

Debate Pack

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Increases in antisemitic offences

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1

Background

1.1

The 2023/24 Israel-Hamas conflict

During the current 2023/24 conflict between Israel and Hamas, an increase in antisemitic acts has been reported in several countries, including in the United Kingdom, the United States, Germany, and France.¹

As noted by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, the [Community Security Trust](#) (CST, a UK charity that works to protect Jews from antisemitism and other threats) and [Tell MAMA](#) (the Measuring Anti-Muslim Attacks reporting and monitoring service) report evidence that rising tensions in the Middle East can lead to an increase in both antisemitic and anti-Muslim incidents in the UK.²

The CST reported that a “[significant spike in anti-Jewish hate](#)” took place during the May 2021 conflict between Israel and Hamas, while Tell MAMA stated the “[most significant spike in the year](#)” in anti-Muslim incidents occurred at the same time.³

On 4 November 2023, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, said across the world “Islamophobic and anti-Semitic harassment, attacks and hate speech have multiplied, including in the context of protests relating to the [Israel-Hamas] conflict”.

[He said he “deplored the rise”](#) and said that under international human rights law “Any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence is prohibited”.⁴

In the UK, police forces in Manchester, West Yorkshire, West Midlands and Merseyside [reported an increase in antisemitic offences](#) in the month following the 7 October attacks (data has not been published for all forces).⁵

¹ Community Security Trust, [Antisemitic incidents—29 November update](#), 29 November 2023; [Why the Gaza war has sparked a wave of antisemitism and Islamophobia in the US](#), Voice of America, 17 November 2023; [Antisemitic incidents in Germany rose 320% after Hamas attacked Israel. monitoring group says](#), AP, 28 November 2023; [Antisemitic acts in France rise to 1,500 since October](#), Le Monde, 14 November 2023

² Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, [Impact Assessment: Economic Activity of Public Bodies \(Overseas Matters\) Bill](#) (PDF), 4 May 2023, pp15-16. See also Tell MAMA, [Islamophobic incidents up by 600% in UK since Hamas attack](#), 10 November 2023; Community Security Trust, [Antisemitic incidents—29 November update](#), 29 November 2023. In line with reporting by Tell MAMA, this section uses the term “anti-Muslim” to describe the incidents recorded.

³ Tell MAMA, [A decade of anti-Muslim hate](#), 20 July 2023, pp35, 114 and Community Security Trust, [Antisemitic incidents report 2021](#), February 2022

⁴ UN Office for the High Commissioner Human Rights, [Human rights chief condemns rise in hatred](#), 4 November 2023

⁵ [Police record rise in religious hate crimes after Israel-Gaza war](#), BBC News, 29 December 2023

In London, the Metropolitan Police also recorded [an increase in Islamophobic offences and antisemitic offences](#) from 1 to 18 October 2023 compared to same period in 2022.⁶

On 13 December, [the CST provisionally recorded at least 2,093 antisemitic incidents across the UK since 7 October](#). It said this was the “highest ever total reported to CST across a 68-day period”. The CST has been recording antisemitic incidents since 1984, and said this total was “more than in any other year apart from 2021, when escalation in the Middle East conflict triggered CST’s highest ever antisemitic incident annual total”.⁷

Speaking on 23 October 2023, the Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, said [the Government has “zero tolerance for antisemitism or indeed anti-Muslim hatred in any form](#). We will seek to stamp it out wherever we see it”.⁸ In October, [the Government announced £3 million in additional funding](#) to the CST to provide more protection to Jewish communities.⁹

In December, the Minister for Women and Equalities, Kemi Badenoch, [said she would be issuing updated guidance to public authorities](#) on discrimination following the rise in antisemitic incidents since 7 October. She said: “the Equality Act 2010 is a shield against discrimination, and the public sector equality duty is part of that shield. It is particularly important that all public authorities take the duty seriously”.¹⁰

Updated guidance was published on 18 December 2023, as [Public sector equality duty: guidance for public authorities](#).

The Government has also issued a five-point plan to deal with antisemitism in universities, following concerns about the safety and welfare of Jewish students.¹¹

⁶ Metropolitan Police, [Met response to terror attacks in Israel and ongoing military action in Gaza](#), 20 October 2023

⁷ CST, [Antisemitic incidents—13 December 2023 update](#), 13 December 2023

⁸ HC Deb, [23 October 2023](#), c603

⁹ Prime Minister’s Office, [PM announces new support to keep British Jewish communities safe](#), 12 October 2023. There are separate funding schemes in place for protective measures for mosques and for other places of worship: see Gov.uk, [Protective security schemes for places of worship](#) [accessed 5 January 2024]

¹⁰ HC Deb, [13 December 2023](#), c884

¹¹ Department for Education, [The Education Hub Blog: How we’re protecting Jewish students on university campuses](#), 5 November 2023

1.2

Antisemitic offences: Law and policy

Antisemitic activity amounting to criminal behaviour can be dealt with using hate crime legislation. The police and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) have agreed the following definition for identifying and flagging hate crimes:

Any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice, based on a person's disability or perceived disability; race or perceived race; or religion or perceived religion; or sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation or transgender identity or perceived transgender identity.

