



PROTECTING OUR
JEWISH COMMUNITY



2021 ANNUAL REVIEW

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AN INTRODUCTION TO CST

CST is the charity that protects British Jews from terrorism and antisemitism. CST is recognised by the police and the Government as a unique model of best practice. CST has security teams across the UK, supported by over 100 full- and part-time staff at offices in London, Manchester and Leeds. CST became a charity in 1994, but its origins lie in many decades of Jewish self-defence activities, both before and after World War Two.

COMMUNAL ACTIVITY



CST secures, advises and trains Jewish communal organisations, schools and synagogues throughout the UK. In 2021, CST secured over 650 Jewish communal buildings and protected many more communal events.

POLICE & GOVERNMENT

CST is a trusted partner of both the police and the Government. CST works closely with the police and shares hate crime information with police forces across the UK. CST manages a £14 million government grant for security guards, from independent commercial companies, at hundreds of Jewish schools and other community buildings.

VOLUNTEERS



CST has over 2,500 fully trained active security volunteers throughout the UK, coming from every part of the Jewish community. They are the foundation of CST's work and are highly trained in theoretical,

practical and physical aspects of security work. The seriousness of CST's work means CST's members must undertake regular security duties and must pass compulsory annual tests.

FUNDING

CST provides its services free of charge. Nearly all of CST's budget comes from charitable donations.

ANTISEMITISM, POLITICS & MEDIA

CST's annual *Antisemitic Incidents Report* is the most authoritative study of antisemitic hate incidents in the UK. CST is recognised by the Jewish community, government, police and media as Britain's leading expert on the composition, cause and impact of contemporary antisemitism.

SECURITY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

Since 2006, CST has spent over £11 million on enhancing physical security measures at

Jewish buildings throughout the UK to better protect them from terrorism. This includes funding anti-shatter window film, and installing fencing, gates, bollards, lighting, CCTV systems, intruder alarms and fire alarms.

YOUTH & STUDENTS

Streetwise is CST's joint project with Maccabi GB. It teaches personal safety to over 20,000 Jewish teenagers per year. CST helps to protect Jewish students on campuses across the UK, in partnership with the Union of Jewish Students.

SHARING EXPERTISE



CST provides expert advice on contemporary antisemitism, anti-racism and counter-extremism to the police, the Government, politicians and media. CST's SAFE programme (Security Advice For Everyone) helps other minority groups to learn from CST's expertise and better protect themselves.

2021: A YEAR IN REVIEW

JANUARY

Report by *the Times* highlights the huge amount of antisemitic content on the alternative video sharing site, BitChute, following original research by CST

FEBRUARY

REPORT LAUNCH:

CST's *Antisemitic Incidents Report*, records an 8% fall in antisemitic hate incidents in 2020

Together We Protect crowdfunding campaign raises over £4 million for CST's vital work to continue

APRIL

Social media boycott to take a stand against online abuse, racism and antisemitism

MAY

REPORT LAUNCH:

CST and APT Google's *Safe Search* report

Israel-Gaza conflict

Launch of Educational Resources on CST's website

CEO Mark Gardner meets with Prime Minister to discuss antisemitism

JULY

REPORT LAUNCH:

Month of Hate report shows the true nature and extent of anti-Jewish hate and incitement during the recent conflict in Israel and Gaza



AUGUST

CST publishes the *Antisemitic Incidents Report January-June 2021* which shows the highest ever half-year total for antisemitic hate incidents

SEPTEMBER

EHRC rule change adopted by Labour Party

REPORT LAUNCH:

CST and APT release report *Instagram: Bad Inference*

CST volunteers' huge effort in protecting the community over the High Holy Days



OCTOBER

Professor Miller of Bristol University sacked

NOVEMBER

CST hosts first in-person Business Lunch with guest speaker the Rt Hon Priti Patel MP



DECEMBER

REPORT LAUNCH:

CST and ICSR write a collaborative report *We are Generation Terror*

CST's investigative research has led to one of Britain's most prolific antisemitic video streamers, Richard Hesketh, being convicted of inciting anti-Jewish hate online

REPORT LAUNCH:

CST, APT and the Woolf Institute release a report revealing the extent and nature of antisemitism on UK Twitter

TOGETHER WE PROTECT

LISA RONSON, CST TRUSTEE



As we came to the end of 2020, it was clear that CST's main fundraiser and showpiece event, the Annual Dinner, scheduled for March 2021, would not be possible as the UK would be in lockdown. Also, the chances of running other in-person fundraising events later in the year were in doubt.

During 2020, we had raised just about enough money to cover our costs, thanks to the generosity of our regular supporters. However, it had been very difficult to do that without being able to hold any conventional fundraising events, and we probably couldn't do the same again in 2021. We had tried online briefings which proved to be a great way of keeping in touch with our supporters, but

they did not seem to be very effective for fundraising. We needed an alternative.

That alternative emerged, but from an unlikely source. It was a fundraising technique based on the venture capital model of crowdfunding. A high volume of mainly small contributions would combine to produce a large sum, and they would be transacted over the internet. I saw that some charity crowdfunding campaigns raised very impressive amounts.

At a time when there was no immediate sign of a return to conventional fundraising, and no other realistic alternative had been identified, when I suggested to the CST fundraising team that we run a crowdfunder, the idea was enthusiastically received.

