incidents reported to CST that reacted to or included rhetoric relating to coverage of the Black Lives Matter movement occurred in June, the month after the murder of George Floyd on May 25. All display the ways that **antisemitic sentiment and speech can be news-led, with a single event sparking its expression across the ideological, political and social spectrum.**

- The antisemitic tweets posted by grime artist Wiley in July 2020 showcase how hatred can be emboldened and liberated when a person of high social capital and influence publicly exhibits their prejudices. Wiley's rant, which drew on tropes about Jewish power and money while comparing Jews to the Ku Klux Klan, encouraged some of his supporters

5 An in-depth examination of coronavirus and anti-semitic discourse can be found in CST's publication, *'Coronavirus and the Plague of Antisemitism'.*

6 These include antisemitic incidents reported to CST occurring within the Labour Party, directed towards Labour politicians and members, spouted by Labour politicians and members (or both), or anti-semitic incidents where online offenders displayed clear signs of affiliation to/support of the Labour Party in their abuse or their social media profiles. Finally, an incident is also considered Labour Party-related for these purposes if antisemitic views appear to be motivated by arguments over alleged antisemitism in Labour: for example, if antisemitic abuse is directed at a former Labour politician after they have left the party.

to reveal their antisemitism. CST recorded **23 incidents in which the offender either attempted to justify Wiley's antisemitic ideas or targeted those who spoke out against them with further antisemitic abuse.** There were many more incidents of this kind reported to CST which do not contribute to the total as they were not UK-based. This is a classic example of how **hate speech, when spoken by someone in a position of perceived authority, can affirm, legitimise and fuel the biases of those who hold the same hatreds, who may not have otherwise felt so comfortable to show them, or can encourage others to adopt those hatreds when they would not have done so previously.**

- CST had feared that months spent indoors without the stimuli of 'normal' life would see a sharp escalation in reports of online antisemitism during 2020, with offenders potentially taking to their keyboards out of increased boredom and disillusionment. Instead, **reported online instances of antisemitism decreased by 9%, from 2019's record total of 700 to 634 in 2020. Nevertheless, this is still the second-highest annual total of online incidents ever reported** to CST, reflecting the growing role that online platforms serve as a hotbed for hate. At a time when social distancing etiquette and heightened anxiety concerning face-to-face contact with others in public continue to make in-person antisemitic exchanges less likely, online platforms represent an especially convenient, far-reaching, anonymising and secure-feeling environment for those who wish to voice and incite hatred.

- Not only was there a steeper percentage decline in online incidents than offline incidents, but their proportion of **the overall incident total also fell, from 39% in 2019 to 38% in 2020.** One reason for this may be the decrease in Labour Party-related incidents in 2020 compared to previous years, most of which occurred online. The pandemic's dominance in media and public conversation – and relative lack of other Jewish or Israel-related news – may also be responsible for the downswing in reported online incidents.

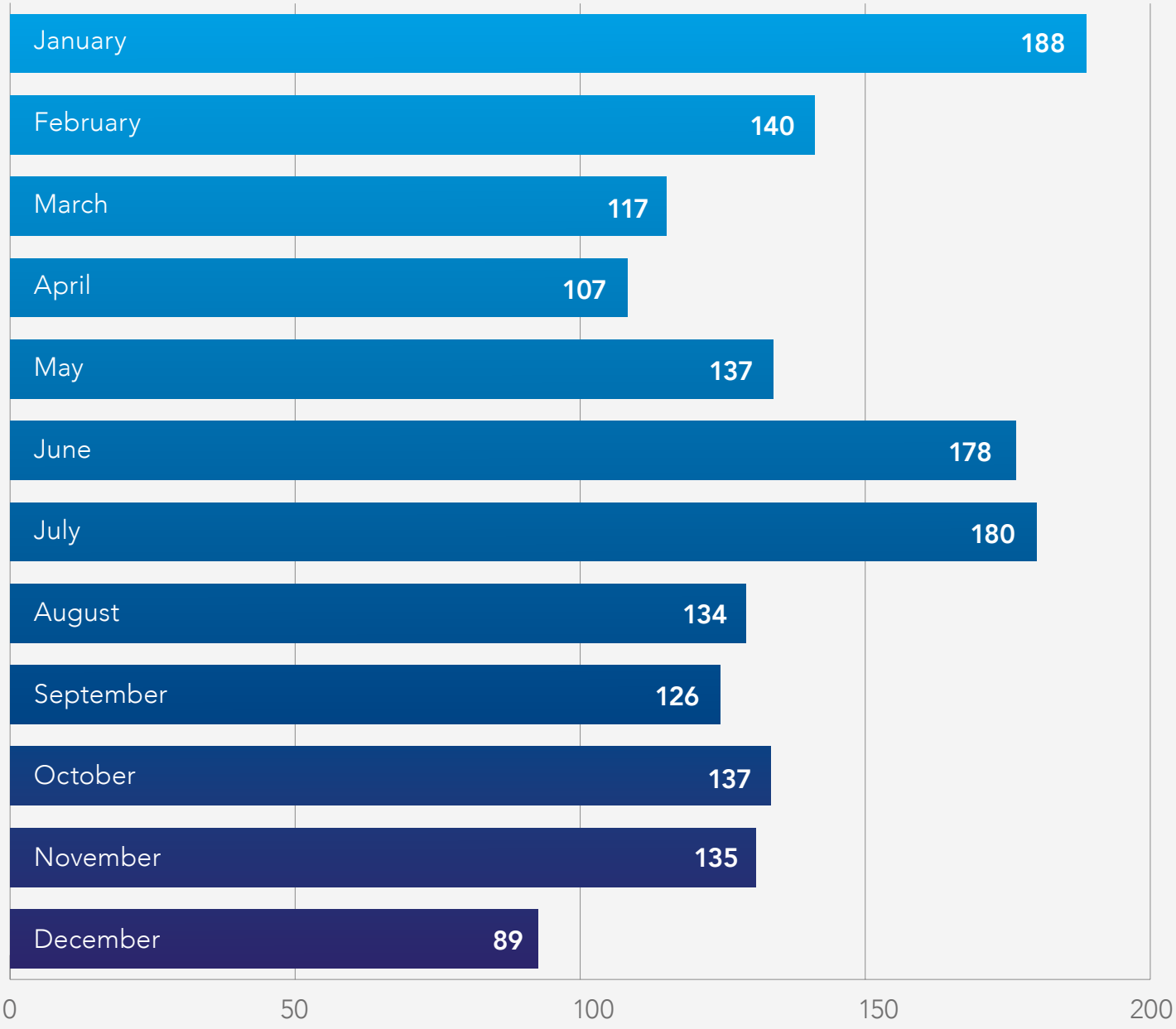
- These totals are only indicative, as the **actual amount of antisemitic content that is generated and disseminated on online platforms is much larger.** In some cases, social media has been used as a tool for coordinated campaigns of antisemitic harassment, threats and abuse directed at Jewish public figures and other individuals. Where this is the case, CST will record a coordinated campaign as a single incident, even if it involves multiple tweets, posts or comments. CST does not trawl the internet looking for online incidents to log, and will only record online incidents that are reported to CST by a member of the public, and where either the offender or the victim is based in the UK.

- **CST recorded 97 incidents in the category of Assault in 2020, a decrease of 39% from the 158 incidents of this type reported in 2019.** It is not surprising that incidents recorded in this category have dropped so drastically, given how Covid-19 has affected social interactions in public. There were, however, **an additional three incidents that were serious enough to be classified as Extreme Violence, compared to just one in 2019.** Although few in number, this may reflect a concerning feature that a number of the assaults recorded in 2020 bore, particularly since the easing of lockdown restrictions in late spring: increased levels of nastiness and aggression. It may be that this trend reflects a release of frustrations pent up over the course of a difficult, often lonely year, manifesting in more extreme action.

- Incidents of Damage & Desecration to Jewish property fell by 18%, from 88 incidents in 2019 to 72 in 2020. **Forty-five (63%) of these incidents involved damage done to the homes and vehicles of Jewish people**, whereas this was the case in 51% of the Damage & Desecration incidents reported in 2019. It is possible that the proportional increase in the targeting of personal residences reflects the fact that many communal buildings were closed for large parts of the year and people spent much more time at home. These factors have possibly affected patterns of both offending and reporting. Meanwhile, nine instances of Damage & Desecration were directed at synagogues, seven at Jewish schools, and four at Jewish companies and organisations.

- There were **85 incidents reported to CST in the category of Threats in 2020**, which includes direct threats to people, institutions or property, rather than more general abuse containing non-specific threatening language. This marks a fall of 14% from the 99 incidents of this type reported in 2019.

MONTHLY INCIDENTS, 2020



- CST recorded **1,399 incidents in the category of Abusive Behaviour** in 2020, a decrease of 3% from the 1,449 instances of Abusive Behaviour recorded in 2019. **This forms 84% of the annual total, a higher proportion than in any other year over the last decade**, largely due to the vast drop in Assault figures.

- There were **12 incidents reported to CST in the category of mass-produced antisemitic Literature in 2020.** This signifies a reduction of 33% from the 18 such incidents recorded in the category in 2019.

- In addition to the 1,668 antisemitic incidents recorded in 2020, **a further 402 potential incidents were reported to CST that are not included in this report's statistics** as, upon investigation, they did not evidence antisemitic motivation, language or targeting. Many of these potential incidents involve suspicious activity or possible hostile reconnaissance at Jewish locations, and they play an important role in CST's provision of security protection to the Jewish community. This number is reduced from the 571 such incidents recorded in 2019, almost certainly because many Jewish community buildings were closed at various points due to government Covid-19 restrictions.

- Of the incidents where a particular rhetoric, motivation or ideology could be identified, **396 made reference to Hitler, the Nazis, the Holocaust, employed discourse based on the Nazi period,** and/or punctuated their abuse with a Nazi salute or the depiction of a swastika. This is an increase from the 331 such incidents recorded in 2019, and the most common individual discourse reported in 2020. Of these, **78 glorified the Holocaust,** its perpetrators and/or their ideas, or expressed a desire to see the mass extermination of Jews once again. A further **61 incidents contained denial of the Holocaust,** either in its scale or its having happened at all. There were **105 instances in which far-right motivation** was evidenced, wherein alignment with far-right extremist ideology or beliefs was expressed beyond – though often alongside – the simple and superficial appropriation of Nazi-era references. For comparison, far-left discourse was used in 65 incidents.

- **Conspiracy theories were evident in 332 of the 1,668 antisemitic incidents** reported in 2020. This is a slight drop from the 370 incidents in which conspiracy theories were present in 2019, when they were the most common single brand of discourse. From the 332 in 2020, 264 spoke of Jewish influence over global politics, media, finance and other walks of life; 21 involved falsehoods regarding religious rituals and practices; and 17 sought to spread myths about the origins of Jewishness with the intention to undermine any notion of a modern Jewish identity.

- In 2020, there were **254 references to Israel and the Middle East, of which 51 directly compared Israel with the Nazis.** This is slightly higher than the 243 such incidents reported in 2019, of which 63 made this equation. In 136 of the antisemitic incidents recorded by CST in 2020, there was **explicit anti-Zionist beliefs or motivation present,** either alongside antisemitic language, or used in a way that was itself antisemitic. The terms *"Zionism"* or *"Zionist"* were used in 105 incidents, often as euphemisms for *"Jewishness"* and *"Jew"*.

- **Eight incidents recorded by CST in 2020 contained discourse relating to Islam and Muslims,** the same as in 2019, while seven showed evidence of Islamist ideology compared to 19 in 2019. In 34 incidents, another religious ideology was present, compared to 39 in 2019.

- CST has started to **monitor incidents in which specific aspects of Judaism are attacked or deliberately**

mischaracterised for antisemitic purposes. There were 47 such incidents recorded in 2020. Of these, 23 focused on religious literature, 14 manipulated ideas taken from religious scripture, and ten focused on religious traditions. One hundred expressions of antisemitism employed stereotypes or dehumanising language and images, while five incidents contained abuse about specific ethnic groups that exist within the global Jewish community.

- In 2020, CST recorded **180 incidents connected to specific political parties or their supporters.** Of these, 175 were related to the Labour Party, one to the Conservative Party, one to the Scottish National Party, one to Plaid Cymru, and two to minor fringe parties. A further three were connected to the UK's withdrawal from the European Union.

- **Of the 1,668 incidents recorded by CST in 2020, 278 (17%) involved a combination of two or more political, religious, conspiratorial and racist discourses and ideologies.** The multiple sources and references of hatred that can co-exist within a single incident reflect the complexity of contemporary antisemitism. There are **tropes and narratives that are so deeply embedded and frequently used across the social, ideological and political spectra** that their manifestation in antisemitic incidents is not necessarily reflective of the individual perpetrator's apparently confused logic, but of unchallenged 'truths' in the collective consciousness. Similar discourses are adopted by offenders whose values appear incompatible. They are simply repackaged in reaction to events in the world, tweaked to appear relevant to the story of the day, and tailored to the agendas of those determined to use any story as a vessel for their anti-Jewish hatred.

- Nine hundred and forty-one incidents were reported to have taken place in Greater London, falling by 1% from 2019's total of 955 London-based incidents. CST recorded 153 antisemitic incidents in Greater Manchester in 2020, a decrease of 31% from the 223 incidents in the corresponding area in 2019. While the decrease in Greater Manchester's figure is not uncharacteristic of a year substantially affected by the pandemic, the size of the fall is partly due to disruption to the flow of reports received from Greater Manchester Police. CST's collaboration with the police is of huge value, but the data sharing agreement is not always a statistically consistent process. Variations can happen for a number of reasons and may be partly responsible for the number of incidents recorded by CST in Greater Manchester reducing in 2020. In 2019, the combined total of these communal hubs comprised 66% of the UK's reported total, 1% more than in 2020.

- Within Greater London, **243 antisemitic incidents occurred in Barnet, the local authority which is home to the largest Jewish population in the UK.** There were 116 instances of antisemitism recorded in Hackney, 91 in Camden, 64 in Westminster and 43 in Haringey. Of Greater Manchester's incidents, 49 happened in Salford, 38 in Bury, 30 in the City of Manchester, eight in Stockport and six in Tameside.

- While it is typical for the majority of incidents to take place in the areas where Jewish life is most established, it is **notable that CST observed a broader geographical spread of antisemitic incidents in 2020 than in 2019,** even though the overall total has reduced. In 2020, CST recorded antisemitic incidents in all but one police region across the UK (Surrey), compared to two in 2019 (Gloucestershire and Suffolk). Several explanations are possible. Online incidents do not necessitate physical proximity to Jewish populations, and the potential for reported antisemitism to

emanate from a more varied geographical profile remains. As online incidents have increased, so has CST's social media footprint, and with it the accessibility and capacity for the public to report antisemitism. **CST has improved its own efforts to determine the locations within the UK** of either the offender or victim of online incidents, which is reflected in the fall of incidents for which the location was recorded as 'Online Unknown', from 148 in 2019 to 39 in 2020.

The broader spread of antisemitic incidents, as well as the greater proportional contribution to the annual incident total from regions outside of Greater London and Greater Manchester, is also **indebted to the ever-developing relationship between CST and other police constabularies in the UK.** The increases observed in Northumbria (from 58 to 94 incidents, of which 65 were reported by the police), West Yorkshire (from 38 to 76 incidents, of which 54 came via the police), South Yorkshire (from four to 20 incidents, 13 of which were reported by the police), Cambridgeshire (from four to 16 incidents, 15 of which came via the police), North Yorkshire (from five to 14 incidents, of which nine came via the police) and Durham (from two to 12 incidents, seven of which were reported by the police) are a testament to this work.

- Outside of the boroughs within Greater London and Greater Manchester, the areas within police regions with the most reported antisemitic incidents in 2020 were Gateshead in Northumbria (58 incidents), Leeds in West Yorkshire (50 incidents), Liverpool in Merseyside (20 incidents), and Borehamwood and Elstree in Hertfordshire (also 20 incidents).

