

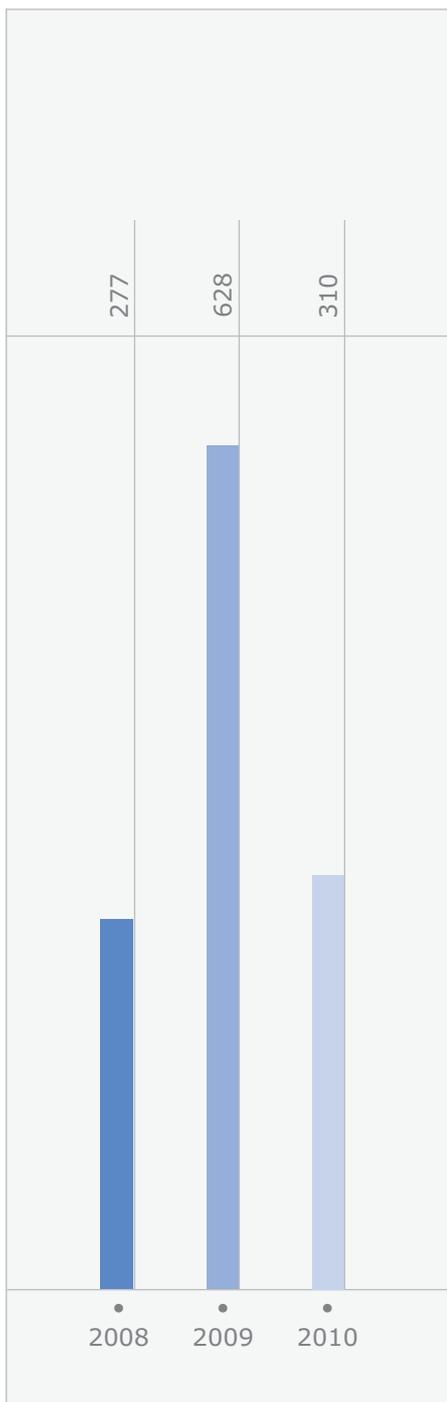


ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS

JAN – JUNE 2010



Antisemitic Incident Numbers



Number of antisemitic incidents recorded by CST in the first six months of each year, 2008-2010

CST recorded 310 antisemitic incidents across the United Kingdom in the first six months of 2010.

This is a 51 per cent fall from the 628 incidents recorded in the first six months of 2009¹. It is, however, a 12 per cent increase on the 277 incidents recorded in the first half of 2008.

The 2009 figure was abnormally high due to the record number of antisemitic incidents recorded that year, because of reactions to the conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza.

There was only one trigger event during the first half of 2010: the Israeli interception of a flotilla of ships bound for Gaza on 31st May, which led to a small spike in antisemitic incidents in the UK. There were 74 incidents recorded in June 2010, of which 28 took place in the first week of the month.

It is difficult to compare the number and type of antisemitic incidents recorded during the first half of 2010 with the same period in 2009, because of the severely distorting impact of the reactions to the Gaza conflict on the number of incidents recorded during that period.

Comparisons to previous years, which did not feature such significant trigger events, suggest that the numbers of antisemitic incidents reported to CST in the first six months of 2010 have not fallen back down to pre-Gaza conflict levels. Discounting 2009 (because of the impact of the Gaza conflict), the first six months of 2010 saw more incidents than in the comparable period of any year since 2004. There were 313 antisemitic incidents reported to CST in the first half of 2004, of which 100 took place in March of that year, when Hamas leader Sheikh Yassin was assassinated by Israel.

The increase of 33 recorded incidents in the first six months of 2010, when compared to the same period in 2008, could be explained in a number of ways.

For example, there were 74 incidents in June 2010 and 40 in June 2008, a difference of 34, at least some of which can be attributed to reactions to the Gaza flotilla affair.