We were very keen to run the event as near to the original date of our 2021 dinner as possible, so the weekend of February 27 to March 1 was selected. A crowdfunding platform was booked, as were a marketing agency and a consultant, both of

whom had worked on other crowdfunding campaigns. The campaign was named *Together We Protect*, or TWP for short.

We quickly realised that our biggest advantages were CST's large network of volunteers and our close relationships with just about every Jewish school and synagogue throughout the UK. These, plus many of our donors and members of staff, formed the basis of the near 400 Team Captains who were recruited to ask their friends, family and business contacts to donate to CST at the weekend of the campaign.

In parallel with the massive task of recruiting the captains, we put in place an advertising programme to raise awareness of CST and the campaign in February. We also raised a large sum of money from several of our existing donors that could be used to provide a matching fund which would double all individual donations. This proved to be a very important incentive.

A huge amount of work was



Our massive billboard adverts for Together We Protect

done to prepare for the weekend of the campaign, and not only by CST's fundraising department. Marvellous contributions came from just about every employee of CST, its trustees, committee members, volunteers, donors and even people who had been previously unknown to us but simply wanted to help.

A website was created especially for the campaign. Its centrepiece was an animated film on the history of antisemitism and the origins of CST. Other videos from communal leaders, politicians, senior police and celebrities were also featured. Then there was a very powerful, simple and robust donation form.

The end result was

astonishing. At 7.30 pm on the Saturday evening, the campaign website went live and the captains started asking their contacts to donate. By the end of the first hour, almost a thousand donations had been received, and it was clear that our goal of making TWP go viral had been achieved.

By the time the campaign officially ended, at 10pm on the Monday, we had raised more money than at our last Annual Dinner, from more than five times as many donors as usually give to CST in an entire year.

From a position where we were genuinely concerned that we would fail to raise enough money in 2021 to cover the costs of the organisation, TWP

gave us a very firm financial platform for continuing to provide our community with the services it needs.

We had truly engaged with the entire UK Jewish community in that there is now barely a town on the map where we don't have donors. That was not the case before TWP, but we have many new friends now.

At the time of writing this, we have just decided to run a second crowdfunding event early in March 2022, and we will again brand it *Together We Protect*. I am excited to work on it once more and hope to achieve as much as we did in 2021.

MONTH OF HATE: ANTISEMITISM & EXTREMISM DURING THE 2021 ISRAEL-GAZA CONFLICT

The conflict in Israel and Gaza in May 2021 resulted in one of the most intense periods of anti-Jewish hatred seen in the UK in recent years. In July 2021, CST published a research briefing titled *The Month of Hate: Antisemitism & extremism during the Israel-Gaza conflict*. The report revealed the full extent of the unprecedented wave of antisemitism in the UK.

May and June 2021 saw record levels of antisemitic hate incidents, anti-Jewish chants and incitement from radical Islamist extremists in the UK, and calls from global jihadist terrorist groups for Jews to be killed. All this was fuelled by, or tried to take advantage of, antisemitic reactions to the conflict between Israel and Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and other militant groups in Gaza.

CST recorded 628 antisemitic hate incidents from 8 May to 7 June 2021, the highest number CST has ever recorded in any month-long

period, and roughly four times the number of antisemitic incidents that would normally be expected during this period. A total of 585 out of these 628 antisemitic incidents involved language, imagery or behaviour linked to the conflict in Israel and Gaza.

The leading examples of this included the antisemitic and misogynistic abuse shouted from a pro-Palestinian car convoy in St John's Wood, northwest London, as well as the physical assault of a rabbi in Chigwell, Essex. The suspects allegedly behind these incidents are awaiting trial.

While most pro-Palestinian demonstrations were peaceful, several demonstrations across Britain included antisemitic placards, chants and speeches from a minority of participants. In several protests, demonstrators recited the violent anti-Jewish Arabic chant "*Khaybar Khaybar Ya Yahud, Jaish Muhammad Sauf Ya'ud*", which translates as "*Khaybar Khaybar oh Jews,*

the army of Mohammed is returning" and effectively calls for Jews to be killed. CST reported two examples of this, from demonstrations in London and Swansea, to police.

The Islamist group Hizb ut-Tahrir responded to the conflict with possibly the most antisemitic statement published in English by any organisation with a presence in the UK. Hizb ut-Tahrir's global leadership issued a statement about the conflict that referred to the "*monstrous Jews*" and urged that "*the response to the crimes of the Jews is only by mobilising armies to eliminate the Jewish entity*".

The antisemitism and extremism unleashed during the 2021 conflict also had a deep impact on the Jewish community's morale and sense of well-being. In response to the spike in antisemitism and in recognition of the gravity of the situation, the Prime Minister, Home Secretary, cabinet ministers and

Members of Parliament across the political spectrum denounced the rise of antisemitism in reaction to the conflict.

Unfortunately, such crises see a recurring and disturbing pattern: reactions to 'trigger events', often from overseas, cause significant spikes in anti-Jewish hate crimes and hate incidents in the UK.

The level of anger and hate that is directed at Israel always spills over into antisemitism at times of conflict. In practice, this means that the perpetrators of these incidents deliberately target Jews and Jewish institutions

to express their hatred of, or anger towards, Israel; or they use Israel as an excuse to attack Jews. This is racism at its most basic: British Jews are held responsible for events thousands of miles away, over which they have no control, simply because they are Jewish.

