

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- CST recorded **1,168 antisemitic incidents in 2014**, more than double the 535 antisemitic incidents recorded in 2013 and the **highest annual total** ever recorded by CST. This is the first time that CST has recorded more than 1,000 antisemitic incidents in a calendar year.¹ This new record annual total of 1,168 incidents is a 25 per cent increase on the previous record high of 931 antisemitic incidents, which was recorded by CST in 2009.² The 2013 annual total of 535 antisemitic incidents was the lowest annual total since 2004 and represented a 43 per cent decrease from the 2009 previous record high.
- The single biggest contributing factor to the record number of antisemitic incidents recorded in 2014 was antisemitic reactions in the UK to the conflict in Israel and Gaza that began on 8 July 2014 and ended on 26 August 2014. CST recorded the **highest-ever monthly total of 314 antisemitic incidents** in July, and the third-highest ever monthly total of 228 incidents in August. For comparison, there were 59 incidents recorded in July 2013 and 48 in August 2013. Of the 542 antisemitic incidents recorded by CST in July and August 2014, 258 (48 per cent) made reference to events in Israel and Gaza. In total, CST recorded 501 antisemitic incidents from 8 July to 26 August inclusive, compared to 87 incidents during the same period in 2013.
- The UK impact of the **conflict in Israel and Gaza** in July and August appears to have continued into September, when CST recorded 103 antisemitic incidents, the sixth-highest monthly total on record. For comparison, 59 antisemitic incidents were recorded in September 2013. It is possible that this partly reflects an increase in the willingness of Jewish people to report antisemitic incidents, due to increased concern about antisemitism, as well as any continuing increase in the number of incidents taking place.
- This pattern, whereby conflicts in the Middle East act as **'trigger events'** that cause temporary 'spikes' in antisemitic incidents in the UK, was also the reason for the previous record annual total, in January 2009; and for the **record high** before that, which came in 2006.
- It is likely that 2014 would have shown an increase in the number of recorded antisemitic incidents compared to 2013, even if the trigger event of the conflict in Israel and Gaza had not taken place. **In the first six months of 2014** (i.e., before that conflict began) CST recorded 307 incidents, an increase of 38 per cent from the 223 incidents recorded during the same period in 2013. If the monthly totals for July, August and September 2014 are reduced to their 2013 levels in order to remove the impact of the conflict in Israel and Gaza on the overall incident total, the underlying trend still shows an increase of approximately 29 per cent for 2014 as a whole compared to 2013, and suggests a 'baseline' level of incidents more in keeping with the incident totals for the years 2010–2012.
- The increase in antisemitic incidents recorded by CST in 2014 was common **throughout the UK**, but was more pronounced in Greater London than in Greater Manchester. In Greater London, CST recorded 583 antisemitic incidents in 2014 compared to 246 during 2013, an increase of 137 per cent. In Greater Manchester, CST recorded 309 incidents in 2014 compared to 173 in 2013, an increase of 79 per cent. Over three-quarters of the 1,168 antisemitic incidents recorded in 2014 took place in Greater London and Greater Manchester,

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

2. The incident totals in this report may differ slightly 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.

the two largest Jewish communities in the UK. Beyond these two centres, CST recorded 276 antisemitic incidents in 89 locations around the UK in 2014, compared to 112 incidents from 50 different locations in 2013. These included 34 antisemitic incidents in Hertfordshire, 27 each in Leeds and in Liverpool, 21 in Glasgow, 14 in Birmingham and nine in Bradford.

- In addition to the 1,168 antisemitic incidents recorded by CST in 2014, a further 498 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.
- 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 81 **violent antisemitic assaults** reported to CST in 2014, an increase of 17 per cent from the 69 antisemitic assaults recorded in 2013 and the highest number since 2011, when CST recorded 95 violent antisemitic assaults.
- The 81 violent antisemitic incidents included one incident categorised as **Extreme Violence**, meaning incidents that involved grievous bodily harm (GBH) or a threat to life. CST recorded no incidents of Extreme Violence in 2013 and two in 2012.
- Incidents of **Damage and Desecration** to Jewish property increased by 65 per cent, from 49 incidents in 2013 to 81 incidents in 2014. This is the highest number of incidents recorded by CST in this category since 2010, when 83 such incidents were recorded.
- There were 884 incidents of **Abusive Behaviour** recorded by CST in 2014, an increase of 136 per cent from the 374 incidents recorded in this category in 2013 and the highest total ever recorded in this category. This category includes verbal abuse, hate mail, antisemitic graffiti on non-Jewish property and antisemitic content on social media.
- There were 92 incidents reported to CST in the category of **Threats** in 2014, which includes direct threats to people or property, rather than more general abuse. This is an increase of 142 per cent compared to the 38 incidents of this type recorded in 2013. It is the highest number of incidents recorded in this category since 2004, when 93 incidents of this type were recorded.
- There were 30 incidents recorded in the category of **Literature** in 2014, which comprises mass-produced antisemitic mailings and emails, rather than individual hate mail. This is six times the number

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).

of incidents of mass-mailed antisemitic literature or emails recorded in 2013, when five such incidents were recorded. It is the highest number of incidents of this type recorded by CST since 2009, when 62 such incidents were recorded.

