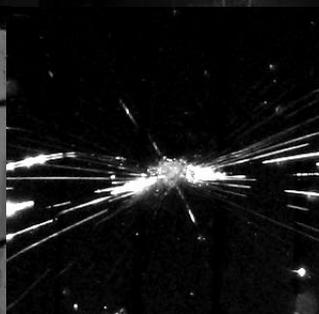


ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS REPORT 2009





January 2009, a bus stop in London:
"Kill the Jews" graffiti



September 2009, a bus stop in London:
Home Office-funded CST advert
to report antisemitic incidents

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Executive summary



924 antisemitic incidents, the highest annual total since CST began recording antisemitic incidents in 1984, and 55 per cent higher than the previous record of 598 incidents in 2006

- CST recorded 924 antisemitic incidents in 2009. This is the highest annual total since it began recording antisemitic incidents in 1984, and is 55 per cent higher than the previous record of 598 incidents in 2006.
- The total of 924 incidents is an increase of 69 per cent from the 2008 total of 546¹ incidents, and follows two years of falling incident totals in 2007 and 2008.
- The main reason for this record high is the unprecedented number of antisemitic incidents recorded in January and February 2009, during and after the conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza. The number of incidents recorded did not return to relatively normal levels until April, some three months after the conflict ended.
- 212 of the 924 antisemitic incidents reported to CST in 2009, or 23 per cent of the total, included a reference to Gaza alongside the antisemitic content, motivation or targeting. 158 of these occurred during January.
- Discounting the impact of reactions to the Gaza conflict (by replacing the monthly totals for January, February and March 2009 with those for the corresponding months in 2008) suggests there was a small increase in the baseline level of antisemitic incidents in the UK. The fact the Gaza conflict distorted the annual total by such a large amount suggests the baseline trend is particularly fragile and unable to withstand the pressures generated by major trigger events from overseas.
- There were 288 antisemitic incidents reported to CST in January 2009, by far the highest monthly total ever recorded, and 114 incidents in February. The previous monthly high was 105 incidents recorded in October 2000.
- There were 85 antisemitic incidents reported to CST in September 2009, more than in any single month in 2007 or 2008. This was mainly due to the high numbers of visibly Jewish people in public during the High Holy Day period, rather than any particular trigger event.
- There was a 157 per cent rise in the number of incidents that showed political motivation, from 172 in 2008 to 442 in 2009.
- There were 124 violent antisemitic assaults in 2009, the highest number ever recorded by CST and a rise of 41 per cent from the 88 violent assaults in 2008. However, this is the second year in a row the number of violent assaults has fallen as a proportion of the overall total, from 21 per cent in 2007 to 13 per cent in 2009.

¹ The incident figures in this report may differ from those previously published by CST, due to the late reporting of incidents by victims and witnesses.

- The 124 violent incidents include three incidents categorised as Extreme Violence, meaning they involved a threat to life or Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH).
- Incidents of Damage & Desecration to Jewish property rose by 17 per cent, from 76 incidents in 2008 to 89 incidents in 2009. This is the third year in a row the number of incidents in this category has increased.
- There were 605 incidents of Abusive Behaviour in 2009, a rise of 91 per cent from the 317 incidents of this type recorded in 2008 and the highest number ever recorded in this category which includes verbal abuse, hate-mail and antisemitic graffiti on non-Jewish property. There were more incidents of Abusive Behaviour recorded in 2009 than across all six categories of antisemitic incidents in 2008.
- There were 44 incidents recorded by CST in the category of Threats, which includes direct threats to people or property, rather than more general abuse. This is an increase of 57 per cent from the 28 incidents reported to CST in 2008, and is the highest total in this category for five years.
- There were 62 incidents recorded in the category of Literature in 2009, which covers mass-produced antisemitic mailings rather than individual hate-mail. This is a 68 per cent rise from the 37 incidents in this category in 2008, largely due to a series

of hostile or abusive emails sent to one victim, probably by a single perpetrator.

- There were 184 incidents involving Jewish community organisations or communal leaders and high-profile individuals as targets, an increase of 130 per cent compared to incidents of this type in 2008. This is typical of the kind of incidents that normally follow a trigger event such as the Gaza conflict in January.
- 154 antisemitic incidents that were reported to CST took place by email or, less frequently, involved comments left on interactive websites and blogs, an increase of 431 per cent on the 29 incidents of this type in 2008.
- In 97 incidents the victims were Jewish students, academics or other student bodies, a 43 per cent rise from the 68 campus-related incidents recorded in 2008. However 38 of these 97 incidents involved hostile or abusive emails sent to an individual Jewish academic, probably by a single perpetrator. Discounting this group of 38 incidents leaves 59 incidents involving Jewish students, academics or student bodies, a fall of 13 per cent from 2008.

- 68 incidents involved Jewish schools, schoolchildren or teachers as targets, a 36 per cent rise from the 50 incidents relating to schools and schoolchildren recorded in 2008. Of the 68 incidents, 37 were against Jewish



1,413: 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



schoolchildren on their journeys to or from school, 11 took place at Jewish school premises and 20 involved Jewish children or teachers at mainstream schools.

- Of the 924 incidents recorded by CST, 460 took place in Greater London, almost double the 236 incidents in London in 2008; 206 occurred in Greater Manchester, a rise of 65 per cent from 2008; and 258 were reported to CST from more than 70 other locations around the country.
- In addition to the 924 antisemitic incidents recorded by CST in 2009, a further 489 reports of potential incidents were received by CST, but not included in the total number of antisemitic incidents as there was no evidence of antisemitic motivation, targeting or content.
- The 489 potential incidents reported to CST that were not included in the annual total included 200 cases of potential Information Collection and Suspicious Behaviour at Jewish locations. These included 45 incidents of photography or filming of Jewish buildings, while in 42 cases suspicious people tried to gain entry to Jewish premises. These are not categorised as antisemitic by CST as it is often not possible to determine their motivation and many are likely to have innocent

explanations. However, identifying and preventing the potential hostile reconnaissance of Jewish buildings or other potential terrorist targets is an important part of reducing the possibility of future terrorist attacks.

- In total, there were 1,413 incidents, including antisemitic incidents and those of a non-antisemitic security-related nature, which required a response from CST staff and volunteers during 2009.



**Antisemitic graffiti
north Manchester
June 2009**

<p>A 3D pie chart with three segments. The largest segment is light blue, representing 37 incidents. The medium segment is medium blue, representing 20 incidents. The smallest segment is dark blue, representing 11 incidents.</p>	<p>A 3D pie chart with five segments. The largest segment is dark blue, representing 48 incidents. Other segments include light blue (26), medium blue (11), medium-dark blue (7), and a very small dark blue segment (5).</p>
<p>Jewish children or teachers at mainstream schools • 20</p> <p>At Jewish school premises • 11</p> <p>Schoolchildren on journeys to or from school • 37</p>	<p>Abusive Behaviour • 48</p> <p>Threat • 11</p> <p>Damage and Desecration • 5</p> <p>Assault • 7</p> <p>Literature • 26</p>
<p>Antisemitic incidents involving Jewish schools, schoolchildren and teachers</p>	<p>Antisemitic incidents involving students, academics and student bodies on and off campus</p>



Introduction

CST

CST is the Community Security Trust, a registered charity with 55 full-time staff, 3,000 voluntary personnel and many supporters. CST advises and represents the Jewish community on matters of antisemitism, terrorism, policing and security. CST received charitable status in 1994 and is recognised by government and police as a model of a minority community security organisation.

CST provides security advice and training for Jewish schools, synagogues and communal organisations, and gives assistance to those bodies that are affected by antisemitism. CST also assists and supports individual members of the Jewish community who have been affected by antisemitism and antisemitic incidents. All this work is provided at no charge.

An essential part of CST's work involves representing the Jewish community to police, legislative and policy-making bodies, and providing people inside and outside the Jewish community with information to combat antisemitism.

CST has recorded antisemitic incidents in the United Kingdom since 1984.

Reporting and recording of incidents

CST classifies as an antisemitic incident any malicious act aimed at Jewish people, organisations or property, where there is evidence that the act has antisemitic motivation or content, or the victim was targeted because they are (or are believed to be) Jewish. Incidents can take several forms, including physical attacks on people or property, verbal or written abuse, or antisemitic leaflets and posters. CST does not include the general activities of antisemitic organisations in its statistics; nor does it include activities such as offensive placards or massed antisemitic chanting on political demonstrations. CST does not record as incidents antisemitic material that is permanently hosted on internet websites, but will record antisemitic comments posted on blogs or internet forums that are reported to CST, if they show evidence of antisemitic content, motivation or targeting.

Antisemitic incidents are reported to CST in a number of ways, most commonly by telephone, email or by post. Incidents can be reported by the victim or by someone acting on their behalf. In 2001 CST was accorded third-party reporting status by the police, which allows CST to report antisemitic incidents to them and to act as a go-between for victims who are unable or unwilling to report to the police directly. CST works closely with Police services

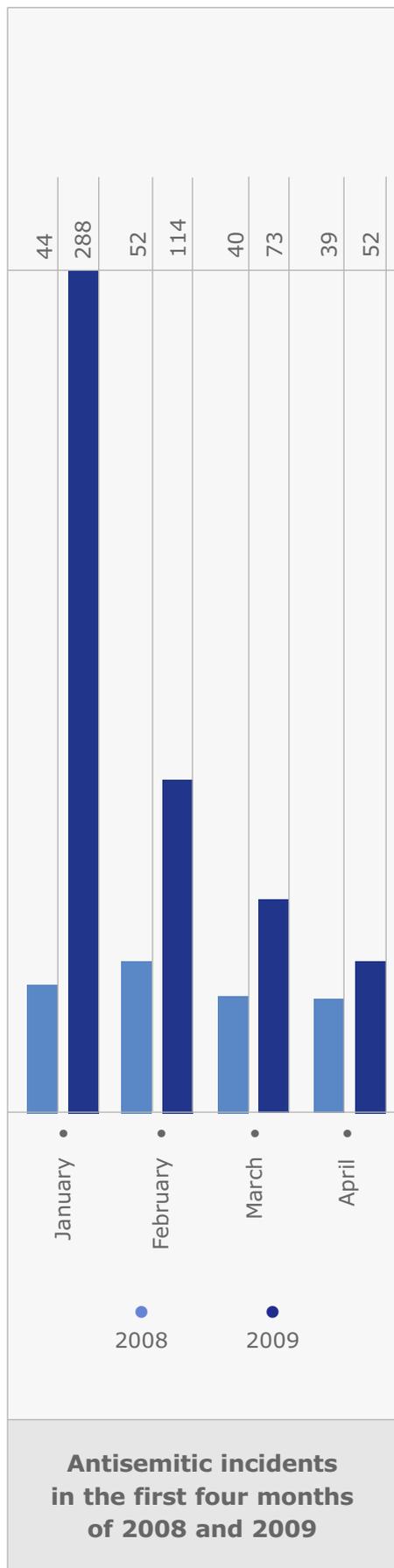
and specialist units in monitoring and investigating antisemitic incidents. Not all antisemitic incidents are reported to CST and therefore the true figures will be higher than those recorded. No adjustments have been made to the figures to account for this. It is likely that this non-reporting also varies from category to category: for instance, while most attacks against Jewish communal locations are probably reported to CST, it is likely the vast majority of cases of verbal abuse are not. All reported incidents are investigated thoroughly before being included in CST's incident statistics. If there is no evidence of antisemitic motivation, language or targeting in a particular incident then it will not be included in the annual total.