There is no legal definition of hostility so we use the everyday understanding of the word which includes ill-will, spite, contempt, prejudice, unfriendliness, antagonism, resentment and dislike.¹²

Authorised Professional Practice issued by the College of Policing, which sets operational standards for police, sets out the following guidance on hostility as it relates to antisemitism:

antisemitism can be both racial hostility – for example, targeting Jewish people or communities – or religious hostility targeting Judaism. The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) supports a working definition to help professionals understand the nature of antisemitism. For further information, see [the IHRA working definition of antisemitism](#).¹³

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 such as criminal damage and public order offences
- enhanced sentencing for offences motivated by hate.

The following CPS publications set out full details of hate crime legislation and how hate crime is prosecuted:

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

Antisemitic hate crime can be treated as religious hate crime, racial hate crime, or both. CPS guidance notes that case law has concluded that

¹² CPS, [Hate Crime](#) [accessed 5 January 2024]

¹³ College of Policing, [Authorised Professional Practice – Hate Crime: Responding to Hate](#), last updated October 2023. For further background on the IHRA definition see the Commons Library Insight [UK Government’s adoption of the IHRA definition of antisemitism](#), 4 October 2018

“persons associated by their religious beliefs may also be part of a racial group”, and that prosecutors should “consider on the facts of each case if the aggravating feature arises from hostility towards a religious belief or a racial group (or a combination of both)”.¹⁴

Stirring up racial and religious hatred

[Part III of the Public Order Act 1986](#) criminalises certain acts that are intended to stir up racial hatred. [Part 3A of the 1986 Act](#) makes similar provision for certain acts intended to stir up religious hatred.¹⁵

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”.¹⁶ Religious hatred is defined as “hatred against a group of persons defined by reference to religious belief or lack of religious belief”.¹⁷

The acts covered by the 1986 Act include the following, when done with the intention of stirring up racial or religious hatred (or being likely to do so):

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

For Part III racial hatred offences, the acts must involve “threatening, abusive or insulting” words, behaviour or material. For Part 3A religious hatred offences, only “threatening” words, behaviour or material are covered.

There is a “freedom of expression” defence to the religious hatred offences (but not for the racial hatred offences). The defence states that nothing in Part 3A:

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

¹⁴ CPS, [Racist and Religious Hate Crime - Prosecution Guidance](#), last updated 3 March 2022

¹⁵ Part IIIA also covers conduct intended to stir up hatred on the grounds of sexual orientation

¹⁶ Section 17 of the 1986 Act

¹⁷ Section 29A of the 1986 Act

or urging adherents of a different religion or belief system to cease practising their religion or belief system.¹⁸

Proceedings for an offence under Parts III or 3A can only be commenced with the permission of the Attorney General. The CPS prosecution guidance acknowledges that these offences involve “questions of public policy”:

In deciding upon the public interest of charging these offences it is essential that prosecutors keep in mind that in a free, democratic, and tolerant society people are able to robustly exchange views, even when these may cause offence. However, the rights of the individual to freedom of expression must be balanced against the duty of the state to act proportionately in the interests of public safety, to prevent disorder and crime, and to protect the rights of others.¹⁹

The guidance also states that prosecutions for Part III and 3A offences will be led by the Special Crime & Counter Terrorism Division at the CPS, given the “highly sensitive” nature of such allegations.

1 The policing of protests

There have been several protests across the UK since 7 October 2023, particularly in London, in support of Palestine and calling for a ceasefire. There have also been far-right counter protests during a march on Armistice Day, a march against antisemitism and vigils held in memory of people who have died on both sides of the conflict.

There has been particular scrutiny of the Metropolitan Police response to large pro-Palestine protests in the capital. While this briefing doesn't go into this in detail, some of the concerns are set out below. A general overview of police powers to deal with protests is set out in [Commons Library Briefing 5013 Police powers: Protests](#).

Concerns about antisemitism

The [Campaign Against Antisemitism](#) has described central London as a “no go zone” when protests are happening and called on the Met Commissioner to limit their size. The charity said: “...there are people on the marches openly engaging in support for terrorism, extremist chanting, and incitement to religious hatred.”²⁰

¹⁸ Section 29J of the 1986 Act

¹⁹ CPS, [Racist and Religious Hate Crime - Prosecution Guidance](#), 3 March 2022

²⁰ Campaign Against Antisemitism, [Enough is enough: the police must act](#) [accessed 5 January 2024]

The charity called on the Met Commissioner, Sir Mark Rowley, to [ban a march on 11 November](#) claiming: “the police are so outnumbered that they cannot ensure the safety of Londoners, in particular the Jewish community.”²¹

On 25 October 2023 it arranged a demonstration outside New Scotland Yard to call on the Met to take action against protestors using extremist language.²²

Concerns from protest organisers

Groups involved in organising the protests have also criticised the Met’s response.

On 29 November 2023 Palestine Solidarity Campaign and the Stop the War Coalition issued a joint statement criticising the Met for imposing short notice restrictions on a ‘Ceasefire Now’ Palestine solidarity march that took place on 25 November and for refusing to close roads at the agreed time, which they said led to “a dangerous stand off between traffic and marchers”.²³

They also said criticised the Met’s decision to issue [leaflets detailing the words or images that might result in arrest](#) (PDF) in advance of this march, describing it as “unprecedented” and having created “a harmful media narrative about possible disorder and hatred on the march”.

Police arrests

In London, the Met has made [several arrests](#) for offences such as inciting racial hatred, racially motivated crimes and violence during pro-Palestine marches. It also made [arrests following right-wing counter protests](#) on 11 November.

