



# CST PRESS RELEASE

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Community Security Trust. Registered charity in England and Wales (1042391) and Scotland (SC043612)

**EMBARGOED UNTIL THURSDAY 27 JULY 2017**

## RECORD NUMBER OF ANTISEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS IN FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 2017

**CST records 30% increase in antisemitic incidents for January to June 2017 compared to same period in 2016**

The first six months of 2017 saw a record number of antisemitic hate incidents in the UK, according to figures released by the Community Security Trust (CST).

CST, a charity that monitors antisemitism and provides security for the Jewish community in Britain, recorded 767 antisemitic incidents nationwide from January to June 2017, a 30 per cent increase from the 589 incidents recorded during the first six months of 2016. This is the highest total CST has ever recorded for the January to June period. The previous record high was in the first half of 2009, when CST recorded 629 antisemitic incidents. The record total for a full calendar year is 1,346 incidents, recorded in 2016. CST has recorded antisemitic incidents since 1984.

A further 483 reports were received by CST in the first six months of 2017, but were not deemed to be antisemitic and are not included in this total.

The record total in the first half of 2017 saw over 100 antisemitic incidents recorded for every month so far this year. This continues an unprecedented pattern of monthly totals higher than 100 incidents for every month since April 2016: average monthly incident totals recorded by CST are now roughly double the level they were at five years ago.

This rise in recorded incident totals may partly reflect the growth in Jewish communal concern about antisemitism, which could lead to better reporting of incidents from victims and witnesses. It may also partly be a consequence of increased reporting from commercial security guards protecting Jewish communal locations; and CST's information sharing agreements with Police forces around the UK may also have contributed to higher totals in some limited cases. However, these factors do not, alone, explain the scale and breadth of the increase: rather, it is likely that the incident totals recorded by CST reflect a general, sustained rise in the baseline number of antisemitic incidents in an average month.

The most common single type of incident recorded by CST in the first half of 2017 involved verbal abuse randomly directed at visibly Jewish people in public. In 184 incidents (almost a quarter of the overall total), the victims were Jewish people, male or female, attacked or abused while going about their daily business in public places. In at least 203 incidents, the victims were visibly Jewish, usually due to their religious or traditional clothing, school uniform or jewellery bearing Jewish symbols.



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CST recorded 80 violent antisemitic assaults in the first six months of 2017, a 78 per cent increase from the 45 assaults recorded during the same period in 2016 and the highest number CST has ever recorded for the January to June period. There is no single, obvious explanation for this high total. None of these violent incidents were classified by CST as 'Extreme Violence', which would mean they involved potential grievous bodily harm (GBH) or threat to life.

CST recorded 142 antisemitic incidents that involved social media in the first six months of 2017, comprising 19 per cent of the overall total of 767 incidents. This was an increase on the 135 incidents involving social media that CST recorded in the first half of 2016 (23 per cent of the total for that year). These totals are only indicative and in some ways understate the scale of the problem: targeted campaigns directed at individual victims often involve dozens of social media accounts sending hundreds or even thousands of tweets, images or posts within a concentrated timespan.

Incidents involving the use of social media are only recorded by CST if they have been reported by a member of the public who is a victim or witness; if the comment shows evidence of antisemitic content, motivation or targeting; and if the offender is based in the United Kingdom or has directly targeted a UK-based victim.

There were 51 incidents of Damage & Desecration of Jewish property in the first six months of 2017; 568 incidents of Abusive Behaviour, including verbal abuse, antisemitic graffiti, antisemitic abuse via social media and one-off cases of hate mail; 56 direct antisemitic threats; and 12 cases of mass-mailed antisemitic leaflets or emails.

Almost three-quarters of the 767 antisemitic incidents were recorded in Greater London and Greater Manchester, the two largest Jewish communities in the UK. CST recorded 425 antisemitic incidents in Greater London, a rise of 10 per cent from the 387 incidents recorded in London in the first half of 2017. In Greater Manchester CST recorded 145 antisemitic incidents, an increase of 84 per cent from the 79 incidents recorded there in the first six months of 2016. Beyond these two centres, CST recorded 197 antisemitic incidents in 66 locations around the UK, including 22 in Hertfordshire, 22 in Gateshead, 10 in Brighton & Hove, 9 in Leeds and 7 in Birmingham.