CST staff worked round the clock throughout this record month of anti-Jewish hate. Extra staff were added to CST's Antisemitic Incidents Team to respond to the unprecedented number of calls we received; CST's security teams mounted extra security operations

in Jewish neighbourhoods; and CST's research staff watched dozens of hours of footage, closely monitored developments in the UK and abroad and produced ongoing threat assessments on the risks facing the UK Jewish community.

CST's primary purpose is to protect our Jewish community, especially at times of conflict. British Jews deserve to live without fear and express their Jewish lives however they choose in safety and confidence. This is at the core of CST's mission and what we will continue to do.



"PROTECTING OUR JEWISH COMMUNITY"

GERALD M RONSON CBE, CST CHAIRMAN



I have fought against antisemitism and racism for over 60 years. I am proud to have built CST into an organisation that is widely recognised as the leading example of its type.

If you lead any sort of Jewish life, from school to synagogue to old age home, CST is helping to secure you and your family. I am proud of what we have achieved, and I thank the thousands of men and women who have helped make it a reality.

CST's origins go back to the 1940s, '50s and '60s, when British Jews physically forced fascists off our streets. It was dangerous, but it had to be done and we did it. In the 1970s and '80s, we had to develop security against terrorists: so that is what we did.

In 1994, after pro-Palestinian car bombings in London and a catastrophic Hezbollah truck bombing against Jews in Argentina, CST became a charity. From 2000 onwards, the need for security intensified, with Al Qaeda, ISIS and their local supporters being an all too obvious reality.

Next, we saw unprecedented highs of antisemitic incidents in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019. This was nothing to do with international terrorism. It was an entirely British issue and tracked the deep problem that the Labour Party had with antisemitism under its previous leader.

Then, we had this summer of 2021. A war in the Middle East was yet again taken by antisemites as the signal for them to act out their hatred against British Jews. Antisemitism reached yet another record level, showing exactly why our community needs every ounce of CST's fighting strength.

After a lifetime of fighting antisemitism, nobody needed to tell me what would happen in such a circumstance. I knew that antisemitism was boiling away after Mr Corbyn's defeat, and that the acceleration of social, political and racial divisions during the pandemic would only bring harm to Jews.

I knew if the lid blew on antisemitism, it would be very nasty indeed. That is why I had personally ensured that the pandemic did not reduce the resources given to CST's staff and volunteers. It was the right decision.

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

Ultimately, it really is quite a simple calculation. The antisemitism is not going to magically disappear, and that is why CST needs to do its work. Either security is in place, giving comfort and protection to our community, ready to be ramped up further when needed, or it is not: but if we do not have security, we will not have a community.

I built CST because it had to be done, but this is a mission that I believe every British Jew should join or support. Please, help me and CST to fight antisemitism, racism and fascists of all types. Contact CST and ask how you can help to play your part.

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink, consisting of several bold, sweeping strokes.

"A YEAR THAT SHOWED WHY TOGETHER WE PROTECT"

MARK GARDNER, CST CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Hello and welcome to CST's Annual Review for 2021. I hope you will take the time to read about some of our work, and if you wish to contact us, we would love to hear from you.

Our volunteers and staff work together to protect our Jewish communities. We are a charity and the combined efforts of our trustees, donors and supporters enable our mission.

CST's job is to protect our Jewish community from racists and terrorists, by providing security and research, working together with Jewish communities throughout the UK, as well as police, and local and national government.

If somebody suffers or witnesses antisemitism, then we ask that they report it to CST, so as we can offer support, inform police, and best understand anti-Jewish hatred.

CST is widely acknowledged as Britain's leading expert body on antisemitism and community security. Our job is vitally important to the well-being of British Jews and communal cohesion.

COVID-19 caused CST's usual fundraising dinners to be cancelled. So, in 2021, we widely asked our community for its help to raise the funds needed for CST. Our community responded brilliantly, with over 8,000 online donations to our *Together We Protect* campaign.

And, if ever a year showed why "together we protect", it was this one.

In May and June, CST recorded its highest ever levels of reported anti-Jewish hate crimes and incidents. This was during and after the brief war between Israel and Gaza.

British antisemites always use Middle East wars as an excuse for their racist rage and hatred. This ugly truth is central to CST's planning, training and work. So, what happened against British Jews in 2021 was shocking, but it was no surprise: and

it showed that CST had been entirely correct to retain its fighting strength throughout the pandemic.

The single worst example was widely held to be the vile racist, sexist threats yelled from a car in north London, one of dozens of times in which cars flying Palestinian flags were provocatively driven through Jewish neighbourhoods all over the country.

Our researchers worked tirelessly to help identify the perpetrators of this and other important incidents. Information was given to the police, but at the time of writing this report, all such cases remain sub-judice. I hope that in time prosecutions will occur, and our community will see the deeper expertise and protection that CST brings to such matters.

For me personally, the hardest part of the antisemitism was hearing our staff taking hundreds of calls detailing the abuse of Jewish schoolchildren by their classmates. I was also deeply struck by the courage of our volunteers and staff who knowingly put themselves in danger, repeatedly, so as to give our community the protection and reassurance that it needed at this very difficult time.