In 2009, CST received 489 reports of potential incidents that were rejected for this reason, and are not included in the total number of antisemitic incidents. These represent 35 per cent of the potential incidents reported to CST and mostly involved criminal damage to, or theft from, Jewish property; assaults on, or theft from, Jewish people; suspicious activity or potential information gathering around Jewish locations; or anti-Israel activity which does not use antisemitic language or imagery and is directed at pro-Israel campaigners, rather than simply Jewish people, buildings or organisations chosen at random.

CST takes the wishes of victims, both individuals and the heads of Jewish organisations or communal buildings, very seriously. In particular, CST treats the issue of victim confidentiality as a top priority. If the victim of an incident chooses to remain anonymous, or asks for no publicity about an incident, CST will observe their request whenever possible.



Antisemitic incidents in the United Kingdom in 2009



CST recorded 924 antisemitic incidents in the UK in 2009. This is by far the highest annual total since CST began recording antisemitic incidents in 1984, and is a 69 per cent rise from the 2008 figure of 546² incidents. The reason for this unprecedented rise in antisemitic incidents lies in the reactions to the conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza and southern Israel, which led to record numbers of incidents in January and February. The number of antisemitic incidents reported to CST did not return to pre-Gaza levels until April, three months after the fighting ended. The previous record high for any year since 1984 was 598 incidents recorded in 2006.

There were 288 antisemitic incidents in January, 114 in February and 73 in March. For comparison, the previous highest ever monthly total was 105 antisemitic incidents in October 2000, the month that the second Palestinian Intifada began. It is possible to get a rough idea of how many antisemitic incidents there might have been in 2009 without the Gaza factor, by replacing the 2009 totals for these three months with the corresponding monthly figures for 2008: 44 antisemitic incidents in January; 52 in February; and 40 in March. This would give a hypothetical annual figure of 585, an increase of seven per cent on the 2008 total of 546. This exercise suggests the baseline level of antisemitic incidents in the UK still increased slightly in 2009, even without the impact of events in the Middle East.

The record rise in 2009 follows two years of falling antisemitic incident numbers in 2007 and 2008. It is more than triple the 270 antisemitic incidents recorded by CST in 1999. While this increase partly reflects the growth and reach of CST’s work, and better reporting rates to CST from the Jewish community, there is a long-term trend of rising numbers of antisemitic incidents across Britain since the late 1990s. Any hopes that the decline in incidents in 2007 and 2008 may have represented the beginning of a downward trend, have been off-set by the unprecedented number of antisemitic incidents in 2009. It appears the baseline trend in antisemitic incidents is particularly fragile, and cannot withstand the pressures generated by trigger events from overseas.

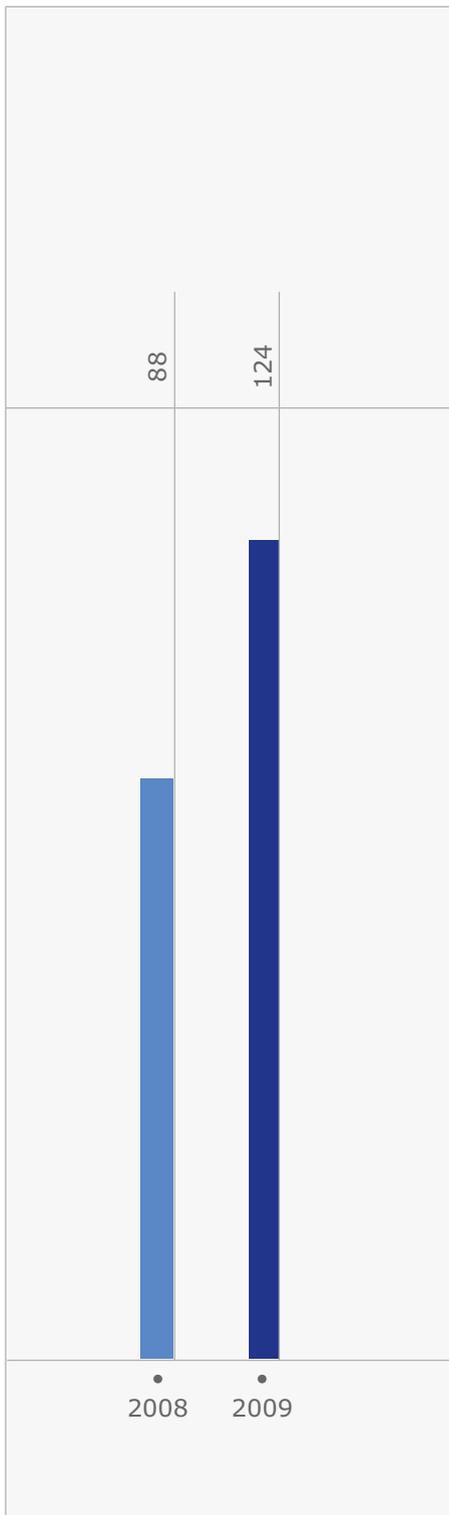
CST classifies antisemitic incidents by six distinct categories: Extreme Violence; Assault; Damage and Desecration of Property; Threats; Abusive Behaviour; Antisemitic Literature. The definitions of these categories, and examples of the incidents that occurred in each one in 2009, are given on the following pages³.

² This is a higher number than the 541 incidents cited in CST’s Antisemitic Incidents Report 2008, as it includes incidents reported to CST after the publication of that report. Similar ‘late’ incidents have also been taken into account for previous years. As well as affecting the annual totals, these adjustments mean that some of the monthly and category figures for these years cited in this report differ from previously published data.

³ A more detailed explanation of the six antisemitic incident categories can be found in the CST leaflet *Definitions of Antisemitic Incidents*, available on CST’s website <http://www.thecst.org.uk>



**Antisemitic graffiti
north Manchester
June 2009**



124 violent antisemitic assaults, a 41 per cent rise from the 88 violent antisemitic assaults recorded by CST in 2008

Extreme Violence

Incidents of Extreme Violence include any attack potentially causing loss of life or Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH). There were three incidents of Extreme Violence in 2009, compared with one in 2008.

Incidents of Extreme Violence included:

- May:** A Jewish man driving an electric convenience vehicle was rammed by a car shortly after he left a synagogue. The Asian driver of the car had mounted the pavement in order to carry out the attack and shouted "Jew, Jew" as he did so. The victim fortunately only suffered minor injuries.
- September:** An unsuccessful attempt was made to set fire to the house of a rabbi, while the house was occupied.

Assault

Incidents of Assault include any physical attack against a person or people, which does not pose a threat to their life and is not GBH.

CST recorded 121 incidents of Assault in 2009. By combining this with the number of incidents of Extreme Violence – three – we can see the full range of physical attacks on Jews. This gives a total of 124 antisemitic assaults, a 41 per cent rise from the 88 violent antisemitic assaults recorded by CST in 2008. 124 violent antisemitic attacks is the highest ever recorded by CST. However, this is the second successive year in which the number of violent assaults has fallen as a proportion of the overall total, from 21 per cent in 2007, and 16 per cent in 2008 to 13 per cent in 2009. This may mark a return to the pattern of the period 2000 - 2002, when incidents of Assault and Extreme Violence made up 13 per cent of the overall total. Alternatively, it may simply reflect the fact that so many more non-violent incidents, involving hate-mail, antisemitic graffiti or verbal abuse, were recorded in 2009.

102 of the 124 incidents of Assault or Extreme Violence recorded in 2009 were random, opportunistic attacks on Jewish people in public places, of which 85 targeted people who were visibly Jewish, usually due to their religious or traditional clothing. 42 of the incidents involved objects, often eggs, being thrown at visibly Jewish people from passing cars. Particular targets for this kind of incident are the visibly orthodox communities in Salford and Bury in north Manchester and Golders Green,

Hendon and Stamford Hill in north London. There were 18 assaults on Jewish schoolchildren or staff in 2009. There were seven assaults on Jewish students during 2009, of which four took place on campus and three off campus.

Incidents in the category of Assault in 2009 included:

- **January:** A visibly Jewish man was assaulted in north west London. The attackers punched him to the ground and kicked him in the head and body. During the attack the perpetrators were shouting about the Palestinians in Gaza.
- **February:** Three non-Jewish people walking down a main road in central London were assaulted by two men, one white and one of Asian appearance, who accused them of being Jewish and then attacked them. The victims suffered cuts, chipped teeth and possible eye socket and jaw fractures.
- **February:** A visibly Jewish student in Leeds was attacked by a group of Asian men who saw him and shouted "Get the Jew", before pelting him with snowballs and pushing him against a wall.
- **February:** A 12-year-old pupil who is the only Jewish girl in her school was attacked by a group of 20 other school-children of mixed races, who pulled her hair and shouted: "Death to the Jews, kill all Jews."
- **March:** A Jewish man was walking home through a park in north London when three men jumped on him and hit him, shouting "You f**king Jew" and "Hitler didn't do the job properly."
- **March:** A visibly Jewish man took his children to a play area in north Manchester. While he was there two white people attacked him, shouting: "F**king Jew, they should do over here the same as they did in Germany."
- **May:** Two white youths attacked a Jewish family on a street in north Manchester. One of the perpetrators shouted "You f**king Jews, we will get you, we will kill you", before kicking one of their victims in the head and headbutting another.
- **June:** Two men wearing balaclavas threw eggs at visibly Jewish people walking to synagogue in Manchester.



**A Jewish man beaten up
in north London
January 2009**



Arson attack at a London synagogue. CST's protective anti-shatter film on the windows prevented the arsonists from attacking the interior.

Damage and Desecration of Property

This category includes any physical attack directed against Jewish property, which is not life-threatening. This includes the daubing of antisemitic slogans or symbols (such as swastikas), including stickers and posters, on Jewish property, or damage caused to Jewish property, where it appears the building has been specifically targeted because of its Jewish connection.

There were 89 incidents of Damage and Desecration in 2009, an increase of 17 per cent on the 2008 figure of 76 incidents. Of the 89 incidents, 26 involved the desecration of synagogues. There were six desecrations of Jewish cemeteries, compared to three in 2008. 48 of the 89 incidents in this category – over half – took place in the first three months of the year. Many of these incidents involved graffiti on synagogues and other Jewish property that referred to the conflict in Gaza.

