



DEBATE PACK

Number CDP-0042, 19 February 2019

Antisemitism in modern society

By Sarah Priddy &
David Torrance

Summary

A general debate on antisemitism in modern society will take place on a government motion in the Commons Chamber on Wednesday 20 February 2019.

This Debate Pack contains information on antisemitism, including: definitions of antisemitism, statutory provisions relevant to antisemitism, antisemitism and election campaigns, and statistics on antisemitism in the UK.

Subject specialists and contributors to this pack:

Daniel Ferguson, Georgina Hutton – Social Media

Sally Lipscombe – Crime

Douglas Pyper – Equality

Neil Johnston - Elections

David Torrance - Religion

Georgina Sturge, Yago Zayed – Statistics

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1. UK Government's adoption of the IHRA definition of antisemitism

On 12 December 2016, the UK Government formally adopted the [International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's](#) (IHRA) [working definition](#) of antisemitism. This stated that:

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

In a [speech](#) the same day, Prime Minister Theresa May said the adoption meant:

There will be one definition of anti-Semitism – in essence, language or behaviour that displays hatred towards Jews because they are Jews – and anyone guilty of that will be called out on it.

1.1 What is the IHRA?

The IHRA is an intergovernmental body established in Stockholm in 1998. It comprises 31 member nations whose purpose is to place political and social leaders' support behind the need for Holocaust education, remembrance and research, both nationally and internationally.

Its new definition of antisemitism was adopted during a plenary meeting in Bucharest on 26 May 2016.

1.2 Did the UK Government also adopt the IHRA's 11 examples of antisemitism?

Yes. Although the UK Government's original statement announcing the adoption of the IHRA definition did not mention its 11 ["contemporary examples"](#), it is clear they form part of Government policy.

First, the Government rejected calls from the [Home Affairs Committee](#) to insert [two "clarifications"](#) to the IHRA definition and examples:

- It is not anti-Semitic to criticise the Government of Israel, without additional evidence to suggest anti-Semitic intent;
- It is not anti-Semitic to hold the Israeli Government to the same standards as other liberal democracies, or to take a particular

interest in the Israeli Government's policies or actions, without additional evidence to suggest anti-Semitic intent.

The UK Government said it believed that an existing caveat, that "criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country cannot be regarded as anti-Semitic", was ["sufficient to ensure freedom of speech"](#).

Secondly, in a [written statement](#) on 12 December 2016, the then Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Sajid Javid, referred to the definition as important in understanding how antisemitism manifests itself in the 21st century, "as it gives examples of the kind of behaviours which depending on the circumstances could constitute anti-Semitism".

Finally, on 18 July 2018, the Prime Minister was asked in the Commons if she agreed that "all political parties should adopt [the IHRA] definition, and its examples, without amendments or omissions?"

Theresa May [replied](#):

We should all sign up, as the Conservative Party has, to the definition of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and all its annexes.

At that point, however, the Conservative Party's code of conduct [did not explicitly mention the IHRA definition of antisemitism](#), although it was [later updated](#) to make it clear that its provision against discrimination based upon "religion or belief" should be "interpreted as fully adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition of anti-Semitism which the Conservative Party adopted in December 2016".

1.3 Who else has adopted the IHRA definition and examples?

On 8 February 2017, the London Assembly [unanimously agreed to adopt](#) the IHRA definition, including the 11 examples. On 13 June 2017, the Scottish Government also announced it was [adopting the definition](#), as did the [Welsh Government](#) ten days later (neither, however, mentioned the examples).

Initially, the Labour Party [approved its own guidelines](#) on antisemitism but rejected the IHRA examples (having adopted the definition – like the Government – in 2016). On 4 September 2018, its National Executive Committee [adopted the 11 examples](#) alongside a statement, "which ensures this will not in any way undermine freedom of expression on Israel or the rights of Palestinians".

1.4 Is the IHRA definition legally binding?

No. The May 2016 plenary meeting of the IHRA adopted what it called a "non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism", although it hoped to inspire international organisations into [taking action](#) "on a legally binding working definition".

In his written statement on 12 December 2016, Sajid Javid said the Government believed that while the definition was "legally non-

binding” it was nevertheless an “important tool” for criminal justice agencies and other public bodies. As Government policy, it would be for those bodies “to implement the definition and embed it within operational guidance as relevant”.

[Hate Crime Operation Guidance](#) from the College of Policing, for example, refers to all 11 examples.

In March 2018, campaigners associated with [Christians United for Israel](#) called on the Prime Minister to enshrine the IHRA definition into UK law.

1.5 Criticisms of the IHRA definition

Some have expressed concerns that the IHRA definition [restricts freedom of speech](#) by prohibiting legitimate criticism of Israeli government action in the Palestinian territories.

Geoffrey Robertson QC set out many of these concerns in an [opinion](#) prepared for the [Palestinian Return Centre](#), arguing that several of the IHRA’s examples were drafted in a way that could be detrimental to freedom of speech. He also criticised the Prime Minister for adopting the definition without Parliamentary debate and without the caveats proposed by the Home Affairs Committee.

2. Antisemitism and the law

There is no specific law prohibiting antisemitism. However, anti-Semitic activity might be covered by more general legislation on hate crime, online abuse, and equalities.

2.1 Hate crime policy and legislation

A general overview of the Government's approach to hate crime is set out in [Action Against Hate: The UK Government's plan for tackling hate crime](#).

