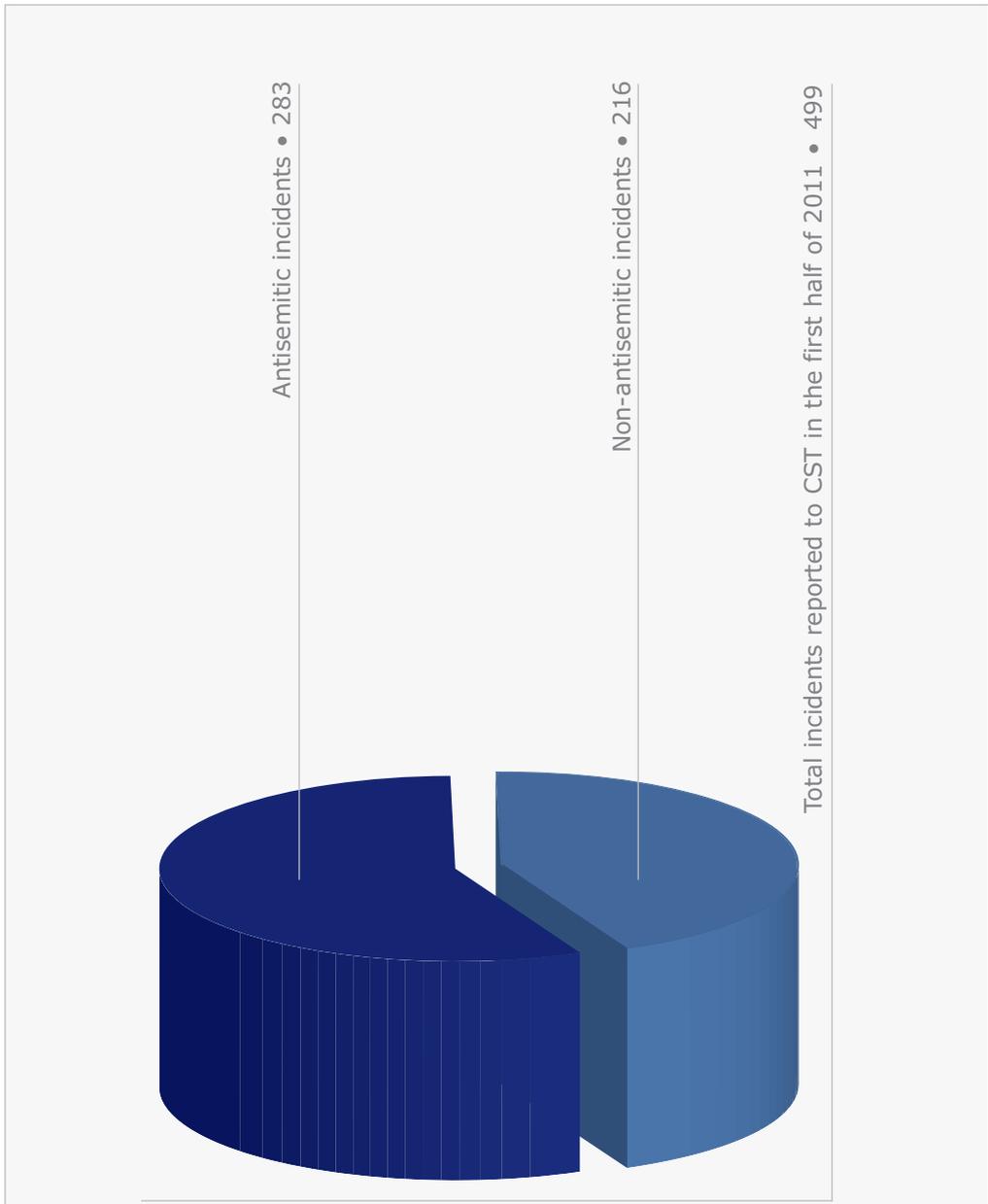




ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS

JANUARY–JUNE 2011

**EUROPEAN
OPPOSED TO
JEWISH-ECONOMICS
VAT
GLOBAL
CUSTOMS
UNION**



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

283 (57 per cent) of these reports were deemed antisemitic by CST.