With so much antisemitism, we had no option other than to keep most of CST working from our offices throughout the pandemic. Despite the volume of work, we maintained strict health and safety measures of C-19 testing, social distancing, ventilation and cleaning. I am glad to say that this appeared to prevent any C-19 transmission among our personnel while on duty.

Finally, let me say that it is a huge privilege for me to lead CST's team of volunteers, staff and trustees. Together, we must keep protecting. Please, join us in our mission.



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 optimises relations between Jewish communities and their local police services.

CST's work with the police includes provision of intelligence leading to crime prevention and arrests, joint security operations for events, joint patrols on the Sabbath and Jewish festivals, shared training exercises, information exchanges, and regular consultations on community policing and security.

During times of heightened alert or special operations, police officers are regularly

posted to CST's National Security Control Centre. This ensures immediate intelligence sharing and a partnership approach to joint operations.

CST participates in numerous advisory groups, in which 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 it has received from police officers of all ranks in our work.

CST runs regular virtual and in-person national seminars for police officers and staff covering topics such as 'understanding the threat picture', '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*.



CST working with the police

IMPROVING COMMUNAL SECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE



CST provides advice and guidance to schools, synagogues, and other Jewish communal buildings, assisting them with their physical security measures and infrastructure. This is a constant process of improvements across the UK. Since 2007, CST has given over £15 million in grants towards the cost of this work at communal sites.

The focus of 2021 was to create extra layers of security for locations by installing new or additional perimeter fencing, gates, security doors and airlocks. These structures are often the first line of defence to a building and provide an extremely vital layer of security.



Bulletproof glass (ballistic glass, transparent armor, and bullet-resistant glass)

CST works with contractors to find the best solutions for every location, to ensure the measures are in keeping with the environment and provide the right aesthetic while still maintaining a high level of security.

The physical security measures are supplemented by an extensive CCTV network that now has 4,000 cameras, operating from Bournemouth

to Edinburgh and all communities in between. The CCTVs feed into CST's 24/7 National Security Control Centre, where analytics and other advanced technologies help ensure a watchful eye over the Jewish community's security, but also provide a steady stream of evidence for police investigations into all manner of crimes.



Before



After

ONLINE AND IN-PERSON SECURITY TRAINING



Following on from the successful launch of online training last year, CST's Training Department continued to grow its online training courses in 2021 by running hundreds of sessions for CST volunteers, commercial guards, and the wider community.

In March, CST launched online personal safety sessions for female members of the community, after the tragic

murder of Sarah Everard. In less than three days, over 2,000 participants had signed up and attended these sessions. This led to CST running a very successful women's online self-defence course in May, attended by over 300 people.

October saw the return of face-to-face training, in line with COVID-19 guidelines, and CST launched a new fitness training programme, ensuring

that all security staff and volunteers are fully fit and best able to protect our community.

2021 saw the highest numbers of attendees at training sessions, thanks to the reach and accessibility of CST's online training sessions.

The move to online events equally enabled staff and volunteers throughout the UK to participate.





WORK WITH YOUTH AND STUDENTS: CASE STUDY OF BRISTOL AND MILLER



CST cares deeply about the well-being of Jewish youth and students, and works closely with partner groups to support those in schools and further education.



Streetwise, a project jointly run by CST and Maccabi GB, teaches personal safety and development to Jewish children in Jewish and non-Jewish primary and secondary schools. In 2021, despite lengthy COVID-19 enforced school closures, Streetwise reached over 20,500 young people, in 670 sessions held at 31 schools and 25 other communal organisations.



Stand Up! Education Against Discrimination is also run jointly by CST and Maccabi GB, as well as other anti-discrimination groups including Tell MAMA, Kick it

Out and Galop. It employs Jewish and Muslim educators to deliver anti-racism education across Britain, encouraging students to take social responsibility against prejudice, antisemitism, and anti-Muslim hatred. In 2021, despite the lengthy school closures, Stand Up! reached over 46,600 young people, in 447 sessions held at 65 secondary schools.

CST supported pupils, students, and teachers. In May, during the conflict between Israel and Hamas, CST recorded 95 antisemitic incidents involving schools, school students and staff over this period. 77 incidents took place at school premises and 18 Jewish school students (identifiable by their uniform) being targeted for antisemitic abuse on the way to or from school. Only nine of the school-related incidents occurred online; 62 occurred at non-faith schools, most of which involved Jewish school students or Jewish teachers being singled out and targeted for abuse by

students shouting “Free Palestine” or using other pro-Palestinian language or imagery for this purpose.

The welfare and safety of Jewish undergraduates in higher education is delivered through CST’s partnership with Jewish student bodies, particularly the Union of Jewish Students (UJS). CST favours the UJS drive to have British universities adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism, with 100 universities across the UK having done so. In tandem with this, CST helped support UJS training on antisemitism, which reached over 1,300 (mostly non-Jewish) Student Union and university staff during 2021.

In October 2021, CST’s longstanding complaints against Professor David Miller were vindicated when Bristol University terminated his employment, after finding that he “*did not meet the standards of behaviour we expect from our staff*”. CST has been instrumental in



CST ✓
@CST_UK

...