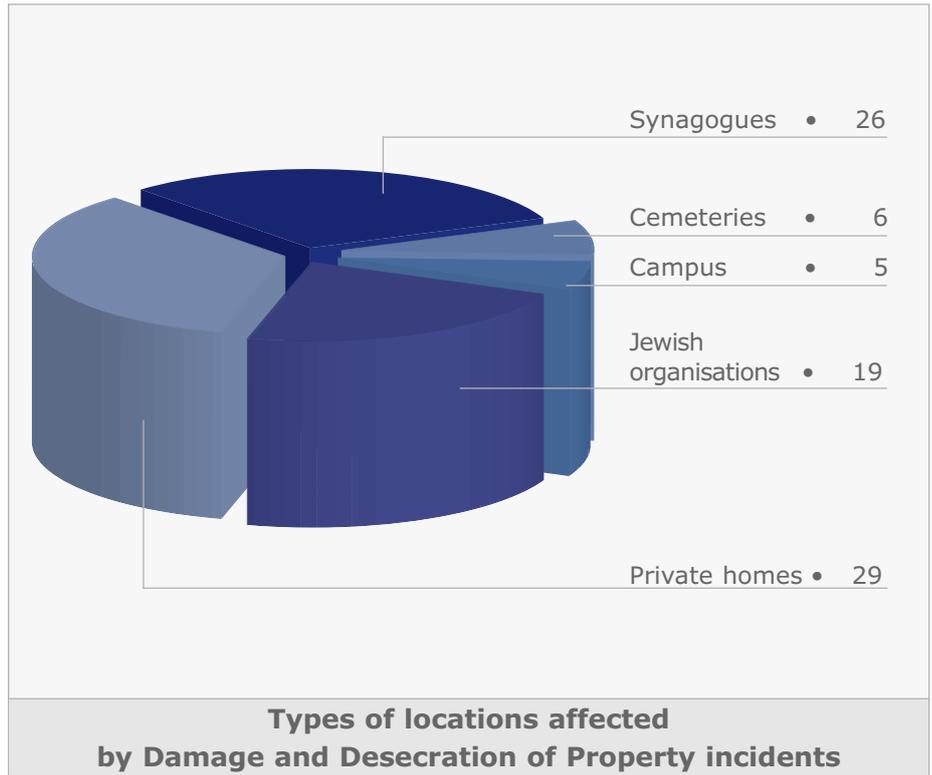
Incidents of Damage and Desecration in 2009 included:

- **January:** A synagogue in north west London was set alight in an arson attack. The arsonists tried to break a window to pour petrol into the building but failed due to protective film that had been put on the windows by CST. Instead they set light to the front door of the premises, causing superficial damage.

stating "Kill the Jews", "Jihad 4 Palestine" and "Bomb the Jews".
- **January:** "Free Gaza" was written on the wall of a synagogue in Yorkshire.
- **February:** Strips of bacon, arranged in the shape of a Star of David, were stuck to the fence of a Jewish home in Yorkshire, with the word "Jewboy" written underneath.
- **February:** "Kill all Jews, kill Bush" was written on a Jewish-owned shop in Manchester.
- **January:** Posters with the slogan "Jihad is the only solution for Palestine" were placed on the gates of a Jewish building in north west London, during the Gaza conflict.
- **January:** Graffiti including "Kill all Jews", "SNP/Hamas" and "No Jews in Scotland" was daubed on a wall and gravestones in a Jewish cemetery in Glasgow.
- **May:** A Jewish man in the west Midlands returned home to find the mezuzah (prayer scroll) had been ripped off his front door. When he entered his home, he found a BNP election leaflet had been pushed through the letter box. This took place during the
- **January:** Several synagogues in different parts of London were daubed with graffiti

European election campaign, in which the BNP was standing.

- **June:** The website of a kosher restaurant in London was hacked into and the message "I hate Israel... I hate USA... save Palestine" was left by the hackers.
- **August:** Two swastikas were carved into the front door of a synagogue in Hertfordshire.
- **November:** A man in Manchester posted a parcel to his son on a kibbutz in Israel. When the parcel arrived, somebody had written "Jewland" under the address.



Bacon placed on the door handles of a synagogue in Leeds June 2009

*“Stop killing
Palestinians
you murderers.*

*You are worse
than Hitler.*

*You are much much
worse than Hitler.*

*You Israelis
are murderers.*

Murderers.

Murderers.

*You kill babies
and women
in Palestine.*

You pigs.

*Hitler was right
after all.”*

**Transcript of an abusive call
received at a synagogue
in north east England,
January 2009**

Threats

This category includes only direct threats, whether verbal or written.

There were 44 antisemitic threats recorded in 2009, a rise of 57 per cent on the 2008 total of 28 threats. 27 of the 44 threats were verbal, of which 10 were by phone, 12 by email and three by text message.

Incidents in the category of Threats in 2009 included:

- **January:** A Jewish academic received an email that read: “Down with ZIONISM We know where you!! Just a reminder to always look over your shoulder, never know whats there!!!!!!”
- **January:** A visibly Jewish student was standing outside a college in Manchester when an Asian man walked past him and shouted “Free Gaza you murdering Jewish bastard”. The perpetrator then said “You’re gonna wear those glasses as f**king contact lenses tomorrow.”
- **April:** A pro-Israel organisation organising an event in London received an email that read: “Death to all Jews. You perform tonight and you can expect a broken skull (cap).”
- **May:** A Jewish student activist in Birmingham received a phone call from somebody purporting to be from the Palestine Society, who told him that he needs to watch his back as somebody would “get him”.
- **June:** A Jewish schoolboy was walking home from school in Manchester when an Asian man shouted to him: “Come on Jew boy, let’s have a fight, I’m gonna knife you.”
- **July:** A Jewish man was walking to synagogue in Manchester when a car drove past and the Asian driver shouted: “Dirty Jew, we’re gonna blow up your synagogues.”

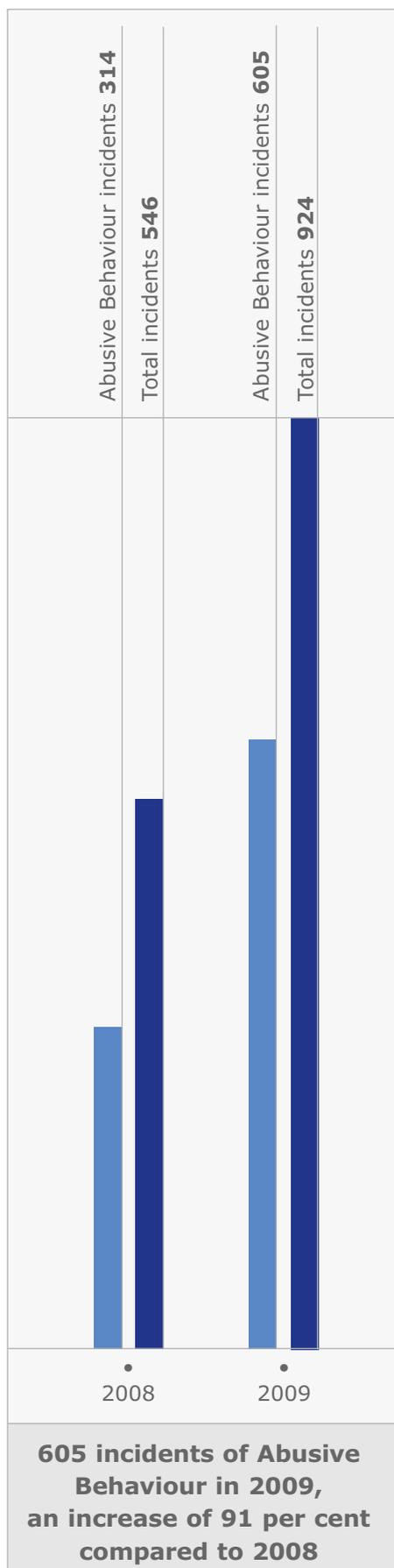
Abusive Behaviour

This category includes verbal and written antisemitic abuse. The verbal abuse can be face-to-face or via telephone or answerphone messages. The category also includes antisemitic emails and text messages, as well as targeted antisemitic letters (that is, those aimed at and sent to a specific individual), irrespective of whether or not the recipient is Jewish. This is different from a mass mailing of antisemitic leaflets or other publications, which is dealt with by the separate Literature category. Antisemitic graffiti on non-Jewish property is also included in this category.

There were 605 incidents of Abusive Behaviour reported to CST in 2009, an increase of 91 per cent from the 317 incidents in this category in 2008. This is the highest number of incidents ever recorded by CST in this category and is more than all the incidents recorded across all six categories combined in 2008.

Incidents of Abusive Behaviour in 2009 included:

- **Various months:** 35 cases of graffiti stating "Kill the Jews", "Slay Jewish pigs", "Nuke Jews", "Jihad 4 Israel" or similar slogans were recorded in London, Manchester and 12 other locations around Britain, often near Jewish buildings or in areas with high Jewish populations. This does not include graffiti directly daubed on Jewish property, which would be classified as Damage and Desecration. Most of these incidents took place during or shortly after the conflict in Gaza.
- **January:** Graffiti on a public wall in Bury read: "Stop the killer Jews" and "Jewish bastards 660 innocent dead".
- **January:** A Jewish woman walked near to the site of a pro-Palestinian demonstration in Preston. A group of 10 Asian men saw her and shouted: "You f**king Jew, go free Palestine you f**king Jew... free, free Palestine, death to Israel, death to Jews."
- **January:** A message was left on the answerphone of a synagogue in north east England which said, "Stop killing Palestinians you murderers, you are worse than Hitler, you are much much worse than Hitler. You Israelis are murderers murderers murderers, you kill babies and women in Palestine. You pigs Hitler was right after all."
- **January:** A London college Jewish Society received an email that read: "It's a shame Hitler lost the war before killing all of you f**king scum."
- **January:** A Jewish community leader in Scotland received a phone call in which the caller said he was "calling a list of numbers to express our disbelief at Israeli barbarism and to tell you that we hate Israel and we hate the Jewish conspiracy". When the victim asked who was calling, the caller repeated "we hate the Jewish conspiracy".
- **February:** A 10-year-old girl was at school in London when a fellow pupil said: "Why do Jews always start wars? I hate Jews."
- **February:** A Jewish organisation in London received an email which read: "Just watching the report on Gaza, on the BBC. The hatred for your people which didn't exist before certainly exists now. I have had Jewish friends at university before despite the irritation of some of my friends, now I know I was wrong and they were right. The next Jew



I see, I will spit in his face." The email was sent during the broadcast of an episode of Panorama about Gaza.

- **February:** The graffiti "Vote BNP NF Hamas" with a swastika was written on a bus stop in Leeds.
- **February:** A comment from 'WorldIslamicFront' stating "Kill the Jews burn them in ovens" was left on a YouTube page showing a video of a pro-Israel rally in Manchester.
- **February:** A visibly Jewish family were walking in London when a car drove past and an occupant shouted "Yiddos" at them.
- **March:** A man telephoned a Jewish organisation in Manchester and said: "This is the BNP, you f**king Jewish bitch." The same person called back later and asked to speak to Anne Frank and to Hitler, before saying again that he was from the BNP.
- **April:** Football fans chanted "yiddo" at an Israeli footballer during a Champions League match in London.
- **May:** A Jewish woman was entering a synagogue in London when a white woman shouted at her, "I bet Palestinians do not get to go to nice weddings like that", "Murderers", and "Blood on your hands".

