



ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS JAN-JUNE 2008

Incident numbers

- CST recorded 266 antisemitic incidents in the first six months of 2008, a nine per cent rise from the 244 incidents recorded in the same period in 2007. This increase occurred mainly in incidents reported to CST from beyond the main Jewish communities of London and Manchester.
- There were 42 violent antisemitic assaults reported to CST in the first half of 2008, a 24 per cent fall from the 54 assaults recorded in the same period in 2007.
- There were 31 incidents of Damage and Desecration to Jewish property recorded during this period, a slight increase from the 30 incidents of this type in the first half of 2007.
- There were 16 antisemitic threats recorded, the same number as in the comparable period last year.
- 11 cases of mass-produced antisemitic literature were reported to CST in the first half of the year, almost double the 6 incidents in this category in the first half of 2007.
- 166 incidents of Abusive Behaviour were reported to CST, a 21 per cent rise from the 137 incidents in this category in the first six months of 2007. This category includes a wide range of incident types, including verbal abuse, hate mail and antisemitic graffiti on non-Jewish property.

- In addition to the total of 266 antisemitic incidents recorded by CST, a further 158 potential incidents were reported to CST that, on investigation, did not appear to be antisemitic and are not included in these figures.

Students and campus

- There was an 88 per cent rise in antisemitic incidents involving Jewish students and campus life, from 26 in the first half of 2007 to 49 in the first six months of 2008. 31 of the 49 incidents took place on campus, of which eight occurred in the context of political activity, and 18 off campus.
- 41 of the 49 incidents involving students and campus were in the category of Abusive Behaviour, of which 27 involved antisemitic verbal abuse. There were 12 cases of antisemitic graffiti on non-Jewish student or university property and two antisemitic assaults, both off campus and both of a minor nature.



graffiti daubed in several locations in and around the Jewish community of Stamford Hill, North London, May 2008

Geographical locations

- There were 113 antisemitic incidents recorded in London in the first six months of 2008 and 55 in Manchester, the two biggest Jewish communities in the UK. These figures are very similar to the number of incidents in those two locations in the first half of 2007 (115 and 56 respectively).
- CST recorded 98 incidents in 38 different towns and cities outside London and Manchester, a significant rise from the first half of 2007, when CST recorded 70 incidents in 25 different locations outside London and Manchester. This is partly explained by efforts made by CST to improve contact with smaller Jewish communities beyond the main urban centres, and goes some way to explaining the overall rise in incidents.
- There were 21 antisemitic incidents in Leeds in the first six months of 2008, up from 13 the previous year. Of these, 16 involved Jewish students or campus life in Leeds. There were ten incidents reported to CST from Liverpool, up from six the year before; eight in Hertfordshire (down from 16 the year before); four in Glasgow (down from eight) and five in Nottingham (up from one), of which four involved Jewish students or campus life.

Victims and perpetrators

- There were 29 incidents involving Jewish schools and schoolchildren, of which 18 took place away from school premises.
- There were 22 incidents against synagogues and a further 25 in which synagogue congregants were targeted on their journeys to or from prayer.
- In 135 incidents, the victim was a Jewish person or people randomly targeted in public. In 107 of these, the victim or victims were visibly identifiable as Jewish.
- The largest monthly total in the first half of 2008 was in May, when 62 antisemitic incidents were recorded, more than double the 35 incidents in May 2007. The total of 62 included ten incidents of antisemitic graffiti spray-painted in a single night in parts of North-East and East London, centred around the Jewish community of Stamford Hill (anecdotal evidence suggests there were many more examples of this graffiti not reported to CST). There were no obvious trigger events in May to cause this high monthly total.
- There was evidence of far right political motivation in 38 incidents, with neo-Nazi imagery or references to the Nazi period used in 51 incidents. Anti-Zionist motivation was apparent alongside overt antisemitism in 27 incidents, while Israel or the Middle East was referred to by perpetrators in 39 incidents. This was reversed with campus-related antisemitic incidents, in which more incidents showed anti-Zionist motivation (nine incidents) than far right motivation (four incidents).

CST

CST has been recording antisemitic incidents in the United Kingdom since 1984. CST advises and represents the Jewish community on matters of antisemitism, terrorism, policing and security. It received charitable status in 1994 and is recognised by Government and Police as a model of a minority community security organisation.