THREAD: CST is extremely concerned about comments made by @BristolUni Professor David Miller about CST at an event on Tuesday evening organised by the group Labour Against the Witch hunt.



supporting Jewish students at Bristol since 2019, when two students approached us seeking help to lodge an anonymous complaint against the professor. In February 2021, a recording emerged of Miller speaking at an event in which he seemed to imply that Jewish students and officers of Bristol Jewish Society had complained against him because they were in the service of “*the Zionist movement*”. CST worked with UJS and others to provide support for students at Bristol University who were targeted as a result of their public stand against antisemitism. CST’s Campus Team was in regular, and sometimes daily, contact with Jewish students at Bristol,

advising and supporting them during their campaign.

Miller’s sacking followed legal proceedings brought by UJS and separately by Campaign Against Antisemitism.

CST recorded 61 antisemitic incidents related to universities in the UK from 8 May to 7 June 2021. For comparison, CST recorded a total of 58 university incidents in the whole of the 2018/2019 academic year and 65 university incidents in the 2019/2020 academic year, meaning that this May, Jewish students and lecturers suffered a year’s worth of antisemitic incidents in a single month. Unlike in schools, the majority of

university-related incidents were online, with 52 incidents occurring on social media or messaging apps. The other 16 university-related incidents were committed offline.

CST employs two full-time campus officers whose roles include representing Jewish students’ concerns on security issues and antisemitism; advising students and Jewish campus locations on security; and working with UJS and many other Jewish student groups to ensure that the legal rights and protections of Jewish students are met by every campus in the UK.

ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS IN 2021



CST recorded **2,255** antisemitic incidents in 2021, the highest total ever reported to CST in a single calendar year. This was a **34%** increase from the 2020 annual figure of 1,684 incidents.

This record figure is due to the spike in anti-Jewish hate reported during and in the aftermath of the escalation in violence in Israel and Palestine. In May 2021, the month when the conflict in the Middle East intensified, 661 antisemitic incidents were reported to CST, the highest monthly total ever recorded. It is more than the second- and

third-highest monthly totals combined, when 317 and 289 incidents were reported in July 2014 and January 2009 respectively: periods when the war in the region reached a similar degree of severity. Trigger events in the Middle East impact diaspora Jewish communities, and the consequent rises in reported antisemitism in the UK show this.

The surge in incident levels correlating with the escalation of violence in the Middle East also occurred as COVID-19 restrictions relaxed: businesses began to re-open, people were

allowed to attend significant events, and households were able to mix both outdoors and indoors. It is possible that the opportunity to release months of lockdown-induced frustration, coinciding with a trigger event in Israel and Palestine, fed into the extent of the rise in antisemitic incident reports during this period.

A feature of lockdown measures easing was the reopening of schools in March, and Jewish schoolchildren and teachers were particularly targeted with antisemitism when the conflict in the Middle East flared



Antisemitic graffiti in the UK, 2021



up. There were **41** incidents recorded at Jewish schools in 2021, compared to **19** in 2020. An additional **42** incidents involved Jewish schoolchildren away from school, often on their way to or from home, compared to **21** incidents of this type reported last year. **Ninety-nine** incidents involved Jewish schoolchildren or staff at non-faith schools, rising considerably from the **14** reported in 2020. This results in a total of **182** incidents affecting people and buildings in the school sector,

the most reported in the first half of any year, constituting a sharp increase of **237%** from the **54** such incidents recorded in 2020. Of these, **95** took place in May.

CST supported many schoolchildren and teachers who felt isolated and fearful of returning to their place of education and work. It shows the impact of a trigger event in the Middle East, with Jewish people facing extreme backlash for Israel's alleged actions in

places where they are a small minority. This, in some ways, is a microcosm of the Jewish community's experience in the UK throughout and since the period of intensified conflict between Israel and Hamas.

Schools were not the only educational facilities where a spike in antisemitism was noted in relation to events in Israel and Gaza. In 2021, there were **128** antisemitic incidents in which the victims or offenders were students or academics, or which involved

student unions or other student bodies. Of these, **65** occurred in May. Once again, this is the highest number of campus-related incidents recorded in the first half of any year, and an increase of **191%** from the **44** incidents of this kind reported in 2020.

CST attributes the high antisemitic incident levels observed since 2016 to fundamentally British causes and politics, these being the controversy over antisemitism in the Labour Party and an increase in overall hate crime following the referendum to leave the EU. With antisemitism, racism and hate crime so prevalent in public and media

discourse, antisemites are likely emboldened to express their prejudice.

In addition to the **2,255** antisemitic incidents recorded in 2021, a further **752** potential incidents were reported to CST but not included in the total as they showed insufficient evidence of antisemitic targeting, content or motivation. In total, CST staff and volunteers recorded, processed and analysed **3,007** incidents and potential incidents in 2021.

Behind each one of these statistics are people. Not only the offenders behind the incidents, but victims, their friends and families, witnesses