- **July:** A visibly Jewish family were walking down a road in London when an Arab man shouted at them in French and Arabic, before calling them "Yahud" (Arabic for Jew) and making a throat-slitting gesture.
- **July:** An organisation in London which ran an educational programme about the Holocaust received several Holocaust denial emails.
- **September:** "Yid" and "Yid army" were shouted at a Jewish man on his way to synagogue in Hertfordshire on Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year).
- **October:** A Jewish woman was collecting her children from a nursery in Manchester when a white man asked her if she was Jewish, before saying "Why don't you f**k off back to Israel" and "I hope you all get bombed".
- **December:** Two white men shouted "Dirty Jews" at a crowd that had gathered to watch the lighting of a public chanukiah (candelabra) in central Manchester, for the festival of Chanukah.

Literature

This category covers the distribution of mass-produced antisemitic literature which is distributed in multiple quantities. This can involve a single mass mailing, or repeated individual mailings, but it must involve the multiple use of the same piece of literature in order to fall into this category. This is different from one-off cases of hate-mail targeted at individual people or organisations, which would come under the category of Abusive Behaviour or Threats (depending on their content). The Literature category includes literature that is antisemitic in itself, irrespective of whether or not the recipient is Jewish, or cases where Jews are specifically targeted for malicious distribution, even if the material itself is not antisemitic. This would include, for instance, the mass mailing of neo-Nazi literature to Jewish homes, even if the literature did not mention Jews. This category also includes emails that are sent to groups of recipients, but not material that is generally available on websites or comments posted on blogs.

The statistics for the category of Literature give no indication of the extent of distribution. A single mass mailing of antisemitic literature is only counted as one incident, although it could involve material being sent to hundreds of recipients. Thus the number of incidents reflects the number of perpetrators, rather than the number of victims.

There were 62 Literature incidents in 2009, a rise of 68 per cent on the 37 incidents recorded in this category in 2008. This is almost entirely due to a series of hostile or abusive emails sent to an individual victim, probably by a single perpetrator, 24 of which fell into this category.

Examples of Literature incidents in 2009 included (all spellings as in originals):

- **January:** Several synagogues in London received a letter which read: "How can you sleep at night? Talking about genocide! No wonder people want to see you wiped out of the face of the earth. How can you kill so many innocent creatures and justify it?... You don't integrate. You only help your own. You love money and power more than God. You have been the cause of the 2nd World War and the Iraq war..."
- **January and February:** Several Jewish organisations received hate-mail that featured a cartoon from The Times about the conflict in Gaza. The perpetrator had written over the top of the cartoon: "God will curse the filthy YIDS, They kill our Wives, they kill our KIDS! Steal our Land, Bomb our houses to BITS, God won't forgive the Israeli GESTAPO SHITS."
- **February:** A veteran far right activist distributed leaflets outside a conference on antisemitism in London which read: "pseudo Jew khazars anti goy capitalist and communist comrade commissars" and "the meglomaniac paranoid Zionist's alleged holocaust."
- **March:** A group of religious leaders received an email which read: "The only way to stop International Jewish Terrorism is to confiscate all Jewish assets in the UK to pay for the rebuilding of Gaza. When these International Terrorist realize there is a price to pay for their tri-annual massacres perhaps even Jewish terrorist will think twice before having another massacre."
- **July:** A small group of Jewish and non-Jewish organisations received a letter in the name of the violent neo-Nazi group Combat 18.

Victims

The victims of antisemitic incidents come from the whole spectrum of the Jewish community, from strictly orthodox to liberal, reform and secular Jews; from the largest Jewish communities of London and Manchester to small, isolated communities all over the United Kingdom; and from Jewish schoolchildren to Members of Parliament.

The most common single type of incident involved verbal abuse randomly directed at visibly Jewish people in public.

In 414 incidents, the victims were ordinary Jewish people, male or female, attacked or abused while going about their daily business in public places. In 229 of these, the victims were visibly Jewish, usually due to their religious or traditional clothing, school uniform or jewellery bearing Jewish symbols. 101 incidents targeted synagogue property and staff, and a further 43 incidents targeted congregants on their way to or from prayers.

A total of 68 antisemitic incidents took place at schools or involved Jewish schoolchildren or teaching staff. Of these, 11 incidents took place at Jewish schools, 20 at mainstream schools and 37 incidents targeted Jewish schoolchildren on their journeys to and from school. Taken together, these 68 school-related incidents show a 36 per cent rise from the 50 incidents relating to schools and schoolchildren recorded in 2008. This is largely because of an increase in the number of incidents reported to CST involving Jewish children and staff at mainstream schools, rather than an increase in incidents at Jewish schools.

There were 97 incidents involving Jewish students, academics or other student bodies, a 43 per cent rise from the 68 campus-related incidents recorded in 2008. However, 38 of these 97 incidents involved hostile or abusive emails sent to an individual Jewish academic, probably by one perpetrator. Discounting this group of 38 incidents leaves 59 incidents involving Jewish students, academics or student bodies, a fall of 13 per cent from 2008. 79 of the 97 incidents (or 41 of the 59 incidents, minus the email cluster) took place on campus, of which four were assaults. There were seven antisemitic incidents at Queen Mary's University in London and six at Manchester University. 11 antisemitic incidents took place at campuses where there was an ongoing 'student occupation' of university property in protest at events in Gaza.

There were 184 incidents that targeted Jewish community organisations or communal leaders and high-profile individuals, an increase of 130 per cent compared to the 80 incidents of this type in 2008. This is typical of the kind of incidents that normally follow a trigger event such as the Gaza conflict.



Who is being targeted?

Perpetrators and motives

Identifying the motives and ethnicity of the perpetrators of antisemitic incidents can be a difficult and imprecise activity. Many antisemitic incidents involve public encounters where the antisemitic abuse may be generic, brief and sometimes non-verbal. In cases involving physical or verbal abuse, it depends on the evidence of victims of, and witnesses to, antisemitic incidents, and may rely on the perpetrators' physical appearance, language or other indicators. It is obviously an easier task to analyse, for instance, a sample of hate-mail, where the content of an antisemitic letter often reveals the political motivation of the perpetrator, although it would be a mistake to assume to know the ethnicity of a hate-mail sender on the basis of their political opinions.

A physical description of the perpetrator was provided in 321 of the 924 incidents recorded by CST⁴. Of these, 145 were white; 10 were east European; 27 black; 98 Asian; two Far Eastern and 39 of Arab appearance. Therefore, there were white perpetrators (taking white and east European together) in 48 per cent of incidents where a physical description of the perpetrator was given. These figures partly reflect the fact that Britain's Jewish communities tend to live in relatively diverse urban areas, but events during the year also have an impact on the ethnicity of incident perpetrators. Taking January on its own, when Gaza provided a major ongoing trigger event related to the Middle East, a physical description of the perpetrator was provided to CST in 89 out of 288 antisemitic incidents. Of these, 54 per cent were described as being of Asian or Arab appearance. This is much higher than the 43 per cent of incident perpetrators described as having either Asian or Arab appearance across the whole of 2009. In 2008, when there was no trigger event from the Middle East, the proportion of antisemitic incident perpetrators described as white was 63 per cent, while the proportion described as Asian or Arab stood at 31 per cent - much lower than the 2009 figure. CST has conducted analysis of antisemitic incident perpetrators by ethnic appearance since 2004. Since then, the only other year in which the proportion of incident perpetrators identified as white dropped below 50 per cent was 2006, which was also marked by a significant rise in incidents in response to events in the Middle East.

Analysing the content of incidents can also help to identify the motives of incident perpetrators. There is not necessarily a direct correlation between the language and imagery used in an antisemitic incident and the ethnicity of the perpetrator. One feature of contemporary

⁴ CST uses the 'IC1-6' system, used by the Metropolitan Police Service and others, for categorising the ethnic appearance of incident perpetrators. This uses the codes IC1, IC2, IC3 etc, for 'White', 'East or Dark European', 'Black', 'Asian', 'Far Eastern' and 'Arab' respectively. This is obviously not a foolproof system and can only be used as a rough guide: for example, an east European perpetrator could easily be described as IC1 or IC2, depending on whether an incident victim or witness is capable of identifying their nationality by their appearance, accent, language or some other indicator.



**Graffiti in an area of north east London with a large Jewish population
January 2009**

One feature of contemporary antisemitism is that the use of far right references is no longer the preserve of neo-Nazis; nor is mention of Israel and the Middle East restricted to Muslim or Arab perpetrators of incidents.

antisemitism is that the use of far right references is no longer the preserve of neo-Nazis; nor is mention of Israel and the Middle East restricted to Muslim or Arab perpetrators of incidents. In 132 incidents, the perpetrators employed more than one type of discourse, often mixing references to the Middle East with references to Nazism. It is more accurate to say that the Middle East and the Nazi period are both used by antisemites of all backgrounds as sources for material to use when abusing Jews.

Unsurprisingly, given the role that reactions to the Gaza conflict played as a trigger event, the number and proportion of incidents showing a political motivation rose significantly in 2009 compared to 2008. In 2009, 293 incidents included reference to Israel and the Middle East, 212 of which made reference to Gaza. 175 of these incidents showed anti-Israel motivation as well as involving clear antisemitic content, motivation or targeting. This is a large rise from 2008, when 90 incidents made reference to the Middle East and 62 were anti-Israel as well as antisemitic. In addition, 106 incidents in 2009 showed clear Islamist motivation, while 68 involved the use of Islamic language or themes. Both these figures have increased from 2008, when 34 incidents had an Islamist motivation and 23 involved the use of Islamic discourse.

A more traditional antisemitic language involves references to the Nazi period, such as swastika daubings or Holocaust-related abuse. In 2009, 250 incidents involved the use of this sort of language or imagery, of which 161 showed clear far right motivation. Again, this is an increase from 2008, when 88 incidents involved the use of language or symbols from the Nazi period and 76 incidents were motivated by extreme right sentiments.

In total, 442 out of the 924 antisemitic incidents recorded in 2009, or 48 per cent, showed political motivation, compared to 172 incidents in 2008 (32 per cent).

Trigger events and the Gaza conflict

It is well established that trigger events in Britain and, especially, in the Middle East, that are perceived to involve Jews or Israel in some way, can spark a temporary rise in antisemitic incidents against British Jews. The unprecedented rise in the number of antisemitic incidents in the UK in 2009 occurred largely because of the extreme reactions to the trigger event of the Gaza conflict. In 2006, Israel's war against Hezbollah in Lebanon saw the largest previous such 'spike' in antisemitic incidents, when 134 incidents were recorded in the UK during the 34 days of fighting. This was the single most important reason for the record high of 598 antisemitic incidents recorded by CST in 2006. By contrast, in 2007 and 2008 there were no significant trigger events, either from the Middle East or in the UK, to cause any identifiable spike in antisemitic incidents to distort the overall picture, and the annual total fell in both years.

Over half the incidents reported to CST during January 2009 – 158 out of 288 – included some reference to the fighting in Gaza. A further 54 incidents that included a reference to Gaza were recorded by CST during the rest of the year, making 212 in total, or 23 per cent of all antisemitic incidents recorded in 2009.