Antisemitic Incident Numbers

CST recorded 283 antisemitic incidents across the United Kingdom in the first six months of 2011.

This is a fall of 13 per cent, or 42 incidents, from the 325 antisemitic incidents recorded in the first six months of 2010.¹ There were 628 incidents recorded in the first six months of 2009 – a record high, due to antisemitic reactions to the conflict in Gaza in January of that year – and 277 antisemitic incidents in the first six months of 2008.

The fall in the number of incidents may be partly explained by the lack of significant 'trigger' events in the first half of 2011 of the kind that in the past have led to temporary 'spikes' in antisemitic incident levels in the UK.

In contrast, there was one trigger event during the first half of 2010: the Israeli interception of a flotilla of ships bound for Gaza on 31 May, which led to a relatively small spike in antisemitic incidents in June 2010. Therefore, the fall of 42 incidents recorded in the first six months of 2011 compared to the same period in 2010 could be explained by the fact that there were 82 incidents recorded in June 2010 but just 38 incidents in June 2011.

However, the first six months of 2011 also saw an increase of 29 incidents recorded in the borough of Salford, leading

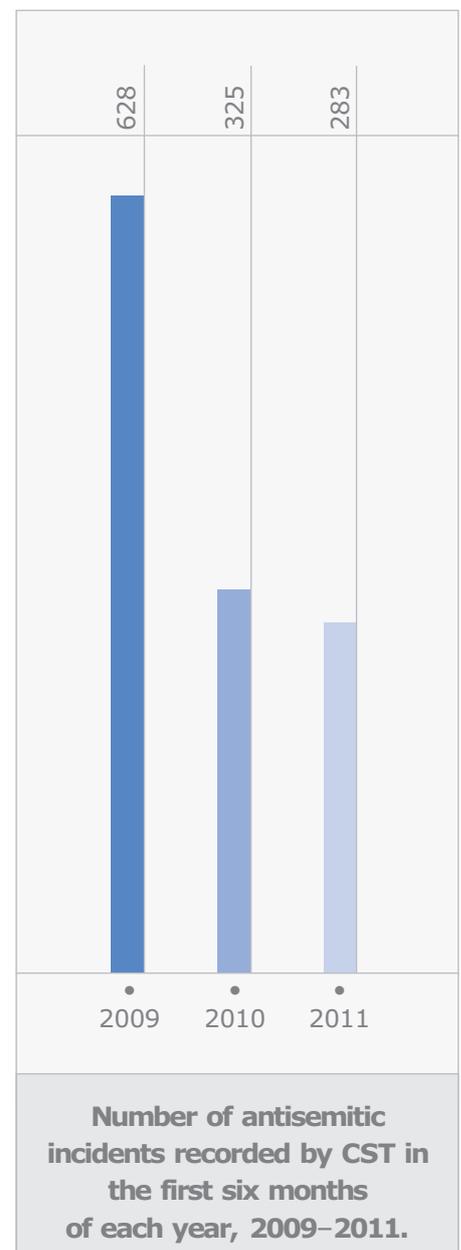
to an increase of 26 antisemitic incidents in Greater Manchester as a whole – which is directly attributable to improvements in CST's collection and recording of antisemitic incident data in that area (this is described in more detail under 'Geographical Locations' on page seven). This local improvement in reporting rates would have the impact of raising the national incident total.

Eliminating these two factors which influenced the overall antisemitic incident total – one inflationary influence, and one deflationary – suggests that the underlying national trend in antisemitic incidents for the first half of 2011 shows a fall of around ten per cent compared to the first half of 2010.

In addition to the 283 antisemitic incidents recorded by CST during this period, a further 216 potential incidents were reported to CST but not classified as antisemitic and not therefore included in these statistics. This is because, on investigation, there was no evidence of antisemitic motivation, targeting or content. Most of these rejected incidents, comprising 43 per cent of the total number of potential incidents reported to CST, involved non-antisemitic crime affecting Jewish property or people.

