

Executive summary

- 529 antisemitic incidents were recorded by CST in 2013, an 18 per cent decrease from the 649 antisemitic incidents recorded in 2012 and the lowest annual total recorded by CST since 2005.¹ The highest ever annual total recorded by CST was in 2009, when 931 antisemitic incidents were recorded.²
- There has been no change in CST's recording systems or patterns of incident reporting to explain this fall, which is most likely to reflect a genuine decrease in the number of antisemitic incidents that took place in the United Kingdom during 2013, when compared to 2012. The previous year had seen two 'trigger events' that caused the number of recorded incidents to temporarily increase, or 'spike'. These were the shooting of three Jewish children and a teacher at a Jewish school in Toulouse, France, in March 2012, and an escalation in fighting between Israel and Hamas in Gaza and southern Israel in November 2012. There were no such spikes in 2013, which is the most obvious explanation for the overall decrease in incidents.
- It is likely that there is significant under-reporting of antisemitic incidents to both CST and the Police, and that the number of antisemitic incidents that took place is significantly higher than the number recorded in this report. A 2013 survey of Jewish experiences and perceptions of antisemitism in the EU found that 72 per cent of British Jews who had experienced antisemitic harassment over the previous five years had not reported it to the Police or to any other organisation; 57 per cent of British Jews who had experienced antisemitic violence or the threat of violence had not reported it; and 46 per cent of British Jews who had suffered antisemitic vandalism to their home or car had not reported it. The same survey also found that, over the previous 12 months, 21 per cent of British Jews had suffered antisemitic harassment, 3 per cent had suffered antisemitic violence or the threat of violence and 2 per cent had experienced antisemitic vandalism to their home or car.³ Similarly, the Crime Survey for England and Wales estimates that around 40 per cent of all hate crimes come to the attention of the Police.⁴
- There were 69 violent antisemitic assaults reported to CST in 2013, the same number as was recorded in 2012. This is the lowest number of violent antisemitic assaults reported to CST since 2003, when 54 assaults were recorded.
- The 69 violent antisemitic incidents did not include any incidents categorised as Extreme Violence, meaning incidents that involved grievous bodily harm (GBH) or a threat to life. CST recorded two incidents of Extreme Violence in 2012 and two in 2011.
- Incidents of Damage and Desecration to Jewish property fell by 8 per cent, from 53 incidents in 2012 to 49 incidents in 2013. This is the lowest number of incidents recorded by CST in this category since 2005, when 48 such incidents were recorded.
- There were 368 incidents of Abusive Behaviour recorded by CST in 2013, a fall of 23 per cent from the 476 incidents of this type recorded in 2012. This is the lowest total recorded in this category since 2008, when 317 such incidents were recorded. This category includes verbal abuse, hate mail and antisemitic graffiti on non-Jewish property.
- There were 38 incidents reported to CST in the category of Threats in 2013, which includes direct threats to people or property rather than more general abuse. This is one fewer than the 39 incidents recorded by CST in this category in 2012.
- There were 5 incidents recorded in the category of Literature in 2013, which comprises mass-produced antisemitic mailings and emails rather than individual hate mail. This is a 58 per cent decrease from the 12 incidents of this type recorded in 2012.

1. CST has been recording antisemitic incident statistics since 1984.

2. The incident totals in this report may differ from those previously published by CST, due to the late reporting of incidents to CST by incident victims, witnesses or other sources, or the re-categorisation of incidents due to new information.

3. *Discrimination and hate crime against Jews in EU Member States: experiences and perceptions of antisemitism* (Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2013).

4. *An Overview of Hate Crime in England and Wales* (London: Home Office, Office for National Statistics and Ministry of Justice, 2013).