Legal academic Mark Walters, Professor of Criminal Law and Criminology at the University of Sussex, has examined some of the complexities in applying hate crime legislation to protest activity. He described the law as a “complex web of provisions” and noted that “ultimately, the accused’s human rights must be weighed against the state’s responsibility to confront harmful instances of prejudice and hatred”.²⁴

The Met Police response

The Metropolitan Police Commissioner Mark Rowley has defended the Met’s policing of marches in London. He said that he was focused on “enforcing the

²¹ Campaign Against Antisemitism, [It is time for a ban, before the intifada comes here](#) [accessed 8 January 2024]

²² Campaign Against Antisemitism, [Enough is enough: the police must act](#) [accessed 5 January 2024]

²³ Palestine Solidarity Campaign/Stop the War Coalition, [Statement on policing of Palestine solidarity marches](#), 29 November 2023

²⁴ “[Palestine protest arrests: why even police are confused about hate crime law](#)”, The Conversation, 1 November 2023

letter of the law” and on putting extra officers into communities to provide reassurance.²⁵

The Commissioner told [Sky News](#) that he would support a review into how extremism should be policed, and has been reported as saying that “maybe some of the lines aren't in the right place” in relation to hate crime legislation.²⁶

Scrutiny in Parliament

The police response has also been subject to parliamentary scrutiny:

- The House of Lords debated the policing of protests on 13 November 2023: see [HL Deb 13 November 2023 c276](#)
- The [Home Affairs Committee](#) examined some of these issues in two non-inquiry evidence sessions:
 - a session on [9 December 2023](#) heard oral evidence from representatives of the Stop the War Coalition, the Palestine Solidarity Campaign, the Muslim Association of Britain, the Community Security Trust and the Campaign Against Antisemitism
 - a session on [12 December 2023](#) heard oral evidence from several senior police officers, Dame Sarah Khan DBE (Former Lead Commissioner for Countering Extremism), Lord Walney (the Government’s Independent Adviser on Political Violence and Disruption), and Robin Simcox (Commissioner for Countering Extremism)

Aggravated offences

Under [sections 28 to 32 of 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:

- various types of physical assault (section 29)
- criminal damage (section 30)

²⁵ [“Met chief defends force for not arresting chanters of ‘jihad’ at anti-Israel protest”](#), Guardian, 23 October 2023

²⁶ [“Hate crime laws may need redrawing, says Met chief Mark Rowley”](#), BBC News, 23 October 2023

- public order offences under [sections 4, 4A or 5 of the Public Order Act 1986](#), which involve the use of threatening or abusive words or behaviour (section 31)
- harassment and stalking (section 32).

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”.²⁷

Enhanced sentencing

[Section 66 of the Sentencing Act 2020](#) applies when the court is sentencing an offender for an offence other than one of the aggravated offences under the 1998 Act.

Section 66 requires the court to consider whether the offence was racially or religiously aggravated. If it was, the court must treat that as an aggravating factor for sentencing purposes and must state in open court that the offence was so aggravated. The aggravated sentence must remain within the maximum sentence available for the offence in question: unlike the aggravated offences under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, section 66 does not have the effect of increasing the maximum sentence available.

2 Online offences

An example of where the courts could make use of the enhanced sentencing regime under section 66 is when sentencing people convicted of online antisemitic offences. The most relevant offences are:

- [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”.

The CPS has published guidance on the use of these offences (and others) to prosecute social media communications: see [Legal guidance: Social Media and other Electronic Communications](#) (last updated 9 January 2023). This states that prosecutors should consider the wider context when dealing with allegations of online hate messages:

²⁷ CPS, Public statement on prosecuting racist and religious hate crime, last updated 3 March 2022

When assessing communications that appear to be motivated by such discrimination or demonstrate such hostility, prosecutors should be alert to any additional reference or context to the communication in question. Such references or context may sometimes elevate a communication that would otherwise not meet the high threshold to one that, in all the circumstances, can be considered grossly offensive. For instance, a reference within the communication to a recent tragic event, involving many deaths of persons who share any of the protected characteristics.

Hate crime messages may sometimes use language that prosecutors are not familiar with, but which may cause gross offence to those to whom it relates. Prosecutors should ensure that they fully understand the meaning and context of particular language or slurs used, so that they can properly assess the degree to which it may cause offence. To do so, further information may be sought from a complainant or from relevant community groups.

The guidance also reviews relevant domestic and international case law regarding the right to freedom of expression under [Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights](#). It notes that several decisions have confirmed that prosecutions for racist or religious hate speech and messages do not contravene Article 10 rights.