- There were **374 incidents reported to CST in which the victims were ordinary Jewish individuals in public.** In at least 143 of these, the victims were visibly Jewish on account of their religious or traditional clothing, Jewish school uniforms, or jewellery and insignia bearing religious symbols. In 2019, these things were true of 431 and 197 incidents respectively.

"Jews Behind White Genocide" written on a cash machine, Dagenham, February. Credit: Archant

- There were **19 incidents recorded at Jewish schools in 2020, compared to 54 in 2019.** An additional 20 incidents involved Jewish schoolchildren away from school, often on their way to or from home, compared to 43 incidents of this type reported in 2019. Fourteen incidents involved Jewish schoolchildren or staff at non-faith schools, falling from the 25 reported in 2019. This results in a total of 53 incidents affecting people and buildings in the school sector, constituting a sharp decrease of 57% from the 122 such incidents recorded in 2019.

- **Forty-five antisemitic incidents in 2020 targeted synagogues** (including buildings, congregants and staff while on location), and a further 18 targeted congregants on their way to or from prayers, compared to 44 and 32 incidents respectively in 2019. The drop in antisemitic incidents targeting schools and synagogues – and the people associated with those spaces – does not come as a surprise, given that many places of education and worship were closed for a large amount of 2020 due to the pandemic.

- There were **40 antisemitic incidents in which the victims were Jewish students, academics, involved student unions or other student bodies,** the

same as the 40 campus-related incidents in 2019. Thirteen of these events took place on campus or university premises, and 27 off campus.

- In **174 incidents, the victims were Jewish organisations and companies, compared to 192 such incidents in 2019.** CST recorded an additional 94 instances wherein antisemitic abuse was aimed at an individual of public prominence; a fall from the 125 incidents of this nature reported in 2019. Despite the decreases in both cases, these are still high totals, and largely demonstrate an **unfortunate fact of modern-day, online antisemitism: public figures and institutions, Jewish and non-Jewish, who use their platform to speak out about anti-Jewish hate, often become lightning rods for the very hatred they are attempting to combat.**

- CST recorded **158 incidents that took place at people's residential property** in 2020. The rise from the 118 incidents of this kind reported in 2019 could be in part explained by a rise in localised, neighbourhood tensions. At a time when many are asked to spend more time at home, frustrations that build up are perhaps more likely to spill over into hate speech and acts directed at those in closest proximity.

- CST received a description of the victim or victims' gender in 876 of the 1,668 antisemitic incidents recorded in 2020. Of these, **503 (57%) were male; 302 (35%) were female;** in 71 incidents (eight%), the victims were mixed groups of males and females.

- The victim or victims' age was ascertained in 858 of the antisemitic incidents recorded by CST in 2020. Of these, **739 (86%) involved adult victims; 68 (8%) involved victims who were minors;** 22 (3%) involved victims over the age of 65; in 29 instances (3%), mixed groups of adults and minors were targeted.

- CST will ask incident victims or witnesses if they can describe the person, or people, who committed the incident they are reporting. Interactions between perpetrators and victims may be crude and brief, leaving little reliable information, and while it is often possible to receive reports regarding the apparent appearance or motivation of incident offenders, this is not absolute proof of the offenders' actual ethnic or religious identity, nor of their motivation. In addition, many incidents do not involve face-to-face contact between offender and victim, so there is no physical description of the offender. With these caveats, CST does provide data regarding the ethnic appearance, age and gender of incident offenders.

- CST obtained a description of the ethnic appearance of the offender or offenders in 575 of the 1,668 antisemitic incidents reported during 2020. Of these, 360 (63%) were described as white – North European; 15 (3%) as white – South European; 100 (17%) as black; 33 (6%) as South Asian; just four (less than 1%) as Southeast Asian; finally, 63 (11%) were described as Arab or North African.

- A description of the gender of the offender or offenders was provided to CST in 883 of the 1,668 antisemitic incidents recorded in 2020. Of these, the offenders were described as male in 720 incidents (81% of incidents where the offender's gender was obtained), female in 137 incidents (16%), and mixed groups of males and females in 26 incidents (3%).

- In 743 of the 1,668 reports of antisemitism during 2020, the approximate age of the offender or offenders was given. Among these, 666 (90%) involved adult offenders; in 76 cases (10%) the perpetrators were minors; there was only one incident (less than 1%) in which the offenders were a mix of adults and minors. The offender ethnicity, gender and age breakdowns are statistically consistent with previous recorded averages, and the most common single profile of a single perpetrator was a white (North European), adult male.

INTRODUCTION

Community Security Trust

Community Security Trust (CST) is a UK charity that advises and represents the Jewish community on matters of antisemitism, terrorism, policing and security. CST received charitable status in 1994 and is recognised by government and the police as a best practice model of a minority-community security organisation.

CST provides security advice and training for Jewish schools, synagogues and Jewish communal organisations and gives assistance to those bodies that are affected by antisemitism. CST also assists and supports individual members of the Jewish community who have been affected by antisemitism and antisemitic incidents. All this work is provided at no charge.

An essential part of CST's work involves representing the Jewish community to police, legislative and policy-making bodies and providing people inside and outside the Jewish community with information to combat antisemitism.

CST has recorded antisemitic incidents in the United Kingdom since 1984.

Definition of antisemitic incidents

The statistics in CST's annual Antisemitic Incidents Report include antisemitic hate crimes and antisemitic non-crime incidents. CST defines an antisemitic incident as any malicious act aimed at Jewish people, organisations or property, where there is evidence that the act has antisemitic motivation or content, or that the victim was targeted because they are (or are believed to be) Jewish. This is a narrower definition than that used by the criminal justice system, which defines an antisemitic hate incident as *"Any non-crime incident which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by a hostility or prejudice based on a person's race/religion or perceived race/religion."*[7] The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism is a useful guide in identifying the different types of antisemitic language that may be used in an incident.

Antisemitic incidents can take several forms, including physical attacks on people or property, verbal or written abuse, hate mail (including antisemitic emails), antisemitic leaflets and posters or abuse on social media. CST does not include the general activities of antisemitic organisations in its statistics. CST does not record as incidents antisemitic material that is permanently hosted on websites or that is published by mainstream media, nor does CST 'trawl' social media platforms to look for antisemitic comments. CST will, however, record antisemitic comments or posts from internet forums or transmitted via social media, if they have been reported to CST by a member of the public who fulfils the role of a victim or witness; 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 annual *Antisemitic Discourse Reports*, available on the CST website.

Reporting antisemitic incidents

Antisemitic incidents are reported to CST in several ways, most commonly by telephone, email, via the CST website, via CST's social media platforms, by post or in person to CST staff and volunteers. CST staff have undergone specialist training, in order to provide the best possible response to incident victims and witnesses who contact CST.

7 The Agreed Definition of 'Monitored Hate Crime' for England, Wales and Northern Ireland: https://www.report-it.org.uk/files/hate_crime_definitions_-_v3_0.pdf

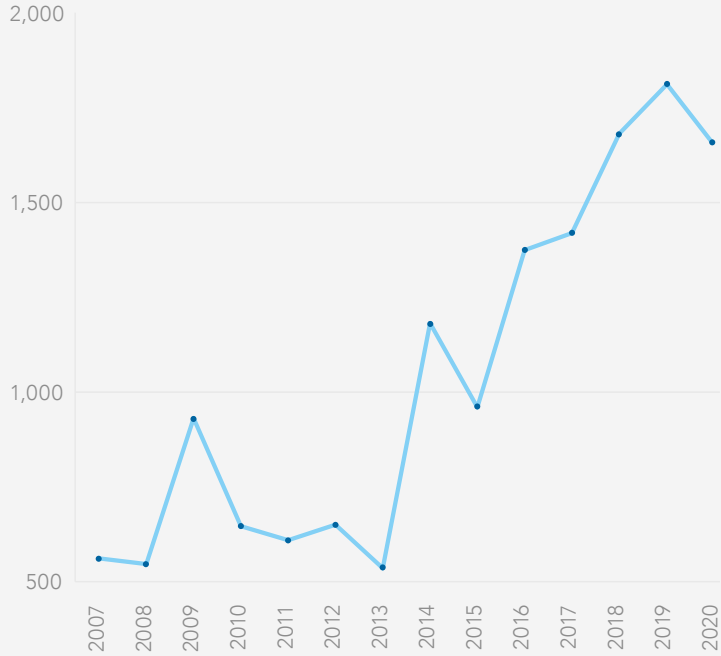
Incidents can be reported to CST by the victim, a witness, or by someone acting on their behalf. In 2001, CST was accorded 'Third Party Reporting' status by the police, which allows CST to report antisemitic incidents to the police and to act as a go-between for victims who are unable or unwilling to report to the police directly. CST works closely with police services and specialist units in monitoring and investigating antisemitic incidents. CST regularly exchanges anonymised antisemitic incident reports with police forces around the United Kingdom under a national Information Sharing Agreement that was signed with the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) and with individual forces.

It is likely that many, and perhaps even most, antisemitic incidents are not reported either to CST or to the police. A 2018 survey by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights found that only 21% of British Jews who had experienced antisemitic harassment over the previous five years had reported it to the police or to any other organisation.[8] The Home Office's report on hate crime in England and Wales acknowledges that while a combination of a genuine rise in hate crime and growing public awareness of what it means is leading to a higher number of reports, there is still much that goes unreported.[9]

If an incident is reported to CST but shows no evidence of antisemitic motivation, language or targeting, then it will not be recorded as antisemitic and will not be included in CST's annual antisemitic incident total. In 2020, CST received 402 reports of potential incidents that fit this description, down by 30% from the 571 such incidents recorded in 2019; a decrease that is almost certainly because many Jewish community buildings were closed at various points due to government Covid-19 restrictions. Many of these potential incidents involve suspicious activity or possible hostile reconnaissance at Jewish locations; criminal assaults on or theft from Jewish people that do not show antisemitic motivation; or anti-Israel activity which did not involve the use of antisemitic language or imagery and was directed at pro-Israel campaigners, rather than being directed at Jewish people, buildings or organisations chosen solely because they were Jewish. These reports still play an important role in CST's provision of security protection to the Jewish community.

CST always prioritises the wishes and needs of incident victims, both individuals and the heads of Jewish organisations or communal buildings. CST especially treats the issue of victim confidentiality as a top priority. If an incident victim chooses to remain anonymous or wishes there to be no publicity about an incident, CST will respect their request as far as possible.

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS, 2007-2020



8 *Experiences and perceptions of antisemitism: Second survey on discrimination and hate crime against Jews in the EU* (Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2018)

9 *Hate Crime, England and Wales, 2019/20* (London: Home Office, 2020)

ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 2020

CST recorded 1,668 antisemitic incidents across the United Kingdom in 2020, the third-highest figure that CST has ever recorded in a single calendar year. It constitutes a fall of 8% from the 1,813 incidents reported to CST in 2019.

Figures, trends and context

The 1,668 antisemitic incidents recorded by CST in 2020, although fewer than in 2019, continue the pattern of historically high levels of reported antisemitic incidents over the past five years. Before the record total of 2019, record highs were reported in 2018 with 1,690 incidents, 2017 with 1,420 incidents, and 2016 with 1,375. CST has been recording antisemitic incidents since 1984.

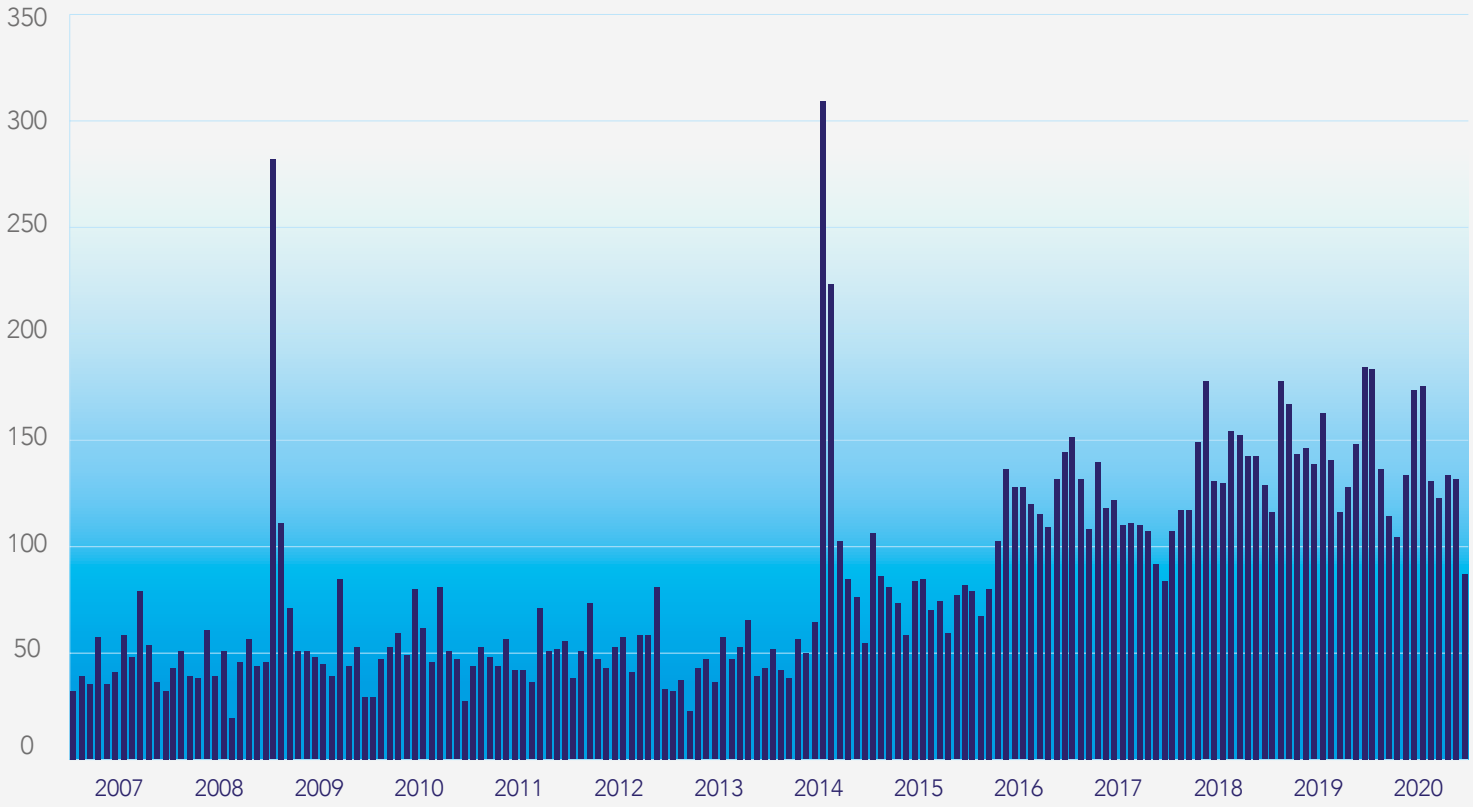
The most significant influence on this fall in antisemitic incidents in 2020 is the Covid-19 pandemic. In 2020, the lowest monthly totals came during the periods in the year when the heaviest restrictions were announced and most strongly applied to the largest amount of the country: during the first lockdown in March and April (117 and 107 incidents respectively), and in December, when many areas were placed in the most severe tiers as the UK reached a peak number of confirmed Covid-19 cases. The monthly total of 89 incidents in December is the first time since December 2017 that CST recorded fewer than 100 antisemitic incidents in a single month. The drop of 7% in offline incidents from the 1,113 recorded in 2019 (61% of the annual total) to the 1,034 reported in 2020 (62% of the annual total), as a logical consequence of fewer people spending time outside in public – and those who did keeping socially distant from others – is a notable reason for the 8% decrease in antisemitic incidents from 2019. The detailed effects of these measures on patterns of antisemitism during 2020 are discussed further in the next chapter of this report.

