



**PROTECTING OUR  
JEWISH COMMUNITY**



**2023  
ANNUAL  
REVIEW**



# INTRODUCTION

CST is the charity that protects British Jews from terrorism and antisemitism. We ensure that Jewish people across the UK can lead the lives of their choice.

Widely recognised by police and government as a unique model of best practice, CST's research regularly informs public policy and helps to safeguard wider British society.

CST gained charitable status in 1994, though its origins lie in many decades of Jewish self-defence - both before and after World War Two.

Across the UK, 2,000 dedicated volunteers and over 100 members of staff power CST's mission.



**FACILITATING  
JEWISH  
COMMUNAL  
LIFE**

## SECURITY

We provide security advice and equipment to Jewish schools, organisations, synagogues etc. across the UK. CST also donates money for security equipment costs, such as hardened doors, anti-shatter window film, fencing, gates; and advanced CCTV systems that link to CST's 24/7 National Control Centre.

**Since 2007, CST has funded over £18 million of security improvements at communal sites across the UK.**

## VOLUNTEERS

Security volunteers are the heartbeat of CST. Highly trained and regularly tested, CST volunteers provide physical security, free of charge at communal events, each Shabbat, on High Holy Days, and throughout the year; helping to facilitate Jewish life.

**CST has 2,000 fully trained active security volunteers throughout the UK, coming from every part of the Jewish community. In 2023, volunteers protected many hundreds of communal events.**

## ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS

We encourage the public to report antisemitic incidents and crimes to CST and police. Expert staff help provide support to those in need.

**Ordinarily, CST receives over 2,000 reports each year of antisemitism, crime, and suspicious behaviour. In 2023, CST received 4,103 reports - the highest total ever recorded by CST in a single calendar year.**



**WE BUILD  
STRONG  
PARTNERSHIPS**

## POLICE & GOVERNMENT

CST is a highly trusted partner for both police and government. We work closely with local and national police forces, meeting regularly to share information. This partnership often leads to arrests and helps prevent terrorism.

**During 2023, CST's research helped police to foil several terror plots across the UK.**

CST manages a £15 million government grant which pays for security guards from commercial companies to work daily at all Jewish schools, as well as at synagogues and other communal buildings.

**In 2023, after 7 October, the Government announced an additional £3 million emergency uplift to this grant.**

## YOUTH

We work closely with the youth and sports group Maccabi GB on various initiatives supporting the physical and emotional well-being of young people. This includes *Streetwise*, which teaches personal safety to over 20,000 Jewish teenagers per year; and *Stand Up!* an anti-discrimination interfaith project that teaches anti-racism and specifically combats antisemitism and anti-Muslim hate.

## STUDENTS

CST has long held a strong partnership with the Union of Jewish Students to help protect Jewish students on campuses across the UK.

**CST has three dedicated student coordinators who work with Jewish students and university staff across the UK.**



**WE PRODUCE  
EXPERT  
RESOURCES**

## ANTISEMITISM

CST is recognised by the Jewish community, government, police, and media as Britain's leading expert on the data, detail, cause and impact of contemporary antisemitism.

Our research publications on antisemitism, anti-Jewish terror and political extremism broaden public understanding of antisemitism and how to combat it. Our annual *Antisemitic Incidents Report* is the most authoritative study of antisemitic hate incidents in the UK.

We always strive to present information as soberly and responsibly as possible. We are not here to sensationalise this vital issue. Our role is to be a reliable resource on every aspect of antisemitism.

## HELPING OTHERS

Our SAFE programme (Security Advice For Everyone) shares CST's extensive security knowledge and expertise with other faith and minority groups outside of the Jewish community, who may also suffer violence, extremism or hate crime.

**In 2023, SAFE delivered 137 in-person security talks and online webinars to 4,179 people representing 960 different places of worship across the UK.**

**All CST's services are provided free of charge and most of our costs are covered by charitable donations.**

# CONTENTS

- Introduction ..... 2
- Year in review ..... 4
- CST meeting the challenge of war: after 7 October ..... 6
- Message from CST Chairman ..... 12
- Message from CST Chief Executive ..... 13
- Raising vital funds ..... 14
- Investing in social media ..... 16
- 2023 social media stats ..... 17

## SECURITY

- Working with the police ..... 18
- Improving communal security infrastructure ..... 21
- Security training ..... 22

## ANTISEMITISM

- Working with government, politicians & civil servants ..... 25
- Campus antisemitism ..... 26
- CST support for young people: Streetwise & Stand Up! ..... 29
- Antisemitism awareness training ..... 30
- Antisemitic incidents in 2023 ..... 31

## RESEARCH & EXPERTISE

- Terrorism threats & CST's mission ..... 32
- Terrorism threats to Jewish communities in 2023 ..... 36
- Open-source intelligence & investigation ..... 38
- Helping others ..... 40



# 2023 IN REVIEW



CST and Kick It Out deliver antisemitism awareness training to Chelsea, Aston Villa and Watford football clubs.

## JANUARY



850 people attend CST's first annual dinner in London since 2019. The Home Secretary announces an increase to the Government Grant, bringing the total to £15 million.

## MARCH



CST embarks on 6-month social-media strategic consultation with expert digital agency, Coolr.

## MAY

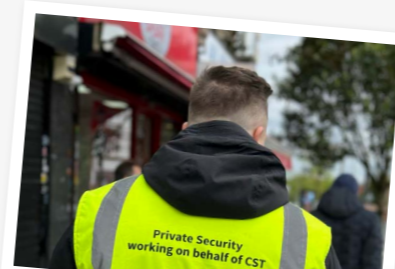


CST's 6-month *Antisemitic Incidents Report January-June 2023* announces **803 antisemitic incidents** across the UK for the first half of 2023.

CST research experts host an **online seminar, reflecting on Iran's ongoing terrorist threat** and the AMIA bombing in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

A Standard is gifted by AJEX to CST, to commemorate our joint work and shared values in defending our Jewish community.

## JULY



Glossop-based antisemite, **Samuel Doyle, is convicted on five counts** of stirring up racial hatred, following a CST report to police in July 2020.

## AUGUST

An extra **£3 million emergency funding is granted by the Home Office**, to strengthen existing security provisions at Jewish communal buildings and provide the Jewish community with additional protection.

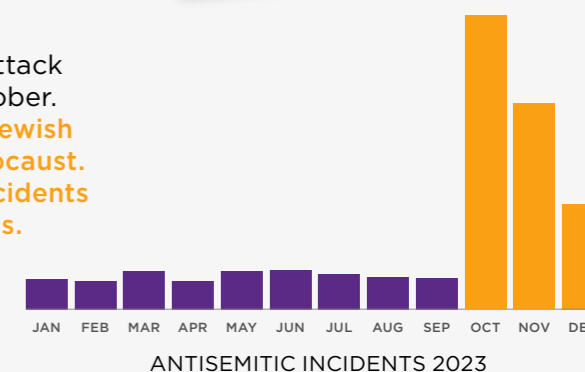
**Mark Gardner joins the Prime Minister at the Cabinet table** to brief senior ministers and police officers on the surge of antisemitism and what is needed to help combat it.

Hamas terrorist attack in Israel on 7 October. **Greatest loss of Jewish life since the Holocaust. UK antisemitic incidents reach record highs.**

## OCTOBER

**Two senior police officers are stationed at CST HQ** to enable information sharing and rapid response.

**Over 1,500 people register interest in becoming CST security volunteers.**



## FEBRUARY

CST's *Antisemitic Incidents Report 2022* is published. It reports **1,652 antisemitic incidents** took place in the UK in 2022.

Young CST hosts **sold-out event in Camden**, featuring David Baddiel.



## APRIL

UK-based antisemitic extremist, Gareth Brett, is **jailed on 4 counts of stirring-up racial hatred**, thanks to CST's open-source intelligence work.



## JUNE

CST joins the Home Secretary, ministers, and senior police officials for a successful **launch of a new Jewish Community Crime, Policing and Security Taskforce**.

CST is asked to organise a **crisis planning meeting**, with police and representatives from across the Jewish community at New Scotland Yard, to **identify the correct security measures and communication channels** should they ever be required in a crisis.

CST's Chief Executive Mark Gardner **gives evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee** in advance of a **new law to help prevent terrorism**.

## SEPTEMBER

Congratulations to our Chief Executive, **Mark Gardner, who receives his MBE**: a true testament to his hard work and dedication towards the fight against antisemitism.

The Rt Hon Tom Tugendhat and DAC **Tim Jacques address 250 guests at CST's annual Business Lunch**.



## NOVEMBER

**Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police Stephen Watson QPM, addresses** a group of over 120 prominent individuals from the local Jewish community at GMP HQ.