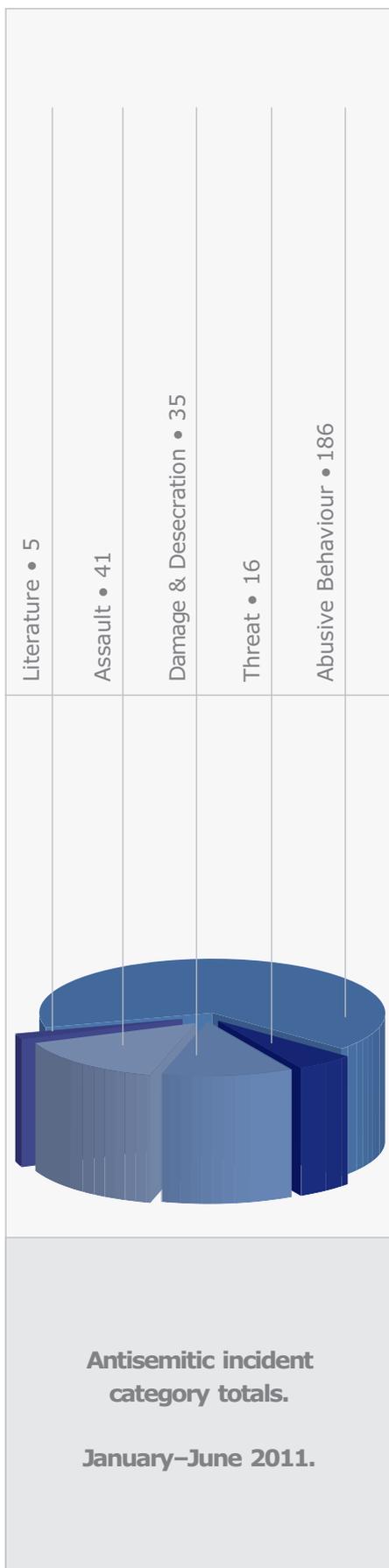
Anti-Israel activity which does not use antisemitic language or imagery and is directed

at pro-Israel campaigners, rather than at Jewish people or institutions per se, is also not classified by CST as antisemitic. However, many of these potential incidents still require some level of investigation or security response by CST staff and volunteers.



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

Incident Categories²



CST recorded 41 violent antisemitic assaults in the first half of 2011, a fall of nine per cent from the 45 violent assaults recorded in the first half of 2010. None of the 41 violent assaults were serious enough to be categorised as Extreme Violence. There were 79 violent antisemitic assaults in the first six months of 2010, and 44 in the first half of 2008.

The figure of 79 assaults for the first half of 2009, as with all data from that period that is cited in this report, is abnormally high, due to antisemitic reactions to the conflict in Gaza in January of that year.

There were 35 incidents of Damage & Desecration of Jewish property recorded by CST in the first six months of 2011, a fall of 26 per cent from the 47 incidents of this type in the first half of 2010. There were 64 incidents of this type recorded in the first six months of 2009, and 32 during the first six months of 2008.

CST recorded 16 direct antisemitic threats (categorised as 'Threats') during the first half of 2011, three fewer than the 19 incidents of this type recorded during the first six months of 2010. There were 34 antisemitic threats recorded in the first six months of 2009, and 16 during the first half of 2008.

There were 186 antisemitic incidents reported to CST in the category of Abusive Behaviour in the first half of 2011, 12 per cent fewer than the 211 incidents in this category reported to CST in the first half of 2010. This category includes a wide range of antisemitic incident types, including antisemitic graffiti on non-Jewish property, hate mail and antisemitic verbal abuse. There were 407 incidents of Abusive Behaviour recorded in the first half of 2009, and 168 incidents in this category recorded in the first six months of 2008.

CST recorded just five incidents of mass-produced or mass-emailed antisemitic literature (as opposed to one-off cases of hate mail, which are classified as Abusive Behaviour) during the first half of 2011, two more than in the first six months of 2010. This is much fewer than the 44 incidents recorded in this category in the first half of 2009, or the 17 Literature incidents in the same period in 2008. There is no obvious explanation for why the number of incidents recorded in this category has fallen by so much in the past two years. Of the five incidents of this type that were recorded, two involved mass emails and the other three were transmitted by paper hate-mail.