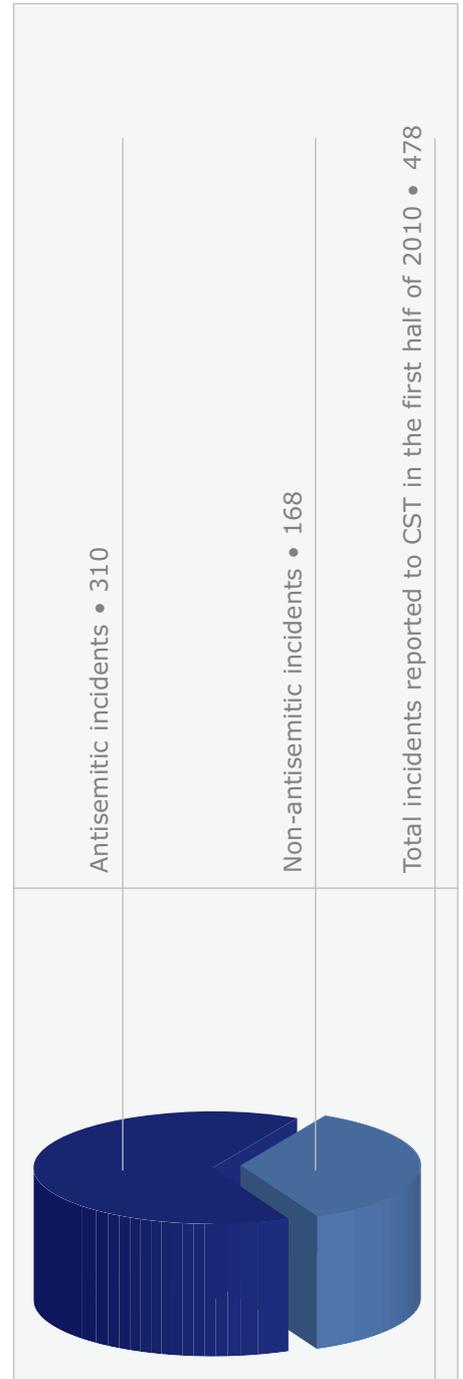
Alternatively, over the entire six months, there were 32 more antisemitic incidents recorded in Greater Manchester than in the first six months of 2008. This appears to reflect a genuine increase in incidents in that local area rather than better reporting rates (see 'Geographical Locations', page 7).

¹ The incident totals for past years and months in this document may differ from those previously published by CST, due to the late reporting of some incidents to CST by incident victims and witnesses.

Also, there were 33 more incidents of Abusive Behaviour (see 'Incident Categories', page 4) in the first six months of 2010 than in the same period in 2008, spread across all six months and many different geographical locations.

In addition to the 310 antisemitic incidents recorded by CST during this period, a further 168 potential incidents were reported to CST but not classified as antisemitic and therefore not included in these statistics. This is because, on investigation, there was no evidence of antisemitic motivation, targeting or content. Most of these rejected incidents, comprising 35 per cent of the total potential incidents reported to CST, involved non-antisemitic crime affecting Jewish property or people.

Anti-Israel activity, which does not use antisemitic language or imagery and is directed at pro-Israel campaigners rather than Jewish people or institutions per se, is also not classified by CST as antisemitic. However, many of these potential incidents still required some level of investigation or security response by CST staff and volunteers.



478: Total number of potential antisemitic incidents reported to CST which required a response from CST staff and volunteers.

65 per cent of these reports were deemed antisemitic by CST

Incident Categories²



CST recorded 43 violent antisemitic assaults in the first half of 2010, a fall of 46 per cent from the 79 violent assaults recorded in the first half of 2009. None of the 43 violent assaults were so serious as to be categorised as Extreme Violence, compared to two in the first six months of 2009. The 2010 figure is very similar to that in 2008, when there were 44 violent antisemitic assaults, of which one was categorised as Extreme Violence.

There were 45 incidents of Damage & Desecration of Jewish property in the first six months of 2010, a fall of 30 per cent from the 64 incidents of this type in the first half of 2009. However, this figure of 45 incidents is an increase of 41 per cent on the 32 incidents of Damage & Desecration recorded during the first six months of 2008.

CST recorded 18 direct antisemitic threats (categorised as 'Threats') during the first half of 2010, just over half the 34 incidents of this type recorded during the first six months of 2009. There were 16 incidents recorded in this category during the first half of 2008.

There were 201 antisemitic incidents reported to CST in the category of Abusive Behaviour, just under half the 407 incidents in this category reported to CST in the first half of 2009. This category includes a wide range of antisemitic incident

types, including antisemitic graffiti on non-Jewish property, hate mail and antisemitic verbal abuse. There were 168 incidents recorded in this category in the first six months of 2008.

CST recorded just three incidents of mass-produced or mass-emailed antisemitic literature (as opposed to one-off cases of hate mail, which are classified as Abusive Behaviour) during the first half of 2010. This is much fewer than the 44 incidents recorded in this category in the first half of 2009, or the 17 Literature incidents in the same period in 2008. There is no obvious explanation for why there were so few incidents recorded in this category. Of the three incidents that were recorded, one involved a mass email and two involved antisemitic leaflets.

² A full explanation of CST's antisemitic incident categories can be found in the leaflet, "Definitions of Antisemitic Incidents", available on CST's website at www.thecst.org.uk.