- The **most common** single type of incident in 2014 involved **verbal abuse** directed at random Jewish people in public; such incidents are more commonly associated with anti-social behaviour or local patterns of street crime than with political activism or ideologies. In 397 incidents, the **victims were ordinary Jewish people**, male or female, attacked or abused while going about their daily business in public places. In at least 190 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 585 antisemitic incidents out of the total of 1,168 incidents in 2014 involved verbal antisemitic abuse.
- CST recorded 233 antisemitic incidents that involved the use of internet-based **social media** in 2014, which represents 20 per cent of the overall total of 1,168 antisemitic incidents. For comparison, CST recorded 88 incidents in 2013 that involved the use of social media, which was 16 per cent of the overall incident total in 2013. 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 233 antisemitic incidents of this type recorded in 2014, 215 were in the category of Abusive Behaviour and 18 were in the category of Threats. 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 UK, or if the incident involves the direct antisemitic targeting of a UK-based victim.
- 69 antisemitic incidents in 2014 targeted **synagogues**, and a further 41 incidents targeted synagogue congregants on their way to or from prayers, compared to 31 and 26 incidents respectively in 2013.
- In 213 incidents, the victims were Jewish **community organisations**, communal events, commercial premises or high-profile individuals, compared to 59 such incidents in 2013.
- 66 incidents targeted Jewish **schools**, schoolchildren or teachers in 2014, compared to 32 incidents relating to schools and schoolchildren in 2013. Of the 66 incidents of this type recorded in 2014, 27 affected Jewish schoolchildren on their journeys to or from school; 18 took place at the premises of Jewish faith schools; and 21 involved Jewish children or teachers at non-faith schools.
- In 19 antisemitic incidents, the victims were Jewish students, academics or other student bodies, more than double the number of **campus-related** incidents in 2013, when nine were recorded. Of the 19 incidents of this type recorded in 2014, eight took place on campus, while there were 11 incidents which affected students, academics or student bodies off campus. None of the eight incidents that took place on campus were in the category of Assault, while seven of the 19 incidents involved the use of social media.
- CST is often asked by journalists and members of the public to identify the

ethnic or religious background of incident offenders. CST will ask incident victims or witnesses if they can describe the person, or people, who committed the incident they are reporting, but this is difficult and imprecise: many antisemitic incidents involve public encounters where the antisemitic abuse may be generic, brief and sometimes non-verbal. While it is possible to collect data regarding the ethnic appearance of incident offenders, this data is not direct evidence of the offenders' religious affiliations. In addition, many incidents do not involve face-to-face contact between offender and victim so it is not always possible to obtain a physical description of the offender. Where there is no face-to-face contact, it would be a mistake to assume to know the ethnicity or religion of an incident offender on the basis of the abusive language they use. Bearing in mind these caveats, CST does provide data regarding the ethnic appearance of incident offenders, and the discourse they use to abuse or threaten Jews.

- CST received a physical description of the **incident offender** in 340, or 29 per cent, of the 1,168 antisemitic incidents recorded during 2014. Of these, 148 offenders (44 per cent) were described as 'White – North European'; 5 offenders (1 per cent) were described as 'White – South European'; 26 offenders (8 per cent) were described as 'Black'; 127 offenders (37 per cent) were described as 'South Asian'; and 34 offenders (10 per cent) were described as 'Arab or North African'. These proportions were significantly different for the months of July and August, during the conflict in Israel and Gaza: in these two months the proportion of offenders described to CST as 'White – North European' was 34 per cent; the proportion described as 'Black' was 5 per cent; the proportion described as 'South Asian' was 50 per cent; the proportion described as 'Arab or North African' was 12 per cent; and no offenders were described as 'White – South European'.
- There were 453 antisemitic incidents which showed far right, anti-Israel or Islamist beliefs or **motivations** alongside antisemitism in 2014, making up 39 per cent of the overall total of 1,168 antisemitic incidents, compared to 130 incidents showing such ideas or motivations (24 per cent) in 2013. Of the 453 antisemitic incidents in 2014 showing ideological motivation or beliefs as well as antisemitism, 256 showed anti-Israel motivation or beliefs; 159 showed far right motivation or beliefs; and 38 showed Islamist motivation or beliefs. During the months of July and August, the proportion of incidents that showed political motivation alongside antisemitism rose to 54 per cent of the overall total, of which 76 per cent showed anti-Israel motivation alongside evidence of antisemitism.
- 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**, particularly insults related to the Holocaust or Israel, for language or imagery with which to abuse, insult or threaten their Jewish victims.
- 336 of the 1,168 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 13 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 349 antisemitic incidents, or 30 per cent of the total number of incidents recorded by CST. A total of 697 incidents, or 60 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. One hundred and one incidents were reported by CST staff or volunteers, or by the security officers at Jewish buildings and organisations. Thirteen antisemitic incidents were recorded by CST during 2014 on the basis of media reports.

- The 498 potential incidents reported to CST that were not included in the annual total included 161 cases of potential

Information Collection and Suspicious Behaviour at Jewish locations. These included 60 incidents of photography or videoing of Jewish buildings, while in 32 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 1,666 incidents, including antisemitic incidents and those of a non-antisemitic security-related nature, which required a **response** from CST staff and volunteers during 2014.

TOTAL NUMBER OF ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS REPORTED TO CST 2014