There are three different ways that legislation deals with hate crime motivated on the grounds of race or religion: offences of stirring up hatred; aggravated forms of certain "basic" criminal offences; and enhanced sentencing for offences motivated by hate.

Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) guidance suggests that anti-Semitic hate crime is capable of being dealt with either as racist or religious hate crime:

There has been a legal ruling that Sikhs can be included in the definition of a racial group (*Mandla v Dowell-Lee* [1983] 2 AC 548). In the Mandla case, reference is made to the judgment in *King-Ansell v Police* [1979] 2 NZLR 531 as being a persuasive authority for Jews being included in the definition of a racial group as well as a religious group. Although not criminal cases, further support for this proposition can be found in the cases of *R v JFS* [2009] UKSC 15 which related to the legality of the admission policy of a Jewish secondary school and *Seide v Gillette Industries Ltd* [1980] IRLR 427 in which an Employment Appeal Tribunal ruled that anti-Semitic comments made by a fellow-worker were made because he was a member of the Jewish race, not because of his religion.¹

See the following CPS publications for full details of the offences described below:

- [Racist and Religious Hate Crime - Prosecution Guidance](#)
- [Public statement on prosecuting racist and religious hate crime](#)

Stirring up hatred

[Part III of the Public Order Act 1986](#) criminalises certain acts that are intended to stir up racial hatred. [Part IIIA of the 1986 Act](#) makes similar provision for certain acts intended to stir up religious hatred.²

Racial hatred is defined as "hatred against a group of persons defined by reference to colour, race, nationality (including citizenship) or ethnic or national origins". Religious hatred is defined as "hatred against a group of persons defined by reference to religious belief or lack of religious belief".

The acts covered by the 1986 Act include:

- the use of words or behaviour, or the display or written material;

¹ CPS, [Racist and Religious Hate Crime - Prosecution Guidance](#), March 2018.

² Part IIIA also covers conduct intended to stir up hatred on the grounds of sexual orientation.

- the publication or distribution of written material;
- the public performance of a play;
- the distribution, showing or playing of a recording of images or sounds;
- the broadcasting or a programme including images or sounds; and
- the possession of inflammatory material.

There are some significant differences between the Part III and Part IIIA offences.

The words, behaviour or material must be “threatening, abusive or insulting” for the purposes of the Part III offences on racial hatred, but they must be “threatening” for the purposes of the Part IIIA offences on religious hatred.

The Part III offences can be committed either where the defendant intended to stir up racial hatred, or where it was likely (having regard to all the circumstances) that such hatred would be stirred up. The Part IIIA offences can only be committed where the defendant intended to stir up religious hatred: reckless conduct is not covered.

There is a “freedom of expression” defence to the religious hatred offences. This states that nothing in Part IIIA

shall be read or given effect in a way which prohibits or restricts discussion, criticism or expressions of antipathy, dislike, ridicule, insult or abuse of particular religions or the beliefs or practices of their adherents, or of any other belief system or the beliefs or practices of its adherents, or proselytising or urging adherents of a different religion or belief system to cease practising their religion or belief system.³

Aggravated offences

Under the [Crime and Disorder Act 1998](#), perpetrators of specified “basic” criminal offences can be charged with an aggravated form of the offence (carrying a longer maximum sentence) if they demonstrated or were motivated by hostility on the basis of race or religion.

The specified offences covered by the 1998 Act include assault, criminal damage, public order offences, harassment and stalking. The CPS says that “monitoring had indicated that these were the most common types of crime experienced by the victims of racially and religiously aggravated violence or harassment”.⁴

Enhanced sentencing

[Section 145 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003](#) applies when the court is sentencing an offender for an offence other than one of the aggravated offences under the 1998 Act.

Section 145 requires the court to consider whether the offence was racially or religiously aggravated. If so, the court must treat that as an

³ [Section 29J of the 1986 Act](#)

⁴ CPS, [Public statement on prosecuting racist and religious hate crime](#), August 2017, p2.

aggravating factor for sentencing purposes and must state in open court that the offence was so aggravated.

2.2 Online abuse

There are several general criminal offences that could be used to prosecute online antisemitism. The most relevant general offences that could be used are as follows:

- [section 1 of the *Malicious Communications Act 1988*](#), which makes it an offence to send indecent, grossly offensive, threatening or false electronic communications if the purpose (or one of the purposes) of the sender is to cause the recipient distress or anxiety.
- [section 127 of the *Communications Act 2003*](#), which makes it an offence to use a public electronic communications network to send a message (or other matter) that is grossly offensive or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character; or to send a false message "for the purpose of causing annoyance, inconvenience or needless anxiety to another".
- Harassment or stalking offences under [sections 2, 2A, 4 or 4A of the *Protection from Harassment Act 1997*](#).

The Crown Prosecution Service has published guidance on the use of these offences (and others) to prosecute social media communications: see [Legal guidance: Social Media: Guidelines on prosecuting cases involving communications sent via social media](#).

When sentencing for such offences in the context of anti-Semitic online abuse, the courts could make use of the enhanced sentencing regime under section 145 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 as set out above.