Despite the reduction in the number of antisemitic incidents in 2020, the continued pattern of historically high numbers of recorded incidents in recent years is reflected in the fact that all but one month of the year saw over 100 antisemitic incidents recorded by CST. Since April 2016, monthly totals exceeding 100 incidents have been reported in all but three months, whereas this only occurred on six occasions between January 2006 and March 2016. On five of those six occasions prior to April 2016, the dramatic spikes in monthly totals can be in part attributed to reactions to conflicts involving Israel, specifically the conflicts in Gaza and southern Israel at the beginning of 2009 and in the summer of 2014. The remaining month, January 2015, saw the shooting at the Charlie Hebdo office and the Hypercacher kosher supermarket siege in Paris. There have been no similar trigger events or temporary, outlying 'spikes' in antisemitic incidents to explain the sustained high totals since 2016. Rather, these figures are likely to be a consequence of the social and political context in the UK within which they have occurred.

Changes to the social and political environment can be reflected in hate crime and incident statistics in different ways. In the lead up to and following the result of the European Union referendum in June 2016, hate crime figures rose across the board. This is laid out in Home Office figures demonstrating an initial spike in the immediate aftermath, as well as a continuous and steady increase since.[10] Over a similar timeframe, CST observed escalations in reports of antisemitic incidents when arguments over antisemitism in the Labour Party came to the fore in national conversation. The trend for monthly totals above 100 incidents began in April 2016, when Ken Livingstone and Naz Shah MP were suspended by Labour for making antisemitic comments. All these circumstances, and the way in which public discussion of

10 *Hate Crime, England and Wales, 2019/20* (London: Home Office, 2020)

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS, MONTH BY MONTH, 2007-2020



antisemitism, hate crime and related issues developed in the resultant atmosphere, show how mainstream politics can affect hate crime levels. The same factors that embolden offenders to express their hatred can also motivate victims and witnesses, awareness and concern heightened, to report hate crimes to CST, the police or other agencies.

Six hundred and thirty-four online incidents were recorded by CST in 2020, dropping 9% from the 700 such incidents reported in 2019. Not only was there a steeper percentage decline in online incidents than offline incidents, but their proportion of the overall incident total also fell, from 39% in 2019 to 38% in 2020. CST had feared that months spent indoors without the stimuli of 'normal' life would see a sharp escalation in reports of online antisemitism, with offenders potentially taking to their keyboards out of increased boredom and disillusionment. This did not occur. One explanation for this may be the decrease in Labour Party-related incidents in 2020 compared to previous years.[11]

In 2019, CST recorded 224 Labour Party-related antisemitic incidents, most of them online, sparked largely in response to events early in the year, when several MPs decided to leave the Labour Party, some of whom cited antisemitism as an important reason for their decision. Another surge was seen during the general election campaign in December 2019, when some high-profile Jewish community leaders urged voters to consider the Labour Party's problems with antisemitism when deciding how to vote. While the change in the party leadership and the publication of the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) report into Labour Party antisemitism both triggered smaller surges in antisemitic incidents in 2020, it is an issue that was generally less prominent than it was throughout 2019, and only 175 incidents

11 These include antisemitic incidents reported to CST occurring within the Labour Party, directed towards Labour politicians and members, spouted by Labour politicians and members (or both), antisemitic incidents where online offenders displayed clear signs of affiliation to/support of the Labour Party in their abuse or their social media profiles. Finally, an incident is considered Labour Party-related for these purposes if antisemitic views appear to be motivated by arguments over alleged antisemitism in Labour: for example, if antisemitic abuse is directed at a former Labour politician after they have left the party.

involving this discourse were reported – a 22% fall from 2019. The dominance of the pandemic – and relative lack of other Jewish or Israel-related news – may also be responsible for the downswing in reported online incidents.

Nevertheless, the 634 instances of online antisemitism reported to CST in 2020 is still the second-highest annual tally of such incidents. Twenty-one of these incidents were classed as Threats, 612 as Abusive Behaviour, and there was one occurrence of mass-emailed antisemitic Literature. Of these 634 incidents, 389 occurred on Twitter, 66 on Facebook, 65 on other social media, 53 through text or instant messaging services, 47 via email, seven on YouTube, six were abusive comments on online articles, and there was one example of website hacking. Eighty-seven of these posts included antisemitic images, memes or cartoons. This means that 527 of these 634 online incidents took place on social media platforms. They give antisemites the space to express political, ideological and extremist ideas, both simple and nuanced, as well as the security of distance and anonymity. Abuse can be preserved in these spaces, spread worldwide instantly, and reach its target with ease.

Given the vast array of material posted and platforms across which it is circulated, an accurate figure for the actual amount of antisemitic content on social media would be impossible to quantify. Instead, it highlights that online forums continue to be a fertile ground for public expressions of antisemitism, sometimes culminating in coordinated campaigns against Jewish public figures and institutions, which are more likely to be reported. CST may record each specific targeted campaign as a single incident because to record each piece of antisemitic content as a separate incident would be unsustainable and cause extreme variations in CST's incident totals, obstructing clear analysis of offline incidents. It is also worth bearing in mind that the number of online incidents in this report reflects the number of reports received by CST from victims, witnesses or other third parties, and does not include the vast amount of antisemitic material sifted by CST's researchers as part of its wider work protecting the Jewish community from potential attack.

The way social media is used by antisemites is connected to another trend of 2020. Antisemitic discourses relating to events in the news cycle seem to evolve immediately, almost regardless of their pertinence to the Jewish community. Flurries of incidents were reported throughout the year that contained references to subjects given major publicity in media conversation of the time. Antisemitic rhetoric related to Covid-19 began to emerge as soon as it became clear that this would become an issue of global proportions, and 13 of the 41 incidents reported to CST containing this discourse were recorded in March, when the pandemic began to have a serious impact on everyday life in the UK. Similarly, 45 of the 396 incidents reported to CST in 2020 with discourse and symbology relating to Hitler, the Nazis and the Holocaust occurred in January, more than in any other month: when both the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz and UK Holocaust Memorial Day were commemorated. Meanwhile, reports of Labour Party-related antisemitism peaked in October and November, with 31 and 26 such incidents respectively, 33% combined of the 175 incidents recorded of this nature. These were the months when the EHRC delivered its conclusions of its investigation into Labour Party antisemitism, and Jeremy Corbyn was suspended from the party, reinstated, and then removed from the parliamentary whip. Finally, 16 of the 22 antisemitic incidents reported to CST that reacted to or included rhetoric relating to coverage of the Black Lives Matter movement occurred in June, the month after the murder of George Floyd that ignited mass protests around the world. In each case, offenders from across the ideological, political and social spectrum took to social media platforms in response. They would manipulate current affairs as a vehicle for the propagation of the same antisemitic tropes, conspiracy theories and abuse, moulded to whatever their specific agenda.

An additional, less tangible factor behind the prolonged high levels of reported antisemitic incidents is that the prevalence of antisemitism in public debate can encourage more antisemitism, if people perceive that the taboo against expressing hostility or prejudice towards or about Jews is weakening. The more people hear and read antisemitic comments and views, the more likely they are to have the confidence to express such views if they hold similar attitudes themselves. In 2020, this – as well as the aspects of online behaviour discussed – was demonstrated explicitly through the antisemitic diatribe posted by grime artist Wiley in July. His rant, which employed stereotypes about Jewish power and financial greed, incited some of those who share his antisemitism to reveal their own. CST recorded 23 incidents in which the perpetrator either attempted to justify Wiley's antisemitic ideas or targeted those who spoke out against them with further antisemitic abuse. It is a case study in the way that hate speech can be affirmed, legitimised and diffused by an increasingly emboldened collective, particularly when one amongst them is a person of perceived authority and sufficient cultural stature.

It is difficult to gauge whether the pattern of historically high antisemitic incident figures observed by CST since 2016 is due to more incidents taking place in the UK, or a society that feels more comfortable to report. The answer is likely to be a combination of both. Despite improvements in reporting, it is expected that antisemitic hate crime and incidents are underreported, especially where the victims are minors or the incident is considered of 'lesser' impact by the victim. The statistics contained in this report should therefore be seen as indicative of general trends, rather than absolute measures of the number of incidents that took place. Answering why antisemitic incidents take place is not simple. Victim or witness evidence for what may have been a brief, traumatic experience can be vague and disjointed. Many incidents do not have a specific victim and the offender is often unknown, but it is still possible to analyse the data contained in the individual reports received by CST, and the picture they show is complex. In short, there is no single profile of an antisemitic incident victim or offender, nor is there a single explanation as to why antisemitism persists in modern society.

Antisemitic graffiti in Tower Hamlets, March

ANTISEMITISM AND THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The 8% fall in antisemitic incidents recorded by CST in 2020 demonstrates the influence that external events can have on antisemitic incident levels. The patterns and totals of incidents reported to CST illustrate the ways in which Covid-19 lockdown, restrictions and repercussions for public behaviour reduced the opportunity for and occurrence of physical antisemitic incidents. While the pandemic has undoubtedly contributed to the decrease in reported antisemitism, it is important to consider the yearly and monthly totals in both short- and longer-term contexts.

December's total of 89 incidents, for example, appears low: it constitutes the lowest monthly figure recorded by CST since December 2017 (86 incidents) and is 41% down from 2019's average of 151 incidents per month. From January 2018 to November 2020, CST recorded over 100 incidents every month. In statistical terms, this makes over 100 incidents per month a new normal; however, over the longer term it is unprecedented. Between January 2006 and March 2016, the monthly incident total exceeded 100 on only six occasions, five of which were triggered by reactions to Israel-related conflicts (and the other by Jihadi terrorism against Jews in Paris). Although the lowest monthly antisemitic incident figures of 2020 look significantly reduced when compared to those that came immediately before, they still contributed to a year – even one so fundamentally disrupted by a global pandemic – in which a high volume of reporting, not seen before 2016, was sustained.

In the context of 2020 alone, the lowest monthly totals reported to CST correlate with the periods in the year when large parts of the UK were placed under the strictest regulations. There was a marked drop in incidents from February (140 incidents) to March and April (117 and 107 incidents respectively), when the measures of the first national lockdown were most strongly communicated, introduced and applied. People in the UK were encouraged to work from home on 16 March, and schools, restaurants, pubs and other communal venues were instructed to close over the course of the following week.[12] These took hold throughout April.

This decrease noted in early spring mirrors the one observed between November (135 incidents) and December (89 incidents). December was the month when increasing amounts of the UK were placed in higher tiers with stricter regulations, and in which the country reached a peak number for confirmed Covid-19 cases in 2020, pre-empting another full national lockdown in January 2021.[13]

Meanwhile, the highest monthly totals in 2020 were recorded before lockdown initiatives existed, or when they were most relaxed. In January (188 incidents) and February (140 incidents), the pandemic was yet to radically alter life in the UK. In June (178 incidents), the retail industry was reopened, groups of six were permitted to gather outside and single adult households were allowed to form support bubbles with one other household.[14] In July (180 incidents), the service, hospitality and arts sectors were open for business, and two households could meet in any setting.[15] It is highly probable that all of these factors – and the way the public has at large reacted to them – feed into the peaks and troughs in reports of

12 *Prime Minister's statement on coronavirus (COVID-19): 16 March 2020:* https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-on-coronavirus-16-march-2020

13 World Health Organisation: https://covid19.who.int/region/euro/country/gb

14 *Prime Minister's statement on coronavirus (COVID-19): 10 June 2020:* https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-at-the-coronavirus-press-conference-10-june-2020

15 *PM announces easing of lockdown restrictions: 23 June 2020:* https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-announces-easing-of-lockdown-restrictions-23-june-2020

antisemitism over the course of 2020, as well as the overall reduction from 2019.

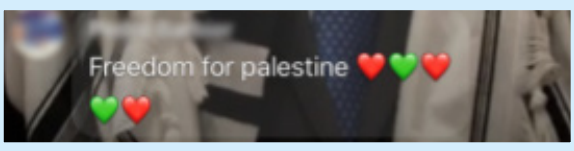
Understandably, the types of incidents most adversely impacted by this new reality were those that involve face-to-face and/or physical contact, particularly during the months when restrictions made such interactions much less common. This proved especially true in the category of antisemitic Assault, of which only two were recorded by CST in both April and December. Since March 2014, CST has only recorded such low totals in this category once, in May 2014. A more detailed exploration of the pandemic's effect on antisemitic Assault can be found in the Incident Categories chapter of this report.

Beyond the overall decrease in reported antisemitism, the pandemic appears to have affected the incidents that CST has recorded in several illuminating ways, which will be described in more detail in this section.

A new type of incident

The outbreak of Covid-19 has challenged a huge number of people and organisations to rethink the ways they operate and communicate in adapting to a new and exceptional set of circumstances, both in personal and professional arenas. This opportunity and necessity for innovation has been equally applicable to those who wish to express their hatred of Jews. Some antisemites have done so on the same Internet platforms that many have turned to in lieu of in-person contact.

Anti-Israel comment on a synagogue service livestream, April

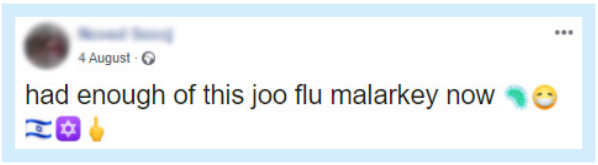


In 2020, CST received 19 reports of online video events that were hijacked with antisemitic content (so-called 'Zoom bombing'). These were hosted by synagogues, Jewish families, communal bodies and universities providing remote access to prayer and funeral services, talks and study sessions. On nine occasions, antisemitic comments were left in the chat box; in five instances, voices or recordings of voices were heard making antisemitic remarks; in three cases, antisemitic images were posted in the comments section; and on two occasions, people joined the webinar with an antisemitic username. This is a completely new type of antisemitic incident that CST has come across, born out of the immediate widespread reliance on these platforms for social participation. The sudden emergence of this modus operandi of targeted attack required CST to produce special online security advice for video conferencing that was shared across the Jewish community (and used by police to advise other communities). It is no coincidence that antisemites disrupted these calls; they took advantage of the fact that Jewish institutions need to engage the community online at a time when meeting physically is either not advised or forbidden, depending on context. It demonstrates the ability, speed and expediency of antisemitic offenders to adjust to and exploit shifts, however significant, in the social landscape.

Old antisemitic tropes, repackaged for Covid-19

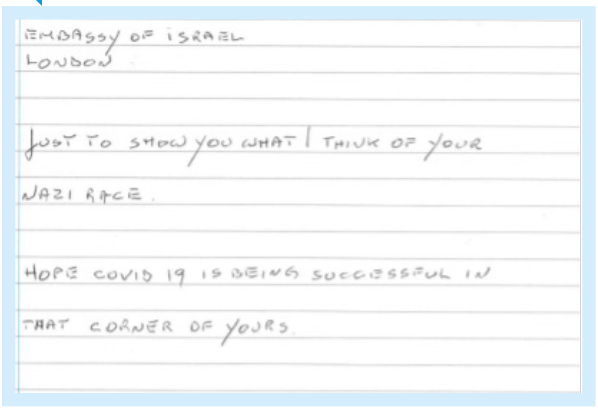
Further evidence of this capacity for adaptation lies in the explosion of antisemitic discourses that began to populate social media as soon as news emerged of a dangerous new virus rapidly spreading across the world. In 2020, CST recorded 41 incidents that involved reference to the pandemic alongside antisemitic rhetoric. These include conspiracy theories about alleged Jewish involvement in creating and spreading Covid-19; in creating and spreading the myth of Covid-19 for financial, political and generally malevolent gain; and in creating a vaccine for their exclusive use or to be sold at huge profits. Here, several hardwired antisemitic stereotypes are brought together. The trope of Jews as disease carriers was already well-established at the time of the Black Death in the 1340s,

and this brand of dehumanisation was heavily invoked in Nazi ideology and propaganda. The idea that Jews are untrustworthy, mendacious and manipulating society for their own purposes remains a hugely popular theme in modern day antisemitism. Of the 332 incidents reported to CST in 2020 presenting antisemitic conspiracy theories, 264 applied the conspiracy theory of global Jewish power. These ideas have simply been tweaked by those who seek to spin the pandemic as a tool for antisemitic incitement, as shown in these images:



A plainer narrative strand to emerge is the wish that Jewish people catch and die from the virus:

Letter sent to the Embassy of Israel, October



Of these 41 instances, which also include offline instances of verbal abuse and threat, 13 occurred in March, more than in any other month. This was when the implications of Covid-19 really began to hit the UK. Public uncertainty, fear and anger were perhaps at their peak then, before it was fully known how life was about to change; conditions that have historically proved ripe for antisemitic scapegoating and blame.[16] Although antisemitic incidents containing references to the pandemic have been reported in every month since, none come close to the levels recorded in March. Perhaps the rage and confusion observed at the outset have since settled, as the nation has had time to grow accustomed to the consequent disruption to daily life and accept the scale of the situation. For a deeper dive into these discourses and their proliferation on fringe, extremist platforms (from which incidents are not usually reported to CST), CST's report *Coronavirus and the Plague of Antisemitism* is available on the CST website.