**CST secures the largest public demonstration against antisemitism** ever seen in the UK, attended by many tens of thousands of people, deploying the largest ever number of CST personnel.

## DECEMBER

CST's **Together We Protect fundraising campaign raises vital funds** to help facilitate the response to the increase in antisemitism.

CST's **Head of Policy, Dr Dave Rich, gives evidence to the Home Affairs Committee at the House of Commons**. He testifies to the initial impact of 7 October terrorist attacks on Jewish people in the UK and how weekly anti-Israel protests in major cities continue to affect our community.



# CST MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF WAR: AFTER 7 OCTOBER

The unprecedented Hamas terrorist outrages against Israel on 7 October 2023 sent shockwaves through Jewish communities around the world.

Suddenly, the need for CST was more obvious than ever before. The demands upon CST became constant, but the volunteers, staff and trustees met the challenge. As a result, British Jewish life did more than just continue: it actually intensified and grew.

## CST: REASSURING AND PROTECTING BRITISH JEWS

In the first days and weeks of the war, many British Jews expressed deep concern about leading their lives. They asked if it was safe for children to go to school, if it was safe for families to go to synagogue, or to visit Jewish shops.

CST calmed communal fears by explaining that the CST-funded security infrastructure built across our communities existed for a crisis such as this. CST dispelled fake rumours about supposed Hamas plans to attack British Jews. CST successfully advised our communities to continue leading their Jewish lives.

Over the weeks that followed, multiple security briefings were delivered to parents of school students, students on campus and synagogue security teams. Regular security advice was disseminated to our community online, through a dedicated press campaign and over social media. Extra training was offered to staff at communal locations including Jewish schools, shops in Jewish areas and synagogue security teams. Several personal safety seminars, including women's-only self-defence sessions were delivered across the UK.

As the war continued, British Jews felt a growing desire to express their identity. This resulted in more meetings and demonstrations requiring CST protection. There was also growth in synagogue attendance and other communal activities. All of this required added security and CST delivered it.

## CST SECURITY TEAMS: VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF DOING THEIR UTMOST

CST's 2,000 security volunteers are absolutely essential to communal security. They embody CST's partnership with communities and deliver the actual security, supported where possible by



**As the war continued, British Jews felt a growing desire to express their identity. This resulted in more meetings and demonstrations requiring CST protection.**





**Patrols were undertaken in Jewish commercial areas, especially at their busiest times.**

security staff from CST's London, Manchester or Leeds offices.

After 7 October, an unprecedented weight of responsibility fell upon CST's security volunteers, staff and teams. Jewish communities turned to their local security representatives for leadership, assurance and protection. This had always been the purpose of the local security teams and they now did everything within their power to deliver it.

In every case, CST increased its deployments. Thousands of hours of additional security were successfully given by CST's security teams.

Shabbat operations were strongly increased. These often continued well into Saturday evening in case anti-Israel demonstrators tried to make trouble after protests in city centres and elsewhere.

Where a Jewish public communal event would previously have received security cover, it now received even more.

If a Jewish public communal event had previously not required security cover, that decision was urgently reviewed, with security now very likely to be put in place.

Patrols were undertaken in Jewish commercial areas, especially at their busiest times.

Chanukah was an especially busy period for CST. Over 60 public menorah lightings were successfully secured by CST teams.

### **PROTECTING COMMUNAL DEMONSTRATIONS**

There were numerous communal demonstrations held in the weeks and months after 7 October. CST helped to secure these, both directly via volunteers and staff; and also through liaison with relevant specialist police and other authorities.

The largest demonstrations required hundreds of CST personnel, working for many hours before, during and after the actual protests. The logistics alone required detailed planning and every security operation had many, many complex aspects all requiring the closest coordination.

In total, well over 100,000 people attended these demonstrations, with the largest being held in central London and central Manchester.

### **COMMUNAL SUPPORT FOR CST**

CST's work is only possible because it has always been well supported by British Jews, but this

reached new levels after 7 October.

Since 7 October CST volunteers, staff and trustees have been repeatedly thanked for their work, whether in everyday social settings, or when on





CST duty, such as at community demonstrations or synagogues. Such support is very encouraging, especially given the sharp increase in both hours worked and in added physical risk to our personnel.

In the weeks after 7 October, well over 1,000 men and women applied to join CST. This shows how CST is empowering British Jews to play their part in communal defence and community life, by undergoing security training, and then joining our teams to stand strong in the face of threat and adversity. It is an absolute privilege for CST to be training and empowering so many people.

The war and people's desire to play their part also led many supporters to donate to CST. Amongst those donations were people who had already recently supported CST and also many people who had never given to CST before. The donations were of all sizes. Most came from Jews, but by no means all of them: with non-Jews wanting to show their support in a Jewish hour of need. Every single donation, regardless of size and source, was very gratefully received by CST.

## CST FUNDING FOR COMMUNAL SECURITY MEASURES

CST's work is given free of charge to our Jewish community. There is no charge for CST security guarding, CST security advice and CST security training.

It is near impossible to put a financial sum on what this saves our community each year, but if these services were provided by commercial companies, it would be a great burden for each communal organisation to have to carry.

Under its Security Enhancement Project, CST funds security equipment for Jewish schools, synagogues, community centres etc. Most years, CST budgets £600,000 for such work, covering specialist equipment such as security doors, gates, walls and high spec CCTVs that connect to CST's 24/7 National Security Control Centre.

Immediately after 7 October, CST doubled its Security Enhancement Project fund to £1,200,000. The project team was also doubled, from two staff to four staff, so as more security surveys could be undertaken and more works approved.



## GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL & POLICE PARTNERSHIPS

Within hours of the 7 October attacks, CST staff were holding detailed conversations with senior politicians and police officers, discussing emergency protocols, political support and emergency policing deployments. In the days and weeks that followed, this swiftly resulted in numerous measures to boost the physical and emotional resilience of British Jews in their time of need.

Mark Gardner, CST's Chief Executive, joined the Prime Minister at the Cabinet table and briefed senior ministers and police officers on the surge of antisemitism and what was needed to help combat it. Similar meetings were held at the Home Office, chaired by the Home Secretary. These resulted in increased policing measures and a one-off payment of £3 million to boost the existing £15 million Government Grant that pays for commercial security guarding at Jewish communities. As with the £15 million, this was to be managed by CST (but is not for CST's financial benefit).

The additional £3 million for commercial (i.e. not CST) security guards enabled CST and the Home Office to agree that this would include, for the first time, deployment of guards in commercial neighbourhoods of north London and north Manchester with high Jewish footfall. (Previously such guards had only worked at schools, synagogues etc.)

CST played a lead part with communal partner groups in organising community-wide online events that enabled senior politicians to express their support directly to British Jews. This included messaging and appearances by the Prime Minister, Home Secretary, the Secretary of State for Education and the Minister of State for Universities.

For reasons of confidentiality and professionalism, CST is not able to detail its many operational partnerships with police in the post-7 October period, but the relationship between CST and police has never been stronger. Crucially, this has resulted in more arrests, better investigations and improved policing throughout Jewish communities.

Police officers have been stationed in CST's London headquarters building and other officers have been dedicated points of contact in regions throughout the country. This enables CST and Jewish communal intelligence feeds to police to be immediate. Out of necessity, the partnerships and their outcomes have never been stronger.

Global and UK-based situation assessments, produced by CST's expert researchers, are circulated weekly within government and inform policies surrounding counterterrorism and hate crime. CST spoke, along with Campaign Against Antisemitism, testifying to the ongoing impact of weekly anti-Israel demonstrations on British Jews. Extensive victim impact statements were collected by CST, assisted by London Jewish Forum.





## “PROTECTING OUR JEWISH COMMUNITY”



Welcome to CST's Annual Review for 2023.

I hope that you will take the time to read about some of our work, and if you wish to contact us, then I am sure that our staff or volunteers will be happy to hear from you.

Personally, I have been fighting against antisemitism and fascism for over 60 years. I am proud to have built CST into what it is today. It is truly the leading organisation of its type, be that in Britain or globally.

The need for CST was shown by everything that happened on and after the 7 October Hamas attacks in Israel. Here in Britain, antisemitism immediately increased to its highest ever recorded level before Israel had even begun its military invasion of Gaza. This tells you the true nature of Jew hatred.

CST's job was to enable British Jewish life to continue, despite all of the antisemitism. That is what we did, because if you lead any sort of Jewish life, CST is there for you and your family. That is what has been achieved and I

thank the thousands of people, be they trustees, volunteers or donors, who have helped me to make the charity what it is today.

CST's origins go back to the years after World War Two, when British Jews physically forced the fascists off our streets. It was dangerous, but it had to be done and it was. By the 1970s, we also had to develop security against terrorists, so that is what we did and it has been needed ever since.