There is no clear answer to the question of why this trigger event caused a much bigger spike in incidents than previous episodes, but it should be noted that much of the anti-Israel discourse in Britain during that period had an unusually extreme and angry tone. Several anti-Israel demonstrations involved banners equating the Star of David with the swastika and, at some, the chanting of antisemitic slogans. Some of the demonstrations were marked by outbreaks of violence against the police and damage to local shops, notably branches of Starbucks. None of these activities are included in the 924 antisemitic incidents recorded by CST, or in the 489 non-antisemitic incidents recorded. Nevertheless, they impact upon the overall context and environment within which Jewish communities live, and within which actual antisemitic incidents and communal tensions may occur, including schools, campuses and workplaces. They may have helped to encourage the extreme feeling that drove some people to carry out antisemitic incidents. Alternatively, the rise in incidents and the vitriol and violence of the demonstrations may both have been symptoms of the same underlying cause.



**Antisemitic sticker
Bournemouth
February 2009**



**Graffiti in north east London
15/16 January**



**Graffiti in north east London
15/16 January**



**Graffiti in north east London
15/16 January**



**Graffiti in north west London
15/16 January**

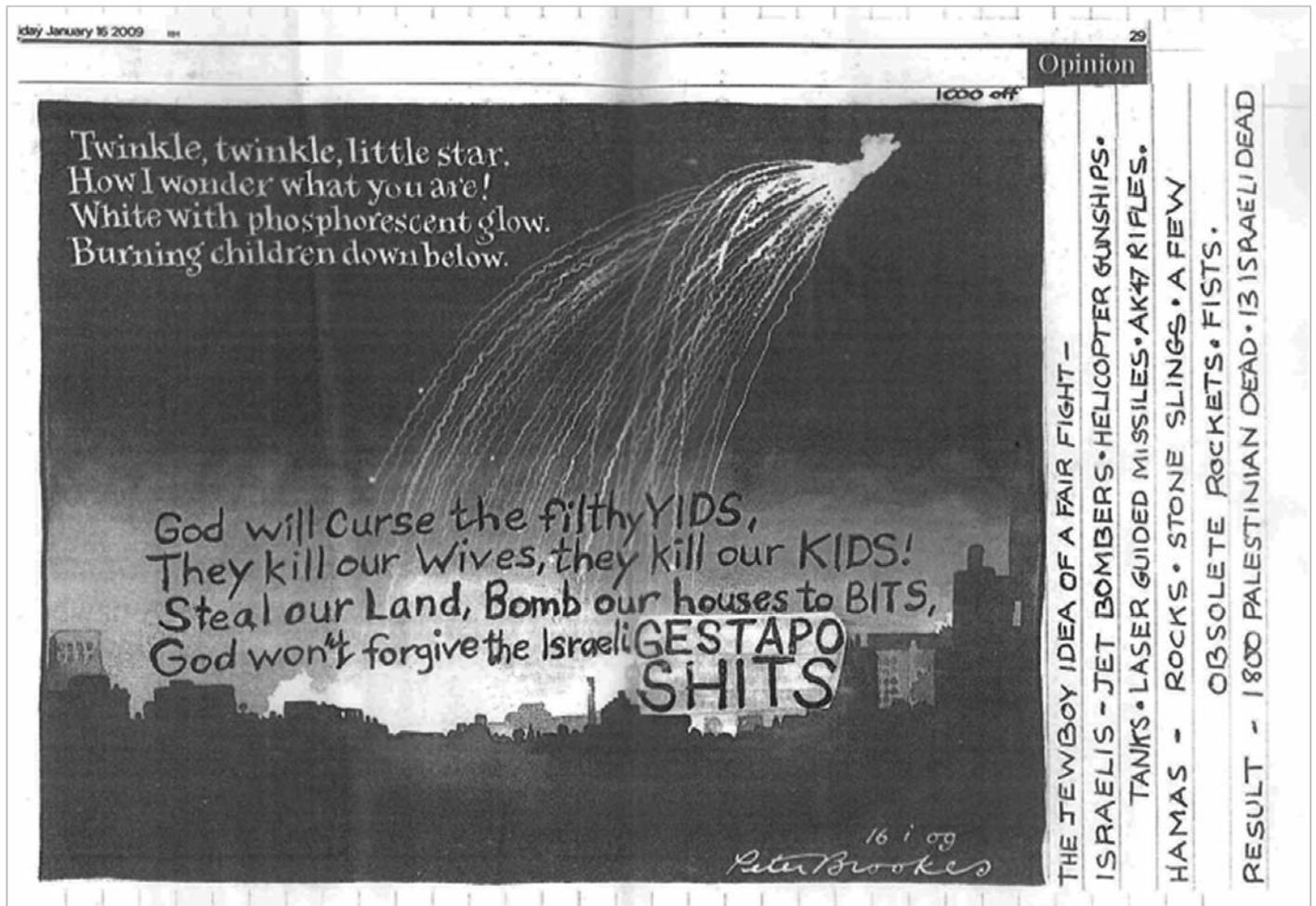
Another question arising from that period is why the numbers of incidents reported to CST took so long to return back to normal levels. Previously, whenever antisemitic incident numbers have risen in the UK in response to conflicts in the Middle East, they have tended to decline to normal levels soon after the fighting has ended. In August 2006, it took just a few days for this to happen at the end of the fighting between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon. In 2009, however, the number of incidents in the UK remained at an abnormally high level for several weeks after the end of the fighting in Gaza. Although it is difficult to identify a precise cause (or causes) for this, it may reflect the fact that the fighting and its aftermath remained high on the media agenda, and therefore in the public consciousness, for some weeks after the fighting ended. For example, the number of antisemitic incidents reported to CST did drop from 13 on the last day of fighting (17 January), to five the following day and three the day after that. However, the daily incident total then rose again, possibly in response to media coverage of the refusal by some broadcasters to show a film promoting the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) charity appeal for Gaza. There were 10 antisemitic incidents reported to CST on 22 January, the day the BBC announced their decision not to broadcast the appeal. Alternatively, the fact that the incident level remained high for so long after the end of fighting may simply reflect the deep impression the conflict left on those people motivated to attack British Jews; or a sustained and increased motivation on the part of British Jews to report attacks to CST.

The highest daily total of antisemitic incidents during the Gaza fighting was 22 incidents recorded on 16 January, the day after Israeli shells were reported to have struck a UN aid compound in Gaza. Of these, 17 incidents involved antisemitic graffiti on or near to Jewish buildings across 11 different London boroughs, in what appeared to be an orchestrated campaign of intimidation over the night of 15/16 January. The graffiti included slogans such as "Kill the Jews", "Jihad 4 Israel", "Jews kill babies and lie", "Slay Jewish pigs", "holocaust was a lie" and "nuke Jews".

The type of incident recorded during January 2009 differed from the sort normally reported to CST in several ways. Of the 288 incidents recorded during the month, 121, or 42 per cent, took the form of threatening or abusive hate mail (either paper or email) or phone calls, compared to 275, or 30 per cent, across the year as a whole. They were also more likely to target synagogues, Jewish organisations or prominent Jewish individuals (42 per cent in January, compared with 31 per cent throughout 2009). In January, 66 per cent of incidents showed some evidence of political or ideological motivation, compared with 48 per cent for the whole of 2009. Of the 191 antisemitic incidents during January that showed evidence

of political motivation, as well as antisemitism, 114 showed evidence of primarily anti-Zionist motivation, 55 showed Islamist motivation, and 22 showed far right motivation. Across the year as a whole, these numbers were much more evenly spread, with 175 showing anti-Zionist motivation, 161 far right and 106 Islamist, alongside the antisemitic motivation, content or targeting.

This profile of the type of incidents that made up the large January total – abusive hate mail or phone calls to synagogues or Jewish community organisations or leaders, using overtly political language alongside the antisemitism – was also observed during the Lebanon war of 2006. It suggests a type of political antisemitism directed at British Jews, but motivated by political extremism or anger related to Israel, rather than the kind of street-level racism that typifies much antisemitic hate crime at other times.



**Hate mail sent
to Jewish organisations
in London and Manchester
January and February 2009**



Antisemitic or anti-Israel?

The distinction between antisemitic and anti-Israel activity is often subtle and is subject to much heated debate and disagreement. Clearly, it is incorrect to define all anti-Israel activity as antisemitic in content or motivation, yet it is also clear that much contemporary antisemitism is expressed within the framework of, or is motivated by, extreme feelings over the Israel/Palestine issue. Drawing out these distinctions, and deciding on where the dividing lines lie, is one of the most difficult areas of CST's work in recording and analysing hate crime.

CST received reports of 489 potential incidents during 2009 that, after investigation, did not appear to be antisemitic and were therefore not included in the total of 924 antisemitic incidents. These 489 potential incidents included examples of anti-Israel activity directed at organisations involved in pro-Israel work, especially during the fighting in Gaza in the first part of the year, but did not involve antisemitic language or imagery, and were therefore not classified by CST as antisemitic. Examples of anti-Israel incidents that were not recorded by CST as antisemitic include the following:

- **January:** During the fighting in Gaza, a pro-Israel campaigning group received an email that read, "Murderers, thieves, swindlers! You are the bane of this earth, a blot on our landscape. Go to Hell."
- **April:** A car with an Israeli flag on display had the word " Hamas" scratched into its paintwork.
- **September:** The graffiti "Zionists out of Palestine" was written in a lift at a London Underground station.
- **December:** A charity that raises money for projects in Israel received a series of emails that were critical of Israeli policy, but did not contain any antisemitic language.

Sometimes, the targeting of a particular incident can suggest an intention to intimidate or offend Jews on the part of the perpetrator. For example, graffiti reading "Jihad 4 Israel" would be classified as an antisemitic incident when it is daubed in an area known for having a large Jewish community, but not when it appears in another area where few Jews live. Similarly, anti-Israel material that is sent unsolicited to synagogues at random may be recorded as an antisemitic incident (because it fails to distinguish between a place of worship and a political organisation), when the same material sent unsolicited to specifically

London, January 2009: this graffiti was classified as an antisemitic incident because of the equation of a Star of David with a swastika, and because it was found directly opposite a Jewish school.

pro-Israel organisations would not be. On the other hand, if a particular synagogue has been involved in public pro-Israel advocacy, and subsequently is sent anti-Israel material, it may not be classified as antisemitic unless the content of the material dictates otherwise.

The political discourse used in an incident may also be the reason why it is accepted or rejected as antisemitic. The exact nature and content of each incident is assessed individually, but some basic guidelines can be applied. For example, incidents that equate Israel with Nazi Germany would normally be recorded as antisemitic, whereas those that compare Israel to, for instance, apartheid South Africa normally would not be. While the charge that Israel practises apartheid upsets many Jews, it does not contain the same visceral capacity to offend Jews on the basis of their Jewishness as does the comparison with Nazism, which carries particular meaning for Jews because of the Holocaust. There were 68 antisemitic incidents recorded by CST in 2009 that involved the comparison of Israel or Zionism with Nazi Germany.