1.3

Statistics on antisemitism

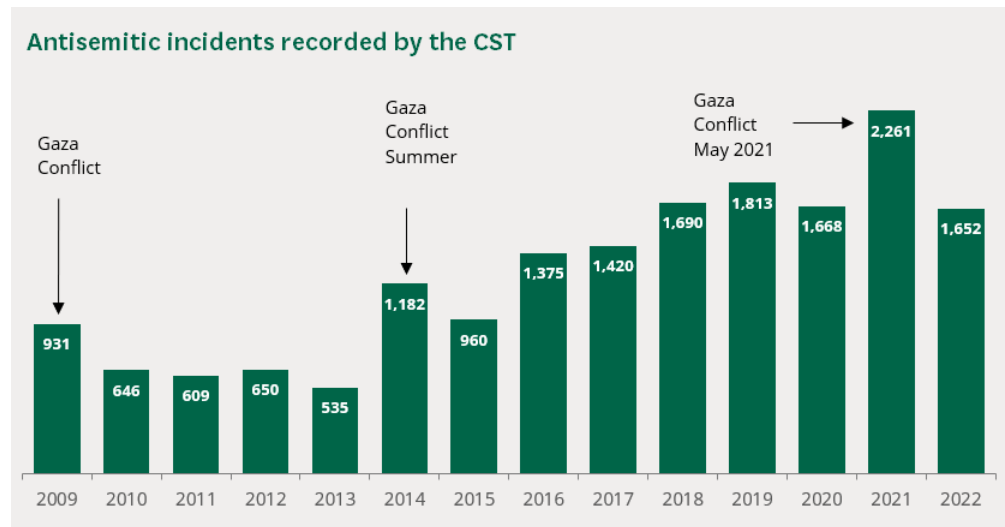
In 2022, the CST recorded “[1,652 anti-Jewish hate incidents](#)”. This was a decrease of 27% on the previous year and the lowest figure recorded since 2017. The record high of 2,261 recorded in 2021 was attributed to renewed hostilities in the Middle East in May 2021 following the treatment and proposed eviction of Palestinians from the Sheikh Jarrar neighbourhood in occupied East Jerusalem.

In May 2021, 661 antisemitic incidents were recorded, the highest monthly total recorded. In 2022 though, the monthly average for the 10 months excluding May and June was greater than the equivalent figure for the previous year.²⁸

Between 2016 and 2019, and again in 2021, record annual totals were recorded. December 2020 was the first month in three years where fewer than 100 antisemitism incidents were recorded by the CST. Between 2006 and 2015, only on six occasions did the number of monthly incidents exceed one hundred. Since 2016, there have only been four months where the number has dropped below 100.

²⁸ Community Security Trust, [Antisemitism Incidents Report 2022](#), p4

The chart below shows the number of incidents recorded annually by the CST between 2009 and 2022:



Source: CST, [Antisemitism Incidents Report 2022](#)

During 2022, the highest number of incidents occurred in May where 173 were recorded.

The report attributed the peaks in 2009 and 2014 to conflict in Gaza during these years. In 2009 there was a 71% increase in the number of antisemitism incidents compared with the previous year, while in 2014 there was a 121% increase on the previous year.

The increasing numbers in 2016 and 2017 were attributed to a general rise in hate crime following the EU referendum and the terrorist attacks of 2017. 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.²⁹

The peaks cited above for 2019 coincided with the departure of number of Labour MPs from the party, some of whom cited antisemitism as a major reason in February 2019, and the general election where leading Jewish figures publicly voiced concern about the Labour Party at that time.³⁰

Online incidents of antisemitism recorded by the CST in 2022 decreased by 35% from the 2021 figure of 552 incidents to 358. The 2019 figure of 700 was the highest recorded figure by the CST for online instances of antisemitism with 2020 being the second highest and 2021 the third highest.

The totals provided are only indicative, and the true number is likely to be much larger as the CST does not trawl the internet looking for online incidents. It will, however, [record as a single incident antisemitic abuse which](#)

²⁹ Community Security Trust, [Antisemitism Incidents 2017 report](#), p5

³⁰ Community Security Trust, [Antisemitism Incidents 2019 report](#), p5

[is part of a coordinated campaign](#) (PDF) targeting certain Jewish individuals or public figures even if it involves multiple tweets, posts and comments on social media.

The CST also notes the number of antisemitic 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 antisemitic harassment over the previous five years did not report it to the police or any other organisation.³¹

Between 2007 and 2022, most antisemitic incidents involved abusive behaviour, which in 2007 accounted for around 60% of all incidents increasing to 81% in 2022. The report notes that incidents of extreme violence are rare, incidents of assault as a proportion of antisemitic attacks have declined by around 13 percentage points since 2007 from 21% of all incidents in that year to 8% in 2022.

Findings for 2023

In August 2023, the CST reported on [antisemitic incidents between January and June 2023](#) (PDF).

Among the report's key findings:

- In the first six months of 2023, the CST recorded 803 antisemitic incidents. This was a 2% percent decrease on the previous year for the period in question and was the joint sixth-highest total recorded by the CST for the January-to-June period.
- The CST recorded 74 incidents of assault for the period in question. This represented a small increase on the number of assaults for the same period in 2022 (75 assaults).
- 29 of the antisemitic incidents recorded in this period targeted synagogues, compared with 21 in the first six months in 2022.
- There were 666 incidents of abusive behaviour in the first six months of 2023, a small increase on the same period in 2022 (662). Abusive incidents constituted 83% of the incidents recorded so far in the year.
- 72 percent of the incidents recorded so far in the year occurred in Greater London or Manchester, which also had the largest Jewish populations.
- The number of reported online instances of antisemitism in this period has increased by 37% from 153 to 210 incidents compared with the

³¹ EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, [Experiences and perceptions of antisemitism – Second survey on discrimination and hate crime against Jews in the EU](#), 2018, p56

previous year. This constituted 26% of this year’s total to date, compared with 19% of 2022’s six-monthly figure.³²