In February 2018 the Government asked the Law Commission to "review the laws around offensive communications and assess whether they provide the right protection to victims online". The Law Commission published its [Scoping Report](#) in November 2018, and [says](#) that the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport will analyse this and decide on next steps. In October 2018, the Government also asked the Law Commission to conduct a wide-range review into hate crime more generally.⁵

The Government is due to issue a social media code of practice under [s103 of the *Digital Economy Act 2017*](#). The code will include guidance for social media platforms on dealing with bullying or insulting conduct. The Government has published a draft Code of Practice in its [response](#) to its consultation on the [Internet Safety Strategy Green Paper](#). Further details are expected in a White Paper, which on 13 February 2019 the Government said would be published 'shortly'.⁶

⁵ Law Commission, [Law Commission review into hate crime announced](#), 18 October 2018

⁶ [PQ 217141, 13 February 2019](#)

2.3 The Equality Act 2010

The *Equality Act 2010* prohibits discrimination in relation to “protected characteristics” which include both [race](#)⁷ and [religion](#).⁸ Antisemitism is likely to be prohibited on both grounds. As Employment Judge Snelson observed in *Fraser v UCU*⁹

Jewishness is a characteristic which attracts protection under the race and religion or belief provisions of the 2010 Act.¹⁰

In *R (E) v Governing Body of JFS* [2009] UKSC 15, Lord Phillips explained how Jews possess both protected characteristics:

One of the difficulties in this case lies in distinguishing between religious and ethnic status. One of the criteria of ethnicity ... is a shared religion. In the case of Jews, this is the dominant criterion. In their case it is almost impossible to distinguish between ethnic status and religious status. The two are virtually co-extensive. A woman who converts to Judaism thereby acquires both Jewish religious status and Jewish ethnic status.¹¹

The effect of this is that antisemitism is likely to constitute both race and religious discrimination. Consequently, the *Equality Act 2010* would protect Jewish people from discrimination, harassment and victimisation in the fields to which the Act applies, such as employment; services; education; and housing.

⁷ *Equality Act 2010*, section 9.

⁸ *Equality Act 2010*, section 10.

⁹ Case Number: 2203290/2011 (22 March 2013).

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, para 18.

¹¹ Para 39.

3. Antisemitism and election campaigns

Recent debates on the abuse and intimidation of candidates during elections have touched on all forms of abuse and discrimination, not specifically on antisemitism.

A Westminster Hall debate on 12 July 2017 was sponsored by Simon Hart MP (Conservative). Many Members spoke of personal experiences of the abuse they and their staff had encountered.¹²

A second debate on the abuse and intimidation of candidates in elections was subsequently held in Government time in September 2017.¹³

In July 2017, the Prime Minister asked the Committee on Standards in Public Life to conduct a short review of the issue of intimidation experienced by Parliamentary candidates.

The review was to:

- examine the nature of the problem and consider whether measures already in place to address such behaviour are sufficient to protect the integrity of public service; and whether such measures are (a) effective, especially given the rise of social media, and (b) enforceable and
- produce a report for the Prime Minister, including recommendations for action focused on what could be done in the short- and long-term, and identifying examples of good practice.

In addition the Committee held a round table discussion with invited contributors on 12 September and a summary is due to be published on the [Committee's web pages](#). It also held two [evidence sessions](#) in Parliament on 14 September 2017.

The [CSPL published its report in December 2017](#). The CSPL made a number of recommendations. The Committee stated:

Our recommendations stand as a package. They should be implemented together, as a comprehensive response to an issue of central importance to our representative democracy. It is clear that determined action on the part of all those involved is required. The cost of not doing so is too high.

On elections, the Committee recommended that political parties should do more to support their candidates. It said parties should also set out clear expectations on behaviour and call out unacceptable behaviour whenever it happens. The Committee said that all those in public life have a responsibility to challenge and report intimidatory behaviour wherever it occurs.

¹² [HC Deb 12 July 2017 c152-71WH](#)

¹³ [HC Deb 14 September 2017, c1041-83](#)

On the use of social media, the Committee said that it had seen no evidence that the current law was insufficient in being able to deal with intimidatory behaviour, both online and offline. However, it did recommend that the Government should consult on the introduction of a new offence in electoral law of intimidating Parliamentary candidates and party campaigners:

The [Government response](#) to the Committee's report was published in March 2018. It agreed with the Committee that a specific electoral offence should be considered but that it should extend to all elections, not just Parliamentary elections.

In July 2018 the Government published its consultation document, [Protecting the Debate: Intimidation, Influence, and Information](#). The Government's approach is to apply an additional electoral sanction under electoral law to existing criminal offences that capture intimidation rather than creating new offences. Existing laws to prevent intimidation include the *Protection from Harassment Act 1997*, the *Criminal Damage Act 1971*, the *Malicious Communications Act 1988* and the *Public Order Act 1986*.

Under electoral law certain criminal offences carry the additional designation of 'corrupt' or 'illegal' practices under the *Representation of the People Act 1983* (RPA) as amended. A person convicted by a criminal court of a corrupt or illegal practice under the Act can face fines or a prison sentence. In addition, a corrupt or illegal practice under that Act can lead to a person being barred from standing for or holding elected office. In some cases, a person found guilty of a corrupt practice can be prevented from voting for five years.

The Government is proposing that cases of intimidation of a candidate should be classed as a corrupt practice under the RPA 1983, and apply during a regulated election period (the formal campaign period before polling day). This would bar someone convicted from standing or holding elected office for five years. The consultation asked whether a court should also have the option of barring someone from voting for 5 years on conviction.