Looking ahead, the war that began on 7 October will influence antisemitism for years to come. The work of CST must continue and I will ensure that it does exactly that.

I will keep securing and building a future for British Jews. I do not want any British Jews to leave their country because of fear. Similarly, I do not want any British Jews to hide their identity because of fear.

I built CST because it had to be done, but the work still needs to be done and this is a mission that every British Jew should join or support.

Please, help me and CST to fight antisemitism and fascists of all types. Contact CST to ask how you can help play your part.

**Sir Gerald M Ronson CBE**  
CST Chairman

## COMMUNITY, SECURITY & TRUST



are volunteers in name only, their commitment and their expertise is without parallel.

*Security* means two things. Physical security is the obvious part, but our goal is to encourage Jewish life, so our community must feel secure, as well as be secure. Security means physical and mental wellbeing.

*Trust* means so much more than CST being a charitable trust. It means that we are entrusted with a very important mission, protecting our community from antisemitism, from its physical, political and mental impacts.

We can only do this if we trust each other; if we are trusted by our community; and if we always have the trust of police and government. None of that trust is ever taken for granted. It is hard earned and always will be.

Looking ahead, the war that began on 7 October will shift the antisemitic landscape for years to come. Jews will face higher levels of antisemitism, in every way, from terrorism through to hate crimes; and less visible exclusions within social, educational, workplace and cultural settings.

Given this very harsh reality that we now face, there is no doubt that *Community* and *Security* and *Trust* will dictate CST's work now and in the medium term. It is for this reason that I want to conclude by noting the support given to CST by the community after 7 October. By every measure, our community was there for us, with people volunteering to join our CST teams, with the thanks that we received and the donations that came in, without our asking for them.

I said last year that it was an absolute privilege for me to lead this vital work. That remains the case, but after everything that happened after 7 October, I mean it more than I could ever have previously realised.

**Mark Gardner MBE**  
CST Chief Executive

At the start of 2023 I said that I wanted CST's staff and volunteers to embody and work according to the words that make up our name: *Community* and *Security* and *Trust*.

Then, on 7 October Hamas committed the greatest mass murder of Jews since the Holocaust. The reaction here in Britain was sadly entirely predictable. The greatest surge of antisemitic Jew-hatred ever reported to CST, that continued through to the end of the year, but actually began before Israel had even launched its military offensive into Gaza.

Our community had never before turned to CST as it did in the weeks and months that followed 7 October. *Community* and *Security* and *Trust* drove everything that we did to protect our community, working for every single victim of antisemitism and striving to keep Jewish life functioning as normal, from schools to old age homes, across the entire country.

We have our own *community* of CST volunteers, staff, trustees, donors and supporters. We work for our entire UK Jewish community and it gives us our people, our legitimacy and is the reason for everything that we do.

After 7 October, the staff worked without a break or a complaint, the trustees gave total backing and resources, but as ever it was the volunteers who actually enabled CST to deliver our mission. They



# RAISING VITAL FUNDS

CST is a charity that relies upon the generosity of donors, so as to fund its vital work. CST does not charge for its activities, meaning all donations are very important to the charity.

CST's Fundraising Department was keen to have 2023 signify a return to pre-covid fundraising event, in which CST trustees, staff and volunteers could once again hold numerous in-person events in which the work of the charity could best be explained to would be donors.

CST held its first Annual Dinner since 2019, an event that was attended by 850 supporters. Donors, politicians, communal partners, police officers, and other distinguished guests came together in this important rallying call for CST, side-by-side in the fight against antisemitism and terrorism. Suella Braverman MP, as Home Secretary, and Leader of the Opposition, Sir Keir Starmer MP affirmed their support for the British Jewish community. At the event, the Home Secretary announced an increase to the Government Grant, managed by CST, which helps finance the cost of commercial security guards at Jewish locations.

Amongst several other notable events which took place throughout the year was CST's annual Business Lunch in September, attended by 350 industry professionals. Security Minister Tom Tugendhat MP delivered the keynote speech and praised the work of CST. In November,

CST held a joint lunch with Greater Manchester Police (GMP). This was addressed by GMP Chief Constable Stephen Watson QPM, who explained the important partnership that exists between CST and police.

The Young CST initiative grew from strength to strength and continued to engage the next generation of CST supporters and changemakers of the British Jewish community. Over 500 young professionals between the ages of 25-35 attended a range of events, hearing jointly from CST professionals and well-known public figures.

For the first time since 2020, CST chose not to hold an online crowd fundraising campaign. Instead, a direct mail, press and social media campaign was conducted to help raise the remaining shortfall, as CST's costs had grown by over £2 million due to the Hamas-Israel war that began on 7 October.

Notably, within hours of the 7 October mass terror attack against Israel, there were already signs of financial and communal support for CST. It was clear to British Jews that the need for CST's work was about to significantly increase, as did the need for it to be financed. By the end of 2023, CST's fundraising income was at a record high. In a year where every element of CST's operation has needed to grow substantially, this support has been vital.



**CST does not charge for its activities, meaning all donations are very important to the charity.**



# INVESTING IN SOCIAL MEDIA

From June to December 2023, CST undertook an unprecedented six-month contract with an expert social media marketing agency. The goal of this exercise was to ensure that CST's social media presence was in keeping with its work and visibility across the UK Jewish community.

The benefits were especially felt in the days and weeks after 7 October, as British Jews faced a surge of antisemitism and numerous scare stories swept through the Anglo-Jewish community. CST's social media became a vital tool to reassure and advise the community, including to continue leading its way of life.

The post-7 October landscape exemplified why CST had taken expert advice. This was not just an exercise to help promote CST. More importantly, it was undertaken because social media is also a key component in the protection of British Jews. Social media is an integral part of modern life and is itself a means by which people can be better supported in the fight against antisemitism. Just

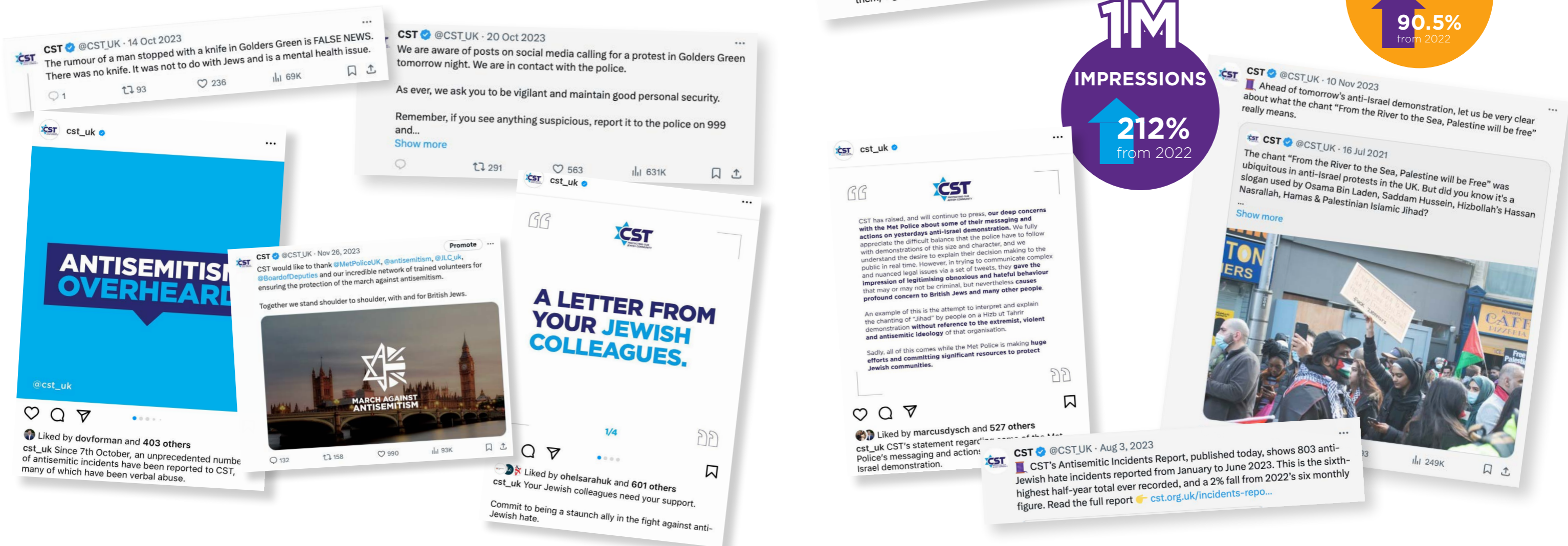
as British Jews are supported and empowered by CST's physical guarding work, so they should also benefit from CST's use of social media.

The project began with a strategic overview that was premised upon CST's overall public relations goals, but then refined this within a social media setting, including the required visual and conceptual changes. These could be summarised as clarifying the role of CST, rapid response to talking points and expanding content to include more moving images, whilst promoting relatable and shareable assets on each of the main platforms.