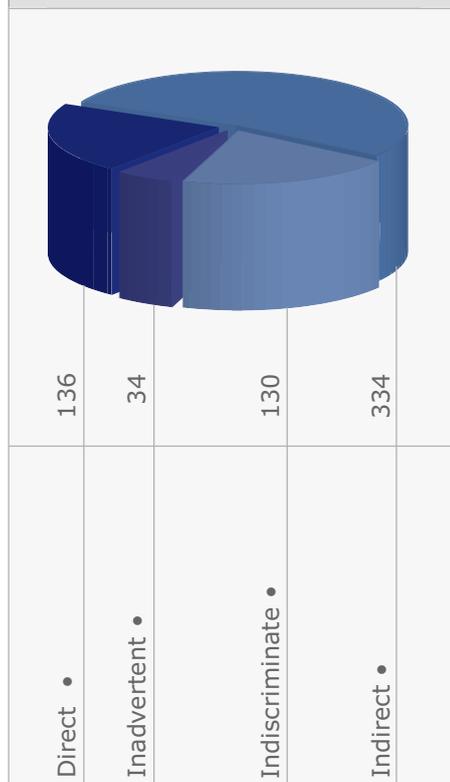


London, January 2009: anti-Israel graffiti on a non-Jewish building in an area not known for having a large Jewish population. This was not classified as an antisemitic incident

Typology of incidents: mission, opportunistic or aggravated?



Typology of incidents



Type of mission incidents

A study of antisemitic incidents recorded by the Metropolitan Police Service from 2001 – 2004⁵ defined ‘mission’ incidents as those in which “the offender takes some premeditated action to instigate the incident by engineering their interaction with the victim. In addition, antisemitism seemingly drives the offender’s actions – as manifest by their language or symbols they use” (Iganski, Keilinger & Paterson, 2005). Applying this definition to the 924 antisemitic incidents recorded by CST in 2009 reveals that 634 incidents, or 69 per cent of the total, showed evidence of being ‘mission’ incidents. This does not mean that, in every case, the perpetrator left their house intending to find a Jewish person or building to attack, although this does happen in several cases. Rather, it relates to incident perpetrators who, in the moments preceding an antisemitic incident, go out of their way to make contact with that Jewish person or location in order to express their bigotry.

The 634 ‘mission’ incidents recorded by CST can be further broken down by type of incident. These three incidents are examples of what can be referred to as ‘mission-direct’, which involves direct, face-to-face contact between perpetrator and victim.

Examples of ‘mission’ incidents recorded in 2009 include:

- **January:** A Jewish student was walking down a road in Leeds when a car slowed alongside him and an occupant shouted, “F**k you Jew, free Gaza” and made a gesture as if pretending to shoot a gun.

reported in court that Cherry was a supporter of the British National Party, a claim that the BNP denied.
- **September:** A visibly Jewish man was walking home from synagogue in London when someone approached him and asked if he was Jewish. When the man said yes, the perpetrator spat in his face before walking off.
- **March:** A white man was convicted of religiously aggravated common assault for shooting visibly orthodox Jews with a pellet gun in Gateshead. The perpetrator, Kris Cherry, told magistrates that he carried out the attacks because “to be honest, I don’t like Jewish people”. It was

⁵ Iganski et al, *Hate Crimes against London’s Jews* (Institute for Jewish Policy Research, London 2005)

Other incidents which do not involve face-to-face contact can be classified as 'mission-indirect', of which these are examples:

- **March:** A Jewish organisation in London received an email which read: "Do you know where i can get some Zyklon B - i've got a load of jews locked in my garage i need to dispose of, they are really stinking up the place!! Filthy f**kers the lot of them, better off DEAD."
- **Various months:** Jewish locations in Leeds received abusive and threatening antisemitic letters. Paul Fretwell of Drighlington, West Yorkshire, was convicted of racially aggravated harassment and sentenced to a 100 hours community service order.
- **January:** A Jewish organisation in London received a phone call in which the caller said, "You are not welcome in the UK" and "Go home to Israel".

Other 'mission' incidents do not target a specific victim, but take place in a public area where the victim can be anyone who happens to pass by. Examples of these 'mission-indiscriminate' incidents include:

- **January:** A school exam invigilator found "Kill all the Zionist Jew bastards" written on a desk at a school in north east London.
- **February:** A swastika with the words "Gas the Jews" was found on a wall at Manchester University.

The final type of 'mission' incidents that make up the 634 incidents of this type in 2009 were 'mission-inadvertent', whereby the perpetrator's expression of antisemitism is inadvertently overheard or seen by somebody who the perpetrator did not intend to offend or abuse. Examples of this from 2009 include:

- **January:** Rowan Laxton, a senior diplomat at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, was overheard shouting "F**king Israelis, f**king Jews" while watching a news report at his gym in London. He was found guilty of racially aggravated harassment, fined £350 and ordered to pay £500 costs.
- **February:** A group of 12- and 13-year-old youths of black and Asian appearance in London were overheard calling each other "Oy you Jew" and "Filthy Zionist", as terms of abuse.



Antisemitic graffiti
Edgware, north west London
November 2009

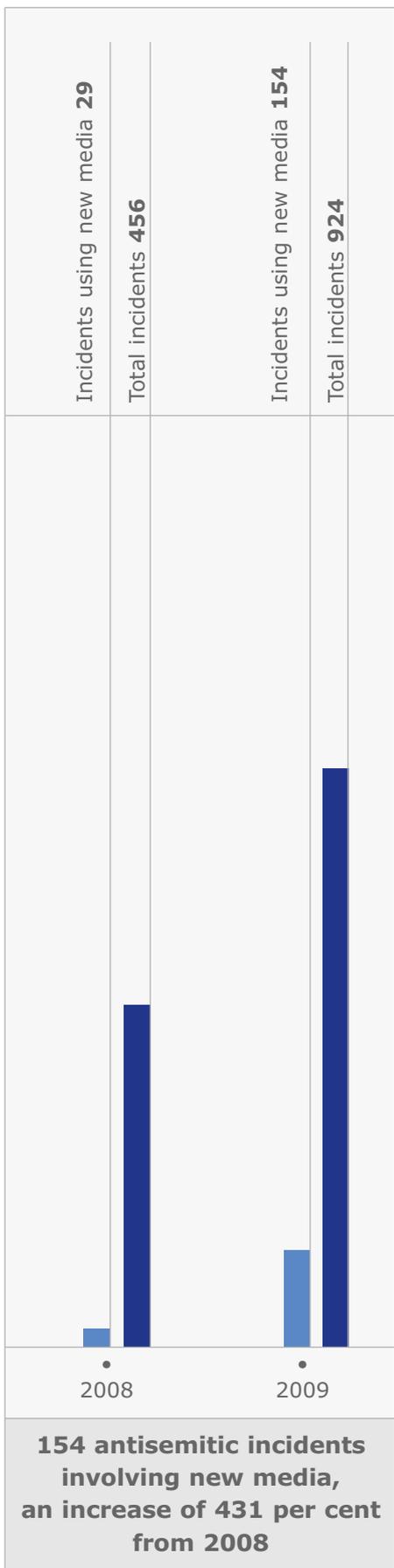
By comparison, 189 incidents, or 20 per cent of the total, appeared to be 'opportunistic', whereby "the offender takes immediate advantage of an opportunity that presents itself to vent their antisemitism, rather than engineering the incident in a premeditated way" (Iganski et al, 2005). Examples of these from 2009 include:

- **January:** A visibly Jewish man was leaving a shop in north Manchester when a group of mostly white youths shouted, "Hitler came to town, Hitler's going to finish the Jews off."
- **June:** An Arab man repeatedly punched a visibly Jewish man on a London Underground train and ripped up the man's prayer book.

53 incidents, or six per cent, were 'aggravated' incidents, whereby "the offender and victim are caught up in a conflict situation that initially does not involve antisemitism. However, in the course of the conflict the offender's bigotry emerges" (Iganski et al, 2005). Examples in 2009 include:

- **August:** A Jewish man driving his car in London hooted at another driver who was blocking his way. The other driver wound down his window and shouted: "F**king Jews, you should all have been exterminated, I hate Jews."
- **November:** A Jewish woman was involved in an ongoing dispute with her neighbour. On one occasion the perpetrator told her to "go back to where you come from, you Middle Eastern scum".

New media and antisemitic incidents



One changing feature of the way in which antisemitic incidents are perpetrated is the role played by new media in their transmission. CST does not record as incidents material that is permanently hosted on static websites, such as, an antisemitic article on the website of al-Muhajiroun. Nor does CST proactively trawl blogs, message boards or internet chat rooms looking for antisemitic comments to record as statistics. Making statistical sense of such data would require a level of consistent, widespread monitoring that is beyond CST’s capacity and would result in many thousands of incidents being recorded from the internet alone. However, CST cannot ignore antisemitic abuse or threats, just because they are electronic rather than scrawled on a wall or shouted in the street. Therefore, if somebody reports a particular antisemitic comment to CST that they have seen on a blog or message board then it will be recorded as an antisemitic incident, as long as it meets the criteria for antisemitic content, motivation or targeting which would be applied if the comment had been shouted at them in the street or written on a wall.

In 2009, 154 antisemitic incidents were reported to CST involving email or comments posted on internet blogs or message boards, a vast increase from the 29 incidents in this form recorded in 2008. For comparison, there were 51 incidents in 2009 involving hate mail in paper form, similar to the 53 incidents of this type in 2008. Of the 154 incidents in 2009, 130 involved the use of email. These would be classified as Abusive Behaviour, if the email had a single recipient; Threats, if it contained a direct threat; or Literature, if the email had more than one recipient, thereby mimicking the mass-mailing of antisemitic leaflets. There were 24 incidents involving antisemitic comments placed on blogs and internet message boards, which would usually be classified as Abusive Behaviour or Threats, depending on the content. Incidents of these types included:

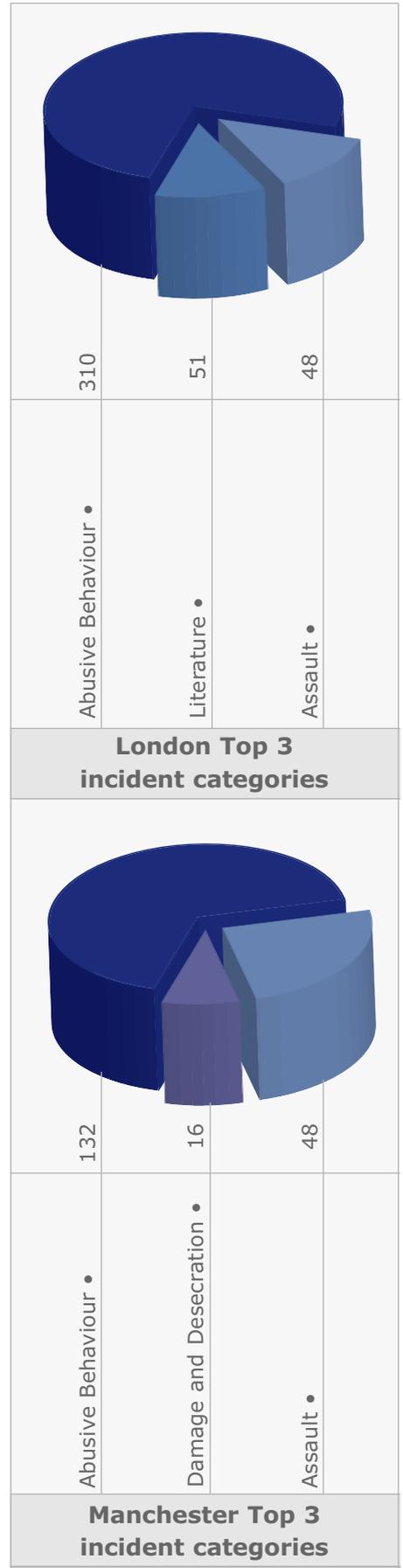
- **January:** A Jewish man received a number of abusive messages on his Facebook page. One read: “The only mistake Hitler ever did was not to exterminate the rest of the Jews.”
- **January:** A comment from ‘WorldIslamicFront’ stating “Kill the Jews burn them in ovens” was left on a YouTube page showing a video of a pro-Israel rally in Manchester.
- **February:** A comment stating “Now the world knows why I gassed this violent people” in the name “Hitler the second” was left on a blog promoting the occupation of a building at Sheffield Hallam University by pro-Palestinian students.