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

Incident Victims

There were 128 antisemitic incidents reported to CST in which the victims were random Jewish individuals in public. In 76 incidents the victims were visibly Jewish, due to religious or traditional clothing, Jewish school uniforms or jewellery bearing religious symbols. One hundred and forty-five antisemitic incidents, just over half the overall total, involved verbal abuse; in 48 of these cases, the abuse was shouted from a passing vehicle. These three statistics reflect the most common single type of antisemitic incident: random, spontaneous, verbal antisemitic abuse, directed at people who look Jewish while they go about their business in public places.

There were six antisemitic incidents recorded at Jewish schools in the first six months of 2011, a further eight incidents which involved Jewish schoolchildren or staff on their way to or from school, and an additional 11 antisemitic incidents involving Jewish schoolchildren or staff at mainstream schools – making a total of 25 antisemitic incidents affecting people and buildings in the school sector, compared to 32 such incidents in the first half of 2010. For more detailed comparison, there were nine incidents recorded at Jewish schools in the first six months of 2010, an additional 18 involving Jewish schoolchildren or staff on their way to or from school, and five at mainstream schools.

Therefore while the number of incidents affecting people in the school sector decreased, the number of incidents that took place at school premises – both Jewish and mainstream – actually increased in the first half of 2011.

There were 16 antisemitic incidents affecting Jewish students, academics, student unions or other student bodies in the first half of 2011, compared to 28 such incidents in the first six months of 2010, a fall of 43 per cent. Most of this fall took place off campus: there were just five antisemitic incidents affecting Jewish students or academics off campus in the first half of 2011, compared to 13 such incidents in the first half of 2010. There were 11 incidents on campus in the first half of 2011, compared to 15 in the first half of 2010.

Of the 11 antisemitic incidents recorded on university or college campuses in the first half of 2011, there were two incidents in the category of Assault, two incidents of Damage & Desecration of Jewish property and seven incidents of Abusive Behaviour. Four took place in the immediate context of political activity on campus.

There were 24 antisemitic incidents recorded during the first half of 2011 which targeted synagogues, and a further 16 incidents involving synagogue congregants on their way

to or from prayers. There were 36 antisemitic incidents which targeted Jewish organisations or Jewish-owned businesses (where there was clear evidence of antisemitism) – 10 which targeted prominent Jewish individuals or public figures – and one incident in which a Jewish cemetery was desecrated. These numbers are roughly similar to the comparable figures for the first half of 2010.

CST received a description of the gender of the victim or victims for 177 of the 283 antisemitic incidents reported during the first half of 2011. Of these, 119, or 67 per cent, were male; 46 (26 per cent) were female; and in 12 incidents the victims were mixed groups of males and females. CST also received a description of the approximate age of the victim or victims in 133 of the antisemitic incidents. Of these, 98 (74 per cent) involved adult victims; 27 (28 per cent) involved victims who were minors; and in 8 incidents the victims were mixed groups of adults and minors.

Incident Perpetrators and Motives

Identifying the ethnicity of the perpetrators of antisemitic incidents is a difficult and imprecise task. Many antisemitic incidents involve brief public encounters, and the evidence of victims of, or witnesses to, antisemitic incidents may be vague and disjointed. In addition, many incidents do not involve face-to-face contact between incident perpetrator and victim, so it is not always possible to obtain a physical description of the perpetrator. Bearing in mind these limitations, a physical description of the ethnicity of the perpetrator or perpetrators was provided to CST³ in 96 of the 283 antisemitic incidents reported during the first six months of 2011. Of these, 48 perpetrators were described as white; two as East European; six as black; 32 as Asian; none as Far Eastern; and eight as being of Arab appearance.

Taking 'white' and 'East European' together, there were white perpetrators in 52 per cent of the antisemitic incidents where a physical description of the perpetrator was provided to CST. For comparison, during the first six months of 2010, the incident perpetrators were described to CST as white or East European in 53 of the 100 incidents where a description of the perpetrator was provided.