There were important lessons and outcomes for CST. The numbers "following" CST grew considerably and doubled on Instagram, an especially visual platform. The learning has now been incorporated within CST, so in future this work will be done in-house by a dedicated CST social media and communications team.

# 2023 SOCIAL MEDIA STATS

Measured across Facebook, Instagram, X and LinkedIn





## WORKING WITH THE POLICE

CST's close working partnership with police forces across the UK is widely regarded as the best example of its type, both nationally and internationally. This makes for the best possible relations between Jewish communities and their local police services.

CST's work with the police includes sharing of expertise and intelligence regarding threats to the Jewish community and other parts of society. This work has contributed to investigations, arrests and convictions for terrorism-related activity. It has helped to prevent terrorist attacks.

Regarding physical security protection, CST and the police work closely on joint security operations for Jewish community events, joint patrols on Shabbat and Jewish festivals, shared training exercises, information exchanges, and regular consultations on community policing and security operations.

During times of heightened alert or special operations, police officers may be posted to CST's National Security Control Centre. This ensures immediate intelligence sharing and a close partnership approach to joint operations.

CST participates in numerous advisory groups, whereby the police consult with a range of local representative bodies from all communities.

CST is proud to assist the police in understanding and tackling hate crime, preventing terrorism against the Jewish community, and providing practical solutions and reassurance to Jewish communities, which may also contain valuable suggestions for police relations with other

communities. CST is grateful for the support and encouragement that it receives from police officers of all ranks in our work.

CST runs regular virtual and in-person seminars for police officers and staff covering topics such as 'understanding the threat', 'CST's role and expertise', 'Jewish customs and traditions' together with 'practical policing tips'. CST's booklet, *A Police Officer's Guide to Judaism*, is now in its sixth edition and explains Jewish practice and custom, relevant to those working with Jews and Jewish communities. It has inspired similar publications overseas and has also been produced in Scotland as *The Firefighter's Guide to Judaism*.

### POST-7 OCTOBER

The value of CST's many years of close partnership with police was strongly shown in the period following 7 October. This is explained in this Annual Review but occurred in every aspect of CST's work.

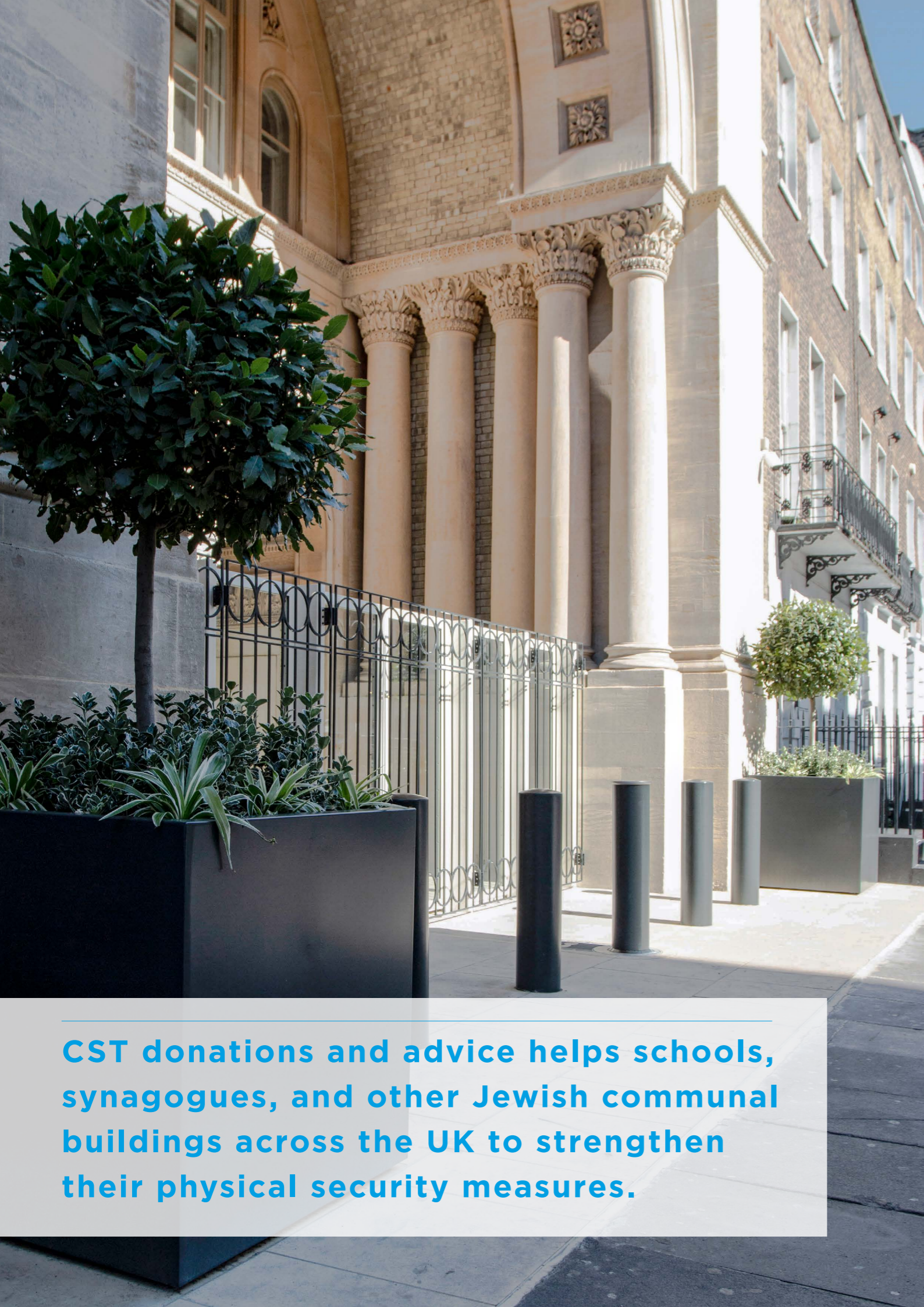
Police were stationed in CST's main London office, meaning antisemitic incidents, suspicious activities and information relating to potential terrorism offences were all passed immediately to officers for their swift investigation.

CST and police jointly deployed on many operations, both for regular communal activities (such as weekly synagogue services) and for special events, including public demonstrations. When needed, police attended regular flashpoints, such as nearby schools and transport hubs.



**CST is proud to assist the police in understanding and tackling hate crime.**





**CST donations and advice helps schools, synagogues, and other Jewish communal buildings across the UK to strengthen their physical security measures.**

## IMPROVING COMMUNAL SECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE



**CST has funded over £18 million of security improvements at communal sites since this project began.**

CST's donations and advice help schools, synagogues, and other Jewish communal buildings across the UK to strengthen their physical security measures. In addition to providing free advice and guidance, CST assesses the security infrastructures at each location and helps pay for the cost of improvements.

Any security measure may be supported by CST, but priorities include perimeter fencing, gates, strong security doors and airlocks, all of which comprise initial lines of defence through to important additional layers of protection.

The best planning is when security is built into the design of the location, so when asked to assist, CST works closely with architects and contractors during the planning stages for new communal buildings. This also enables locations to take advantage of the latest security technology. As with all Jewish community buildings, CST ensures that this security advice is based on guidance from governmental bodies like CPNI, Secure by Design and The National Counter Terrorism Security Office.

**CST's extensive CCTV network now has over 5,000 cameras, operating across the country.**

Physical security measures are supplemented by CST's extensive CCTV network that operates nationwide. Feeds are monitored by a 24/7 National Security Control Centre, where analytics

and other advanced technologies ensure a watchful eye over the Jewish community's security. Footage is often requested by police as evidence into all manner of crimes, making CST an important element in many police investigations. Since 7 October, the demand on CST's National Security Control Centre to monitor and respond to hate crimes in real time has increased significantly.

**In 2023, government funding for commercial security guards was allocated to:**

- **204 primary and secondary schools, higher education religious colleges and nurseries**
- **29 youth movement camps**
- **26 high profile communal buildings**
- **269+ synagogues**
- **7 multi-site guarding operations**

In addition to the above, CST also manages the distribution of a £15 million grant from the Government for commercial security guards (i.e. from external companies, not CST personnel) to help secure Jewish communal buildings. To further protect Jewish communities following the Hamas terrorist attack on 7 October, the Government announced an additional £3 million emergency uplift to the grant. This enabled CST to manage further contributions to existing grant recipients, to enable guarding at new recipient locations and also, importantly, to introduce guarding operations within Jewish commercial areas around the UK.