Geographical locations and differences

Over two thirds of the 924 antisemitic incidents recorded in 2009 took place in Greater London and Greater Manchester, the two largest Jewish communities in the UK. Of these, 460 incidents took place in London and 206 in Manchester. This continues the pattern whereby a disproportionately high number of incidents (22 per cent in 2009) take place in Manchester, despite the fact that under 10 per cent of British Jews live there. There were 48 antisemitic incidents in Hertfordshire (of which 20 were in Borehamwood); 35 incidents in Leeds (of which nine were student-related); 30 in Scotland (including 14 in Glasgow and seven Edinburgh); 16 in Birmingham; 11 in Nottingham (eight of which were student-related); and eight antisemitic incidents in Gateshead. In total, 258 antisemitic incidents were reported to CST from over 70 different locations outside London and Manchester.

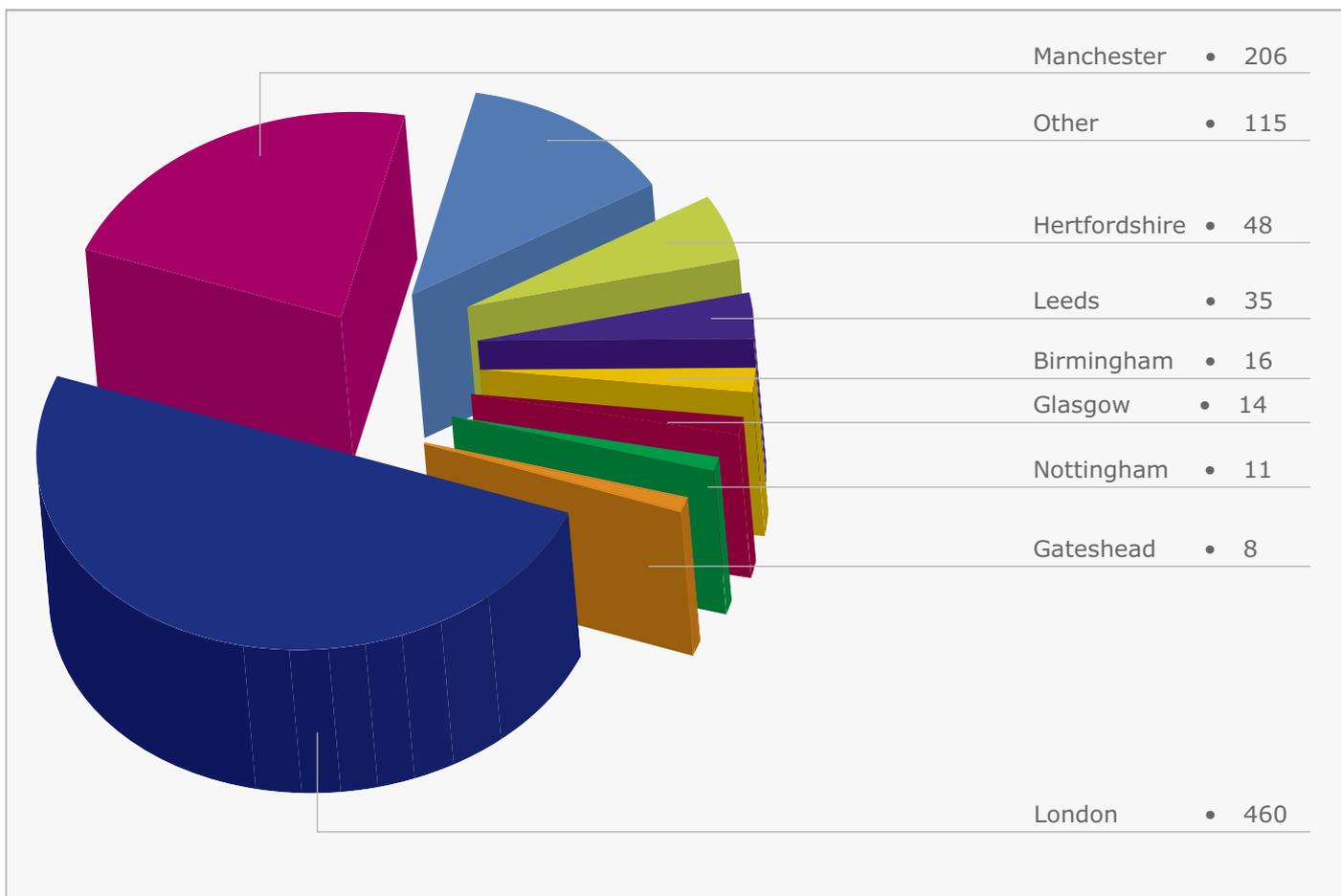
Within London, there were 164 antisemitic incidents in the borough of Barnet, which has the largest Jewish community of any London borough, 61 in Westminster, 61 in Camden, 21 in Tower Hamlets and 20 in Redbridge. In Greater Manchester, 75 of the 206 antisemitic incidents recorded by CST took place in the Metropolitan Borough of Salford, 59 in Bury and 51 in Manchester. Both the London and Manchester totals increased significantly from the 2008 totals: from 236 incidents to 460 for London, and from 125 incidents to 206 in Manchester.

Further differences between incident types in London and Manchester can be drawn out of the statistics. Taken broadly, and allowing for very rough generalisations, these show that antisemitic incidents in Manchester are more likely to involve random, spontaneous street thuggery against individual Jews, while politically-motivated antisemitism – which normally takes the form of hate-mail, abusive phone calls or antisemitic graffiti – tends to be concentrated in London where most of the Jewish community’s leadership bodies and public figures are based. So, for instance, antisemitic incidents in Manchester tend to be more violent than in London: Extreme Violence and Assault made up 23 per cent of the incidents in Manchester, compared to just 10 per cent in London, and 13 per cent across the whole country. Incidents in London are more likely to show evidence of political motivation: 55 per cent of incidents in London showed far right, Islamist or anti-Zionist motivation alongside the antisemitism, compared to just 33 per cent in Manchester.



This pattern also shows up in the incident typology for London and Manchester. 'Mission' incidents made up 68 per cent of incidents in London, compared to 55 per cent in Manchester; and within that, in London the most common type of 'mission' incident was 'mission-indirect', which includes hate mail, antisemitic emails and abusive or threatening phone calls. In contrast, 'opportunistic' incidents made up 35 per cent of the incidents in Manchester, but just 15 per cent in London.

Incidents in Manchester are more likely to target individual Jews in public than in London (70 per cent of Manchester incidents compared with 37 per cent of London incidents). They are also more likely to involve verbal abuse (Manchester 61 per cent of total, London 41 per cent) rather than hate-mail: while 34 per cent of London incidents involved hate-mail, email or comments on internet blogs, there were just seven hate-mail, email or internet-based incidents in Manchester. While 57 per cent of antisemitic incident perpetrators in Manchester were described as white, that figure fell to 42 per cent in London in 2009, probably reflecting the greater diversity in the capital's population.



Geographical breakdown of antisemitic incidents in the UK 2009

Information Collection and Suspicious Behaviour

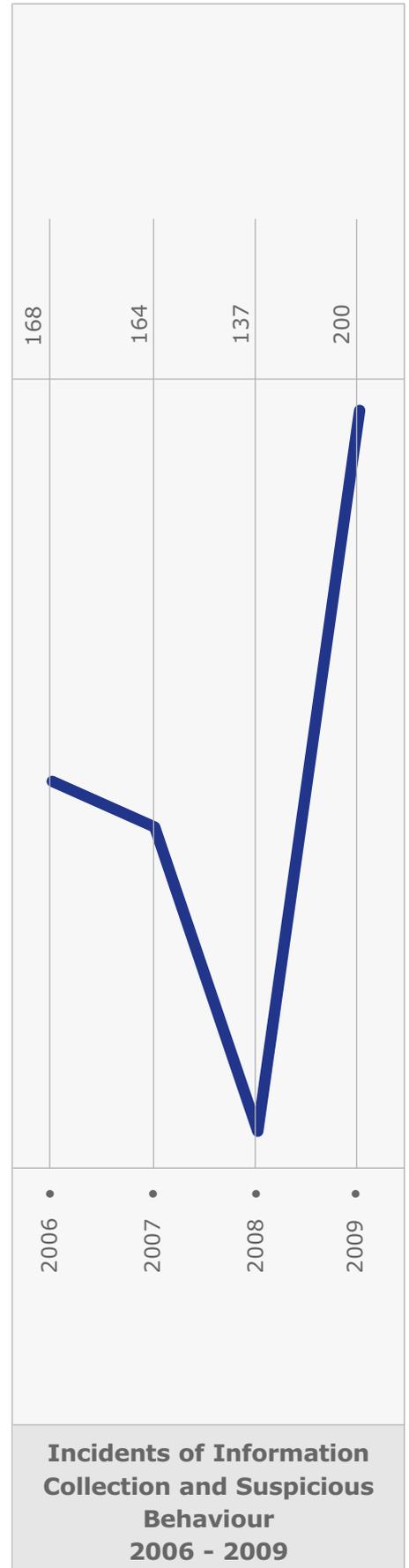
One of the most important jobs CST does is to record and analyse incidents of Information Collection and Suspicious Behaviour around Jewish locations. It is well known that terrorist groups often collect information about their targets before launching an attack.