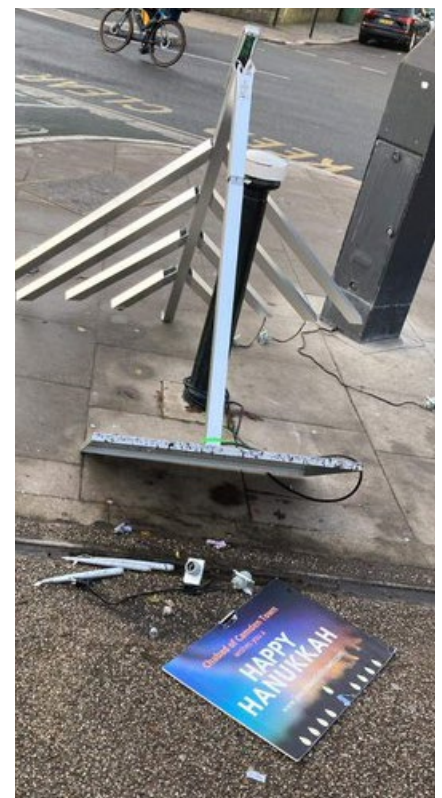
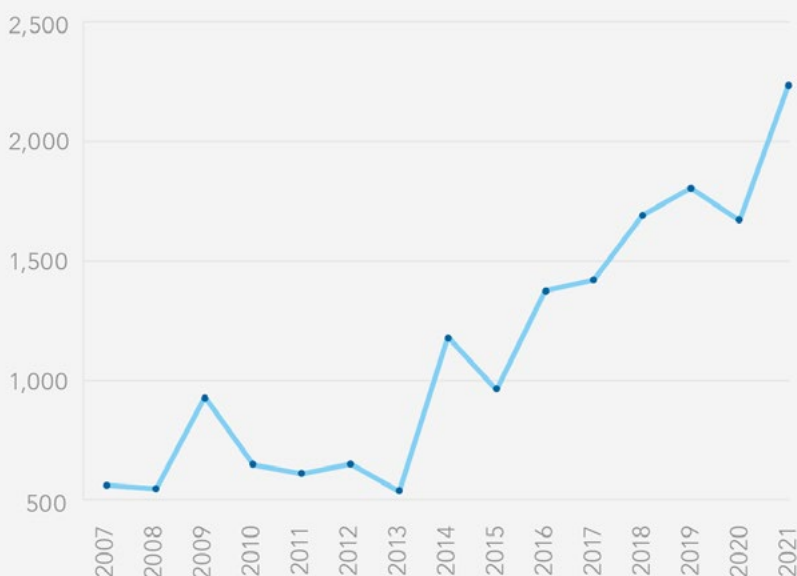
who report the antisemitism they have seen, and the collective Jewish community directly impacted by these acts of hatred. Throughout 2021 and the many challenges it posed, CST's Incidents Department worked tirelessly to assist everyone who engaged with the service, providing emotional and logistical support to all who needed it.

Please support CST's communal efforts to fight antisemitism by reporting it to CST and the police.

Visit www.cst.org.uk.

In an emergency, call the police and then call our 24-hour National Emergency Number, **0800 032 3263**.

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS, 2007-2021



WORKING WITH THE 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'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 to share its example for the benefit of all communities and to help build a more cohesive society.

Despite the challenges that COVID-19 posed to direct political engagement, CST continued to be regularly consulted on relevant government policies. These included the important Online Safety Bill; the development of the next national Hate Crime Action Plan; and submitting expert opinion to various inquiries and consultations such as the Law Commission's review into hate crime laws.

Importantly, CST is also the first contact for government when it seeks to understand the impact upon British Jews of local or international crises. This longstanding relationship saw CST providing regular, detailed and reliable briefings to government during the significant spike in antisemitism in May, which helped inform the government and policing response.

CST staff meet regularly with many politicians, ranging from senior cabinet and shadow cabinet members to local councillors and Members of Parliament. As the Labour Party has moved to implement the recommendations of the Equalities and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) report into Labour Party Antisemitism, published in 2020 following the Labour antisemitism scandal, CST and other Jewish communal bodies have advised the party, and sought to hold it to account through membership of both the High Level Advisory Group and the

Reference Group established for this process.

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. The necessity for this was most tragically shown by the murder of Sir David Amess MP on October 15.

CST works with local authority community coordinators and Prevent staff, helping support counter-extremism measures and improve community cohesion. Similarly, CST also 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.



THE THREAT OF TERRORISM & CST'S WORK

Protecting British Jews from terrorist attacks drives much of CST's security work.

The level of anti-Jewish threat, and the amount of security needed from CST, largely depends on the overall threat of terrorism, both from international and domestic sources.

This threat has placed great strain on police and security services. CST's work has therefore also significantly increased.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had significant implications on the terrorism threat. UK Counter Terrorism Policing warned repeatedly that lockdowns can lead to vulnerable individuals being radicalised by extremist material. They also warned that the easing of restrictions would likely see extremists seeking opportunities to launch attacks.

In September 2021, Ken McCallum, the Director-General of MI5, said that despite a reduction in large-scale terrorist plots, there



is an increase in *"inspired terrorism"* and plots *"lower in sophistication"*.

UK TERROR ATTACKS AND FOILED PLOTS

Since March 2017, UK authorities have foiled 32 terrorist plots: 18 Islamist extremism, 12 right-wing extremism and two left, anarchist and single-issue terrorism (LASIT).

These plots included plans involving stabbings,

vehicle rammings, bombings and firearms.

In 2021, the UK experienced two terrorist attacks, both involving lone actors:

Fatal stabbing attack on Sir David Amess MP – October 15 2021

A lone attacker fatally stabbed Sir David Amess, the Conservative MP for Southend West, during a constituency meeting at a church in Leigh-on-Sea, Essex. The suspect was arrested at the scene and is awaiting trial.