## SECURITY TRAINING



**CST delivering women's self-defence to our community**

Training is an essential part of being a CST volunteer or member of staff. No distinction is made between what is expected of volunteers and staff, all must reach very high levels of expertise, both physical ability and in terms of security theory, planning and operational conduct.

In 2023, CST recruited, trained and managed many more personnel than in any previous year. This was especially the case after 7 October, when a remarkable 1,700 people enquired about becoming CST volunteers. This led to the largest ever CST training courses taking place simultaneously across London, Manchester, and Leeds, resulting in a huge boost to the number of volunteers assisting in the protection of the Jewish community, from synagogues to communal demonstrations.

The scale of training, which occurs most days from early morning to nighttime, means CST must employ dedicated full-time security trainers, supported by several instructors who are volunteers in name only.

Trauma training, resilience training, fitness classes,

security and tactical theory, and self-defence form the basis of CST's training regime. All training modules are designed to equip security volunteers with the necessary skills to protect the British Jewish community.

In addition to training for CST personnel, several training courses each year are offered to the community for free, such as to Charedi communities and women's only groups. These tend to be very successful. They do not result in direct membership of CST, but help educate many hundreds of people in personal safety, thereby empowering them to protect themselves, their families and friends.

CST security personnel are expected to maintain their security knowledge and fitness levels. To do this, they attend upskilling courses throughout the year, both in person and online. Progression opportunities are offered at all levels, with volunteers being encouraged to apply for leadership positions such as self-defence instructors and communal event security leaders.



**CST security personnel are expected to maintain their security knowledge and fitness levels.**

*CST volunteers taking part in scenario training*



## WORKING WITH GOVERNMENT, POLITICIANS & CIVIL SERVANTS

CST works with government, politicians and civil servants to ensure that Jewish communal concerns regarding terrorism, antisemitism, policing and security are properly understood and tackled. CST also seeks broad political consensus regarding Jewish communal security and defence needs.

CST's cross communal model, its security expertise, research and analysis, are all repeatedly cited by national and local government as an example of best practice. CST is proud and keen to share its example for the benefit of all parts of British society.

Importantly, CST is the first contact for government when it seeks to understand the impact upon British Jews of local or international crises. This longstanding relationship saw, from 7 October onwards, CST leading the Jewish community's interactions in Westminster and beyond, at a time of unprecedented communal tensions.

As the key Jewish communal interlocutor on antisemitism and extremism, CST maintained constant engagement at all levels of Government, and across all political parties, providing expert briefings and insight. This began on 7 October and included numerous interactions with the Prime Minister, two Home Secretaries, a host of relevant ministers and their shadows; and at senior levels across regional government structures, including with leading UK mayors.

The value of CST as a trusted partner for government, politicians and civil servants was most keenly shown on and after 7 October, but these relationships rely upon many years of CST engagement and reliability. Meetings conducted throughout 2023 give a good understanding of what this looks like in what can be termed as more normal times, and some examples are shown below.

Throughout 2023, CST was consulted on government policies, including the Online Safety Bill, which became law in September; and the development of the 'Protect Duty' (or 'Martyn's Law') which seeks a coherent and proportionate approach to protective security following the

Manchester Arena terror attack in 2017.

CST works closely with the Government's Counter Extremism strategy (Prevent), helping support counter-extremism measures and improve community cohesion. Similarly, CST continues to work closely with the Commission for Countering Extremism, and with specialist units within the Home Office that research and monitor extremism in the UK.

CST submitted expert opinion to various inquiries and consultations, including the Independent Review of Prevent that recognised antisemitism as a key element across all forms of extremism. This is something that CST has long argued for.

Senior CST staff also briefed the Home Affairs Select Committee, both privately and during public oral evidence sessions on various occasions throughout 2023.

CST is not party political and works with politicians from all parties in the fight against antisemitism. CST also monitors hatred against MPs who face threats from antisemites and extremists. CST shares this information with the MPs, gives them security advice and frequently interacts on their behalf with social media companies and the police.

**CST is not party political and works with politicians from all parties in the fight against antisemitism.**

*CST Chief Executive Mark Gardner meeting with senior politicians, including Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, post 7 October*



*Leader of the opposition Sir Keir Starmer speaking at the CST Annual Dinner*



## CAMPUS ANTISEMITISM

Antisemitism on and around campus has long been an important issue for the British Jewish community. CST helps meet this challenge by employing dedicated campus staff and working in close cooperation with Jewish student bodies, especially the Union of Jewish Students. The goal is to enable Jewish students to enjoy their campus experience to the full, just like any of their non-Jewish peers can.

CST strengthened this campus work throughout 2023, but especially after 7 October, when the ensuing war between Hamas and Israel saw a predictable surge of antisemitism against Jewish students and academics. CST's job is to help protect and support these students and academics who find themselves subject to antisemitic vitriol and exclusion.

CST also helps educate university staff on matters relating to antisemitism and what they should do in order to help protect their Jewish students and staff. This includes working with campus staff who are responsible for equality, diversity and inclusion policies. CST also works with campus heads and university security officials regarding their responses to complaints of antisemitism.

CST's Campus Team includes three staff who have recently graduated from university. They support students who experience antisemitism, helping with initial welfare and psychological needs, practical security advice and assistance in escalating incidents to appropriate authorities. They advise on security measures for Jewish student events, and support education initiatives around antisemitism and extremism on campus.

In 2023, CST's campus team visited Jewish students at more than 25 different campuses across the UK, ranging from Bristol to St Andrews.

Since the Hamas terrorist attack on 7 October, antisemitism on UK campuses has been at an all-time high. Between 7 October and 31 December, CST recorded 154 university-related antisemitic incidents nationwide. By the end of the first academic term of 2023-2024, CST had seen more incidents than the highest total ever recorded in an entire academic year.

Every two years, CST publishes a dedicated *Campus Antisemitism Report*. The next edition will be published at the end of the 2023/2024 academic year (in the summer of 2024). However, the damaging impact of the surge in antisemitism as a result of the conflict between Israel and Hamas upon Jewish students and staff was already very clear by the end of 2023; as it was upon the workload of CST's Campus Team.

There is nothing new in the surge of antisemitism on campus, deriving from conflict in the Middle East. CST has reported similar spikes in every previous round of conflict, and both the government and university authorities are well aware of the dynamic. Government support, including from the relevant minister Rob Halfon MP, has been strong, as has that from the Universities UK oversight body. Regrettably, however, the reactions from individual universities remain varied, with some trying hard and others ignoring the problem.

CST continues to strongly recommend that universities should act according to their responsibilities to help limit antisemitic reactions and assist the victims of any such outbursts, whether coming from students or staff. After 7 October, this call to action was central to a CST presentation to over sixty vice chancellors of different universities at a roundtable organised by Universities UK. The meeting was held to help explain the situation and to support the rights of Jewish students to lead the campus lives of their choice.



**CST also helps educate university staff on matters relating to antisemitism and what they should do in order to help protect their Jewish students and staff.**



## CST SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE: STREETWISE & STAND UP!

CST provides an extensive range of support for Jewish schoolchildren via **Streetwise** and **Stand Up!**. Both projects are performed in very close partnership with Maccabi GB, a charity that specialises in youthwork, informal education and sporting activities.

CST's goal is to deliver important life skills to schoolchildren, increasing their self-confidence and awareness, making them less vulnerable to crime and racism.

After 7 October, Streetwise and Stand Up! played vital emergency roles in opposing antisemitism and strengthening the resilience of Jewish children.

**Streetwise** teaches Jewish children about contemporary antisemitism, personal safety and personal development. Throughout 2023, Streetwise delivered 900 workshops in 85 Jewish primary & secondary schools, community organisations and youth groups, reaching over 29,500 young people.

**Stand Up! Education Against Discrimination** delivers anti-discrimination education in mainstream secondary schools, focusing on antisemitism and anti-Muslim hate. It is a cross-communal project, carried out in partnership with other organisations who combat hate crime such as Tell MAMA, Kick it Out and Galop. Stand Up! is widely recognised as an example of best practice in anti-discrimination education.

In 2023, Stand Up! delivered 540 workshops in 84 mainstream secondary schools. These sessions, led by Jewish and Muslim facilitators, reached over 22,000 young people across the country, with a specific focus on London, where the project receives support from The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime.

Both **Streetwise** and **Stand Up!** operate proactively in schools, as part of the curriculum.

### RESPONDING TO 7 OCTOBER

Even more so than with previous conflicts in the Middle East, the 7 October Hamas-Israel war significantly impacted the entire UK education sector. Hundreds of antisemitic incidents took

place in school settings and were reported to CST, some almost immediately after the Hamas attacks that started the war. Schools found themselves ill-equipped to tackle issues of anti-Jewish discrimination amongst students and teachers, both online and within the school grounds.

In Jewish schools, Streetwise responded by increasing the number of personal safety and contemporary antisemitism workshops, engaging over 3,500 young people within the first week.