16 The Jewish community is of course far from the only community to receive the brunt of COVID-19 related abuse, with a significant spike in race hate crimes targeting East Asian communities.

Antisemitic graffiti in Hammersmith & Fulham, March

Antisemitic tweet relating to the Covid-19 pandemic

INCIDENT CATEGORIES

CST classifies antisemitic incidents by six distinct categories: Extreme Violence; Assault; Damage and Desecration to Jewish property; Threats; Abusive Behaviour; and antisemitic Literature. The definitions of these categories are given below.[17]

Extreme Violence

Incidents of Extreme Violence include any antisemitic attack with the potential or intention of causing loss of life or grievous bodily harm (GBH). GBH is the most serious form of assault that anyone can commit.

CST recorded three events of Extreme Violence in 2020, compared to one such incident in 2019, two in 2018, and none in 2017 or 2016. Two of the three Extreme Violence reports in 2020 were knife attacks, and there was one instance of arson. Due to ongoing investigations by the police, CST is unable to provide any more details about these incidents.

Assault

Incidents of Assault include any physical attack against a person or people, which does not pose a threat to their life or cause GBH, but instead may be considered actual bodily harm (ABH) or common assault. This includes attempted assault, even if it fails, and throwing objects or spitting at Jews, including where the projectile misses its target.

CST recorded 97 incidents in the category of Assault in 2020, a 39% decrease from the 158 assaults reported in 2019. There were 124 antisemitic assaults reported to CST in 2018, 149 in 2017 and 109 in 2016. It is the first year in which CST has recorded fewer than 100 assaults since 2015, when 83 were reported. Of the recorded assaults, 28 involved punching or kicking of the victim; 16 involved eggs, stones or other objects thrown, in eight cases from a passing vehicle; on 11 occasions, the victim was pushed or pulled; nine involved spitting; in seven instances, the offender stripped the victim of religious clothes or accessories. Fifty of these attacks were accompanied by verbal abuse and 14 contained an element of threatening language.

As the only incident type (allowing for Extreme Violence as its extension) that requires face-to-face contact, it is highly probable that this sharp fall in Assault figures is a direct result of the way the pandemic and social distancing guidelines affected and limited day-to-day, public interactions. This was especially true of April and December, during which just two and one antisemitic assaults were reported respectively. The former was the first full month when instructions for the first UK lockdown were most explicitly communicated and strictly enforced. In the latter, restrictions in many parts of the country were put in place once again as confirmed Covid-19 cases reached their annual peak. December's total signifies the fewest antisemitic assaults recorded in a single month since January and February 2014, when the UK was struck by a spell of extreme weather and successive major storms. These remain the only two months since 2008 in which no assaults were reported to CST. From the fact that recorded incidents in the category of Assault have dropped so drastically from 2019 to 2020, it can be inferred that the pandemic has drastically impacted the ways people are willing or able to express their antisemitism, and lessened the likelihood of initiating close physical contact with a stranger. Likewise, with fewer potential victims in public, the opportunity for offenders to physically attack Jews was perhaps reduced. The fact that Assault figures were lowest in the months when the general risk and anxiety of viral transmission were highest seems to confirm these notions.

17 A full explanation of CST's antisemitic incident categories can be found in the leaflet *'Categories of Antisemitic Incidents'*.

Perhaps a more abstract and worrying consequence of the Covid-19 outbreak on antisemitic assaults is the nature of those incidents observed and recorded during the period from the gradual easing of lockdown regulations in late spring to their reimplementation in autumn. While every unprovoked physical attack is nasty and aggressive, there were several cases reported to CST across this timeframe that featured an escalation in intensity and malice, including the occurrences of Extreme Violence.

CASE STUDY

Metrolink attack

In August, a visibly Jewish man was accosted by two white males at a Metrolink station in Manchester. They shouted something to the victim about his *"hat"*, referring to the kippah (religious skullcap) he was wearing. From the opposite platform, they spat at the victim and threw an empty beer can at him, telling him to *"get out of my country"*. Aggravated that he was trying to appear unintimidated, the perpetrators descended across the tracks and climbed onto the platform on which the victim was standing, where they shoved him and punched him just below the shoulder, before returning to their platform and boarding the next tram.

It is difficult to know exactly why the severity of assaults apparently sharpened, let alone understand the psyche of someone who would choose to materialise their contempt in such a vicious way. It is possible that this represents a release of frustrations pent up over lockdown and periods of relative isolation. For antisemites who found the confines of the pandemic's reality a claustrophobic, boring and aggravating experience, it is possible that even a slight alleviation of restrictions offered an outlet for these stifled feelings.

In the category of Assault, a theme noted in 2019 that persisted in 2020 is the regional concentration of physical attacks. Of the 97 antisemitic assaults reported in 2020, 48 (49%) took place across just four boroughs: Barnet (16) and Hackney (16) in Greater London, and Bury and Salford (eight each) in Greater Manchester. These boroughs are where some of the largest Jewish populations reside in the UK, and some of the most visibly Jewish communities. While again impossible to fully comprehend what prompts an antisemitic assault, Jewish visibility – whether individual or communal – appears to correlate with its likelihood. The obvious indicators of difference may be interpreted by the offender as a threat to their own culture and territory, or as something so distinct to their own experience that it becomes easier to dehumanise and degrade. At the same time, it may provide them with a certainty of who and what they are attacking, as well as the opportunity to maximise the victims' public humiliation in targeting or stripping their markers of identity.

Indeed, at least 33 of the 97 antisemitic assaults recorded in 2020 targeted people described as visibly Jewish, usually on account of their religious insignia, Jewish school uniforms or traditional clothing. Seventy were random attacks on Jewish people in public places. Eight assaults were directed at Jewish schoolchildren or staff, five of which occurred away from the school premises. Four of the incidents in this category were aimed at congregants on their way to and from synagogue.

CST received a description of the victims' gender in 80 of the 97 antisemitic assaults reported in 2020. They were male in 56 instances and female on 16 occasions. In eight cases, the victims were mixed groups of males and females. The victims' age was obtained in 71 of these physical attacks: 52 targeted adults (of whom four were over 65 years old), 16 were against minors, and the victims were mixed groups of adults and minors on three occasions.

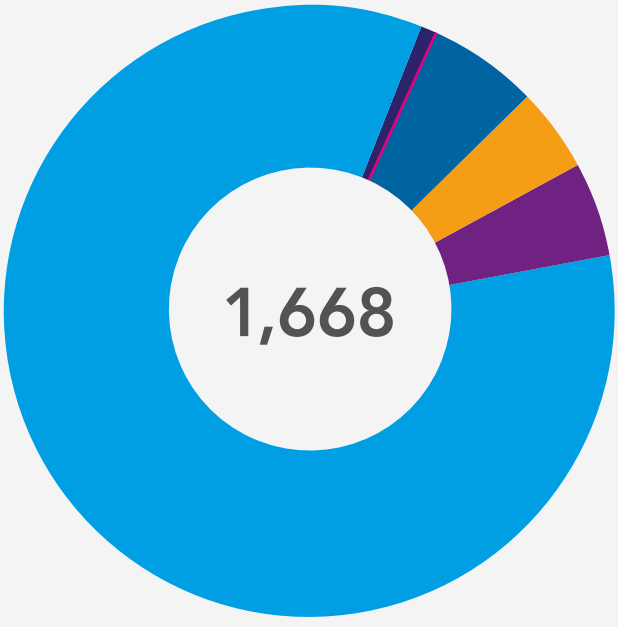
CST received information about the offenders' gender in 62 of the 97 antisemitic assaults reported in 2020: 52 involved male offenders, six female offenders, and four involved male and female perpetrators acting together. The offenders' age was included in 63 reports: they were adults in 45 instances and minors in 18.

Damage & Desecration to Jewish Property

This category includes any physical attack directed against Jewish-owned property, or property that is perceived to be connected to Jews, which is not life-threatening. This includes the daubing of antisemitic slogans or symbols (such as swastikas) – including fixing stickers and posters – on Jewish property; and damage caused to property where it appears that the property has been specifically targeted because of its perceived Jewish connection, or where antisemitic expressions are made by the offender while causing the damage. As this type of incident is usually only seen after the act has been completed, it is often very difficult to get any information about the perpetrators.

There were 72 instances of Damage & Desecration to Jewish property recorded by CST in 2020, a decrease of 18% from the 88 incidents of this type reported in 2019. To compare, there were 79 antisemitic incidents recorded in this category in 2018, 93 in 2017 and 81 in 2016. The last year totals in this category were so low was 2015, with 65 reported incidents. Forty-five (63%) of these incidents saw damage done to the homes and vehicles of Jewish people, a proportional increase from the 51% of Damage & Desecration incidents reported to have affected personal residences in 2019. This shift may be a consequence of the fact that many communal buildings were closed for large parts of the year and people spent much more time at home; factors that have possibly affected patterns of both offending and reporting. Nine incidents in this category involved the desecration of synagogue buildings, seven of Jewish schools, and four affected Jewish companies and organisations.

INCIDENT CATEGORIES



Extreme Violence	3 (<0.2%)
Assault	97 (5.8%)
Damage & Desecration	72 (4.3%)
Threats	85 (5%)
Abusive Behaviour	1,399 (84%)
Literature	12 (0.7%)

In 28 of the 72 cases of Damage & Desecration, the offender used graffiti, daubing or stickers of an antisemitic nature to deface the Jewish target (of which 12 depicted swastikas or made reference to the Holocaust), while eggs, stones, bricks and other projectiles were thrown to cause damage on 14 occasions. CST recorded six cases involving the destruction of the mezuzah – a Jewish prayer scroll affixed to a building's entrance, and five of broken windows. All included some element of antisemitic focus, language or imagery in order to be recorded as antisemitic by CST.

CASE STUDY

Synagogue desecration

In September, a woman was filmed on CCTV throwing pigs trotters at a synagogue in Leicestershire. This is the only incident reported to CST in 2020 involving non-kosher foodstuffs being used to desecrate Jewish property.

Threats

This category includes only direct antisemitic Threats, whether verbal or written. This would include potential Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) that were designed to be hoaxes rather than IEDs that are intended to be viable.

CST recorded 85 direct antisemitic Threats in 2020, dropping by 14% from the 99 incidents of this sort reported in 2019. There were 108 incidents in this category in 2018, 98 in 2017 and 107 in 2016. The last time that fewer Threats were reported was 2015, with 79.

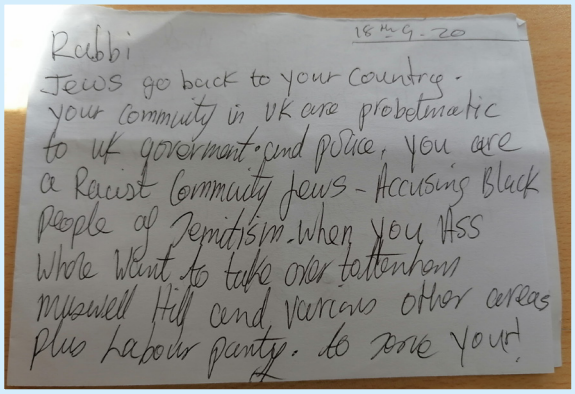
Thirty-three of the 85 Threats took place in public spaces while nine were directed at public figures, six at Jewish organisations or companies, four were made at the homes of Jewish individuals, and three each at synagogues and Jewish schools. Twenty-one of the incidents in this category were written on online platforms, six were delivered via phone call or message, two in the post, and there were two bomb threats made.

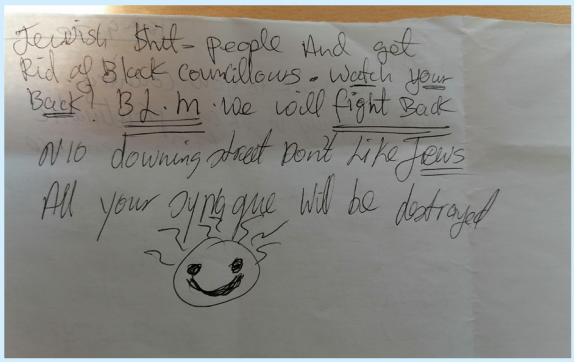
CASE STUDY

Threatening letter

In September, a Jewish nursery in north London received an antisemitic and threatening handwritten letter addressed to the Rabbi (pictured below). It read:

"Rabbi
Jews go back to your country. Your community in UK are problematic to UK government and police. You are a racist community Jews – Accusing Black people of Semitism when you Ass whole want to take over tottenham muswell hill and various other areas plus Labour party to serve your Jewish shit people and get Rid of Black councillors. Watch your Back! B.L.M we will fight Back
N10 downing street Don't Like Jews
All your synagogue will be destroyed" [sic]





Abusive Behaviour

Beneath the umbrella of Abusive Behaviour falls a wide range of incident types, including everything encompassed by verbal and written antisemitic abuse. The verbal abuse can be face-to-face or via telephone calls and voicemail messages. The category also includes antisemitic emails, text messages, social media posts and comments, as well as targeted antisemitic letters (that is, one-off letters aimed at and sent to a specific individual), irrespective of whether the recipient is Jewish. This is different from a mass mailing of antisemitic leaflets, pamphlets or group emails, which is dealt with by the separate Literature category. Antisemitic graffiti on non-Jewish property is also included in this category.

There were 1,399 incidents reported to CST in the category of Abusive Behaviour in 2020, signalling a fall of 3% from the 1,449 instances of Abusive Behaviour recorded in 2019. There were 1,334 counts of Abusive Behaviour in 2018, 1,065 in 2017 and 1,059 in 2016.

In 267 of the Abusive Behaviour incidents reported in 2020, the victims were random Jewish people in public, and visibly Jewish in at least 95 of these. Jewish organisations or companies were the target of 160 incidents in this category, while public figures – Jewish and non-Jewish – were subjected to antisemitic abuse on 80 reported occasions.

Among the 1,399 incidents in this category, 433 involved spoken verbal abuse and 258 written abuse, while 51 contained threatening language without making a direct threat to the victim. There were 214 instances of antisemitic daubing, graffiti or stickers on non-Jewish property, the majority of which included the depiction of swastikas. One hundred and seven offensive shouts or gestures in public, of which 70 were made from passing vehicles, contribute to this category's tally, as well as 30 abusive phone calls or voice messages and 28 examples of physical hate mail sent to the victims' address.

Just as in all categories of antisemitic incidents apart from Extreme Violence, the Abusive Behaviour total has diminished relative to the corresponding reported figure in 2019. However, the fall of 3% in this category is less substantial that the percentage drops in the others. The reporting of online incidents may be a factor in this. Although they did not escalate as CST had feared would happen in lockdown, the 634 online incidents is still the second-highest annual total ever recorded by CST. Online platforms remain a place where hatred can be expressed, legitimised by likeminded individuals, and shared on a global scale. In the context of a pandemic, when in-person exchanges are less possible, using the Internet remains a convenient and safe-feeling method of sharing and inciting antisemitism. Six hundred and twelve of the Abusive Behaviour incidents recorded in 2020 occurred online, comprising 44% of the category's total (greater than in any other category). A by-product of this is the fact that the 1,399 Abusive Behaviour incidents constitute 84% of the overall annual total, a higher proportion than in any other year in the past decade.