Vehicle explosion outside Liverpool Women's Hospital – November 14 2021

A taxi exploded outside Liverpool Women's Hospital on the morning of Remembrance Sunday. The 32-year-old bomber was killed by the explosion and ensuing fire, but the taxi driver, who escaped from the vehicle, sustained injuries and was later released from hospital. Police are yet to confirm a motive, whether the explosion inside the taxi was

intentional and whether the hospital was the target.

MITIGATING THREATS

CST's security training, planning and operations are all designed to mitigate against terrorists' modus operandi, which include a variety of weapons and methods, such as vehicle rammings, knife stabbings, axe attacks, firearm assaults, suicide bombings and planted explosive devices.

Terrorists may act alone, in formal groups or as part of a broader online networks that can be global in their spread, ideology and incitement. They may undertake long-term surveillance of potential targets, or very brief planning online, on foot or in a vehicle. They may use social media to publicise imminent attacks, either explicitly or implicitly. It is crucial that such behavioural patterns are known, recognised and reported to police, CST and communal security personnel.



TERRORISM TRENDS IN 2021



CST closely studies terrorism incidents in Britain and worldwide, including anti-Jewish terrorism.

Overseas attacks against Jews have deep relevance for security in Britain because terrorists take inspiration from what they see and seek to copy the behaviour.

In 2021, the following key terrorism trends and patterns were apparent:

ATTACK MODUS OPERANDI

Most attacks in Western countries were committed by lone attackers, but terrorist attacks have also been organised in small groups. Crude or low-sophistication attack methods, involving bladed weapons and vehicles, remain the most common. However, attacks and foiled plots have also involved firearms and explosive devices. In Norway, for example, a lone attacker used bow and arrows and stabbing weapons to attack victims at random in both crowded public areas and inside private homes in October 2021.

ANTI-JEWISH TERRORISM

The UK at large is at threat from terrorism, but Jews remain high-value targets for ideologically motivated extremists whose antisemitism lies at the core of their beliefs. Global jihadists, right-wing extremists, as well as Iran and Hezbollah, among others, continue to incite hatred and target Jews.

The 2021 threat assessments of both the Norwegian and Danish security services stated that Jews and Jewish facilities remain desirable targets for jihadists and right-wing extremists. Danish intelligence, for example, judged that *"Jewish people, events and locations continue to play an important role in militant Islamist propaganda, and militant Islamists regard such targets as legitimate terrorist targets"*. Similarly, the Metropolitan Police assessed that Islamist and right-wing extremists view faith communities as desirable targets.

In May and June 2021, ISIS, Al-Qaeda central and AQ affiliates, along with other

groups, released numerous statements urging violent attacks against Israelis and Jews worldwide in response to the conflict between Israel and Hamas. Such declarations risk inspiring terrorist attacks against Jewish communities worldwide, including in Britain. In May, for example, a rabbi in Essex was subjected to a violent assault that caused head wounds.

Iran and Hezbollah also remain motivated to attack Israeli and Jewish targets worldwide. They are suspected of planning terrorist operations against Israeli businesspeople and Jewish targets in Europe, Africa and South America throughout 2021.

In recent years, terrorists have also plotted and perpetrated attacks on Jewish communities worldwide, targeting synagogues, kosher food shops, community centres, private homes and other locations. A key lesson from recent terrorist attacks and plots against Jewish communities is that most of the facilities were not obvious targets or iconic sites.

Consider the following examples:

- In September 2021, an 18-year-old from Essex was convicted of multiple terrorism charges, including plotting right-wing terrorist acts. He attempted to obtain a 3D-printed firearm or sawn-off shotgun to kill an Asian friend, but he also discussed aspirations to target Jews, Muslims, homosexuals and the UK government. The jury heard that his targets included *“powerful Jewish figures in banks and stuff”*.
- In September 2021, German authorities arrested a Syrian teenager allegedly planning a jihadist-inspired attack against a synagogue in Hagen during the High Holy Day festivals.
- In February 2021, Singapore authorities charged a suspect, who had aspired to join the Hamas Qassam Brigades, with planning a stabbing attack outside a synagogue after Sabbath morning services.

PANDEMIC AND TARGET SELECTIONS

Terror attacks can happen anywhere, but a ‘won’t happen here’ mentality remains.

Terrorists do not only attack iconic locations or densely crowded spaces. Soft targets continue to appeal to attackers, regardless of their ideology.

As pandemic guidelines changed in Western countries, terrorists adapted and selected targets where people gather despite restrictions: hospitals, COVID-19 testing sites, care homes, grocery stores and public areas, such as high streets and parks.

In February 2021, Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu, the then Head of Counter Terrorism Policing, warned that pandemic-related lockdowns changed terrorism target selections:

“The Streatham attack proved that it’s not necessarily the iconic Oxford Street locations or the big crowded spaces that we need to worry about; we need to worry about terrorists being prepared to commit an atrocity anywhere”.

CONSPIRACIES AND VIOLENCE

COVID-19 conspiracies and disinformation continue to proliferate among extremists. Right-wing extremists have posted widely online about conspiracies blaming Jews for the pandemic.

Around the world, loose networks of ‘anti-COVID’ activists have led to aggressive and violent demonstrations in numerous countries, as well as online discussions mixing anti-government sentiment and threats of violence.

MIXED IDEOLOGIES

The ideologies motivating terrorist and extremist violence remain diverse; they are often eclectic and difficult to classify neatly.