In mainstream schools, Streetwise worked alongside the Union of Jewish Students to deliver their JAMS programme (Jewish Activity in Mainstream Schools), teaching young people about antisemitism and advising how to most constructively engage in conversations about the war.

Stand Up! offered workshops on antisemitism and anti-Muslim hate to schools where problems were occurring. Sessions were framed within a broad conversation about discrimination and the Equality Act (2010) and offered age-appropriate sessions to student groups as well as the teacher cohort.

Between 7 October and the end of December, the project engaged over 8,400 young people in 35 secondary schools, delivered 5 teacher training workshops and a total of 166 individual sessions.



*Stand Up! session being delivered to schoolchildren in London*

**After 7 October, Streetwise and Stand Up! played vital emergency roles in opposing antisemitism and strengthening the resilience of Jewish children.**

*A Streetwise session being delivered to Jewish schoolchildren in London*



## ANTISEMITISM AWARENESS TRAINING

Throughout 2023, as part of CST's remit to educate about antisemitism, antisemitism awareness training sessions were given to over 30 leading companies, universities and football clubs. Delivered free of charge, these sessions consist of an interactive presentation on different aspects of antisemitism, including a history of the subject, trends of antisemitism over time and what it looks like today in the UK. Each presentation is followed by the opportunity to ask questions.

Several sessions were requested by Jewish employees at institutions in the aftermath of the 7 October Hamas attack against Israel. These

are an important opportunity for staff of all backgrounds to collectively understand and discuss the impact of the Hamas-Israel war upon Jewish and Muslim employees.

The feedback from the educational sessions continues to be very positive and ensures that the work keeps developing to meet current needs. CST is expecting this area of work to increase in the future as more companies and organisations see the importance of ensuring that antisemitism is included within diversity and awareness training, rather than being excluded as is often the case.



CST delivering a session on antisemitism awareness at Chelsea Football Club

## ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS IN 2023

CST recorded **4,103** antisemitic incidents in the UK in 2023. This is the highest total ever reported to CST in a single calendar year. It was well over double the 1,662 incidents recorded in 2022 and is **81%** higher than the previous annual record high of 2,261 incidents, reported in 2021.

It should be noted that this figure only includes antisemitic incidents (i.e. anti-Jewish hate crimes and acts) that are reported to CST by third parties, such as members of the public, security personnel and police forces. It does not include the antisemitism that is found every day by CST researchers, whether online or in political meetings and demonstrations.

The record total in 2023 was due to the sheer volume of antisemitism perpetrated across the UK following Hamas' attack on Israel on 7 October 2023. Of the **4,103** instances of anti-Jewish hate reported, **2,699 (i.e. 66%)** came on or after 7 October. This total, in three months from October to December, exceeds any previous high for an entire year. It is nearly six times higher than the **392** incidents reported to CST over the same period in 2022.

The demands upon CST's Antisemitic Incidents Department have never been higher. Staff were drafted in from other CST departments and volunteers were quick to assist. It was a huge and committed team effort to help the Jewish community when it needed it most.

The worst single week of antisemitism was immediately after the Hamas outrage of 7 October, before any meaningful Israeli response had occurred. In this first week, 416 incidents were reported to CST, an average of 59 incidents per day; compared to five incidents a day from January to October. By the end of 2023, CST's daily average was 31 incidents.

The first incident inspired by Hamas' attack was reported to CST at 12:55pm on 7 October, when a vehicle drove past a synagogue in Hertfordshire with a Palestinian flag attached, windows wound down and an occupant shaking their fist in the air towards the synagogue. By the morning of 9 October, "Free Palestine" graffiti was sprayed on a bridge in Golders Green, in the heart of one of London's largest Jewish communities. These (and many other) antisemitic incidents showed that, if anything, the initial surge of antisemitism was

inspired by Hamas having committed the largest massacre of Jews since the Holocaust.

The most common rhetoric used in antisemitic incidents was linked to Israel, Palestine, the Hamas terror attack or the subsequent war. Across the year, this occurred in 1,774 (43%) of the 4,103 incidents. Between 1 January and 6 October, this anti-Israel rhetoric was in **262 (19%) of the 1,404** incidents reported in that time. From 7 October to 31 December, it was in **1,512 (56%) of the 2,699** incidents.

CST does not hold the phrase "Free Palestine" to be antisemitic in its own right, but it becomes so when directed at Jewish people or institutions and this occurred in **427** incidents: making "Free Palestine" the highest single expression of antisemitism in 2023.

The rise in antisemitism is not only due to the war that began on October 7 and CST recorded over 100 incidents in every month of 2023. Indeed, prior to October, CST was averaging **152** incidents per month. This was higher than the monthly average of 139 incidents reported in 2022 and indicates that antisemitic incidents were already increasing compared to the previous year.

In the longer term, the monthly totals in 2023 continue the pattern of historically high antisemitic incident totals recorded in the last eight years. Since April 2016, monthly totals have only dipped below 100 on four occasions, whereas they exceeded 100 just six times between January 2006 and March 2016.

In addition to the 2023 total of over 4,000 incidents, CST received a further 2,185 reports that incident analysts deemed not to be antisemitic as they did not appear to show anti-Jewish language or targeting. This is the highest number of non-incidents ever reported to CST and importantly it includes many cases of suspicious activity that may denote terrorist planning against the Jewish community.

CST supports incident reporters in any way they need, whether it's security advice, police liaison, or accompaniment to court. CST's specialist schools and campus teams assist young people who experience antisemitism in those settings, whilst CST psychological support volunteers, made up of professional psychologists and psychiatrists, give support to those who need it.



# TERRORISM THREATS & CST'S MISSION

Protecting the UK Jewish community from terrorism is central to CST's work.

The level of anti-Jewish threat, along with the amount of security needed from CST, often depends on the overall UK terrorist threat, as well as global threats to Jews.

CST's security training, planning, operations and advice are all designed to best counter the current terrorist methodologies. CST analysts and security staff are constantly assessing the threat and its modes of action, such as ideologies, target selections, evidence of hostile reconnaissance, and types of weaponry and attack.

## UK THREAT LANDSCAPE

The UK national threat level from terrorism has remained at SUBSTANTIAL (classified as an attack is "likely") since February 2022. Most of the terrorism is classified as Jihadist or extreme right-wing.

Between 2017 and 2023, the UK suffered 20 terrorist attacks, whilst at least 39 late-stage plots were foiled by police and security agencies.

The heads of MI5 and UK Counter Terrorism Policing have repeatedly warned that self-initiated lone actor terrorists are a persistent threat that is "fiendishly hard to detect and disrupt". They radicalise online and can move rapidly from intent to violence.

The following patterns of terrorist activity are especially apparent:

- Soft targets and crowded, easily accessible locations remain attractive targets for terrorists, regardless of ideology.
- Most recent terror attacks have involved lone attackers using simple and crude attack methods (such as vehicle ramming or stabbing). However, several attacks in the UK have also involved bombings with incendiary devices, improvised explosives and suicide bombers.
- Terrorists have used firearms in the UK, but less commonly than overseas. It is increasingly common for UK extremists to create or research 3D-printed firearms and other homemade weapons.

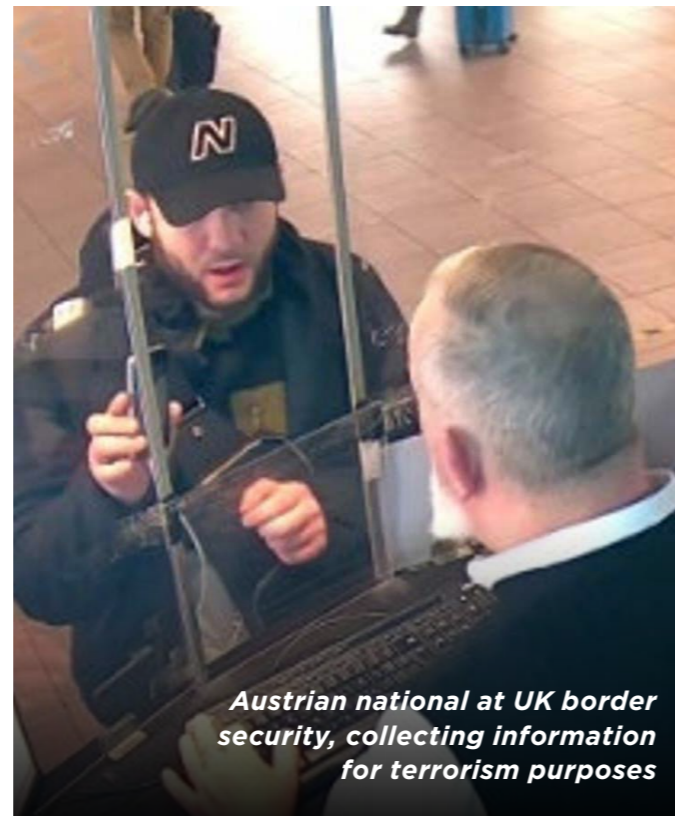
## THREATS TO UK JEWISH COMMUNITIES

UK police and security services publicly stress that antisemitism is a common thread among Islamist extremist, extreme right-wing, Iranian state threats and "mixed" ideologies that pose a violent threat in the UK.