The consultation closed on 28 October 2018 and the Government is currently considering the responses.

4. Parliamentary material

4.1 Oral questions

[Antisemitism – Lords questions](#)

HL Dec 26 Jun 2018 cc95-98

Lord Leigh of Hurley: To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to promote the use of the definition of antisemitism adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, together with its guidance notes

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and Wales Office (Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth): My Lords, the Prime Minister announced the Government's adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of antisemitism in December 2016. Since then, we have encouraged local authorities to adopt the definition. To date, 135 local authorities across the United Kingdom have done so, as have a number of universities, the National Union of Students and the Union of Jewish Students. In addition, a number of political parties have adopted the definition and the police and CPS already use it as a guide. It is good to see in his place my noble friend Lord Pickles, who has done so much great work in this area.

Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial

HC Deb 22 Jan 2018 c18

Iain Stewart (Milton Keynes South) (Con): What steps his Department is taking to tackle antisemitism and holocaust denial. [903436]

The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (Sajid Javid): Antisemitism and holocaust denial are completely unacceptable in a civilized society, and this Government have taken a strong lead in tackling both. We have adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of antisemitism, and we are planning a striking new national memorial beside Parliament.

Iain Stewart: Does my right hon. Friend agree that the work of the Holocaust Educational Trust is as important as ever, given the worrying levels of organised hatred and intimidation both at home and abroad?

Sajid Javid: I agree wholeheartedly, and I am very pleased to praise the work of the Holocaust Educational Trust. I was also pleased to announce in Speaker's House last week that we are giving £144,000 of support jointly to the Holocaust Educational Trust and the Union of Jewish Students to tackle antisemitism, prejudice and intolerance on our university campuses.

4.2 Written questions

Cemeteries: Vandalism

18 Feb 2019 PQ220301

Siddiq, Tulip: To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what funding his Department has allocated to (a) local authorities and (b) the police to protect Jewish and Islamic cemeteries from targeted vandalism in each of the last four years.

Mrs Heather Wheeler | Department: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government: Vandalism and the desecration of cemeteries are criminal offences and we are confident that these offences will be dealt with appropriately by the police, local services, and criminal justice system. Where these criminal offences are aggravated by hostility towards particular religious communities these will be investigated as hate crimes.

The Government provides funding support to specialist third party organisations the Community Security Trust and Tell Mama, both of which report hate crimes to the police, spread awareness about hate crimes, and provide victim support.

Sports: Discrimination

18 Feb 2019 PQ220274

Asked by: Stevens, Jo

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps his Department is taking to encourage (a) anti-racism and (b) anti-homophobia initiatives in sport.

Answering member: Mims Davies | Department: Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

There is no place for racism, sexism, homophobia or any other kind of discrimination in sport. Tackling discrimination lies at the heart of the cross-government sport strategy "Sporting Future". We want sport to be at the forefront of equality, and we work with national governing bodies of sport and organisations such as Kick It Out and Stonewall to tackle discrimination in local, national and international sport.

In relation to football specifically the Government is alive to a rise in the numbers of reported incidents of discrimination at all levels of the sport. I will be inviting the FA, English Football League, Premier League, players' representatives, and groups such as Stonewall and the Community Security Trust among others, to discuss what more football can do to stamp out racist, homophobic and anti-semitic abuse.

Schools: Antisemitism

13 Feb 2019 PQ218172

Cunningham, Mr Jim: To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking within schools to tackle antisemitism.

Anne Milton | Department: Department for Education: Any form of intolerance or bullying, including antisemitism is unacceptable. Schools must promote our shared values, which includes mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs. The department supports schools to implement this requirement through a range of resources, such as those included on the Educate Against Hate website, as well as by working with networks of experts on the ground who provide direct support to schools on this. Every state-funded school, maintained and academy, must also teach religious education to all pupils up to the age of 18.

Schools must comply with the requirements of the Equality Act and must also have a behaviour policy which includes measures to prevent bullying. Recent research commissioned by the department details common strategies that schools have found to be effective for combating bullying.

The department is funding a number of projects to help schools tackle bullying, including hate-related bullying. This includes funding the Anne Frank Trust to develop their 'Free to Be' debate programme, which encourages young people to think about the importance of tackling prejudice, discrimination and bullying. We also recently published the 'Respectful Schools Communities' toolkit; a self-review and signposting tool to support schools to develop a whole-school approach which promotes respect and discipline.

The department is fully committed to educating pupils about the Holocaust and is the only topic that is compulsory in the national curriculum for history. We fund the Centre for Holocaust at University College London to train trainee and serving teachers to teach this important subject and to set up a network of Beacon schools to share good practice. We also fund the Holocaust Education Trust's 'Lessons from Auschwitz' programme, which enables teachers and sixth form students to visit Auschwitz.

Schools can also address intolerance and bullying as part of non-statutory personal, social, health and economic education. We are also making relationships education compulsory in all primary schools and relationships and sex education compulsory in all secondary schools. We have completed a public consultation on draft guidance which is clear that pupils will be taught about the importance of building respectful relationships including, for example, understanding the impact of bullying and how stereotypes can be damaging. Subject to making the regulations, schools will be required to teach these new subjects from September 2020, but they will be encouraged and supported to start teaching them from September 2019 on a voluntary basis.

Females: Antisemitism

24 Jan 2019 PQ210562

Sherriff, Paula: To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps the Government is taking to tackle antisemitism against women.