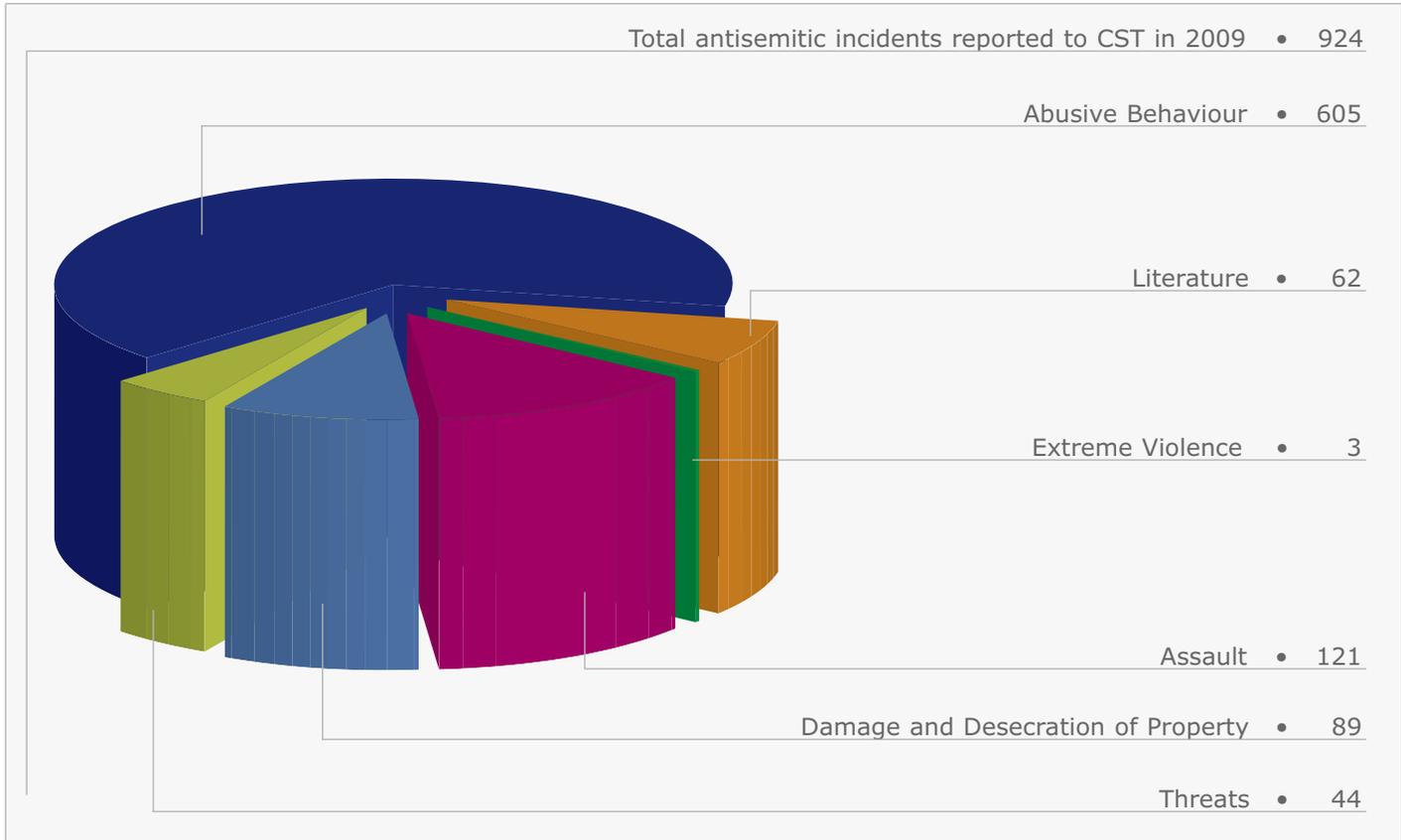
Preventing this kind of information gathering and hostile reconnaissance of community buildings or other potential terrorist targets is an important part of reducing the possibility of future terrorist attacks.

Jewish communities have long been the targets of terrorists of different and varied political and religious motivations. Since the late 1960s there have been over 400 terrorist attacks, attempted attacks and foiled terrorist plots against Jewish communities and Israeli targets around the world. Most recently, Jewish communities in Turkey, Morocco, Tunisia and India have all been attacked by al-Qaeda and its supporters, while plots to attack Jewish communities in Germany, Australia and the United States have been foiled by police action. Here in the UK, a group of Islamist extremists jailed in April 2007 for plotting terrorist attacks in Britain were found to have downloaded lists of synagogues from the internet, possibly as potential targets for attack; and two men convicted in Manchester in December 2008 of belonging to al-Qaeda and directing terrorism, had gathered information about a prominent Jewish communal leader. In addition to this threat from violent jihadist terrorism, there is growing evidence of efforts by British neo-Nazis to plan and execute terrorist attacks against minorities here in Britain, including against the Jewish community.

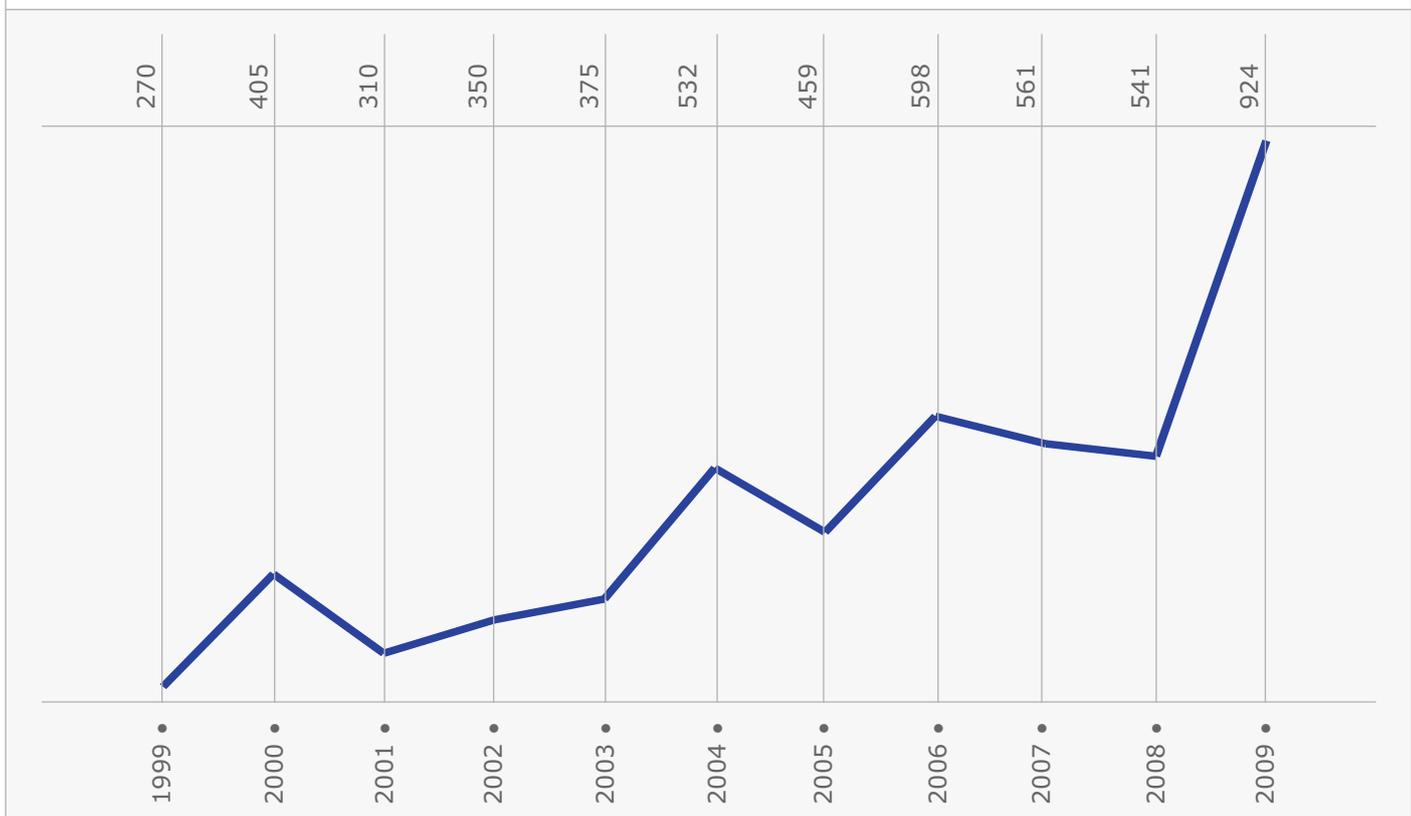
Cases of Information Collection and Suspicious Behaviour are not included in the antisemitic incident statistics, as the motivation for many of them is not possible to determine. The vague and uncertain nature of many of these incidents means they are easier to analyse if the two categories are combined, rather than treated separately. Taken together, there were 200 such incidents reported to CST in 2009, compared to 137 in 2008, 164 in 2007 and 168 in 2006.

Of the 200 incidents of Information Collection and Suspicious Behaviour reported to CST in 2009, 45 involved the photography or filming of Jewish buildings, while in 42 cases suspicious people tried to gain entry to Jewish premises. Although most of these 200 incidents will almost certainly have innocent explanations, neither CST nor the police underestimate the threat posed to Jewish communities by various terrorist organisations and networks.





Antisemitic incident category totals in 2009



Annual antisemitic incident figures since 1999

Monthly incident figures 1999-2009											
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
January	26	37	16	15	23	20	60	34	33	44	288
February	19	19	14	11	24	28	45	56	40	52	114
March	18	25	20	26	48	100	39	40	36	40	73
April	34	35	33	47	29	62	49	33	59	39	52
May	29	29	32	47	27	39	39	44	36	62	52
June	21	24	30	26	34	64	38	37	42	40	49
July	20	29	28	31	30	48	40	94	60	52	46
August	18	16	20	15	20	29	32	78	49	20	40
September	25	23	50	47	22	60	30	67	81	47	85
October	23	105	48	45	57	29	45	59	55	58	44
November	24	42	14	28	36	29	22	36	37	45	52
December	13	21	5	12	25	24	20	20	33	47	29
TOTAL	270	405	310	350	375	532	459	598	561	546	924

Annual incident figures by category 1999-2009											
Category	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
1. Extreme Violence	0	2	1	5	0	4	2	4	1	1	3
2. Assault	33	51	40	42	54	79	79	110	116	87	121
3. Damage & Desecration	25	73	90	55	72	53	48	70	65	76	89
4. Threats	31	39	37	18	22	93	25	28	24	28	44
5. Abusive Behaviour	127	196	122	216	211	272	278	366	336	317	605
6. Literature	54	44	20	14	16	31	27	20	19	37	62
TOTAL	270	405	310	350	375	532	459	598	561	546	924

Annual incident figures full breakdown 2009													
Category	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
1. Extreme Violence	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
2. Assault	19	7	12	15	15	9	5	3	15	10	6	5	121
3. Damage & Desecration	26	13	9	9	3	4	2	3	7	3	6	4	89
4. Threats	23	1	5	1	2	2	2	0	4	1	1	2	44
5. Abusive Behaviour	214	63	43	24	29	34	33	33	55	28	33	16	605
6. Literature	6	30	4	3	1	0	4	1	3	2	6	2	62
TOTAL	288	114	73	52	52	49	46	40	85	44	52	29	924

Some of the numbers in the tables may differ from those previously published by CST, due to the late reporting of incidents to CST by incident victims and witnesses.

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