Incident Victims

There were 135 antisemitic incidents reported to CST in which the victims were random Jewish individuals in public. In 74 incidents the victims were visibly Jewish, due to religious or traditional clothing, Jewish school uniforms or jewellery bearing religious symbols. 152 antisemitic incidents involved verbal abuse; in 48 of these cases, the abuse was shouted from a passing vehicle. These three statistics reflect the most common single type of antisemitic incident: random, spontaneous verbal antisemitic abuse, directed at people who look Jewish while they go about their business in public places.

There were nine antisemitic incidents at Jewish schools in the first six months of 2010, a further 18 incidents which involved Jewish schoolchildren or staff on their way to or from school, and an additional five antisemitic incidents involving Jewish schoolchildren or staff at mainstream schools; making a total of 32 antisemitic incidents affecting people and buildings in the school sector. This compares to 48 incidents in the school sector in the first half of 2009, and 29 in the first half of 2008.

There were 28 antisemitic incidents affecting Jewish students, academics, Students Unions or other student bodies in the first half of 2010, compared to 89 in the first six months of 2009 and 49 in the first half of 2008. Of the 28 incidents recorded

in 2010, 15 took place on campus and 13 off campus. All but two of the 28 incidents were in the category of Abusive Behaviour, most of which involved either verbal abuse or antisemitic graffiti on non-Jewish property. There was one assault, which was not on campus.

There were 21 antisemitic incidents recorded during the first half of 2010 which targeted synagogues, and a further 24 incidents involving synagogue congregants on their way to or from prayers. There were 34 antisemitic incidents which targeted Jewish organisations or Jewish-owned businesses (where there was clear evidence of antisemitism), 11 of which targeted prominent Jewish individuals or public figures, and one incident in which a Jewish cemetery was desecrated.

CST received a description of the gender of the victim or victims for 177 of the 310 antisemitic incidents reported during the first half of 2010. Of these, 117, or 66 per cent, were male; 46 (30 per cent) were female and in 14 incidents, the victims were a mixed group of males and females. CST also received a description of the approximate age of the victim or victims in 145 antisemitic incidents. Of these, 104 (72 per cent) involved adult victims; 28 (19 per cent) involved victims who were minors; and in 13 incidents the victims were mixed groups of adults and minors.



**Graffiti in north west London
March 2010**



**Graffiti in Borehamwood
June 2010**



**Graffiti in Borehamwood
June 2010**



**Graffiti in Buckinghamshire
June 2010**

Incident Perpetrators and Motives

Identifying the ethnicity of the perpetrators of antisemitic incidents is a difficult and imprecise task. Many antisemitic incidents involve brief public encounters, and the evidence of victims of, or witnesses to, antisemitic incidents, may be vague and disjointed. In addition, many incidents do not involve face-to-face contact between incident perpetrator and victim, so it is not possible to obtain a physical description. Bearing in mind these limitations, a physical description of the perpetrator was provided to CST³ in 100 of the 310 antisemitic incidents reported during the first six months of 2010. Of these, 45 were described as white; 8 as East European; 6 as black; 29 as Asian; one as Far Eastern and 11 of Arab appearance.

Taking 'white' and 'East European' together, there were white perpetrators in 53 per cent of antisemitic incidents where a physical description of the perpetrator was provided to CST. For comparison, this figure stood at 48 per cent for the first six months of 2009, and 61 per cent for the first half of 2008.

CST received a description of the gender of the perpetrator or perpetrators in 141 incidents in the first six months of 2010. Of these, 118 incidents, or 84 per cent, involved male perpetrators; 15 (11 per cent) involved female perpetrators; and in eight incidents the

perpetrators were mixed groups of males and females. CST also received a description of the approximate age of the perpetrator or perpetrators in 133 antisemitic incidents. Of these, 81 (61 per cent) involved adult perpetrators; 51 (38 per cent) involved perpetrators who were described as minors; and in one incident the perpetrators were a mixed group of adults and minors.

Of the 310 antisemitic incidents reported to CST during the first half of 2010, 118, or 38 per cent, showed some evidence of political motivation, usually based on the language or imagery used during the incident. Of these, 66 showed evidence of far right motivation, 32 showed anti-Zionist motivation and 20 showed Islamist motivation. These figures represent a significant change from the first half of 2009, when 340 incidents, or 54 per cent, showed political motivation, of which 154 showed anti-Zionist motivation, 94 showed far right motivation and 92 showed Islamist motivation.

While the 2009 figures obviously reflected the role that the Gaza conflict played as a trigger event during that period, the extent to which anti-Zionist and Islamist discourse and motivation have receded in those antisemitic incidents recorded by CST in the first half of 2010 is worth noting. As a comparison, in the first half of 2008 there were 90

antisemitic incidents that showed evidence of political motivation (or 32 per cent), of which 38 showed far right motivation, 34 showed anti-Zionist motivation and 18 showed Islamist motivation.