Mrs Heather Wheeler | Department: Ministry of Housing,

Communities and Local Government: The Government was pleased to support the Sara Conference in November 2018. The conference focused specifically on the intersectionality between antisemitism and sexism, looking particularly at the experience of Jewish women in public life. The conference brought together an excellent cross-section of policy makers, academics, and other experts, and set the agenda for what key organisations in this regard, such as the Antisemitism Policy Trust, will do going forward. The Government will continue to work closely with the Antisemitism Policy Trust, to understand this specific threat and to support their work.

Antisemitism

04 Jun 2018 PQ905660

Pursglove, Tom: What assessment he has made of recent trends in antisemitic hate crime.

Mrs Heather Wheeler | Department: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

The Government condemns all forms of hate crime including antisemitism. Nobody should be attacked because of their race, religion, sexual orientation, transgender identity or disability. In July 2016, we published Action Against Hate: The UK Government's Plan for Tackling Hate Crime, which we will be refreshing this year.

We work closely with the police and the Community Security Trust (CST), who are members of the Cross Government Working Group on Tackling Antisemitism, alongside other Jewish stakeholders. In their recent report, the CST recorded 1,382 antisemitic incidents reported across the UK in the 2017, a 3 per cent increase from the 1,346 incidents recorded during 2016.

Individual police forces collate and analyse intelligence on the number of antisemitic incidents, in order to inform local operational decisions and to provide adequate protection at times of demand. The National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) analyses this intelligence to inform forces of any emerging challenges.

Social Media: Antisemitism

25 Apr 2018 PQ136145

Siddiq, Tulip: To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps he has taken to establish codes of conduct for social media companies and industry bodies on the treatment of antisemitic content on their platforms.

Answering member: Margot James | Department: Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport: We treat all hate crime with equal seriousness. There is simply no place for treating victims differently regardless of their race, religion, gender identity, sexuality or disability.

As announced by the Prime Minister in her speech on 6 February, we intend to publish the Government response to the Internet Safety Strategy consultation in the spring. This will include further details about

our social media code of practice which will help tackle abusive conduct online.

The Inter-Parliamentary Coalition for Combating Antisemitism's Cyber Hate Working Group has been engaging with industry and one of its achievements is the agreement of a 'Best Practice' document which is published by the Anti-Defamation League and has been signed by all the major companies based in the United States, but does not specifically call for the removal of illegal content within 24 hours.

The Government supports the European Commission's initiative to agree a second generation of this agreement, which commits the signatories to removing illegal hate speech within 24 hours.

Hate Crime

20 March 2018 PQ132314

Yasmin Qureshi (Bolton South East): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the effectiveness of the Hate crime action plan 2016.

Victoria Atkins: The Hate Crime action plan, "Action Against Hate", published in July 2016 is a four-year plan, with actions running up until 2020. We are approaching the half way point of the plan, and good progress has been made on many of the actions. This includes Home Office funding of £3.4 million for protective security measures for places of worship and other vulnerable faith institutions, and £900,000 for projects to tackle hate crime in local communities.

The Home Office and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government will refresh the action plan this year, which will provide an opportunity to fully report on progress.

Social Media: Codes of Practice:

27 February 2018 PQ128300

John Mann (Bassetlaw): To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, how he plans to encourage uptake and monitor compliance of the code of practice provided for by s103 of the Digital Economy Act 2017 by social media companies.

Margot James: Implementation of the social media code of practice, as required under the Digital Economy Act (2017), will be the first step of this process. The consultation on this, and measures proposed in the Internet Safety Strategy, closed on 7 December.

In her speech on 6 February, the Prime Minister confirmed that the Government would be bringing forward the social media code of practice as proposed in the green paper. The code of practice will set out guidance about what social media providers should do in relation to bullying conduct on their platforms. We will be setting out next steps to achieve the code of practice in our Government response which will be published in the spring.

Hate Crime

22 January 2018 PQ122385

Kate Osamor (Edmonton): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate her Department has made of the number of hate crimes that have been reported to police in each of the last five years.

Victoria Atkins: The Home Office collects information on the number of hate crimes recorded by the police, by monitored strand. The latest statistics are published in the 'Hate crime, England and Wales, 2016 to 2017' statistical bulletin, available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2016-to-2017>

This Government is committed to tackling hate crime. The UK has a strong legislative framework to tackle hate crime. We are working across Government with police, (including National Community Tensions Team), the Crown Prosecution Service and community partners to send out a clear message that hate crime will not be tolerated and we will vigorously pursue and prosecute those who commit these crimes.

4.3 Debates

General debate on Holocaust Memorial Day

HC Deb 14 Jan 2019 cc378-421

Antisemitism

HL Deb 13 Sep 2018 cc2408-2424

Lords question for short debate on what actions they are taking to reassure the Jewish community over the impact of antisemitism in the United Kingdom

Antisemitism

HC Deb 17 Apr 2018 cc241-291

Motion that this House has considered antisemitism. Agreed to on question.

Letter of correction from Sajid Javid

[Official Report, 17 April 2018, Vol. 639, c. 248.]

Last year, the Community Security Trust recorded 1,346 anti-Semitic incidents in the UK—the highest on record.

An error has been identified in my speech in the debate on antisemitism on 17 April 2018. The correct information should have been:

Last year, the Community Security Trust recorded 1,382 anti-Semitic incidents in the UK—the highest on record.