CASE STUDY

Flatmate abuse

An Israeli man was staying with a friend in London in September, when he received a barrage of verbal abuse from his friend's housemate. Upon finding out his nationality, the woman started shouting that the Jews have killed all the Palestinians. She then began spouting conspiracy theories, that the victim and Jews use their powers to control the world and are surprised when everyone hates them, and that Hitler had just had enough of the Jews and was justified in wanting to kill them. The victim tried to tell the story of his family's experience in the Holocaust, but she continued her antisemitic abuse. Her flatmates intervened and CST made a report to the police at the request of the victim.

Literature

This category covers mass-produced antisemitic Literature that is distributed in multiple quantities. This can involve a single mass mailing or repeated individual mailings, but it must involve the multiple use of the same piece of literature in order to fall into this category. This is different from one-off cases of hate mail targeted at individual people or organisations, which would come under the category of either Abusive Behaviour or Threats. This category includes literature that is antisemitic in itself, irrespective of whether or not the recipient is Jewish, and cases where Jews are specifically targeted with malicious material, even if the content itself is not antisemitic. This would include, for instance, the mass mailing of neo-Nazi literature targeted at Jewish organisations or homes, even if the literature did not mention Jews. This category also includes antisemitic emails that are sent to groups of recipients. The statistics for this category give no indication of the extent of distribution. A single mass mailing of antisemitic literature is only counted as one incident, although it could involve material being sent to dozens of recipients. Thus, the number of incidents reflects the number of offenders and their actions, rather than the number of victims.

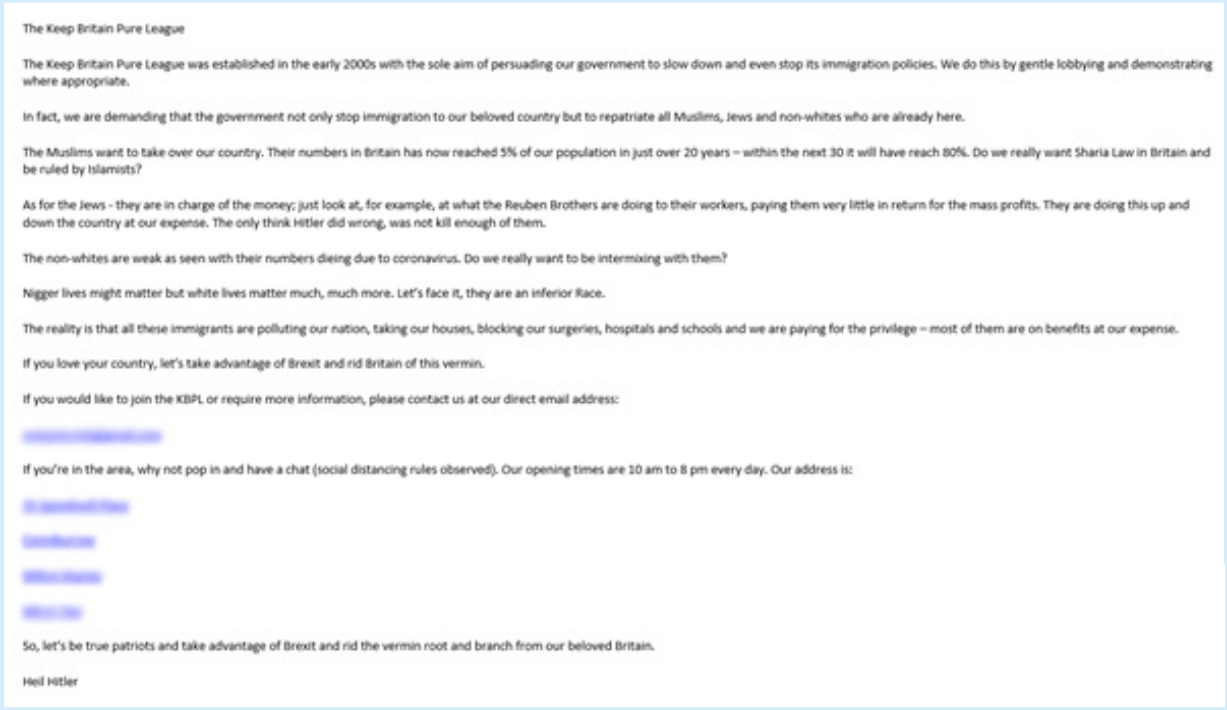
There has been a drop in reports of incidents in this category, with 12 recorded by CST in 2020 compared to 18 in 2019, signifying a fall of 33%. CST recorded 43 instances of Literature distribution in 2018, 15 in 2017 and 19 in 2016. The 12 such incidents recorded in 2015 is the last occasion on which the annual Literature total was so low.

The abnormally high number of incidents in this category seen in 2018 was in large part due to the circulation of an antisemitic, conspiracy-laden leaflet called Tip of the Iceberg around homes in north London and Hertfordshire. Despite its dissemination dwindling in the years since

CASE STUDY

Email recruitment

In August, CST received reports that an email (below) had been sent to a seemingly random selection of addresses from a group calling themselves *"The Keep Britain Pure League"*. Looking to recruit new members and incite interest, it is filled with Holocaust glorification and rhetoric about Jewish financial power, as well as islamophobia and racism towards all *"non-whites"*.



The Keep Britain Pure League

The Keep Britain Pure League was established in the early 2000s with the sole aim of persuading our government to slow down and even stop its immigration policies. We do this by gentle lobbying and demonstrating where appropriate.

In fact, we are demanding that the government not only stop immigration to our beloved country but to repatriate all Muslims, Jews and non-whites who are already here.

The Muslims want to take over our country. Their numbers in Britain has now reached 5% of our population in just over 20 years – within the next 30 it will have reach 80%. Do we really want Sharia Law in Britain and be ruled by Islamists?

As for the Jews - they are in charge of the money; just look at, for example, at what the Reuben Brothers are doing to their workers, paying them very little in return for the mass profits. They are doing this up and down the country at our expense. The only think Hitler did wrong, was not kill enough of them.

The non-whites are weak as seen with their numbers dieing due to coronavirus. Do we really want to be intermixing with them?

Nigger lives might matter but white lives matter much, much more. Let's face it, they are an inferior Race.

The reality is that all these immigrants are polluting our nation, taking our houses, blocking our surgeries, hospitals and schools and we are paying for the privilege – most of them are on benefits at our expense.

If you love your country, let's take advantage of Brexit and rid Britain of this vermin.

If you would like to join the KBPL or require more information, please contact us at our direct email address:

If you're in the area, why not pop in and have a chat (social distancing rules observed). Our opening times are 10 am to 8 pm every day. Our address is:

So, let's be true patriots and take advantage of Brexit and rid the vermin root and branch from our beloved Britain.

Heil Hitler

and CST working with the police to identify its producer(s) and distributor(s), Tip of the Iceberg remains the most common single antisemitic publication reported to CST. That particular leaflet made up 12 of the 18 Literature incidents submitted to CST in 2019, and nine of the 12 in 2020. Of the remaining three pieces of Literature reported in 2020, two were leaflets and one was an email sent to hundreds of individuals and institutions, including Jewish ones.

Email circulated after the leadership election that saw Keir Starmer become Labour Leader, April

Subject: Fwd: Keir Starmer New Labour leader

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-52164589

Labour Party Leadershit Election

New Labour leader, 'Stammering' Starmer vows to lead party into 'new era' of pro-Israeli political compliance.

Yep, the Zionist lobby finally got their Tony Bliar stooge replaced with a favourable Israeli ass-kissing Labour leadershit shill.
So Labour will doubtless be henceforth dropping Corbyn's humanitarian policy and condemning the BDS movement - plus giving a thumbs-up to all future 'annexations' - read 'outright thefts' of further Palestinian lands in the military-occupied West Bank - and too the continued privations of the Palestinian population besieged in the Gaza Strip littoral behind Israel's 30-odd foot high Great Apartheir Wall - inside the biggest concentration camp on the planet.
Vote Labour? We think not. 👎🤘😈🤘

INCIDENT VICTIMS

The victims of antisemitic incidents come from the whole spectrum of the Jewish community: from strictly orthodox to liberal, reform and secular Jews; from the largest Jewish communities of London and Manchester to small, isolated communities all over the United Kingdom; and from Jewish schoolchildren to Members of Parliament. Occasionally, antisemitism will also be directed at people who do not identify as Jewish.

There were 374 incidents reported to CST in 2020 in which the victims were ordinary Jewish individuals in public. In at least 143 of these, they were visibly Jewish on account of their religious or traditional clothing, Jewish school uniforms, or jewellery and insignia bearing religious symbols. In 2019, these things were true of 431 and 197 incidents respectively. Of the 1,668 incidents recorded by CST in 2020, there was an element of spoken verbal abuse in 525; 135 involved threatening language; abuse of an antisemitic nature was shouted or gestured in public on 122 occasions, 79 of which came from the occupant of a vehicle. All of this is broadly indicative of the most common single type of offline antisemitic incident reported to CST: the random, unprovoked, verbal abuse of strangers who are presumed for whatever reason to be Jewish, as they go about their daily lives in public spaces that often have a large footfall of Jewish people. Such incidents do not usually evidence specific ideologies or political motivations.

There were 19 antisemitic incidents recorded at Jewish schools in 2020, compared to 54 in 2019. An additional 20 incidents involved Jewish schoolchildren away from school, often on their way to or from home, compared to 43 incidents of this type reported in 2019. CST recorded 14 incidents wherein the victims were Jewish schoolchildren or staff at non-faith schools, falling from the 25 reported in 2019. This results in a total of 53 incidents affecting people and buildings in the school sector, constituting a sharp decrease of 57% from the 122 such incidents recorded in 2019. Of these 53 incidents, eight came under the category of Assault, five of which involved Jewish schoolchildren away from the school premises; seven incidents were classified as Damage & Desecration to Jewish property; there were four direct Threats made, three of which were to Jewish schools; and 34 incidents were classed as Abusive Behaviour. For the second consecutive year, no mass-mailed antisemitic Literature was aimed at schools.

There were 45 antisemitic incidents recorded in 2020 that targeted synagogues (including buildings, congregants and staff while at the location), just exceeding 2019's total of 44. A further 18 incidents saw synagogue congregants or staff targeted on their way to or from prayer services, falling 44% from the 32 such incidents reported to CST in 2019. This comprises a net 17% fall in incidents affecting synagogues and the people travelling to, from, or already inside them, from 76 recorded in 2019 to the 63 incidents of this kind recorded in 2020. Of these 63 cases, four were Assault, nine were Damage & Desecration of holy buildings, three involved direct Threats sent to synagogues, 46 were classed as Abusive Behaviour, and there was one instance of antisemitic Literature sent to a place of worship.

The drop in antisemitic incidents targeting schools and synagogues – and the people associated with those spaces – does not come as a surprise. It is quite probably a direct consequence of the Covid-19 outbreak, which led to the enforced physical closure of many educational facilities and places of worship for a large amount of 2020.

There were 40 antisemitic incidents affecting Jewish students, academics, involved student unions or other student bodies, the same number as that recorded in 2019. Thirteen of

these events took place on campus or university property, and 27 off campus. Among these, one is classified as Assault, one in the category of Damage & Desecration, and there are 38 examples of Abusive Behaviour. It may seem strange that university-related incidents have not fallen while school-related incidents have, at a time when universities and schools have been hit with similar challenges. This is likely to be a consequence of CST's concerted drive over the last year to encourage more reporting of incidents from the Jewish student community. Furthermore, while university faculty buildings may have closed, many students have continued to live in their university halls and towns.

Fourteen incidents were related to the workplace, a decrease of 52% from the 29 incidents of this nature reported in 2019, while there were 174 antisemitic incidents that targeted Jewish organisation and companies in 2020, dropping by 9% from the 192 such incidents reported in 2019. Although the targeting of Jewish organisations diminished, CST observed spikes in this activity throughout the year when Jewish communal, leadership and news organisations posted on social media about subjects as varied as Holocaust Memorial Day, the Labour leadership change and the party's positive steps to tackle antisemitism, the murder of George Floyd, the EHRC verdict on Labour Party antisemitism, and the publication of reports about various aspects of antisemitism. Some of the online reactions to these issues that, for one reason or another, inspire social contention, were antisemitic in content and reflected a wider trend in 2020 of flurries in antisemitism that correlated with specific events in the news cycle. Alternatively, some of these offenders simply tag Jewish organisations in their online diatribes. CST is chief among those reporting such abuse, targeted in 124 of these 174 incidents.

Antisemitic incidents in which the victim was a prominent individual or public figure fell by 25%, from 125 in 2019 to 94 in 2020. The tally reported in 2019 was largely linked to an upswing in social media antisemitism reacting to MPs who left Labour for Change UK – citing the problem of antisemitism as a reason behind their decision – played out on the backdrop of the wider discourse concerning allegations of institutional antisemitism within the Labour Party. This conversation is still very much taking place in political and public circles alike but, as addressed above, much of the vitriol precipitated by this discourse was directed at Jewish organisations

VICTIMS

where the age and gender are known

81%
of victims were **male**

16%
of victims were **female**

3%
of victims were **groups of males and females**

90%
of victims were **adults**

10%
of victims were **minors**

>1%
of victims were **mixed age groups**

and related to the idea of Jewish influence over the British political scene. No single event occurred in 2020 to trigger such a wave of personal abuse that the departure of Labour MPs for Change UK did in 2019, some of whom no longer hold public office in any case. The totals recorded in antisemitism directed at individuals of prominence – as well as Jewish organisations – are still the second highest ever reported to CST over the course of a year. This demonstrates a regrettable aspect of modern-day antisemitism and racism, as played out on the Internet: public figures and institutions, Jewish and non-Jewish, who use their platform to speak out about anti-Jewish hate, often become lightning rods for the very hatred they are addressing.

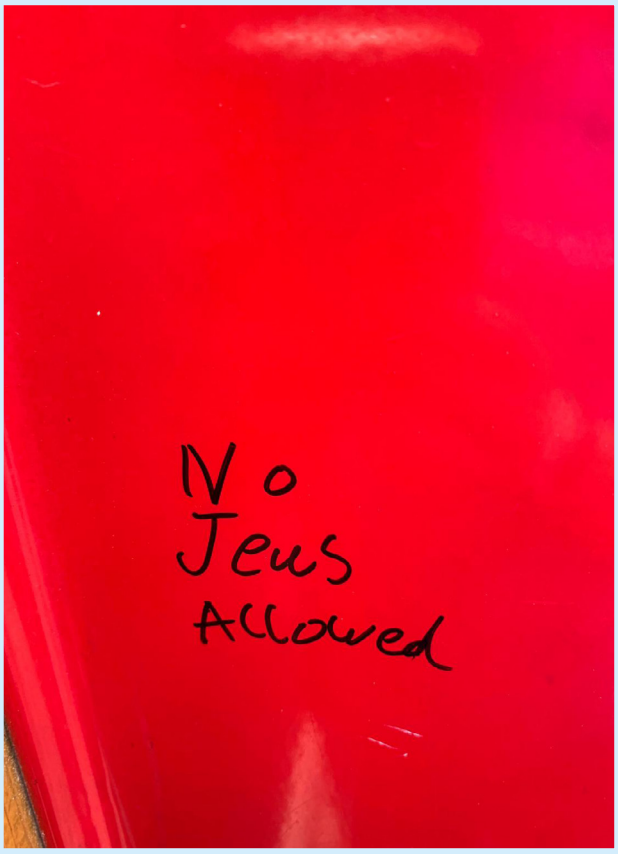
In 2020, 158 antisemitic incidents reported to CST took place at people's residential property. The rise of 34% from the 118 incidents of this kind in 2019 could be partially down to an upswing in neighbour and housemate disputes.

With people across the country forced to spend more time at home, and outlets for frustrations limited and feelings of isolation potentially increased, it is possible that local tensions were heightened and perhaps more likely to spill over into speech and acts of a hateful nature directed at those in closest proximity.