The 2023 Israel-Hamas conflict

As of Wednesday 13 December, the CST reported in the period following the Hamas attack of October 7, there were 2,093 antisemitic incidents recorded across the UK. This compares with 330 recorded in the same period in 2022, an increase of 534%.³³

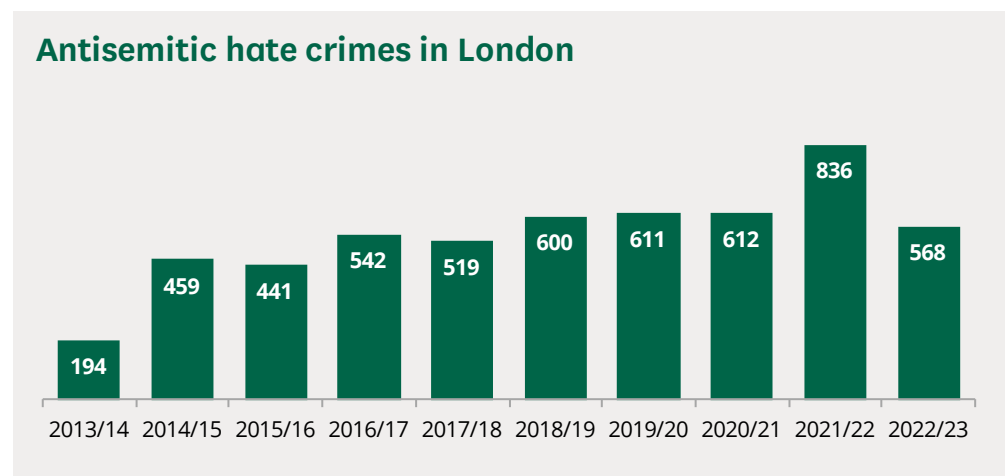
Tell Mama reported that there had been 515 anti-Muslim incidents (both offline and online) in the period between 7 October and 29 October. In the same period in 2022, there were 73.³⁴

Antisemitism in London

Data from the Metropolitan Police Service (the Met) shows that the number of antisemitic hate crime victims in London has increased by 193% since 2013/14. In part this may be due to better recording methods used by the police.

In 2014, coinciding with events in Gaza, there was an increase in the number of antisemitic hate crimes from 194 in 2013/14 to 459 in 2014/15, a 137% increase on the previous year.

There was a 36% change in the number of antisemitic attacks reported in 2021/22 compared with 2020/21 due to violence that occurred in the Middle East in May 2021. In 2022/23 there was a 32% decrease in the number of incidents compared with the previous year.



Source: MPS, [2022/23 Crime Statistics](#), Accessed 22 May 2023

³² Community Security Trust, [Antisemitism Incidents January-June 2023 report](#), pp2-8

³³ Community Security Trust, [Antisemitic Incidents – 13 December Update](#), 7 November 2023

³⁴ Tell MAMA, [Tell MAMA records seven-fold increase in anti-Muslim cases in one month](#), 9 November 2023

According to the 2021 census figures, around 54% of the Jewish population in England and Wales lived in London. The highest counts of antisemitic hate crimes in 2022/23 were in Hackney (135) and Barnet (118). However, the highest number of incidents per 10,000 Jewish population was recorded in Tower Hamlets (268) followed by Newham (179).

2 Parliamentary material

2.1 Early Day Motions

[85th anniversary of Kristallnacht and antisemitism](#)

That this House commemorates the victims of Kristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass), a destructive campaign of violence against Jewish people, on its 85th anniversary; understands that, throughout the night of 9-10 November 1938, the Nazi Party targeted synagogues and Jewish prayer rooms across Germany, ... notes concerning reports that more than 1,000 anti-Semitic incidents have taken place across the UK since Hama's terrorist attacks on 7 October 2023, the highest 28-day total recorded since the Community Security Trust began tracking attacks in 1984, and a 537% increase over the same period in 2022; recognises the resilience of Holocaust survivors who continue to highlight the barbaric actions that took place during the Second World War, particularly following the unacceptable rise in antisemitism recently; and continues to remember the 6 million Jewish people and others targeted due to ethnicity, religion, political beliefs and sexual orientation who were victims of Nazi persecution.

09 Nov 2023 | Early day motions | Open | House of Commons | 33
(session 2023-24)

Primary sponsor: Gibson, Patricia

2.2 Debates

[Israel/Gaza](#) – HL Deb 24 Oct 2023 – 833 cc514-606

[Economic Activity of Public Bodies \(Overseas Matters\) Bill](#) – HC Deb 03 Jul 2023 – 735 cc585-664

[Holocaust Memorial Bill](#) – HC Deb 28 Jun 2023 – 735 cc321-373

[Holocaust Memorial Day](#) – HC Deb 26 Jan 2023 – 726 cc1224-1274

[International Holocaust Memorial Day](#) – HL Deb 19 Jan 2023 – 826 cc1944-1978

[Online Safety Bill](#) – HC Deb 17 Jan 2023 – 726 cc262-344

2.3

Statements

[Israel and Gaza](#)

23 Oct 2023 | Ministerial statements | House of Commons | 738 cc591-614

[Israel and Gaza](#)

16 Oct 2023 | Ministerial statements | House of Commons | 738 cc23-57

[Prevent: Independent Review](#)

07 Sep 2023 | Ministerial statements | House of Commons | 737 cc564-573

[Prevent: Independent Review](#)

08 Feb 2023 | Ministerial statements | House of Commons | 727 cc911-924

2.4

Parliamentary Questions

[Universities: Antisemitism](#)

Asked by: Baroness Deech

To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the adequacy of the responses by the University and College Union and relevant university authorities to complaints by students of anti-Semitism and violence perpetrated by fellow students and staff.