HC Deb 18 Apr 2018 c2MC

UK Elections: Abuse and Intimidation

HC Deb 12 Jul 2017 cc152-171

Simon Hart (Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire): That this House has considered abuse and intimidation of candidates and the public in UK elections.

4.4 Select Committee reports

Women and Equalities Committee

Antisemitism inquiry

Antisemitism in communities examined: Women and Equalities Committee looked at hate crime in communities, victim experiences and public service responses.

[05 Sep 2018 - Antisemitism - oral evidence](#) | [PDF version \(274 KB\)](#) 

HC 1469 Published 06 Sep 2018

Home Affairs Committee

Hate crime: abuse, hate and extremism online, HC 6091, May 2017,

This brief report was the result of an inquiry that was cut short because of the 2017 general election.

Government response

The Government Response to the Fourteenth Report from the Home Affairs Select Committee Session 2016-17 HC 609: Hate crime: abuse, hate and extremism online, Cm 9556, Dec 2017

Current inquiry

[Inquiry into hate crime and its violent consequences](#)

The Home Affairs Committee in the current Parliament has now resumed the inquiry and is taking further evidence.

4.5 Early Day Motions

Defining Antisemitism

EDM 1493 6 Jul 2018

Luciana Berger

That this House recognises that the Macpherson inquiry which followed the murder of Stephen Lawrence changed the way racism is perceived in Britain to a victim-led approach; believes that in order for victims or potential victims of racist abuse to have confidence in societal efforts to address discrimination they must help craft understanding of the racism to which they are being subjected; further believes the effect of racism can have repercussions irrespective of proven intent; notes that the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism together with its accompanying examples, in full, has the confidence of the representative bodies of the Jewish community in the UK and worldwide; further notes the definition was adopted by IHRA's 31 member states including France, Germany, Canada and the US; welcomes the UK's adoption of the formal definition and accompanying examples; further recognises that a recommendation formally to adopt a definition was first made in the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Antisemitism report of 2006; further welcomes the cross-party support for the definition evidenced in previous motions of this House; recognises that the Welsh and Scottish Governments, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, London Assembly, and more than 120 local councils and many European countries have formally adopted the definition; recognises that police forces and others have for some time already used the definition for training purposes; notes that civil society organisations including the NUS have adopted the definition; and calls on all public institutions to fully adopt and implement the IHRA definition of antisemitism.

Tackling Antisemitism on University Campuses

EDM 528 14 Nov 2017

John Mann

That this House believes that university campuses should be a safe space for all students no matter their race, religion, sexuality or gender; welcomes the change of leadership in the National Union of Students (NUS); notes the improved relations between Jewish students and their representative body, the Union of Jewish Students and the current NUS president; further notes the need for a consistent approach by the NUS and vice-chancellors to deal with antisemitism and other forms of racism on campus; encourages universities and student unions to consult the Universities UK and NUS guidance on external speakers in order to inform their approach to managing difficult events on campus; further believes that the higher education sector has a duty to facilitate reporting systems and encourage reporting from students subjected to abuse on campus; calls on universities to put procedures in place to address violent protests; and further calls on universities to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism.

IHRA Definition of antisemitism**EDM 7 21 Jun 2017****John Mann**

That this House welcomes the adoption of a formal definition of antisemitism by the Government in response to the work of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA); further welcomes the agreed cross-party support for the definition, including from the Leader of the Opposition and hon. Members of all political parties represented in the House in the previous Parliament; congratulates the IHRA and its 31 member countries for adopting the definition; notes that the definition has been officially adopted by the Government, the Labour Party, the National Union of Students, the London Assembly, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and a number of local councils; welcomes the Government's update report on antisemitism, including progress made in ensuring wider adoption of the definition; and calls on all other political parties, universities, councils and other public bodies and organisations to continue to adopt the definition and use it to better understand and act against anti-Jewish hatred.

5. Statistics on antisemitism

The most reliable statistics on antisemitism are available from the Home Office, Hate Crime Statistics and the Community Security Trust (CST) a third sector organisation which has been voluntarily recording anti-Semitic incidents since 1984.

5.1 Police Recorded Hate Crime

Police Recorded Crime figures on the number religiously-motivated hate crimes are provided for the first time in the Home Office's [Hate Crime Statistics 2017/18](#). The statistics are considered experimental. The recording of religious hate crime is based on the perceived religious target of the offender. In some cases, more than one religion will be targeted, and in others the actual targeted religion will differ from the intended one. Data from the Metropolitan and Lancashire police forces were not provided. Data on anti-Semitic hate crime is available from the Metropolitan police [hate crime or special crime dashboard](#). In 2017/18 around 12% of religious hate crimes recorded by the police were anti-Semitic.

AROUND 12% OF RELIGIOUS HATE CRIMES RECORDED BY POLICE ^a WERE ANTI-SEMITIC		
	Number of offences	Percentage
Muslim	2,965	52.2%
Unknown	1,174	20.7%
Jewish	672	11.8%
Other	311	5.5%
Christian	264	4.6%
No religion	237	4.2%
Sikh	117	2.1%
Hindu	58	1.0%
Buddhist	19	0.3%
Total number of targeted religions ^b	5,817	
Total number of offences	5,680	

Notes:

a) Excludes data from the Metropolitan and Lancashire police forces.

b) In some offences more than one religion has been recorded as being targeted.

