

#keepingitkosher

A STUDENT'S GUIDE TO ANTISEMITISM



100%
Kosher

Helping you identify and tackle
antisemitism on campus



UNDERSTANDING

What is antisemitism?

Antisemitism is discrimination, prejudice, hostility or racism against Jews.

Antisemitism, or anti-Jewish hatred, predates Christianity and has been called “the Longest Hatred”. Its persistence in some form or other is not doubted, yet precise definitions of antisemitism, its scale and its contemporary nature can cause heated debate.

It can come in many shapes and forms: street racism, state-backed terrorism, lunatic conspiracy theories, sly remarks, or in supposedly intellectual and academic works.

Some people say antisemitism is an ideology in its own right. Some say it just pollutes other ideologies; whilst others compare it to an illness, or virus. However you choose to describe it, you can find types of antisemitism in all sorts of different

“The Longest Hatred”

ideological places, including the far right, the far left, and Islamism. One of the most common themes is that Jews are accused of conspiring against others.

FAR RIGHT ANTISEMITISM can take Nazi or nationalist forms, in which Jews are deemed to be primary enemies of the race and/or of the nation, therefore deserving to be killed, jailed, expelled or discriminated against.

FAR LEFT ANTISEMITISM can associate Jews with capitalism or globalism, and may allege that Jews are only ever loyal to other Jews – therefore Jews are a class enemy of the people, or of the revolution.

ISLAMIST ANTISEMITISM derives from interpretations of history, religion and modern politics in which Jews are cast as enemies of Islam. These relate to the status

of Jews under early Islamic rule; the influence of European antisemitism on majority Muslim societies during colonial rule; and the role of Islamist movements like Hamas in radicalising the conflict between Israel and Palestine.

To be clear, Islamism is not meant here as some kind of code word for Muslims. It means those ideological groups who demand that Islam guide all public life. At its most extreme, groups such as ISIS and Al-Qaeda are murderously antisemitic.

In Britain today, the far left and most Islamists claim to oppose antisemitism (the far right sometimes claim this also). Nevertheless, their opposition to antisemitism is at best partial. For example, they may strongly support groups like Hamas and Hizbollah that are utterly antisemitic in their hostility against Jews and Judaism.

ANTISEMITISM

Defining Antisemitism

In 2003, the European Union Monitoring Centre (EUMC), which has since become the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), issued a working definition of antisemitism which reads:

"Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities."

(For the full definition visit the CST website.)

The definition has epitomised arguments over contemporary antisemitism, particularly the right of Jews to define what is antisemitic (a right that is freely granted to other minorities). It includes a list of behaviours that *"could, taking into account the overall context"*, indicate antisemitism in some criticism of Israel. Some anti-Israel and anti-Zionist activists ignore the *"overall context"* wording and then claim that the definition can unfairly render their behaviour antisemitic.

This definition has become advisory to students' unions that affiliate to NUS. Additionally, NUS has passed a constitutional rule recognising the perception of the victim in defining antisemitism and other hate crimes, in line with current Government and Police definitions.



The EUMC definition was adopted by NUS at its 2007 Annual Conference and reaffirmed at the 2010 and 2013 Annual Conferences.

What is Anti-Zionism?

Poster from a pro-Palestinian demo in London, July 2014, uses antisemitic myths about Jewish power, now directed at Israeli PM Netanyahu, shown as a vampire, an old antisemitic image.



'Anti-Zionism' describes a wide range of hostile attitudes towards Jewish self-determination, and particularly towards Jewish nationalism and Israel as a Jewish state.

It is a complex and contested term, because definitions of Zionism itself mean different things to different people. In particular, mainstream Jewish definitions of Zionism differ markedly from far left, far right and Islamist definitions – all of which tend to use, and denigrate, Zionism as a term of political abuse.

Antisemitism and Anti-Zionism

Antisemitism, anti-Zionism and anti-Israel hatred are not the same as each other. They can, however, be very hard to untangle and distinguish. Antisemitism can feed off criticism of Jews, Israel or Zionism, regardless of how fair or unfair, antisemitic or legitimate, that criticism may be.