Answering member: Baroness Barran | **Department:** Department for Education

The department is deeply concerned about the growth in antisemitic incidents on campus since the 7 October terrorist attacks against Israel and this government takes antisemitism extremely seriously.

Departmental officials have assessed evidence of antisemitism and racial hatred linked to incidents at English universities. There is an online "Reporting Extremism" page from where members of the public can raise concerns to the department directly. Where concerns have arisen, officials have reached out to relevant universities to understand what actions they have taken, including reporting issues to the police where appropriate.

The department is also concerned to see antisemitic motions being passed at some universities. The department urges universities to crack down on inflammatory, politically motivated displays of support for a proscribed terrorist organisation, and on demonstrations which make Jewish staff and students feel unsafe.

My right hon. Friend, The Secretary of State for Education and my right hon. Friend, the Minister for Skills, Apprenticeships and Higher Education (HE), wrote to all schools, colleges and universities on 11 October, urging them to respond swiftly to hate-related incidents and actively reassure Jewish students that they can study without fear of harassment or intimidation. Minister Halfon wrote again to Vice Chancellors on 16 November, further emphasising the use of disciplinary measures and the importance of police engagement, as well as the suspension of student visas where the student is a foreign national and requested that the universities review its policies and procedures to ensure that they remain fit for purpose at this challenging time. This was one of the key actions set out in the five-point plan for tackling antisemitism in HE, which was published on 5 November. A link to more information can be found here: <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2023/11/05/how-were-protecting-jewish-students-on-university-campuses/>.

03 Jan 2024 | Written questions | Answered | House of Lords | HL1263

Date tabled: 18 Dec 2023 | **Date for answer:** 04 Jan 2024 | **Date answered:** 03 Jan 2024

[Antisemitism: Hate Crime](#)

Asked by: Richards, Nicola

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the polling by the Campaign Against Antisemitism, published on 27 November 2023, what assessment he has made of the potential implications for his policies of the finding that 16% of British Jews

think that the police treat anti-Semitic hate crime like other forms of hate crime.

Answering member: Laura Farris | **Department:** Home Office

We have a robust legislative framework to respond to hate crimes which target race, religion, sexual orientation, disability, and transgender identity.

Whilst the police are operationally independent and work in line with the College of Policing's operational guidance to respond to hate crime, we expect the police to fully investigate these abhorrent offences and work with the CPS to ensure perpetrators are brought to justice. We are supporting the police by providing them with the resources they need, including having recruited 20,000 additional police officers by March 2023.

The Government regularly engages with Jewish community stakeholders to ensure that we are doing everything we can to tackle antisemitism in the UK and protect the safety and security of the Jewish community. The Government's Jewish Community Protective Security (JCPS) Grant provides protective security measures at Jewish community sites including education facilities and many synagogues. In response to increased incidents of antisemitism in the UK as a result of the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict, the Prime Minister announced additional funding of £3 million to provide additional security at Jewish schools, synagogues and other Jewish community sites. This brings total protective security funding for the Jewish Community to £18 million in 2023/24. This level will be maintained at £18 million for 2024/25.

The Government is also providing £7 million over the next three years to ensure that more support is in place for schools and universities to understand, recognise and tackle antisemitism.

Since 7 October, forces across the country have increased neighbourhood patrols to provide reassurance to local communities. Police have also conducted thousands of visits to Jewish sites, including synagogues and faith schools. Forces have made a number of arrests linked to antisemitic and other forms of hate crime in the UK – including the Metropolitan Police Service which has made 134 arrests linked to hate crimes as of 1 December. The MPS also have a specific Hanukkah policing plan to provide assurance to the Jewish community.

21 Dec 2023 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 6947

Date tabled: 13 Dec 2023 | **Date for answer:** 18 Dec 2023 | **Date answered:** 21 Dec 2023

Antisemitism

Asked by: Rosindell, Andrew

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will issue guidance to the police on (a) identifying and (b) tackling anti-Semitic hate crime; and what steps her Department is taking to help ensure that Jewish communities are protected during Hanukkah celebrations.

Answering member: Laura Farris | **Department:** Home Office

The police are operationally independent and work in line with the College of Policing's operational guidance to respond to hate crime; we expect them to enforce the law where appropriate to protect communities and maintain public order. We are supporting the police by providing them with the resources they need, including having recruited 20,000 additional police officers by March 2023.

Since 7 October, police with Jewish and Muslim populations have increased community engagement and neighbourhood patrols to provide reassurance. Forces – including the Metropolitan Police Service – have dedicated plans in place for Hanukkah celebrations.

The Jewish Community Protective Security (JCPS) Grant provides protective security measures at Jewish community sites including education facilities and many synagogues.

In response to increased incidents of antisemitism in the UK, as a result of the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict, the Prime Minister has announced additional funding of £3 million to provide additional security at Jewish schools, synagogues and other Jewish community sites. This brings total protective security funding for the Jewish Community to £18 million in 2023/24. This level will be maintained at £18 million for 2024/25.