MI5 Director-General Ken McCallum stated:

**"Sadly, in the particular case of Jewish or Israeli individuals or entities, they face risk potentially from those of an Islamist extremist mindset and those of an extreme right-wing, anti-Semitic or neo-Nazi-type mindset. We see both those forms of terrorism in the UK."**

Recent events have borne out these concerns. In March 2023, for example, a 32-year-old man was jailed in Scotland after joining an extreme right-wing group on Telegram where he posted offensive comments about Black and Jewish people, joined discussions glorifying acts of terrorism and wrote that, **"it is about time someone firebombed a synagogue."**



**Austrian national at UK border security, collecting information for terrorism purposes**



**Hove Hebrew Congregation, Holland Road Synagogue**

In July 2023, an 18-year-old from Brighton, who was an administrator of another extreme right-wing online channel, was charged with multiple terrorism offences. He is accused of conducting hostile online research into the nearby Hove Hebrew Congregation (Holland Road Synagogue) but denies possessing a "note detailing a plan to attack a synagogue".

For years, CST has also emphasised the persistent threat of Iranian and Hizbollah terrorism. Since January 2022, UK authorities have foiled at least 15 plots to kidnap or kill UK-based individuals considered enemies of the regime, primarily aimed at Persian-language media outlets and Iranian journalists. For example, in late December 2023, an Austrian national was jailed in the UK for trying to collect information for terrorism purposes. He had conducted hostile reconnaissance outside the offices of Iran International TV, an opposition media company targeted by the Iranian regime.

In February 2023, the UK's Security Minister Tom Tugendhat MP gave the first official public acknowledgement of Iranian targeting of Jews in the UK. He told Parliament:

**"Between 2020 and 2022, Iran tried to collect intelligence on UK-based Israeli and Jewish individuals. We believe this information was a preparation for future lethal operations."**

Since the 7 October Hamas terrorist massacres, threats against Jews have worsened further. Within days of the attacks, the head of MI5 said that security services are **"absolutely alert"** to the possibility that the conflict in Gaza could inspire individuals in the UK to plan attacks. Similarly, Metropolitan Police Assistant Commissioner Matt Jukes, the head of UK Counter Terrorism Policing, warned that the Middle East conflict could galvanise individuals to plan acts of violence.

In January 2024, Jukes noted that the Hamas-Israel war had led to a sustained spike in terrorist activities in the UK. He assessed that this is producing a **"radicalisation moment"** and a period of **"intense risk"** of an attack, with the most likely scenario being a lone attacker perpetrating a low sophistication attack, such as a stabbing. In fact, a Moroccan national will face trial for murder later in 2024 after he allegedly stabbed a man to death in Hartlepool in October 2023, reportedly telling police that he acted for **"Palestine"**.



# TERRORISM THREATS TO JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN 2023

For decades, Jewish communities throughout the world, including Britain, have been targeted by terrorists of various ideologies, but primarily extreme right, pro-Palestinian and Islamist.

These threats persisted in 2023 and are fundamental to CST's core purpose of protecting British Jews, but the 7 October Hamas-Israel war brought an even higher level of danger to Jews. For example, the Jewish community in Montreal, Canada, has experienced numerous violent attacks since November 2023, including gunshots fired at Jewish school buildings (while unoccupied) and attempted firebombings of Jewish community facilities.

## ISLAMIST TERRORISM

Post 7 October, there was a sustained surge in Islamist extremist incitement against Jews.

Global jihadist organisations celebrated the massacres in Israel and called for more attacks, against both Israeli and Jewish targets worldwide. This included calls from Islamic State, al-Qaeda, their affiliates and supporters.

In late October 2023, al-Qaeda's Yemen branch urged jihadists to "focus your attacks these days on

the Jews and Americans everywhere...do not leave any barracks, homes or events unharmed". The same month, Islamic State released propaganda showing "practical steps to fight the Jews...all over the world" and urging attacks on synagogues, "Jewish" nightclubs and financial interests, as well as other Jewish and Western targets.

In May 2023 a Tunisian security officer fatally shot two Jewish worshippers and three security guards outside the Ghriba Synagogue in Djerba during celebrations of a Jewish festival. In late October, an Egyptian-German national, previously jailed for joining Islamic State in Syria, was arrested in Germany for allegedly planning to attack a pro-Israel event. In November, two teenagers were arrested in Germany on suspicion of planning terrorism, with a synagogue and a Christmas market as potential targets.

Hamas itself is accused of planning terrorism in Europe. In December 2023, seven suspects were arrested in Denmark, Germany, and the Netherlands on suspicion of planning attacks against Jewish targets in Europe. German authorities described all four suspects arrested in Berlin and Rotterdam as longstanding members

of Hamas with links to the Qassam Brigades. They accused Hamas leaders in Lebanon of instructing them to source weapons in Europe in preparation for attacks against Jewish facilities.

Israeli authorities revealed that Hamas operates a terror network in Europe, commanded by leaders in Lebanon, with the aim of attacking Israeli and Jewish targets abroad. The group was reportedly planning to attack Israel's embassy in Sweden, acquire drones and collaborate with criminal organisations across Europe. Such behaviour marks an important change from Hamas's previous use of Europe as an operational base, rather than as a location for actual terror attacks.

## IRANIAN AND HIZBOLLAH TERRORISM

Iran and Hizbollah have long targeted Jewish and Israeli targets. Since the 1980s, they have been behind over 50 terrorist attacks and foiled plots worldwide targeting Jews and Israelis.

From 2020 to 2023, Iranian operations have targeted synagogues, Israeli businesspeople, tourist venues, journalists and others in over a dozen countries worldwide, including in the UK and Europe.

In March 2023, Greek authorities arrested two Iranian-born Pakistani nationals in Athens on suspicion of planning an Iranian attack during the Passover festival against the local Chabad House. In December, a German-Iranian was jailed in Germany for planning a November 2022 arson attack against a synagogue in Bochum.