Criticism of Zionism or Israel may not be antisemitic per se, but it risks becoming so when traditional antisemitic themes are employed. Boycotts of Israel can lead to hostile environments where antisemitism can thrive. Gauging antisemitic motives and impacts largely depends upon the interaction of the following factors:

MOTIVATION

To what extent is the criticism, or outright hatred, driven by the Jewish nature of Israel and/or Zionism, or expressed by attacking Israel on the basis of its Jewishness?

TARGET

Are Jews being singled out as recipients for criticism, bias or hatred that ostensibly derives from anti-Israel or anti-Zionist enmity?

REPEAT BEHAVIOUR

Does the offender repeat their behaviour, knowing the consequences and concerns that will be raised?

RESPONSE TO CONCERNS

Are Jewish concerns about the above sincerely and equally engaged with? Or, are Jewish concerns viewed with hostility and singled out for scorn?

CONTENT

Does the criticism, or hatred, use antisemitic or otherwise racist exclusivities, themes and motifs, such as comparing Israel to Nazis?



Comparing Israel to Nazi Germany is antisemitic.

Jewish life today

Jewish life in Britain is diverse and well integrated into wider society. Government and others cite the Jewish community as the benchmark of successful minority integration. On campus this translates to Jewish students generally having a positive and rewarding experience.

There is debate about the threat to Jewish life from antisemitism. Some argue it is

insignificant, whilst others believe that we live in dangerous times and the scale of antisemitism in Britain threatens the entire Jewish community.

Often, those who choose to deny or minimise the threat of antisemitism will compare it to other types of discrimination and argue that, in relative terms, the problem is not that severe.

This is not a serious approach to racism.

Any discrimination or bigotry is too much, and there is no league table of racism. The argument also fails to take into account the unique characteristics of the discrimination faced by different minorities. We should be able to agree that where any form of racism – including antisemitism – exists, it should be opposed.



TACKLING ANTISEMITISM

What you can do:



EDUCATE

Discrimination thrives on suspicion and ignorance and can be combated by engaging with initiatives such as UJS' J.E.W. (Jewish Experience Week), inviting Jewish speakers on to campus and commemorating Holocaust Memorial Day – and even in informal conversations.

A good place to start is UJS and your J-Soc, who will be happy to provide ideas, resources and support.

USE NO PLATFORM POLICIES

NUS has a No Platform policy, which has been adopted by many students' unions.

This is a strong tool at the disposal of minority students to protect themselves on campus. It exists to prevent individuals or groups known to hold extremist, racist and/or fascist views from speaking at union events.

FOSTER BETTER RELATIONS

Some groups and individuals will campaign against Israel on campus, which has the potential to create a hostile atmosphere and overflow into antisemitism. To avoid positions on both sides becoming entrenched, try to foster good relations. This shouldn't discourage healthy discussion, but it may help ensure that debates do not become tainted by antisemitism.

ON CAMPUS



UNDERSTAND CODES OF CONDUCT

Many universities and students' unions will have a code of conduct setting out expectations of student behaviour. If one exists, make sure it is used and implemented, in order to protect your rights on campus.



EMPLOY SPEAKER GUIDELINES

Recognising that controversial speakers invited on to campus can intimidate students, NUS has produced guidelines on managing the complications associated with external speakers. Similarly, Universities UK has provided guidance to help higher education institutions manage this process and align their policies with students' unions.

These guidelines provide legal information and recommend processes for assessing and managing external speakers. As such, they are useful resources to remind students' unions and universities of their duties in upholding all students' rights.

Who can help?

There are many people who can help you if you are experiencing a problem related to antisemitism. Who you approach will depend on the nature of the problem and who you feel most comfortable talking to.

THE POLICE

If you are a victim of or witness to antisemitic abuse, it is imperative that you tell the Police:

- In an emergency, always dial 999.
- For non-emergency situations, dial 101 or go to www.police.uk to find out which Police officers cover your campus.
- Antisemitic hate crime can be reported online to the Police via the True Vision website (www.report-it.org.uk) or its app.