The Government is also providing £7 million over the next three years to ensure that more support is in place for schools and universities to tackle antisemitism.

19 Dec 2023 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 5972

Date tabled: 08 Dec 2023 | **Date for answer:** 12 Dec 2023 | **Date answered:** 19 Dec 2023

[Jews: Safety](#)

Asked by: Offord, Dr Matthew

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to help ensure the safety of Jewish communities.

Answering member: Tom Tugendhat | **Department:** Home Office

In March 2023, the Home Secretary announced the continuation of the Jewish Community Protective Security Grant (JCPSG) and increased funding for 2023/24 by £1 million, to a total of £15 million. The JCPSG provides protective security measures (such as guarding, CCTV and alarm systems) at Jewish schools and other Jewish community sites. The Grant is managed on behalf of the Home Office by the Community Security Trust (CST).

In response to the conflict and reports of increased incidents of antisemitism in the UK, the Prime Minister has announced additional funding of £3 million for CST to provide additional security at Jewish schools, synagogues and other Jewish Community sites. This brings the total funding for CST in FY2023/24 to £18 million.

Earlier this year, the Home Secretary established the Jewish Community Crime, Policing and Security Taskforce. The Taskforce allows the Jewish community, represented by the Community Security Trust, to raise concerns to the Home Office, law enforcement and partners, and work together to understand and address the concerns of the Jewish community on safety and security issues.

The government is also investing up to a further £7 million over the next three years for organisations like the Holocaust Educational Trust to help tackle antisemitism. This funding will ensure support is in place for schools and universities to understand, recognise, and deal with antisemitism effectively.

28 Nov 2023 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 2562

Date tabled: 20 Nov 2023 | **Date for answer:** 22 Nov 2023 | **Date answered:** 28 Nov 2023

[Religious Freedom](#)

Asked by: Lewis, Sir Julian

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will have discussions with the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police on the (a) circumstances which led the police to cancel a prayer walk for Israel and the Jewish people, organised by Christian Action Against Anti-Semitism to take place in Golders Green on 21 October 2023, (b) the basis on which the police determined that tweets by supporters of a pro-Palestinian march scheduled for the same day seven miles away constituted a sufficient level of threat to require cancellation of the Golders Green event and (c) whether the police plan to investigate those tweets further.

Answering member: Chris Philp | **Department:** Home Office

The Home Office is in regular contact with the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) regarding the recent protests following the devastating events in Israel.

The management of protests is an operational matter for the police, as are decisions around investigations. The Home Office cannot intervene on specific operational decisions of this nature, to do so would undermine their independence.

The MPS have confirmed that an officer provided advice and guidance to the organisers of the prayer walk. Following those discussions, a decision was made by the organiser to cancel the vigil.

The MPS do not have the power to prohibit a public procession without the consent of the Secretary of State.

21 Nov 2023 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 2242

Date tabled: 16 Nov 2023 | **Date for answer:** 21 Nov 2023 | **Date answered:** 21 Nov 2023

[Social Media: Antisemitism](#)

Asked by: Kyle, Peter

To ask the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, with reference to the Answer of 19 October 2023 to Question 202862 on Companies: Social Media, how many of the social media companies in

question have provided written responses confirming the steps they are taking to tackle extremely violent and anti-Semitic content.

Answering member: Paul Scully | **Department:** Department for Science, Innovation and Technology

The Government held a roundtable with social companies including YouTube, Meta, X, TikTok and Snapchat on 11 October to discuss the ongoing conflict in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

During this meeting, companies were asked to follow-up in writing to confirm the steps they are taking to tackle extremely violent and antisemitic content. These companies have all since followed up in writing. The Government continues to engage directly with individual companies and will keep the current approach under review.

13 Nov 2023 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 333

Date tabled: 07 Nov 2023 | **Date for answer:** 13 Nov 2023 | **Date answered:** 13 Nov 2023

[Hate Crime](#)

Asked by: Morgan, Stephen

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to combat the rise in hate crimes following the Hamas terrorist attack on Israel on 7 October.

Answering member: Chris Philp | **Department:** Home Office

The Government is clear that all forms of hate crime, including antisemitic and anti-Muslim hate crime, are completely unacceptable. We expect the police fully to investigate these abhorrent offences and make sure those who commit them feel the full force of the law.

In light of the horrific Hamas terrorist acts in Israel and related reports of increased incidents of antisemitism in the UK, the Prime Minister has announced additional funding of £3 million for the Community Security Trust to provide additional security at Jewish schools, synagogues and other sites. The Home Secretary also chairs the Jewish Community Crime, Policing and Security Taskforce. This meeting brings together Government, law enforcement and the Community Security Trust in order to address Jewish community security concerns.

The Government is also concerned about increased reports of anti-Muslim hatred. The Home Office has extended the deadline for the protective security for mosques scheme and invite mosques and Muslim faith community centres to register for protective security measures. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has allocated over £6m to Tell MAMA since their inception in 2012 for their vital work monitoring and supporting victims of anti-Muslim hatred.

We are continuing to support the police to ensure they have the resources and tools required to tackle any incidents relating to the ongoing conflict. Where people incite racial or religious hatred or where people's conduct is threatening, abusive or disorderly and causes distress to others, we expect the police to take action to ensure perpetrators can be brought to justice.