- The most common single type of incident in 2013 involved verbal abuse randomly directed at visibly Jewish people in public. In 185 incidents, the victims were ordinary Jewish people, male or female, attacked or abused while going about their daily business in public places. In 89 of these incidents, the victims were visibly Jewish, usually due to their religious or traditional clothing, school uniform or jewellery bearing Jewish symbols. A total of 266 incidents overall involved verbal antisemitic abuse.
- 31 antisemitic incidents in 2013 targeted synagogues, and a further 26 incidents targeted synagogue congregants on their way to or from prayers, compared to 43 and 41 incidents respectively in 2012.
- In 59 incidents, the victims were Jewish community organisations, communal events, community leaders or other high-profile individuals, compared to 46 such incidents in 2012.
- In 9 antisemitic incidents, the victims were Jewish students, academics or other student bodies, a fall of 73 per cent from the 33 campus-related incidents in 2012. Of the 9 incidents of this type recorded in 2013, 6 took place on campus, while there were 3 incidents which affected students, academics or student bodies off campus. None of the 6 incidents that took place on campus were in the category of Assault, while three involved the use of social media and three involved antisemitic graffiti, stickers or daubings.
- 32 incidents targeted Jewish schools, schoolchildren or teachers in 2013, compared to 55 incidents relating to schools and schoolchildren in 2012 and 54 in 2011. Of the 32 incidents of this type recorded in 2013, 13 affected Jewish schoolchildren on their journeys to or from school; 13 took place at the premises of Jewish faith schools; and 6 involved Jewish children or teachers at non-faith schools.
- There were 129 antisemitic incidents which showed far right, anti-Israel or Islamist beliefs or motivations in 2013, making up 24 per cent of the overall total of 529 antisemitic incidents, compared to 197 incidents showing such ideas or motivations (30 per cent) in 2012. Of the 129 antisemitic incidents in 2013 showing ideological motivation or beliefs as well as antisemitism, 87 showed far right motivation or beliefs; 37 showed anti-Israel motivation or beliefs; and 5 showed Islamist motivation or beliefs.
- CST received a physical description of the incident offender in 146, or 28 per cent, of the 529 antisemitic incidents recorded during 2013. Of these, 86 offenders (59 per cent) were described as 'White – North European'; 4 offenders (3 per cent) were described as 'White – South European'; 11 offenders (8 per cent) were described as 'Black'; 37 offenders (25 per cent) were described as 'South Asian'; and 8 offenders (5 per cent) were described as 'Arab or North African'.
- There is no clear correlation between the ethnicity of incident offenders and the antisemitic language they use; contemporary antisemitic incident offenders will select from a range of Jewish-related subjects, using, for example, insults related to the Holocaust or Israel, for language or imagery with which to abuse, insult or threaten their Jewish victims.
- 174 of the 529 antisemitic incidents recorded by CST nationally came via incident exchange programmes with the Police in Manchester and London, which allow for the systematic sharing of antisemitic incident reports between CST and the Police, so that both organisations have sight of incidents that had not otherwise been reported to them. The incident reports are fully anonymised to comply with data protection requirements. A further 10 antisemitic incidents were reported to CST by the Police in other parts of the UK on an ad hoc basis. In total, Police forces provided reports of 184 antisemitic incidents, or 35 per cent of the total

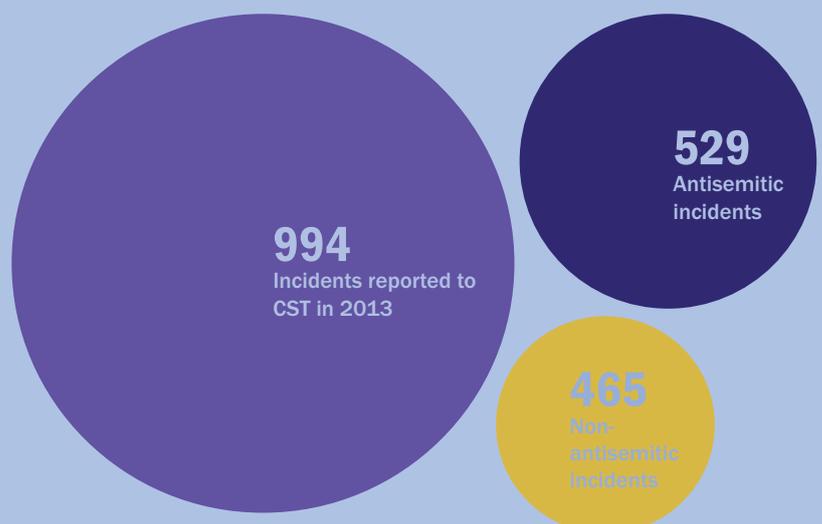
number of incidents recorded by CST. A total of 309 incidents, or 58 per cent, were reported directly to CST by the victims of, or witnesses to, antisemitic incidents, or by a friend or family member of an incident victim or witness. Thirty incidents were reported by CST staff or volunteers, or by the security officers at Jewish buildings and organisations. Two antisemitic incidents were recorded by CST during 2013 on the basis of media reports.

- CST recorded 86 antisemitic incidents that involved the use of internet-based social media in 2013 (16 per cent of the overall total of 529 incidents), compared to 81 in 2012 and just 12 in 2011. This reflects the growing relevance of social media as a place where Jews encounter antisemitism and the ease with which it can be reported from there directly to CST online, rather than being an absolute measure of the amount of antisemitism on social media platforms. Of the 86 antisemitic incidents of this type recorded in 2013, 81 were in the category of Abusive Behaviour and 4 were in the category of Threats. One incident that involved the use of social media also involved a violent assault, and was recorded in that category. CST does not proactively 'trawl' social media platforms to look for incidents of this type and will only record incidents that take place on social media if the offender is based in the United Kingdom, or if the incident

involves the direct antisemitic targeting of a UK-based victim.

- In addition to the 529 antisemitic incidents recorded by CST in 2013, a further 465 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 465 potential incidents reported to CST that were not included in the annual total included 248 cases of potential Information Collection and Suspicious Behaviour at Jewish locations. These included 48 incidents of photography or videoing of Jewish buildings, while in 30 cases suspicious people tried to gain entry to Jewish premises. These types of incidents 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 994 incidents, including antisemitic incidents and those of a non-antisemitic security-related nature, which required a response from CST staff and volunteers during 2013.

994: Total number of potential antisemitic incidents reported to CST which required a response from CST staff and volunteers. 53 per cent of these reports were deemed antisemitic by CST.





As shown on cover: graffiti in a park in Greater London, May 2013