Source: Home Office, [Hate Crime, England and Wales Data Tables](#), Table B1

The [2017/18 Hate Crime in England and Wales statistical bulletin](#) also included data on hate crime incidents from the CSEW. CSEW figures are considered too unreliable to present figures for a single year due to the small samples involved. Three annual survey datasets are combined into a single dataset. The CSEW though is considered to be a more reliable indicator of long-term crime trends than the police recorded crime series, particularly for the more common types of crimes experienced by the public. The CSEW records household crimes and excludes those committed against businesses and crimes defined as victimless such as public order offences. Public order offences however constitute over

50% of police recorded hate crime. Another major difference between the CSEW and police reported hate crime figures is that the CSEW only covers people aged 16 and over; while the police recorded crime data records hate crimes against people of all ages.¹⁴

Over the combined surveys – 2015/16 to 2017/18 – only 53% of the hate crime incidents recorded by the CSEW were reported to the police. This compares to 40% of all crimes.¹⁵

The CSEW figures on religiously-motivated hate crime produced in table 3.10 of the [Hate Crime, England and Wales, 2017 to 2018: appendix tables](#) has no data on Judaism specifically.

5.2 CST Recorded Incidents

The CST receives reports of antisemitic incidents from a range of sources, including directly from victims, from witnesses, from its own security guards, and from the Police. Of the 1,652 antisemitic incidents recorded by the CST in 2018, 643 (39% of the total) came from the Police via information sharing agreements.

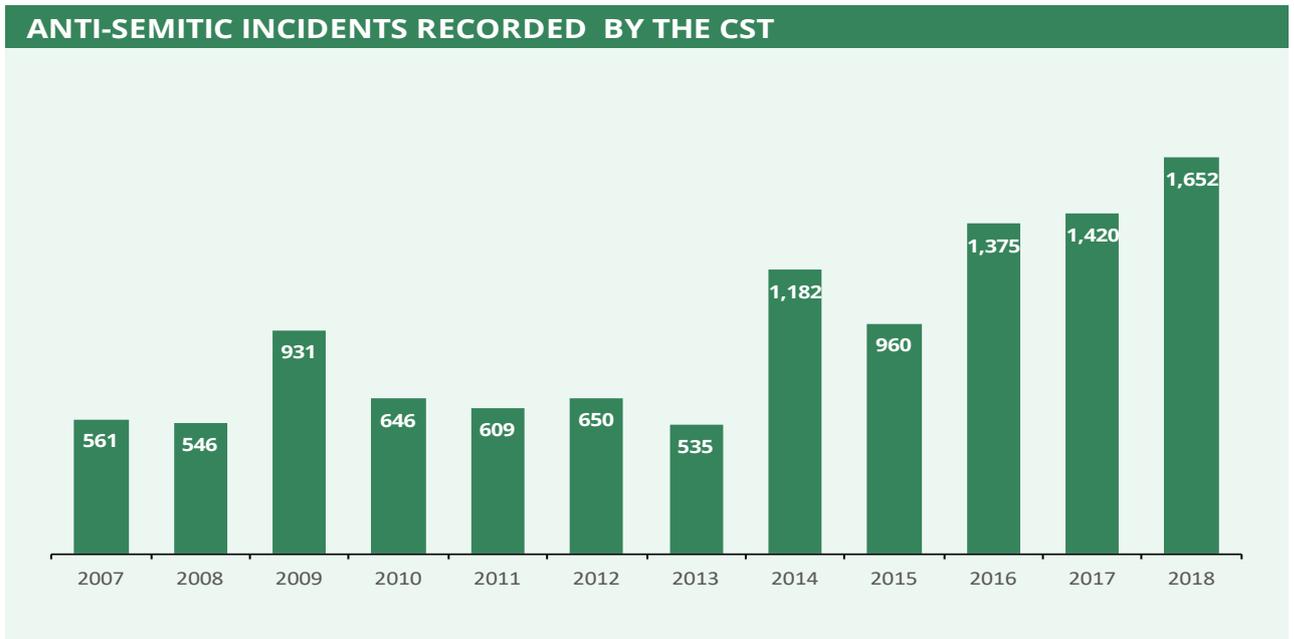
There are some limitations to the CST's data, in particular that there is a high risk of 'selection bias'. This is because those who report incidents are self-selected based on whether they are aware of the CST's existence, whether they consider the incident worth reporting, and their ability to access the service, among other reasons. The CST's figures are not representative of the level of antisemitic crime in the UK as a whole. **They do, however, provide an indicator of changes in the level of incidents** between years, since we would not necessarily expect the level of selection bias to change from one year to the next.

The CST in its [2018 annual report](#) recorded 1,652 anti-Jewish incidents. This represented an increase of 16% on the previous year. It was also the highest total recorded in the published series (beginning in 2007). Between 2016 to 2018 record annual totals have been recorded. The CST recorded more than 100 antisemitic incidents in each month in 2018. Between 2006 to 2015, only on six occasions did the number of monthly incidents exceed a hundred. Since 2016, there have only been six months where the number has dropped below a 100.

¹⁴ Home Office, *2017/18 Hate Crime in England and Wales Statistical Bulletin*, [p10](#)

¹⁵ *ibid*; [p25](#).