More broadly, the Government continues to fund True Vision, an online hate crime reporting portal, designed so that victims of hate crime do not have to visit a police station to report. We also continue to fund the National Online Hate Crime Hub, a central capability designed to support individual local police forces in dealing with online hate crime. The Hub provides expert advice to police forces to support them in investigating these offences.

25 Oct 2023 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 203394

Date tabled: 18 Oct 2023 | **Date for answer:** 20 Oct 2023 | **Date answered:** 25 Oct 2023

3 Media

3.1 Press releases

[Update: Enforcement against those suspected of hate crimes](#)

Metropolitan Police

08 November 2023

[Statement from Mayor of London re impact of Israel-Gaza conflict in London](#)

Mayor of London

03 November 2023

[Our Statement on recent rise of antisemitism and islamophobia](#)

Stop Hate UK

01 November 2023

[Israel-Gaza Conflict – UK faith leaders condemn antisemitism and call for solidarity between faith communities](#)

Archbishop of Canterbury

10 October 2023

[There is no place in London for hate](#)

Metropolitan Police

13 October 2023

Increases in antisemitic offences

[PM announces new support to keep British Jewish communities safe](#)

Prime Minister's Office

12 October 2023

[Home Secretary ramps up security measures to protect Jewish communities](#)

Home Office

30 March 2023

3.2

Articles and blogs

[Anti-Israel activists planning one of the biggest demonstrations since Hamas terror attack](#)

Jewish Chronicle

02 January 2024

[Police record rise in religious hate crimes after Israel-Gaza war](#)

BBC

29 December 2023

[Many police forces in UK recorded rise in antisemitic offences after start of Israel-Gaza war](#)

Guardian

29 December 2023

[Vandals destroy menorahs in 'targeted' Chanukkah attacks](#)

Times

15 December 2023

Increases in antisemitic offences

[UK Jews feel less safe since October 7 Hamas attack, poll finds](#)

Times

13 December 2023

[The Chief Rabbi's speech at the march against antisemitism](#)

Office of the Chief Rabbi

30 November 2023

[Almost 70% of British Jews Are Hiding Their Identity and Almost Half Have Considered Leaving Britain Since 7th October, New CAA Polling Shows](#)

Campaign Against Antisemitism

27 November 2023

[Over 100,000 people march through London in solidarity against antisemitism](#)

Jewish Chronicle

26 November 2023

[Met police to give pro-Palestine protesters leaflets about potential offences](#)

Guardian

25 November 2023

[Chancellor pledges up to £7m to tackle antisemitism in schools and universities](#)

Independent

22 November 2023

Increases in antisemitic offences

[Police can't control marches, yet resist calls to ban them](#)

Times

15 November 2023

[Give police more powers amid 10-fold rise in antisemitic attacks, says UK adviser](#)

Guardian

13 November 2023

[Pro-Palestinian march: Suella Braverman condemns 'sick' antisemitic protesters](#)

Times

12 November 2023

[Jewish students living in fear as wave of antisemitism hits universities](#)

Times

11 November 2023

[The Times view on Armistice Day march: Respecting Protest](#)

Times

10 November 2023

[Greater Manchester Jewish Council report ten fold rise in antisemitic attacks](#)

ITV News

06 November 2023

[How we're protecting Jewish students on university campuses](#)

Increases in antisemitic offences

Department for Education, The Education Hub

05 November 2023

[Visitors to UK who incite antisemitism will be removed, says minister](#)

Guardian

25 October 2023

[Jewish students should be able to be safe on university campuses](#)

Wonkhe

23 October 2023

[Letter To Headteachers And Governors In Non-Jewish Schools](#)

Board of Deputies of British Jews

23 October 2023 (updated on 22 November 2023)

[Antisemitic hate crimes in London up 1,350%, Met police say](#)

Guardian

20 October 2023

[Hate crimes in London see big jump, police say](#)

BBC

20 October 2023

[Antisemitic incidents on the rise since Hamas attack, says Bury council leader](#)

Guardian

15 October 2023

Increases in antisemitic offences

[Massive rise in antisemitic incidents - Met Police](#)

BBC

13 October 2023

[Concerns Regarding the Situation for Jewish Students on Campus](#)

University Jewish Chaplaincy and Union of Jewish Students

13 October 2023

4

Further reading

[Antisemitic Discourse in Britain 2022](#), Community Security Trust, 22 December 2023

[Antisemitic Incidents – 13 December Update](#), Community Security Trust, 13 December 2023

[Conflict in Israel and Gaza: Heightened feelings of insecurity among Jews living in the UK](#), Institute for Jewish Policy Research, 27 September 2023

[Study reveals people most likely to hold antisemitic views](#), Kings College London, 10 July 2023

[Anti-Jewish harassment occurred in 94 countries in 2020, up from earlier years](#), Pew Research, 17 March 2023

[CST Report Shows 22% Increase In Campus Antisemitism](#), Community Security Trust, 19 January 2023

[Independent investigation into antisemitism](#), National Union of Students, January 2023

[Antisemitic Discourse in Britain 2021 \(PDF\)](#), Community Security Trust, 5 December 2022

[Antisemitism in the Digital Age: Online Antisemitic Hate, Holocaust Denial, Conspiracy Ideologies and Terrorism in Europe](#), Hope not Hate, 13 October 2021

[Monitoring and researching antisemitism](#), European Commission

[Antisemitism Policy Trust](#), Policy briefings and reports

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