CST received a description of the victim or victims' gender in 876 of the 1,668 antisemitic incidents recorded in 2020. Of these, 503 (57%) were male; 302 (35%) were female; in 71 incidents (8%), the victims were mixed groups of males and females.

The victim or victims' age was ascertained in 858 of the antisemitic incidents recorded by CST in 2020. Of these, 739 (86%) involved adult victims; 68 (8%) involved victims who were minors; 22 (3%) involved victims over the age of 65; in 29 instances (3%), mixed groups of adults and minors were targeted.

Antisemitic graffiti targeting Jewish and non-Jewish property: a synagogue in Hertfordshire (left), and a children's playground in Barnet (right)



INCIDENT OFFENDERS

It is not always easy to ascertain the ethnicity, gender or age of antisemitic incident offenders. Many face-to-face incidents involve fleeting, nonverbal, public encounters in which the offenders may not be fully visible or leave the scene quickly. Victim and witness testimonies may be vague and disjointed, which is understandable given the nature of the ordeal that they have experienced. Many incidents do not involve face-to-face contact, and it is therefore not always possible to obtain a physical description of the perpetrator. Furthermore, those who commit antisemitic offences online may choose to completely anonymise themselves, which makes it almost impossible to garner any information about the person behind the abuse. On the other hand, if social media profiles are not anonymised, they can provide some personal details of offenders, such as a name, photograph or approximate location.

While it is possible to collect data regarding the ethnic appearance of incident offenders, this data is not direct evidence of the offenders' religious affiliations. The content of an antisemitic letter may reveal the motivation of the offender, but it would be a mistake to assume the ethnicity or religion of a hate mail sender solely on the basis of the discourse they employ.

CST received a description of the ethnic appearance of the offender or offenders in 575 of the 1,668 antisemitic incidents reported during 2020. Of these, 360 (63%) were described as white – North European; 15 (3%) as white – South European; 100 (17%) as black; 33 (6%) as South Asian; just four (less than 1%) as Southeast Asian; finally, 63 (11%) were described as Arab or North African. These proportions have fluctuated very little from 2019, and are broadly typical of a period without a significant trigger event from the Middle East

A description of the gender of the offender or offenders was obtained by CST in 883 of the 1,668 antisemitic incidents recorded in 2020. Of these, the offender was described as male in 720 incidents (81% of incidents where the offender's gender was obtained), female in 137 incidents (16%), and mixed groups of males and females in 26 incidents (3%).

In 743 of the 1,668 reports of antisemitism during 2020, the approximate age of the offender or offenders was provided. Among these, 666 (90%) involved adult offenders; in 76 cases (10%) the perpetrators were minors; there was only one incident (less than 1%) in which the offenders were a mix of adults and minors. The offender ethnicity, gender and age breakdowns vary little from previous recorded statistics, and the most common single profile of a single perpetrator remains a white (North European), adult male.

OFFENDERS: where the ethnicity was known

65%
described as White European

17%
described as Black

11%
described as Arab or north African

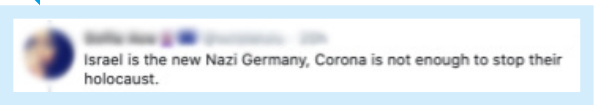
7%
described as south Asian

ANTISEMITIC OR ANTI-ISRAEL?

CST is often asked about the difference between antisemitic incidents and anti-Israel activity, and how this distinction is made in the categorisation of incidents. The distinction between the two can be subtle and the subject of much debate. Clearly, it would not be acceptable to define all anti-Israel activity as antisemitic. Nevertheless, it cannot be ignored that contemporary antisemitism can occur in the context of, or be accompanied by, extreme feelings over the Israel/Palestine conflict, and that hostility towards Israel may be expressed via, or motivated by, antisemitic rhetoric and conspiracy theories. Discourse relating to the conflict is used by antisemitic incident offenders to abuse Jews, and anti-Israel discourse can sometimes repeat, or echo, antisemitic language and imagery. For example, the terms *"Zionist"* and *"Zionism"* will often be used in arguments about Israel and the Middle East; sometimes they are used accurately and legitimately, and at other times they are deployed in an antisemitic way. CST must distinguish between the occasions when these terms are used in a purely political sense, and the times when they are abused as euphemisms for *"Jewishness"* and *"Jews"*. Similarly, the phrase *"Zionist Lobby"*, when it is reserved for Jewish organisations and individuals regardless of whether they have taken a public stance on Zionism, walks the line between the conspiracy theory that Jews have a disproportionate political power and influence, and the antisemitic trope that Jews are not to be trusted. Drawing out these distinctions, and deciding on where the dividing lines lie, is one of the most difficult areas of CST's work in recording and analysing hate crime.

Sometimes the targeting of a particular incident can suggest an intention to intimidate or harass Jews on the part of the offender. For example, if anti-Israel posters or graffiti appear to have been deliberately placed close to a synagogue or other Jewish building, or in an area with a large Jewish population, then they are more likely to be classified as an antisemitic incident. If anti-Israel material is sent unsolicited to a synagogue or other clearly Jewish venue at random then it may well be recorded as an antisemitic incident (because the synagogue was targeted on the basis of it being Jewish and the offender has failed to distinguish between a place of worship and pro-Israel political activity). If, however, anti-Israel material (containing no antisemitic language) is sent unsolicited to specifically pro-Israel organisations, then this incident would not be classified as antisemitic. Similarly, if a Jewish individual or group is engaging in public pro-Israel advocacy and subsequently receives anti-Israel material, this would most likely not be classified as antisemitic (unless, again, it contains antisemitic language).

Antisemitic anti-Israel tweet, March



The political discourse used in an incident may also be the reason why the incident is accepted or rejected as antisemitic. In particular, incidents that equate Israel to Nazi Germany would normally be recorded as antisemitic because the comparison is so deeply hurtful and abusive, using Israel's self-definition as a Jewish state as the basis for the insult. However, incidents that compare Israel to, for example, apartheid South Africa, would not normally be recorded as antisemitic incidents. While the charge that Israel practises apartheid upsets many Jews, it does not contain the same visceral capacity to offend Jews as the comparison with Nazism, which carries particular meaning for Jews because of the Holocaust; nor does it play on Israel's Jewishness as a way of causing hurt. CST recorded 254 antisemitic incidents that made allusions to Israel and the Middle East in 2020, of which 51 included a comparison between Israel and the Nazis. In 136, there were explicit anti-Zionist beliefs or

motivation present, while the terms *"Zionism"* or *"Zionist"* were employed in 105.

Irrespective of whether or not anti-Israel incidents are classified as antisemitic by CST, they are still relevant to CST's security work as they may involve threats and abuse directed at Jewish people or organisations who work with – or in support of – Israel, and therefore have an impact on the security of the UK Jewish community.

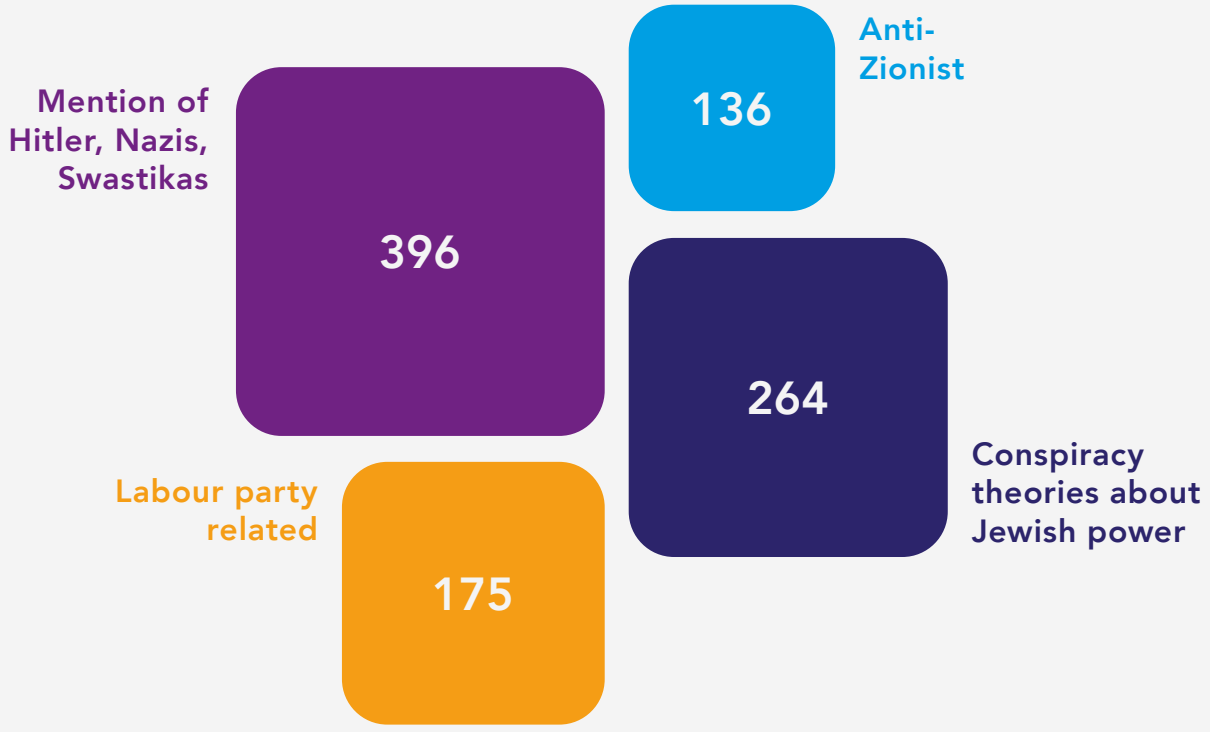
Antisemitic banner in Tower Hamlets, May

DISCOURSE, MOTIVES & IDEOLOGY

CST attempts to monitor the number of antisemitic incidents that take place in the UK each year behind which there is evidence of political, religious, or ideological discourse or motivation. CST now also monitors the number of instances where conspiracy-fuelled sentiments are present: stereotypical tropes about the Jewish people's power, influence, money, and exaggerating or inventing the tragedies of the Holocaust can be especially prevalent in online expressions of antisemitism. It is common for the same incident to combine two or more of these discourses, even if they would appear ideologically incompatible. Such seeming contradictions are entirely representative of the multifaceted nature of contemporary antisemitism. Historic, simplistic prejudices have been manipulated and deployed by such a vast array of social, religious, cultural and political forces over such a long period of time, that a much more layered and complex landscape of antisemitic language and imagery has emerged. Partly as a consequence of this, the use of political rhetoric and evidence of political motivation are not synonymous: for example, a person who shouts *"Heil Hitler"* at a Jewish passer-by might be motivated by far-right extremist ideology, or they might simply know that this phrase will cause offence and upset to Jewish people. CST only started recording some of the specific discourses and motivations discussed in this chapter in 2020, so for some of the totals given here there are no historical data with which to compare them.

In 396 incidents – 24% of the 1,668 incidents reported to CST in 2020 – the offender or offenders made reference to Hitler, the Nazis, the Holocaust, employed discourse aligned with the Nazi period, and/or punctuated their abuse with a Nazi salute or swastika, compared to 331 in 2019. Of these, 78 glorified the Holocaust, its

INCIDENT MOTIVATION



perpetrators and/or their ideas, or expressed a desire for the mass extermination of Jews to occur once again. Sixty-one incidents contained the denial of either the scale of the Holocaust, or its having happened at all. There were 105 instances in which far-right motivation was evidenced, wherein alignment with far-right extremist ideology or beliefs was expressed beyond – though often alongside – the simple and superficial appropriation of Nazi-era references, whereas 126 incidents displayed this in 2019. Meanwhile, far-left discourse was used in 65 incidents.

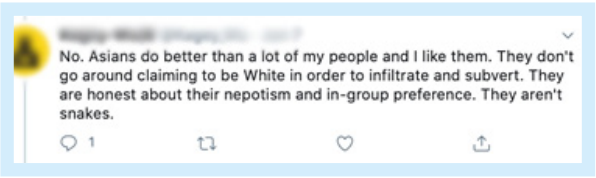
Of the 1,668 incidents recorded by CST in 2020, 254 mentioned or alluded to Israel and the Middle East, of which 51 directly compared Israel with the Nazis. This is a slight rise from the 243 such incidents reported in 2019, of which 63 made this equation. In 136 of these 254 incidents, there were explicit anti-Zionist beliefs or motivation present alongside the antisemitism, a slight increase from the 126 recorded in 2019, while the terms *"Zionism"* or *"Zionist"* were used in 105 incidents, often as by-words for *"Jewishness"* and *"Jew"*, rising from 73 in 2019. These are likely to be natural variations between two years, neither of which saw a significant trigger event emanating from the Middle East. An additional eight incidents contained discourse relating to Islam and Muslims, the same as in 2019, while Islamist ideology was present in seven, lower than the 19 such incidents reported in 2019. A further 34 incidents evidenced another religious ideology, falling from 39 in 2019.

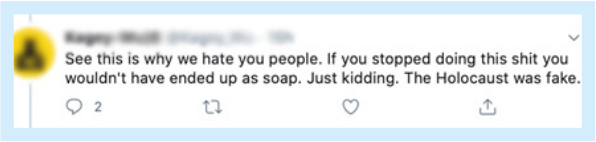
In 2020, CST recorded 180 incidents related to specific political parties or their supporters. These are classed as such for the offender's expressed affiliation or support, because the abuse targeted the relevant party's members or politicians, because it was expressed by the relevant party's members or politicians, or because it appeared motivated by news and stories relating to them. Among these, 175 were connected to the Labour Party, one to the Conservative Party, one to the Scottish National Party, one to Plaid Cymru, and two to minor fringe parties. An additional three antisemitic incidents were linked to the UK's withdrawal from the European Union.

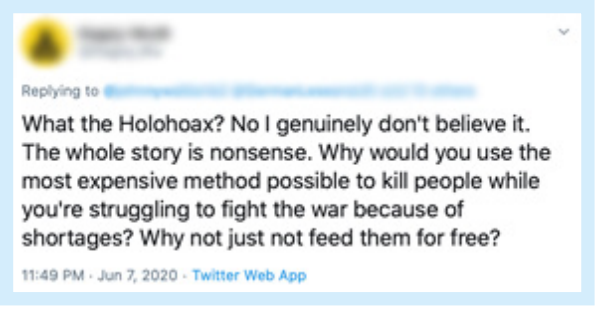
CST has started to collate data on incidents in which specific aspects of Judaism are attacked or deliberately mischaracterised for antisemitic purposes. In 2020, 47 such incidents were reported, of which 23 focused on religious literature, 14 manipulated ideas taken from religious scripture, and ten focused on religious traditions. One hundred expressions of antisemitism employed stereotypes or dehumanising language and images, while five incidents contained abuse about specific ethnic groups that exist within the global Jewish community.

Conspiracy theories were used in 332 (20%) of the 1,668 incidents reported in 2020. This is a fall from the 370 incidents in which conspiracy theories were present in 2019, when they were the most common single strand of discourse. From the 332 reported in 2020, 264 spoke of Jewish influence over global politics, media, finance and other walks of life; 21 aimed to spread falsehoods regarding religious rituals and practices; and 17 involved myths about the origins of Jewishness with the intention to undermine any notion of a modern Jewish identity.