The chart below shows the number of incidents recorded annually by the CST between 2007 and 2018:



Source: CST, [Anti-Semitic Incidents Report 2018](#)

During 2018, the highest number of recorded incidents occurred in April and May, where there were 151 and 182 anti-Semitic incidents respectively. The 182 incidents recorded in May was the highest number recorded since the war in Gaza in August 2014 and the fourth highest ever monthly total recorded by the CST.

The CST also notes the number of anti-Semitic incidents is likely to be significantly higher than those reported to the police and the CST. A 2018 survey of Jewish experiences and perceptions of antisemitism in the EU found that 76% of British Jews who experienced anti-Semitic harassment over the previous five years did not report it to the police or any other organisation.¹⁶

The 2018 report attributed the peaks in 2009 and 2014 to conflict in Gaza during these years. 2009 also saw a 71% increase on the number of Anti-Semitic incidents recorded in the previous year, while 2014 saw a 121% increase on the previous year. The peaks in 2016 and 2017 were attributed to a general rise in hate crime following the EU referendum and the terrorist attacks of 2017.¹⁷ In 2018, it was attributed to the debate and coverage concerning alleged widespread antisemitism in the Labour party and events in Gaza between April and May.¹⁸

The table below shows the number and proportion of Anti-Semitic incidents recorded by the CST by type annually from 2007 to 2018.

¹⁶ EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, [Experiences and perceptions of antisemitism/Second survey on discrimination and hate crime against Jews in the EU](#), 2018, p56.

¹⁷ Community Security Trust, [Anti-Semitic Incidents Report 2017](#), p5.

¹⁸ Community Security Trust, [Anti-Semitic Incidents Report 2018](#), p4.

D2: ANNUAL ANTISEMITIC INCIDENT FIGURES BY TYPE OF OFFENCE												
Category	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<i>Count</i>												
Extreme Violence	1	1	3	0	2	2	0	1	4	0	0	1
Assault	116	87	121	115	93	67	69	80	83	109	149	122
Damage and Desecration	65	76	89	83	64	53	49	81	65	81	93	78
Threats	24	28	45	32	30	39	38	91	79	107	98	109
Abusive Behaviour	336	317	611	391	413	477	374	899	717	1,059	1,065	1,300
Literature	19	37	62	25	7	12	5	30	12	19	15	42
Total	561	546	931	646	609	650	535	1,182	960	1,375	1,420	1,652
<i>Percentage</i>												
Extreme Violence	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	0.0%	0.3%	0.3%	0.0%	0.1%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
Assault	21%	16%	13%	18%	15%	10%	13%	7%	9%	8%	10%	7%
Damage and Desecration	12%	14%	10%	13%	11%	8%	9%	7%	7%	6%	7%	5%
Threats	4%	5%	5%	5%	5%	6%	7%	8%	8%	8%	7%	7%
Abusive Behaviour	60%	58%	66%	61%	68%	73%	70%	76%	75%	77%	75%	79%
Literature	3%	7%	7%	4%	1%	2%	1%	3%	1%	1%	1%	3%

Source: Community Security Trust, [Anti-Semitic Incidents Report 2018](#)

Most incidents involve abusive behaviour, which in 2007 accounted for around 60% of all incidents, increasing to around 79% in 2018. Incidents of extreme violence are rare, incidents of assault as a proportion of anti-Semitic attacks have declined by around 14 percentage points since 2007 from 21% of all incidents in that year to 7% in 2018.

6. Further reading

House of Common Library Briefing

[Debate Pack prepared for the general debate on Holocaust Memorial Day 2019](#) on 24 January 2019.

House of Lords Library Briefing

This [briefing pack contains a selection of material relevant to the forthcoming question for short debate](#) on actions the Government is taking to reassure the Jewish community over the impact of antisemitism in the United Kingdom on 13 September 2018.

All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) Against Antisemitism

All-Party Groups are informal groups of Members of both Houses with a common interest in particular issues.

Publications

[Combating antisemitism: A British Best Practice Guide](#) [pdf], published by the Antisemitism APPG and the Department for Communities and Local Government.

[Implementation of the All-Party Parliamentary Report into Antisemitism](#), Apr 2018, latest (and final) all-party review of the 2015 All-Party inquiry.

Department for Communities and Local Government, [A progress update to the All-Party Parliamentary Group against Antisemitism Inquiry into the rise in the number of anti-Semitic incidents following the Gaza conflict in 2014](#), December 2016.

[Report of the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Antisemitism](#) [pdf], February 2015.

For more information contact: Danny Stone

Tel: 07989 502 004

Email: dstone@antisemitism.org.uk

The Committee on Standards in Public Life

[Intimidation in Public Life: A Review by the Committee on Standards in Public Life](#), Cm 9543, Dec 2017

Pages 13 to 15 set out a summary of the Committee's recommendations on social media.

APPG Against Antisemitism's written submission to the review

[Submission 34 \(Submission to the Committee on Standards in Public Life Review of Intimidation of Parliamentary Candidates\)](#), Aug 2017

Government response

[The government's response to the Committee on Standards in Public Life Review of Intimidation in Public Life](#), Cm 9578, Mar 2018

UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation

The UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation, funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government, was created to implement the recommendations of the [Prime Minister's Holocaust Commission report - Britain's Promise to Remember - in 2015](#), including the delivery of the new Memorial and Learning Centre and the recording of British Holocaust testimony.

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