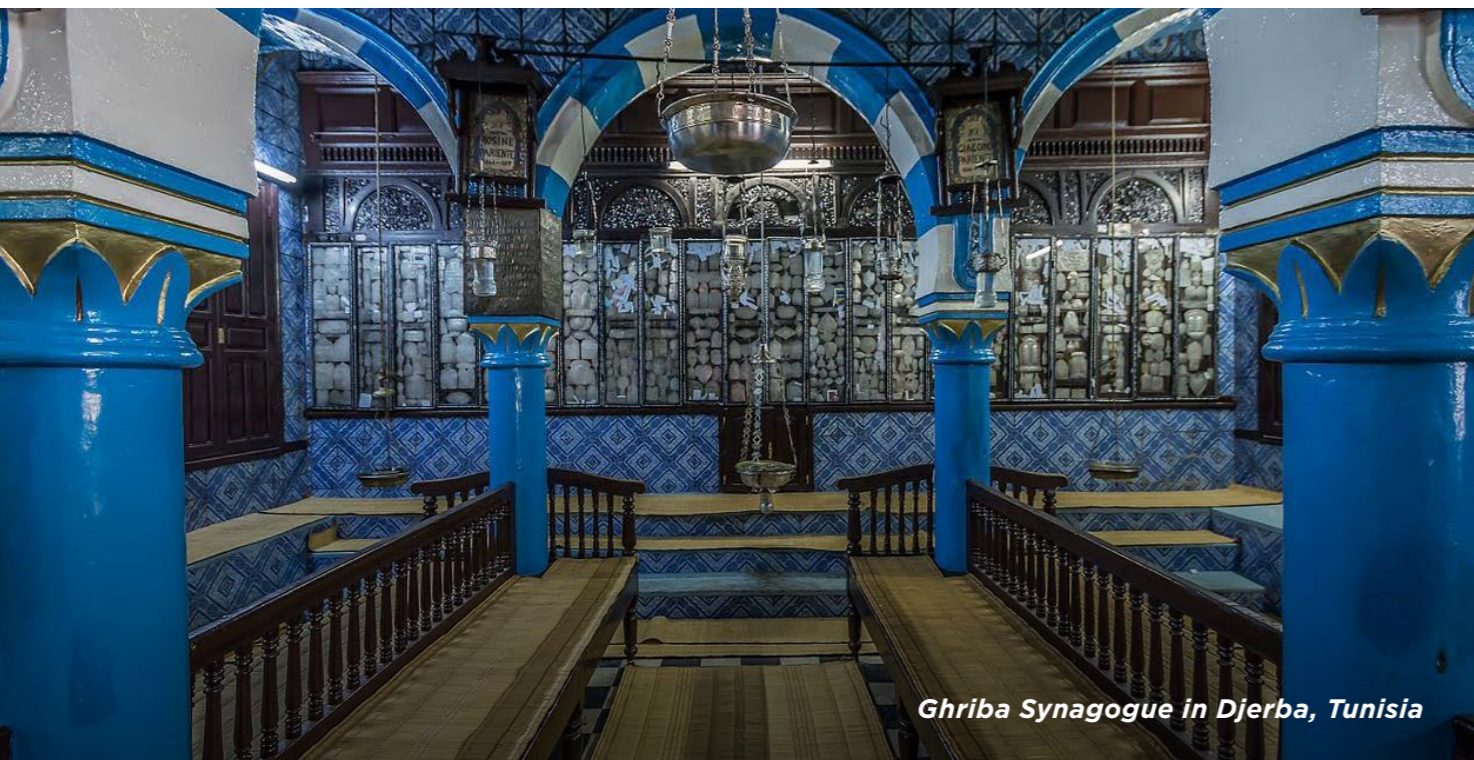
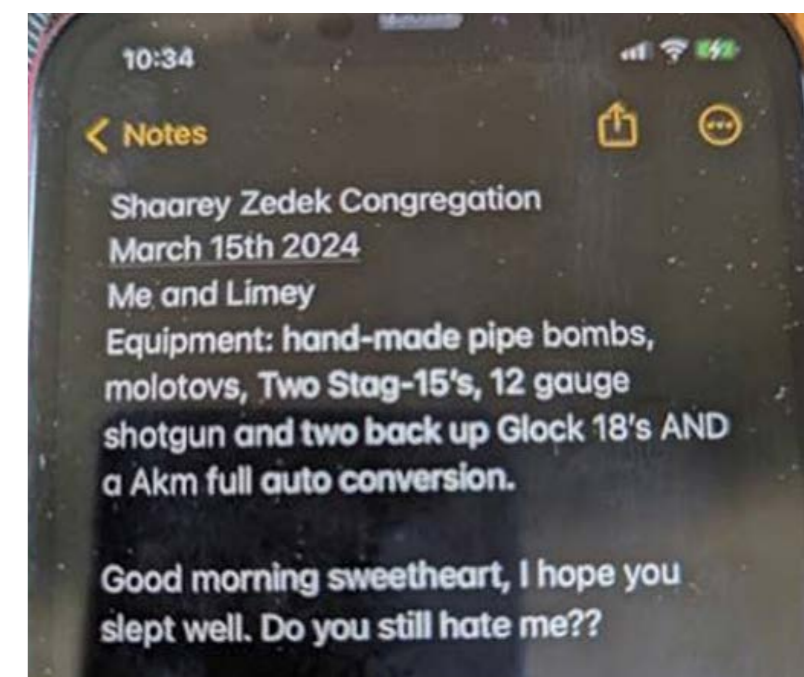
In November 2023, Brazilian law enforcement foiled a Hizbollah terrorist attack against Israeli and Jewish targets, including synagogues; and Cypriot police arrested two Iranian suspects for a separate plot against Israeli and Jewish targets.

## EXTREME RIGHT WING TERRORISM

A global network of violent right-wing extremists shares violent content on social media and imageboard platforms. Much of this incitement is viciously anti-Jewish. In recent years, extreme right-wing terrorists have planned and perpetrated several attacks against Jews, as well as against other minorities.



In November 2023, a 19-year-old man admitted making violent, antisemitic threats to kill Jews in the United States. He had planned to attack Jews at a synagogue in East Lansing, Michigan, on 15 March 2024, corresponding to the fifth anniversary of the mass shootings inside two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand. In December, a 13-year-old boy in Canton, Ohio, was arrested after posting on the Discord platform a detailed plan to carry out a mass shooting at a synagogue [see below].



*Ghriba Synagogue in Djerba, Tunisia*



# OPEN-SOURCE INTELLIGENCE & INVESTIGATION

One of the biggest challenges in fighting contemporary antisemitism is the sheer volume of hateful online content. CST has long employed experts and state of the art technologies to help identify and thwart the most important threats amongst a near countless array of antisemitic and extremist content.

The digital space contains all manner of lone actors, violent extremist groups and state-sponsored antisemitism. It is vital that CST keeps adapting and evolving to meet these hateful threats.

## 7 OCTOBER

The Hamas attack on Israel on 7 October was an unprecedented event in modern Jewish history, as were the online reactions, both in scale and content. CST's open source intelligence researchers must prioritise which of the UK reactions are the most threatening and the most illegal. There is no shortage of material from which to choose and many referrals have been given to police, including numerous clear breaches of counter-terrorism legislation.

## ARTIFICIAL ANTISEMITISM

One important change in 2023 was the surge in the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) by extremists and antisemites, bringing about a new wave of antisemitic propaganda. As tools like ChatGPT and DALL-E have become more freely available to the public, there has been increased use and experimentation by extremist groups and actors. Some extremists have used AI, combining modern technology with age-old anti-Jewish tropes to generate antisemitic imagery. Investigating and researching how extremists are exploiting the digital space informs every aspect of CST's work, from security measures to policy recommendations.

## DISRUPTING TERRORISM

The primary objectives of online investigation is to identify potential incidents of anti-Jewish violence and/or terrorism before they actually occur. Many aspects of terrorism occur online, from radicalisation to target selection and attack planning. The detail of CST's work in this field must remain confidential but has been praised by the highest levels of police and government.



**Some extremists have used AI, combining modern technology with age-old anti-Jewish tropes to generate antisemitic imagery.**

*AI-generated antisemitic imagery disseminated online (left and right images)*



## HELPING OTHERS

For many years, the work of CST has been of benefit to other sectors of British society. For example, police and government have long used their experience with CST as a template for what can be done with other minority and religious groups. Similarly, CST has worked for decades with third parties so as to help them with their security and hate crime needs.

In 2019, CST decided to formalise its work with other communities and groups, under a new programme entitled SAFE, meaning Security Advice For Everyone.

The reason CST built SAFE is simply because it is the right thing to do so. Everyone has the right to live in safety and security.

Since inception, SAFE has advised over 3,250 places of worship (such as churches, mosques, temples and gurdwaras) and many other organisations across the UK on how to improve their security. The talks are usually attended by local authority officials and police officers.

### SAFE: CST'S FREE SECURITY & SAFETY PROGRAMME FOR ALL FAITH COMMUNITIES

SAFE seminars are delivered by full-time CST-SAFE staff, free of charge to attendees, and are often held in partnership with local councils or police. Government bodies responsible for public safety say that they value SAFE because it can

“amplify their message” to communities they may find hard to reach.

In 2023, SAFE delivered 137 in-person security talks and online webinars to 4,179 people representing 960 different places of worship. This was a near 50% increase on the 2022 total.

The SAFE programme brings communities together in a very practical way. In some cases, the attendees have never knowingly interacted with Jewish people before.

SAFE seminars cover many topics, including ‘An introduction to communal security’, ‘Basic security for your place of worship’, ‘Organising security’, ‘Event security’, ‘Hostile reconnaissance’, ‘Lessons learned from past terror attacks’, ‘Conflict management’, ‘Personal safety’, ‘Online security’ and ‘Hate crime’.

The ‘Women’s Safety’ talk has been especially popular. In 2023 new sessions were added, including ‘Incels – the new face of misogyny?’ and on Martyn’s Law, the government’s proposed law that will require places of worship to consider and prepare for the possibility of a terror attack.

Sometimes SAFE responds to specific events. For example, in October and November 2023 there was input at numerous meetings of faith leaders, local authorities and police forces who were concerned about the potential collapse of inter-communal cohesion due to the Hamas-Israel war.



**In 2023, SAFE delivered 137 in-person security talks and online webinars to 4,179 people representing 960 different places of worship.**





## REPORT

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If you experience or witness antisemitism report it to CST as soon as possible. All reports will be treated with the utmost confidence.

**In an emergency, dial 999.**

## VOLUNTEER

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Contact your local CST office to learn more about how you can help share the responsibility of protecting our community, by becoming one of our trained volunteer security personnel.

## DONATE

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CST's work is all provided free of charge. Every pound you give enables CST to do its work for the benefit of the Jewish community and wider society. **We welcome every donation.**

**Scan to report, volunteer and donate | [cst.org.uk](https://cst.org.uk)**



National Emergency Number (24-hour) **0800 032 3263**

London (Head Office) **020 8457 9999**

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