Of the 1,668 antisemitic incidents recorded by CST in 2020, 278 (17%) involved a combination of two or more of the above political, religious and racist discourses, conspiracy theories and ideologies. The fact that within a single incident there can be multiple sources and references indicates the layered and multifaceted make-up of contemporary antisemitism. Even many offenders are not sure of the basis for their often-confused prejudice, but some ideas appear so deeply embedded across the social, ideological and political spectrum that it is perhaps an error to believe that their manifestation is the result of a conscious rationale in the mind of the perpetrator; rather, they are unexamined and unchallenged 'truths' in the collective consciousness. The following tweets, all posted by the same perpetrator in the same thread and thus considered one incident, showcase this in action:





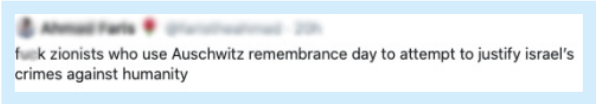


Here, the offender blends several hardwired antisemitic discourses, stereotypes and theories. There is the idea that Jews are subhuman and carriers of disease – a trope that predates the Black Death and is especially loaded in the context of the pandemic. They then combine the notion of blood libel (an antisemitic canard accusing Jews of ritually murdering children) with the idea that Jews are paedophiles. Following that, alongside the stereotype of Jews being dishonest, they cite the Great Replacement theory – a white nationalist conspiracy that suggests Jews are trying to facilitate the replacement of white populations with non-European people of colour. Next is a digital collage reinforcing the conspiracy theory of Jewish power, in this case suggesting that the pornography industry is run by Jews. Finally, the offender both glorifies and denies the Holocaust, exemplifying a hypocrisy that many antisemites hold: those who deny the Holocaust are often the very same people who revel in the thought of it happening again.

The overlapping of rhetoric speaks to a trend observed in 2019's analysis, wherein a striking similarity between the tropes and conspiracy theories used by the extreme right and left was noted. This held true in 2020, but within a wider theme of anti-Jewish discourses developing in immediate and direct response to the news cycle, and the different ways these groups deploy them in reaction to the same events, regardless of their relevance to the Jewish community. Throughout 2020, spates of online incidents were reported that involved discourses correlating with the short- and longer-term prominence of certain items in news, politics and media. The prompt emergence of new narratives based on old tropes reacting to the Covid-19 outbreak has been covered in the chapter on the pandemic, and there are further examples of this concept.

In January, during which Holocaust Memorial Day in the UK and the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz were commemorated, the most common single type of rhetoric (in 45 incidents) referenced Hitler, the Nazis, the Holocaust, or employed Nazi-era discourse, in some cases punctuated with a Nazi salute or swastika depiction. No other month exceeded this number of incidents containing this

discourse. Most were clustered around January 27, the date of Holocaust Memorial Day in the UK. Of these, ten directly compared or equated Israel with the Nazis, ten denied the Holocaust, and seven glorified it. Seventeen were found to have far-right motivation, and four emanated from the far left. Consider these tweets referencing Holocaust remembrance:



Here, a single news topic ignited vitriol from different angles. In the first case, a day of Jewish remembrance is corrupted with anti-Zionist rhetoric and implicit Israel-Nazi equivalence, all of which tends to be a discourse of the far left. The rose in the offender's Twitter handle is often a sign of Labour Party affiliation. The second employs dehumanising language that at once dismisses the facts of the Holocaust and justifies antisemitic propaganda of the time, while glorifying violence against Jews. This is typically an incitement of the far right.

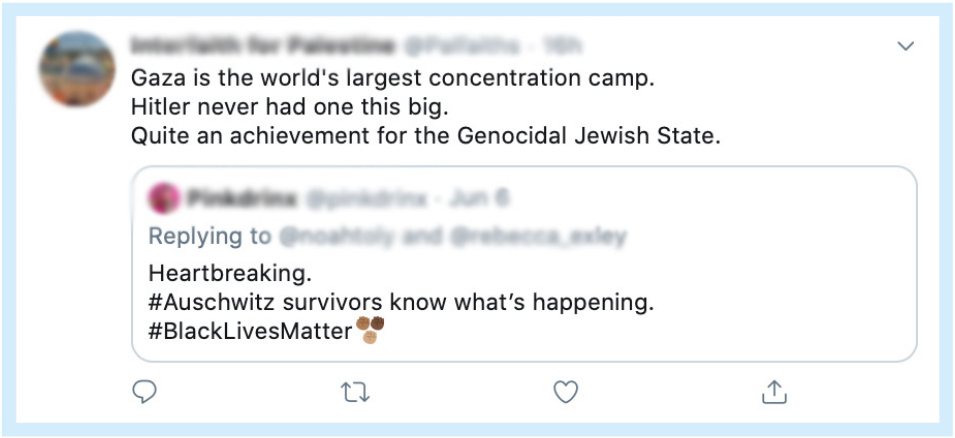
By the same token, after an initial spike observed during the leadership change in April, the number of Labour Party-related incidents reported to CST was at its highest in October and November, with 31 and 26 such incidents respectively. At the end of October, the Equality and Human Rights Commission announced that its investigation into Labour Party antisemitism had found the party responsible for three breaches of the Equality Act, Jewish communal and leadership groups published a joint statement in response, and former party leader Jeremy Corbyn was suspended from the Labour Party for his reaction to the EHRC report. The fallout carried into November, when Jeremy Corbyn was reinstated as a Labour Party member and it was announced that he would not be returned the parliamentary whip. Some of the online responses can be seen below:

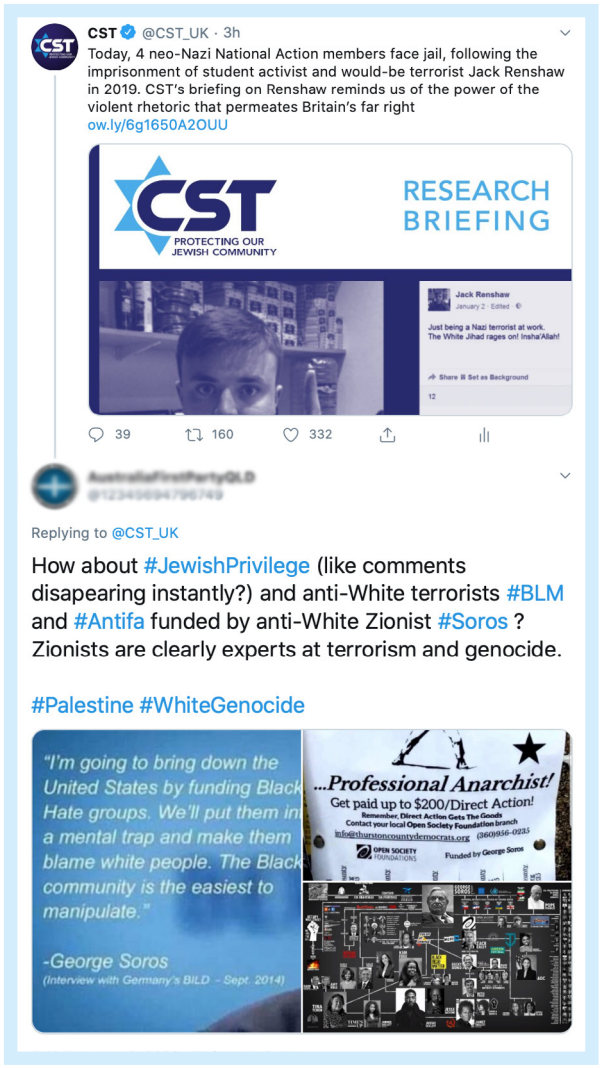
Once again, a mixture of familiar antisemitic narratives exists in the reactions to a story about eradicating the very discrimination these offenders practise. The first directly invokes the conspiracy theory of Jewish political control through financial bribery. The second, alongside the proposal of violent retribution, spouts a

discourse prevalent among some supporters of Jeremy Corbyn: that the wider Jewish community is to blame for destabilising him and the party under his leadership with false claims (or *"smears"*) of antisemitism. The third builds on this idea and uses the EHRC verdict as an opportunity to target Jewish organisations with criticism of Israel where neither are pertinent to the initial story. The *"Israeli lobby"*, a euphemism often directed at Jewish organisations and individuals regardless of whether they have taken a public stance on Israel, is blamed for a wide range of events in the political arena. This combines ideas of global Jewish political influence with the antisemitic stereotype that Jews are a deceitful, manipulative and self-serving people.

The phenomenon of news-led antisemitism was further displayed in reports of antisemitism responding to, or including discourse related to, coverage of the Black Lives Matter movement. Following the murder of George Floyd on May 25, CST recorded 22 such incidents, 16 of them occurring in June.

In the examples below, the actions of the *"Jewish State"* are cited and compared to those of the Nazis, while Jews are singled out for blame in the struggles faced by black people. The latter two showcase how the same conspiracy theories – in this case that of Jewish economic power – are embedded in extreme left-wing and right-wing circles alike, and the lens through which each chooses to view and spin current affairs that are not directly relevant to Jews.

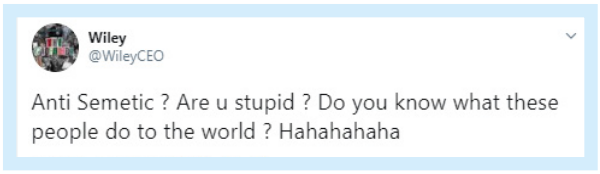


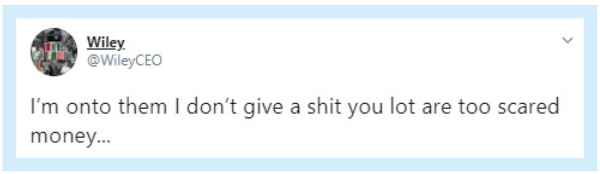


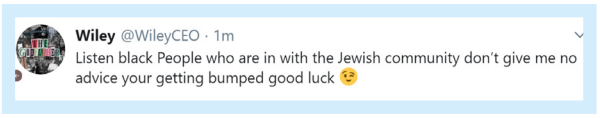
This analysis not only evidences how modern-day antisemitic discourse is often news-led, but reflects how the same stereotypes, conspiracy theories and misconceptions – which exist across the social, ideological and political spectrum – are repackaged and tailored to the story of the day and, by extension, the agendas of those who use any story as an avenue to express their anti-Jewish hatred.

WILEY: A CASE STUDY IN THE POWER OF CELEBRITY

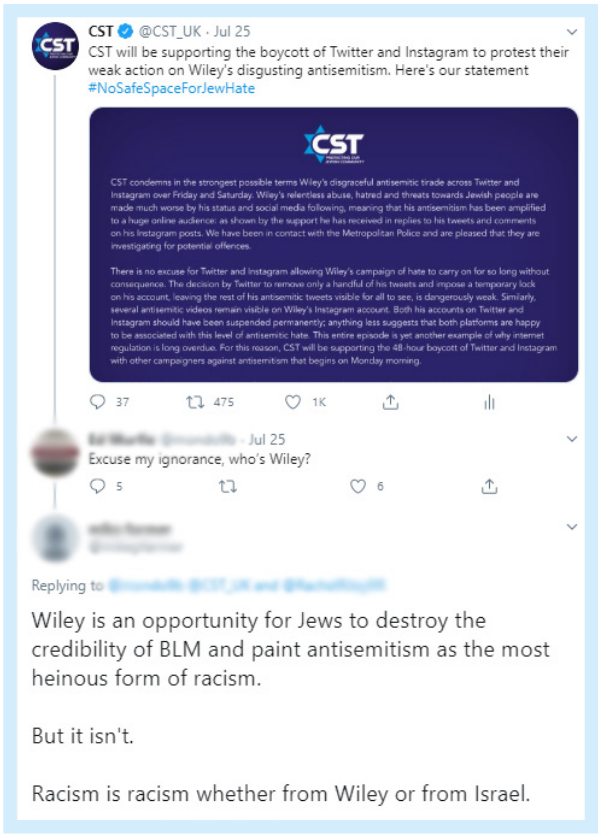
On July 24, grime artist Wiley took to Twitter to post an antisemitic tirade comprising hundreds of tweets over a period of several hours. While not all of his tweets were antisemitic, many of them drew on tropes of Jewish power and financial avarice, while denying the Jewish connection with Israel and potentially implying that Jews deserve to be shot.

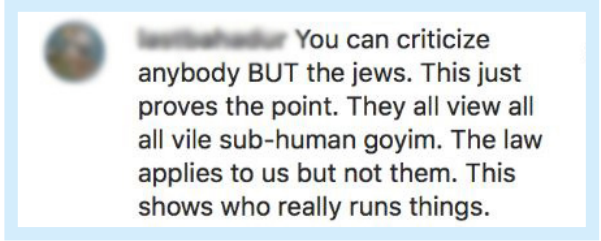






His rant appeared to provide a gateway for other antisemites to reveal their own prejudice. CST recorded 23 incidents in which the perpetrator either attempted to justify Wiley's antisemitic ideas or targeted those who spoke out against them with further antisemitic abuse.





An intriguing characteristic of these antisemitic incidents is the way the offenders have taken the rhetoric used by Wiley and expanded it into other, more detailed narratives. In Wiley's rant, the notion of disproportionate Jewish power is stated only in vague terms. The above examples are much more specific, claiming Jewish domination in the music business, banking, news, media and entertainment, as well as interference in global political affairs. Moreover, some use dehumanising language and put the responsibility for Israel's actions at the feet of Jewish people. In line with the trend of adapting traditional antisemitic discourses for contemporary events and motives, one tweet suggests that Jews are wielding their influence to scapegoat Wiley, suppress Black Lives Matter, and dismiss anti-black racism as an inferior form of racism to antisemitism.

The elaboration of antisemitic dialogue, piling on top of the foundation laid by Wiley, shows the way that hatred – and the expression of it – can be affirmed in the minds of antisemites, newly emboldened by the realisation that a person of fame and cultural capital shares their prejudice. When the taboo against expressing hostility or intolerance towards or about Jews is perceived to be weakening, antisemitism manifests itself more freely. Few things are more likely to encourage this than a celebrity unashamedly breaking this taboo, uniting and licensing like-minded people to do the same.

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATIONS

Of the 1,668 antisemitic incidents recorded by CST in 2020, 1,094 occurred across the regions of Greater London and Greater Manchester; the UK cities where the largest Jewish populations reside.

In Greater London, 941 incidents were reported, marking a fall of 1% from the 955 incidents recorded in 2019. Greater Manchester's total of 153 is a sharper drop of 31% from the 223 incidents in the corresponding area in 2019.

CST recorded at least one antisemitic incident in each of the 33 Metropolitan Police boroughs of London. Of the 941 incidents recorded across Greater London in 2020, 243 occurred in Barnet, the local authority which is home to the largest Jewish population in the UK. There were 116 instances of antisemitism recorded in Hackney, 91 in Camden, 64 in Westminster and 43 in Haringey. Within these statistics, 42 incidents were reported to have taken place in London that fall under the jurisdiction of the British Transport Police. A further 114 were online incidents where it is known that either victim or offender was based in London, but a more specific location could not be established.