CST received a description of the gender of the perpetrator or perpetrators in 142 incidents

in the first six months of 2011. Of these, 118 incidents, or 83 per cent, involved male perpetrators; 15 (11 per cent) involved female perpetrators; and in 9 incidents the perpetrators were mixed groups of males and females. CST also received a description of the approximate age of the perpetrator or perpetrators in 114 antisemitic incidents in the first six months of 2011. Of these, 78 incidents (68 per cent) involved adult perpetrators; 34 (30 per cent) involved perpetrators who were described as minors; and in 2 incidents the perpetrators were mixed groups of adults and minors.

All of the figures given above for the physical description, age and gender of antisemitic incident perpetrators and victims during the first half of 2011 are very similar to the comparable figures reported to CST for the first six months of 2010.

Of the 283 antisemitic incidents reported to CST during the first half of 2011, 101, or 36 per cent, showed some evidence of political motivation, evidence usually based on the language or imagery used during the incident. Of these, 53 incidents showed evidence of far right motivation, 35 incidents showed anti-Zionist motivation and 13 showed Islamist motivation. There were 141 examples of antisemitic incident perpetrators using political discourse, such

as daubing a swastika or making reference to Israel, alongside their antisemitism. Of these, there were 77 references to far right discourse, 52 mentions of Israel or the wider Middle East and 12 incidents which involved Islamist discourse. In 26 incidents, more than one kind of discourse was used. This suggests that some antisemitic incident perpetrators will use a range of hostile references, from different political sources, to abuse Jews.

For comparison, in the first six months of 2010, 118 of the antisemitic incidents reported to CST showed political motivation, of which 66 showed far right motivation, 32 showed anti-Zionist motivation and 20 showed Islamist motivation. During the same period, there were 134 incidents reported to CST that involved political discourse alongside the antisemitism, of which 78 utilised far right discourse; 44 used anti-Zionist discourse; and 12 used Islamist discourse. Fourteen of these incidents used more than one type of discourse alongside the antisemitism.

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

Geographical Locations

CST recorded 98 antisemitic incidents in Greater London and 121 in Greater Manchester in the first six months of 2011. For comparison, in the first six months of 2010, there were 127 incidents recorded in Greater London and 95 in Greater Manchester. This is the first time that CST has recorded more antisemitic incidents in Greater Manchester than in Greater London, despite the fact that at least six times as many Jews live in London as in Manchester.

The rise in the number of antisemitic incidents reported to CST in Greater Manchester continues a process of improving reporting rates in the city over the past few years; for example, in 2008 just 57 antisemitic incidents were reported to CST's Manchester office. In 2011, CST and Greater Manchester Police have intensified their cooperation and established a regular and comprehensive exchange of incident data, focussing on the borough of Salford, where there is a large visibly Orthodox Jewish community. This has resulted in a doubling of the number of antisemitic incidents recorded by CST in Salford – from 27 to 56 incidents in the first half of 2011 – and consequently also a 27 per cent increase in the number of incidents recorded in Greater Manchester as a whole.

Elsewhere in Greater Manchester, there were 35 antisemitic incidents recorded in Bury, compared to 40 in the first six months of 2010; 21 in the borough of Manchester, compared to 17 in the first half of 2010; four in Trafford (eight in the first half of 2010); and five in other parts of the city.

Greater London saw a fall in the number of incidents of 23 per cent, from 127 in the first half of 2010 to 98 in the first half of 2011. Almost half of these 98 incidents occurred in Barnet, which has the largest Jewish community of any borough in the country; there were 11 incidents recorded in Camden, nine in Westminster and six each in Redbridge and Kensington & Chelsea.

Outside the two main Jewish centres of Greater London and Greater Manchester, CST recorded 64 antisemitic incidents in 29 different locations around the United Kingdom in the first six months of 2011. This is a 38 per cent fall from the 103 incidents recorded outside London and Manchester in the first half of 2010. Of the 64 incidents recorded in the first half of 2011, nine took place in Hertfordshire, of which five were in Borehamwood; nine took place in Leeds; seven in Leicester; and five in Liverpool.



**Front cover image:
Leaflets sent to a Member of Parliament in June 2011**

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Registered charity no. 1042391

Published by Community Security Trust

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