UJS AND J-SOCS

As the representative body of Jewish students in the UK and Ireland, UJS is a good first port of call. They will be able to:

- Explain to you your rights and help direct your complaint to the relevant person or body.
- Support you in making representations to your campus security or campus liaison officer.
- Advise and support you on action to take with regard to your union and university.
- Put you in touch with like-minded students and direct you to suitable campaigning material.
- Put you in touch with your J-Soc (Jewish society).

- ★ www.ujs.org.uk
- ☎ 020 7424 3288
- @ advice@ujs.org.uk
- 🐦 UJS_UK
- f Union of Jewish Students

CST

The Community Security Trust (CST) is responsible for protecting the UK Jewish community, and monitors levels of antisemitism. If you are a victim of or witness to antisemitism, you should contact CST as well as the Police. CST can:

- Report it to the Police on your behalf if you don't feel comfortable doing so.
- Put you in touch with a CST Student Security Coordinator to advise you on the next steps and speak to your university or union security on your behalf.
- Provide you with practical security advice.
- Use your report to help build a picture of antisemitic activity on your campus and the wider area.

- ★ www.cst.org.uk
- ☎ 08000 328 456 (direct student number)
- @ students@cst.org.uk
- 🐦 CST_UK
- f Community Security Trust



YOUR UNIVERSITY

Universities take all forms of hate crime seriously, and should be able to help you with a range of services by:

- Directing you to university Police-liaison officers, neighbourhood policing teams or campus security teams. They deal with any student crime issues, including antisemitism.
- Referring you to university or students' union hate crime reporting centres. These can facilitate victims of hate crime in reporting incidents to the Police in complete confidence.
- Providing pastoral and emotional support through regular one-to-one meetings with your tutor.

OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT ADJUDICATOR

This is an independent body that runs a student complaints scheme in England and Wales. Complaints they can look at include discrimination, bullying and harassment, as well as welfare issues.

 www.oiahe.org.uk
 0118 959 9813



Your legal rights

Legal protection surrounding race hate, including antisemitism, on and off campus is covered by criminal and civil legislation, enshrined in several acts and laws including: the Race Relations Act; the Human Rights Act; the Education and Education Reform Acts; the Public Order Act; and discrimination and defamation law.

It is helpful to know what your legal rights are and to recognise situations where they have been compromised.

The law recognises that certain crimes are even more abhorrent if the assailant is motivated by racial or religious prejudice. The perpetrator will therefore receive a more severe punishment if it is established that the crime was racially or religiously aggravated. The types of offences included within this category are those against the person, such as common assault, harassment and public order offences.

INCIDENT

If you are a victim of an antisemitic incident:

In an emergency, always dial 999.

Report the incident as soon as possible to:

- 1. The Police – remember to ask for a crime reference number**
- 2. CST**
- 3. Your university – via campus security, Student Services, the students' union or UJS**

ASSAULT

- Seek assistance and first aid from emergency services or campus security.
- Once you are safe, approach witnesses and note their contact details.
- Write down the exact events, location, timings and description of the offender.

ABUSE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

- Report it to the Police, CST and your university.
- Report it to the social media outlet.
- Collect evidence by taking a screenshot of the offensive post, tweet, comments, and of the offender's profile.

CHECKLIST



GRAFFITI OR DAMAGE

- Collect evidence by taking photos and noting details of where the offending material is located.
- Ask campus security to remove the offending material.



ANTISEMITIC LITERATURE

- If it is being distributed, safely take a copy and note the description of the offender.
- If it is found, take a copy and note location of discovery.
- If appropriate take photos.



HATE MAIL

- Keep it and its envelope as evidence to give to the Police and make copies of both.
- Handle as little as possible.



CST contact details



Website www.cst.org.uk



Twitter www.twitter.com/CST_UK



Facebook *Community Security Trust*



students@cst.org.uk

London (Head Office) 020 8457 9999

Emergency 24-hour number 07659 101 668

Manchester (Northern Regional Office) 0161 792 6666

Emergency 24-hour number 0800 980 0668