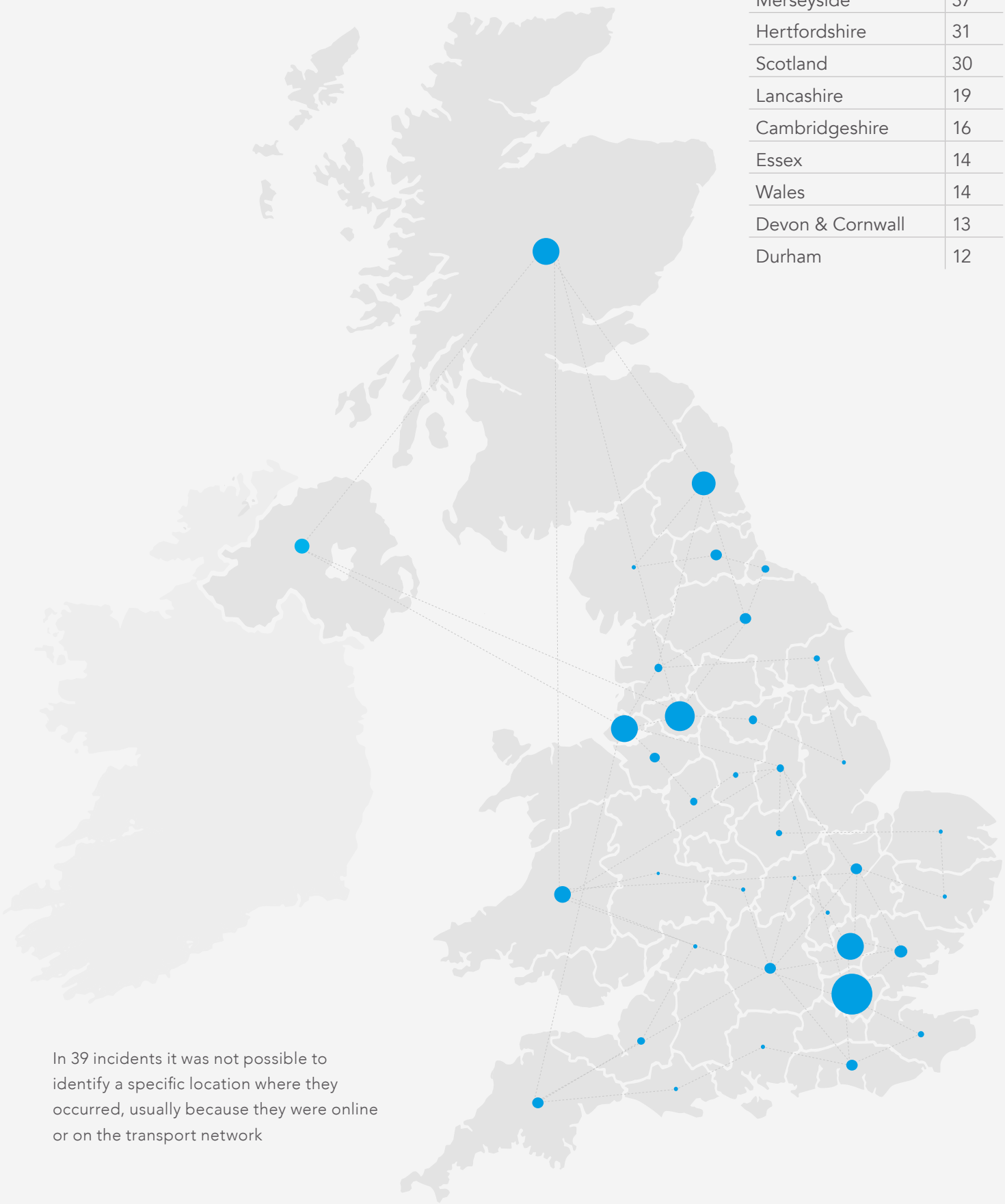
Of Greater Manchester's 153 antisemitic incidents recorded in 2020, 49 happened in Salford, 38 in Bury, 30 in the City of Manchester, eight in Stockport and six in Tameside. Of all the police regions in which ten or more antisemitic incidents were reported throughout 2020, Greater Manchester saw the highest proportion of assaults: 21 of the 153 reported incidents, or 14%, were direct physical attacks. While the decrease in Greater Manchester's figure is not uncharacteristic of a year substantially affected by the pandemic, the size of the fall is partly due to disruption to the flow of reports received from Greater Manchester Police. CST's collaboration with the police is of huge value, but the data sharing agreement is not always a statistically consistent process. Variations can happen for a number of reasons and may be partly responsible for the number of incidents recorded by CST in Greater Manchester reducing in 2020.

Allowing for rough generalisations in drawing comparisons between the type of incidents reported in these two hubs of Jewish life, it is possible that antisemitic incidents in Greater Manchester are most likely to involve spontaneous acts of racism in public, whereas a higher proportion of those in Greater London are politically or ideologically motivated, aimed at Jewish organisations, leadership bodies and public figures, many of which reside or are based in the capital. To illustrate this, 66 of Greater Manchester's 153 incidents – 43% – targeted individuals in public, compared to 240 of the 941 incidents located in Greater London (26%). Conversely, 179 of Greater London's tally – 19% – involved antisemitism directed at Jewish organisations or high-profile individuals, whereas there were just 11 reported examples of this taking place in Greater Manchester (7% of the regional total). The proportional contribution of these centres of Jewish life to the UK's annual total has remained relatively constant, rising slightly from 65% in 2019 to 66% in 2020.

CST recorded a broader spread of antisemitic incidents across the country in 2020, despite the 8% drop in the overall total. At least one antisemitic incident was recorded in all but one police region across the UK (Surrey), compared to two in 2019 (Gloucestershire and Suffolk). One possible factor behind this is the continued significant role of online platforms as a medium for sharing antisemitic content. While not as high in absolute or proportionate terms as the 700 online incidents reported in 2019, the 634 instances of online antisemitism recorded in 2020 remains the second highest annual figure for incidents of this kind in CST's records. The accessibility and convenience of social media platforms in particular have granted a wider demographic the opportunity to vent their prejudice, without the need to be

INCIDENT LOCATIONS

London	941
Manchester	153
Northumbria	94
West Yorkshire Police	76
Merseyside	37
Hertfordshire	31
Scotland	30
Lancashire	19
Cambridgeshire	16
Essex	14
Wales	14
Devon & Cornwall	13
Durham	12



In 39 incidents it was not possible to identify a specific location where they occurred, usually because they were online or on the transport network

physically near Jewish communities for their abuse to reach its desired target and impact. CST's social media footprint has also widened, and with it the accessibility, ease and capacity for the public to report antisemitism. Another potential explanation is CST's increased success in determining the location within the UK of either the offender or victim of online incidents, reflected in the fall in incidents recorded as 'Online Unknown' from 148 in 2019 to 39 in 2020.

Finally, the deepening and broadening relationship between CST and the police has played a crucial role in gaining a more accurate and detailed understanding of where and how antisemitism happens in the UK. The increases observed in Northumbria (from 58 to 94 incidents, of which 65 were reported by the police), West Yorkshire (from 38 to 76 incidents, of which 54 came via the police), South Yorkshire (from four to 20 incidents, 13 of which were reported by the police), Cambridgeshire (from four to 16 incidents, 15 of which came via the police), North Yorkshire (from five to 14 incidents, of which nine came via the police) and Durham (from two to 12 incidents, seven of which were reported by the police) are a testament to this work and the product of information sharing agreements between the different organisations.

Aside from the locations already mentioned, the police regions with the highest antisemitic incident totals were Merseyside with 37 (compared to 56 in 2019, a decrease heavily linked to the sustained abuse of Jewish MPs representing Merseyside constituencies in 2019 that did not continue at the same volume in 2020); Hertfordshire with 31 (falling from 76 in 2019, in part down to the closure of many synagogues and Jewish schools for long periods of the year); and Scotland with 30 (up from 28 in 2019). Outside of the boroughs within Greater London and Greater Manchester, the areas within police regions with the most reported antisemitic incidents in 2020 were Gateshead in Northumbria (58 incidents), Leeds in West Yorkshire (50 incidents), Liverpool in Merseyside (20 incidents), and Borehamwood and Elstree in Hertfordshire (also 20 incidents). Included within all of the figures in this chapter are 69 incidents that took place on public transport or in public transport stations (15 on London buses, 16 on the London Underground and 38 on other transport) that fall under the authority of the British Transport Police.

Antisemitic graffiti in Northamptonshire, June

Antisemitic graffiti in Borehamwood, September

Antisemitic graffiti in Brighton, November

REPORTING OF INCIDENTS

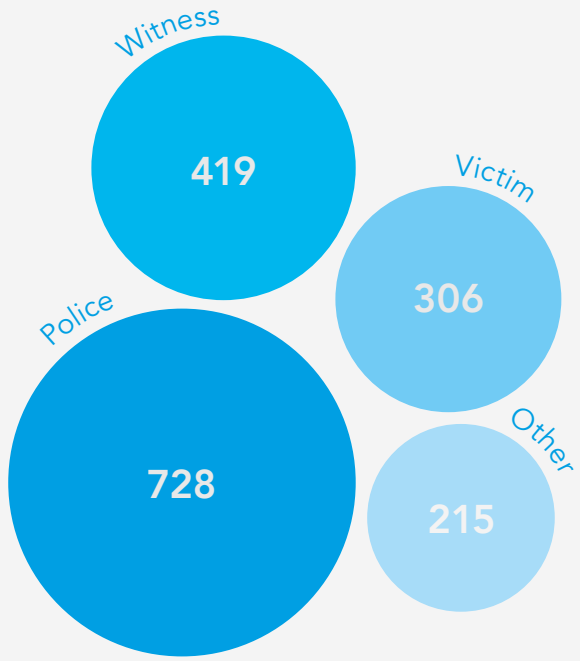
Not every incident recorded by CST has an identifiable victim. Not every incident recorded by CST has an identifiable perpetrator; but every incident recorded by CST has a reporter. Antisemitic incidents are reported to CST in a number of ways, most commonly by telephone, email, the CST website, via 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 an individual or organisation acting on their behalf. In 2001, CST was accorded third-party reporting status by the police. CST has a national Information Sharing Agreement with the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC), and similar agreements with a number of regional forces, which allow CST to share antisemitic incident reports, fully anonymised to comply with data protection requirements, so that both CST and the police can glean as complete a picture as possible of the number and nature of reported antisemitic incidents. CST began sharing antisemitic incident data with Greater Manchester Police in 2011, followed by the Metropolitan Police Service in 2012. Now, using the national agreement, CST shares anonymised antisemitic incident data with several forces around the UK. Any incidents that are reported to both CST and the police are excluded from this process to ensure there is no 'double counting' of incidents.

This collaboration continues to prove of huge value. In 2020, 728 of the 1,668 antisemitic incidents recorded by CST were reported by the police. This comprises 44% of the total, building on the 30% contribution in 2019. In both numerical and percentage terms, it is the highest number of annual antisemitic incidents ever reported to CST by the police. Of these 728 reports, 457 came via the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), 65 from Northumbria Police, 54 courtesy of West Yorkshire Police, 50 from Greater Manchester Police (GMP), 23 via Merseyside Police, 15 from Cambridgeshire Police, 13 via South Yorkshire Police, and 51 from other police services around the UK. Many of these partnerships are new as of 2020, and it is the work invested in establishing and maintaining these relationships that explains the quantitative and proportional rise in antisemitic incidents reported to CST by the police.

In 2020, 419 of the 1,668 incidents recorded by CST were reported by somebody who had witnessed antisemitism exhibited in a public space or online, whereas 306 incidents were reported directly to CST by the victims themselves. In 48 cases, a friend or relative of the victim related details of the incident. CST staff reported 126 occurrences of antisemitism. This sizeable figure is largely comprised of online incidents in which CST has been directly targeted with abuse, which was true of 124 of the 174 recorded cases of antisemitism directed at Jewish organisations or companies in 2020. Twenty-eight incidents were reported by security guards at Jewish premises, ten came to CST's attention via media reports, and three through CST volunteers.

Every single one helps CST better understand the nature and scale of antisemitism in the UK today. Every single one better enables CST to protect and facilitate Jewish life.

WHO REPORTED THE INCIDENT



INFORMATION COLLECTION AND SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOUR

One of the most important jobs CST does is to record and analyse incidents of potential hostile reconnaissance (categorised by CST as Information Collection) and Suspicious Behaviour around Jewish locations. Although these potential incidents are not included in CST's antisemitic incident statistics, they still form a vital part of CST's work as they relate directly to the security of the Jewish community.

The recent tragic history of antisemitic terrorism against Jewish communities and at Jewish schools, synagogues, shops, museums and other buildings in Vienna, Pittsburgh, Halle, San Diego, Copenhagen, Paris, Brussels, Toulouse, Kansas City, Mumbai and elsewhere attests to the importance of this work. Jewish communities have long been the targets of terrorists of different and varied political and religious motivations. Since the late 1960s, there have been over 400 terrorist attacks, attempted attacks and foiled terrorist plots against Diaspora Jewish communities and Israeli targets outside Israel. In the UK, several terrorist plots targeting Jewish communities came to trial or were publicised via the media in recent years. It is well known that terrorist actors often collect information about their targets before launching an attack: identifying and preventing the gathering of this kind of information is an integral part of CST's work in protecting the UK Jewish community from terrorism. To be effective in keeping the public safe, CST relies on information from the public as well as CST's own volunteers and from commercial guards, and CST encourages the Jewish community to report any suspicious activity to CST, as well as to the police.

CST works closely with the police to gather, record and investigate incidents of information collection and suspicious behaviour. CST does this to keep the Jewish community safe and allow it to carry on as normal. Cases of potential Information Collection and Suspicious Behaviour are not included in CST's antisemitic incident statistics, as the motivation for many of them is not possible to determine and many may have innocent explanations. The vague and uncertain nature of many of these incidents means that they are easier to analyse if the two categories are combined, rather than treated separately. Taken together, there were 175 such incidents reported to CST in 2020, compared to the 260 incidents of this type reported to CST in 2019. It is likely that the fall in the number of reports of this type is due to the impact of the Covid-19 lockdown restrictions, as many Jewish communal buildings were closed for much of 2020. Of the 175 incidents of potential information collection and suspicious behaviour reported to CST in 2020, 47 involved the photography or videoing of Jewish buildings, while in 19 cases suspicious people tried to gain entry to Jewish premises. Neither CST nor the police underestimate the threat posed to Jewish communities by various terrorist organisations and networks. Identifying and preventing the potential hostile reconnaissance of Jewish buildings or other potential terrorist targets is an important part of reducing the possibility of future terrorist attacks and is integral to the work of CST.

ANNUAL ANTISEMITIC INCIDENT FIGURES

Some of the numbers in the tables may differ from those previously published by CST, due to the late reporting of incidents to CST by incident victims and witnesses, or the recategorisation of some incidents due to new information.

Antisemitic incident figures by category, 2007–2020

Category	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Extreme Violence	1	1	3	0	2	2	0	1	4	0	0	2	1	3
Assault	116	87	121	115	93	67	69	80	83	109	149	124	157	97
Damage & Desecration	65	76	89	83	64	53	49	81	65	81	93	79	88	72
Threats	24	28	45	32	30	39	38	91	79	107	98	108	98	85
Abusive Behaviour	336	317	611	391	413	477	374	899	717	1,059	1,065	1,334	1,443	1,399
Literature	19	37	62	25	7	12	5	30	12	19	15	43	18	12
TOTAL	**561**	**546**	**931**	**646**	**609**	**650**	**535**	**1,182**	**960**	**1,375**	**1,420**	**1,690**	**1,805**	**1,668**

Antisemitic incident figures by month, 2007–2020

Month	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
January	33	44	289	30	45	39	33	53	109	81	155	110	119	188
February	40	52	114	48	54	52	38	43	88	69	135	120	182	140
March	36	40	73	54	49	75	23	39	83	82	111	120	171	117
April	59	39	52	61	45	48	44	58	75	105	143	153	147	107
May	36	62	52	50	58	44	48	51	60	140	121	182	150	137
June	42	40	49	82	43	54	37	66	86	131	125	134	141	178
July	60	52	46	63	43	59	59	317	87	131	113	133	167	180
August	49	20	40	47	37	42	48	229	72	123	114	158	144	134
September	81	47	87	83	73	60	54	105	76	118	113	156	119	126
October	55	58	45	52	52	60	67	87	61	112	110	146	131	137
November	37	45	54	48	53	83	40	78	79	135	94	146	150	135
December	33	47	30	28	57	34	44	56	84	148	86	132	184	89
TOTAL	**561**	**546**	**931**	**646**	**609**	**650**	**535**	**1,182**	**960**	**1,375**	**1,420**	**1,690**	**1,805**	**1,668**

Antisemitic incident figures, full breakdown, 2020

Month / Category	Extreme Violence	Assault	Damage and Desecration	Threats	Abusive Behaviour	Literature	MONTH TOTAL
January	0	10	9	14	153	2	**118**
February	0	10	4	11	114	1	**140**
March	0	9	7	4	97	0	**117**
April	0	2	4	3	97	1	**107**
May	0	11	4	4	117	1	**137**
June	1	10	4	9	154	0	**178**
July	1	13	9	10	147	0	**180**
August	0	9	2	3	119	1	**134**
September	0	6	11	5	103	1	**126**
October	0	11	2	10	111	3	**137**
November	0	4	10	5	116	0	**135**
December	1	2	6	7	71	2	**89**
CATEGORY TOTAL	3	97	72	85	1,399	12	1,668

Antisemitic graffiti in Hove, January

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.

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