**Antisemitic and racist
leaflet in London
May 2010**

³ CST uses the 'IC1-6' system, used by the Police, for categorising the ethnic appearance of incident perpetrators. This uses the numerical codes IC1, IC2, IC3 etc, for 'white', 'East or Dark European', 'Black', 'Asian', 'Far Eastern' and 'Arab' respectively. These broad terms are obviously not foolproof and can only be used as a rough guide at best; for example, an East European perpetrator could potentially be described as IC1 or IC2, depending on whether an incident victim is capable of identifying their nationality by their appearance, accent, language or some other indicator.

Geographical Locations

There were 122 antisemitic incidents recorded by CST in Greater London and 89 in Greater Manchester in the first six months of 2010. For comparison, in the first six months of 2009 there were 303 incidents recorded in Greater London and 143 in Greater Manchester, while in the first half of 2008 there were 120 in Greater London and 57 in Greater Manchester.

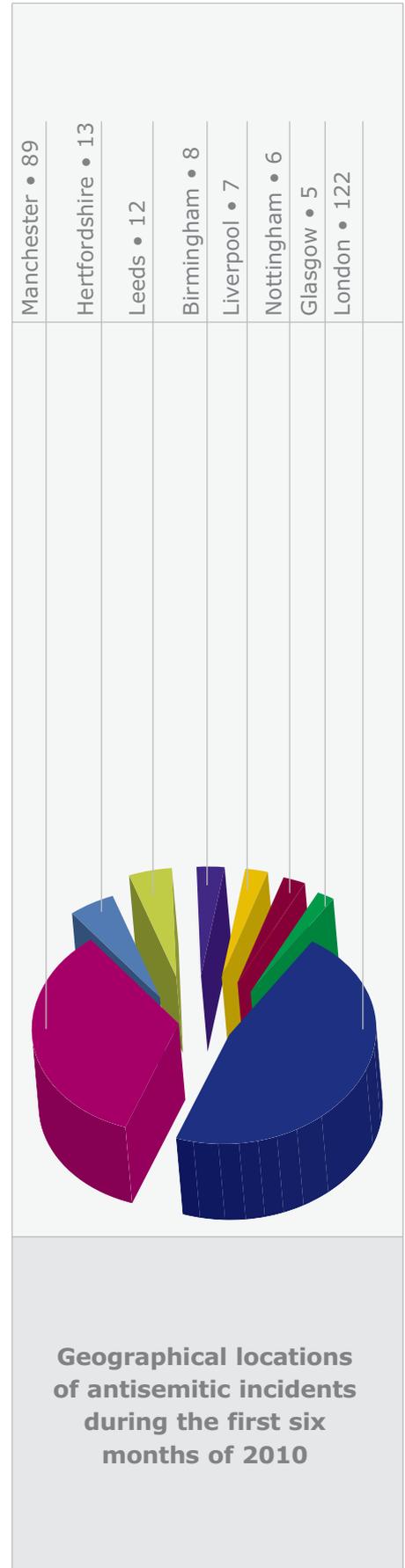
This means that, compared to the first six months of 2008, there has been a 56 per cent rise in the number of antisemitic incidents reported to CST in Greater Manchester. Looking further back over previous years, there were 56 antisemitic incidents recorded in Greater Manchester in the first half of 2007, and 65 in the first half of 2006. This kind of localised increase always raises the question of whether it reflects an actual rise in the number of incidents that are taking place, or an improvement in reporting rates from the local community to CST, or a combination of both factors.

In this case, detailed analysis of the types and locations of the incidents that have been recorded in Greater Manchester during this period suggest that this increase is largely a result of a shifting, and increasingly visible, Jewish community in certain parts of north Manchester, leading to an increased number of antisemitic

incidents taking place; and also that these changes have most affected parts of the Jewish community with which CST has a strong relationship, and which therefore are more likely to report antisemitic incidents to CST.

Outside the two main Jewish centres of Greater London and Greater Manchester, CST recorded 99 antisemitic incidents in 36 different locations around the United Kingdom in the first six months of 2010. This is a 41 per cent fall from the 168 incidents recorded outside London and Manchester in the first half of 2009, and almost exactly the same as the 100 incidents recorded in the first half of 2008.

Of the 99 incidents recorded in the first half of 2010, 13 took place in Hertfordshire, of which eight were in Borehamwood; 12 took place in Leeds; eight in Birmingham; seven in Liverpool; six in Nottingham (of which five involved Jewish students); and five in Glasgow.



**Front cover image:
Antisemitic graffiti in Manchester, March 2010**

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