In late 2020 and early 2021, the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) assessed that a rising challenge comes from extremists engaging in a *“salad bar of ideologies”*. Their ideologies *“are less and less coherent”* and combine them with personal grievances to justify acts of violence.

The situation in the UK is similar. In April 2021, Jonathan Hall QC, the UK’s Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation, said that police and officials struggle with mixed, unclear and unstable ideologies. He emphasised that *“many confused individuals will nonetheless advance a political, religious, racial or ideological cause through violence”*.

Home Office statistics for the Prevent counter-radicalisation programme support these concerns. In November 2021, figures showed that 51% of Prevent referrals were for people with mixed, unstable or unclear ideology.

This includes individuals obsessed with mass violence, such as mass school shootings.

In January 2021, for example, Gabrielle Friel, a 22-year-old from Edinburgh, was jailed for terrorism offences. He possessed weapons, such as a high-powered crossbow and machete, in circumstances giving rise to the reasonable suspicion they were intended for a purpose connected with terrorism. Friel said he bought the weapons in 2019 and wanted to provoke police to shoot him. He also admitted to being obsessed with mass killings like the 1999 Columbine High School mass shooting in Colorado.

TEENAGERS AND TERRORISM

As described in CST's 2020 *Annual Review*, teenagers and children continue engaging in extremism and terrorism in worrying numbers, especially among the extreme right wing.

In September 2021, Metropolitan Police Commissioner Cressida Dick described *"a new generation of extremists"* and explained the *"increasing numbers of children lured towards terrorist activity"*.

In July 2021, MI5 Director-General Ken McCallum emphasised the *"high prevalence of teenagers, including young teenagers"* within extreme right-wing terrorism. He specified their *"obsessive interest in weaponry and thousands exchanging hate-filled rhetoric or claiming violent intentions to each other in extremist echo chambers"*.

Similarly, in July, Assistant Chief Constable Tim Jacques warned that *"we have seen young people in the UK jailed after being lured towards extremism and violence by what they consume online"*. Jacques stressed that police *"don't want to be in the business of convicting children and young people"* but must act to protect society. He also urged *"parents, friends and family to help us by talking to their children about what they view online, and sharing their concerns when they suspect someone they know is in danger of being radicalised"*.

In December 2021, Home Office counterterrorism statistics

showed that 25 teenagers (under 18s) were arrested for terrorism-related offences up to the end of September.

To better understand these developments, CST and ICSR (King's College London) jointly published a report in December 2021 titled *We are Generation Terror!: Radicalisation in Extreme-right Youth Groups*. The study examines ten racial nationalist groups across the UK and Western Europe, all of which are run by and composed of youth.

Consider the case of the 16-year-old neo-Nazi teenager from Cornwall. In February 2021, the teenager, who was the founder and leader of the UK offshoot of Feuerkrieg Division, pleaded guilty to two counts of disseminating terrorist publications and ten counts of possessing terrorist publications.

According to prosecutors, the teenager posted messages on far-right chat forums in 2019 about killing Jews, non-whites and homosexuals, using nail bombs, firearms and other weapons.

WORK WITH OTHER COMMUNITIES



SAFE SECURITY ADVICE FOR EVERYONE

SAFE – Security Advice for Everyone – is a unique CST initiative to improve the security of UK faith and minority communities outside the Jewish community. CST makes no charge for SAFE; this is CST giving its own contribution to a better society for all.

CST has long assisted other communities with security advice, but this was taken to a new level in 2019 after appalling terrorist attacks against Muslims in New Zealand and against Christians in Sri Lanka. CST employed specialists to plan and implement the SAFE programme, reaching out to other communities, and working with police and local authorities to best use CST's vast experience for the benefit of others facing the threat of terrorism.

SAFE has delivered talks face-to-face when the pandemic has allowed, but throughout

2021 it also delivered webinars that cover a range of security topics. Topics included 'Basic security for your place of worship', 'Online security', 'Organising security', 'Hate Crime and Your Community', 'Past Terror Attacks – Lessons Learned', 'Hate Crime', 'The Far Right' and 'Personal Security'.

The majority of SAFE events attract representatives from multiple organisations, usually the leaders of places of worship and those who take on security responsibilities. The events are usually arranged by police, local authorities, individual places of worship, mayors' offices, interfaith groups and religious groups. Either they approach SAFE (typically in response to a threat) or SAFE approaches them.

In 2021 SAFE delivered 33 in-person seminars and 47 online webinars. SAFE reached over 1,000 people representing 544 different places of worship in 2021. It is currently in discussion with 175 organisations that have requested its help.

Since its inception in 2019, SAFE has given 108 seminars and 74 webinars, attended by 3,706 people representing 1,724 places of worship.

Among the representatives of different faiths, Christians and Muslims have attended the largest number of SAFE events, followed by Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains and others. Police officers have also attended many SAFE events.

As well as building relationships with leaders of places of worship, SAFE has been working closely with organisations that CST has worked with for years – local authorities, police forces and mayors' offices – in pursuit of its mission.

SAFE's work has been well-received. The audience has been appreciative, and feedback has been very good. People have been surprised and delighted that the Jewish community is prepared to share its knowledge in this way. SAFE believes that doing this work breaks down barriers between communities and reduces prejudice.



VOLUNTEER

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



REPORT

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**.



DONATE

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**.

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

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

Manchester (Northern Regional Office) **0161 792 6666**



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