CST Chief Executive David Delew said:

***"CST has again recorded an unprecedented number of antisemitic incidents, with figures now almost twice as bad as five years ago. Some of this may be down to improved reporting, but it is sadly clear that the overall situation has deteriorated. Antisemitism is having an increasing impact on the lives of British Jews and the hatred and anger that lies behind it is spreading."***



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Home Secretary Amber Rudd MP said:

***“Antisemitism has no place in this country, which prides itself on openness, diversity and tolerance. This Government’s Hate Crime Action Plan has improved the response of law enforcement to these deplorable crimes, including encouraging more victims to report incidents directly to police or via trusted organisations such as CST. This may partly explain the increase in reported incidents. But I am clear that one such incident is one too many and we will continue to do everything we can to stamp out the hatred and division that blights our communities. That is why we are providing £13.4m to protect Jewish sites and made available £900,000 for innovative schemes to tackle various types of hate crime. We will continue to drive forward action and develop new ways to rid the country of antisemitism and hate crime in all its forms.”***

Shadow Minister for Diverse Communities Dawn Butler MP said:

***“The continued rise in anti-Semitic incidents is appalling and is beginning to display a very worrying trend. These crimes have no place in our society. We must combat and tackle the root cause of this criminality and seek to build a society that is fair, tolerant and free of all forms of racism and discrimination.”***

Communities Secretary Sajid Javid MP said:

***“This rise in reported antisemitic incidents is completely unacceptable. Everyone in this country has a right to live without fear of abuse or attack and we must as a nation firmly condemn this hatred and all other forms of bigotry. Crimes must always be reported and it is encouraging that Jewish communities are more confident in coming forward. We will continue to work with the Community Security Trust to ensure that those who perpetuate hate against the Jewish community are subject to the full force of the law.”***

All-Party Parliamentary Group Against Antisemitism Chair John Mann MP said:

***“This report should be of serious concern to people up and down Britain. If we are to pride ourselves on being a diverse, equal and welcoming country we have to reverse this worrying trend.”***

Assistant Chief Constable Garry Shewan, National Police Chiefs’ Council Lead for Antisemitic Issues, said:

***“There is never any excuse for abuse, racism or hate crime. Police forces take our responsibility to protect people from harm and promote cohesion seriously. These figures demonstrate that there has been an increase in antisemitism directed against our UK Jewish communities. Police forces are committed to working with CST to respond to all instances of hate crime and protect the Jewish community from this abuse. I want to encourage anyone who is targeted in this way to report to their local police - you will be listened to, taken seriously, and officers will do all they can to bring offenders to justice.”***



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## Notes to Editors:

1. For further comment please contact CST spokesman Mark Gardner on 020 8457 9960 or [press@cst.org.uk](mailto:press@cst.org.uk)
2. CST defines an antisemitic incident as any malicious act aimed at Jewish people, organisations or property, which shows evidence of antisemitic motivation, language or targeting. For purposes of consistency and collection of data, this does not include the many instances of antisemitism that regularly feature on extremist websites and demonstrations.
3. CST has recorded antisemitic incidents on behalf of the Jewish community since 1984. Incidents are reported to CST offices and representatives throughout the UK by members of the Jewish community, Jewish organisations and other victims of or witnesses to antisemitic incidents. Incidents can be reported to CST in a number of ways, including by telephone, e-mail, by post, on social media or via CST's website.
4. CST received charitable status in 1994 and is recognised by Police and Government as a model of responsible communal security. It represents the Jewish community on numerous local, national and international policing bodies. CST works closely with the Jewish community and local and specialist Police units to combat antisemitic hate crime and acts as a Third Party Reporter to assist victims in reporting antisemitic hate crime. CST has a national information sharing agreement with the National Police Chiefs' Council that allows CST and UK Police forces to exchange anonymised antisemitic incident reports. The Government uses CST statistics to guide their work on tackling antisemitism.
5. CST divides antisemitic incidents into six categories, with the following brief definitions:

**Extreme Violence** – any attack potentially causing loss of life or Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH).

**Assault** - Any physical attack against a person or people, which does not pose a threat to their life and is not GBH.

**Damage & Desecration** - Any physical attack directed against Jewish property, which is not life-threatening. This includes antisemitic slogans, symbols, stickers or posters on Jewish property, or damage to the property itself, where the property has been targeted because of its actual or perceived Jewish connection.

**Threats** - Direct threats, whether verbal or written.

**Abusive Behaviour** - Verbal and written antisemitic abuse: this includes hate speech in person or via telephone; antisemitic emails, text messages or targeted antisemitic letters aimed at and sent to a specific individual; antisemitic graffiti, stickers or posters on non-Jewish property; antisemitic posts and comments on social media where the victim and/or offender are based in the UK.

**Literature** - Mass-produced antisemitic literature, which is part of a mass mailing rather than an individual case of hate mail (which would come under the category of Abusive Behaviour or Threats, depending on content).

For more detailed descriptions of the types of incidents that fall into each category, see the CST publication *Definitions of Antisemitic Incidents* on the publications page of CST's website at <http://www.cst.org.uk>

6. CST analyses antisemitic discourse in its Antisemitic Discourse Report, available on the publications page of its website, and on the CST Blog at <http://blog.cst.org.uk>

7. 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 those who had suffered antisemitic vandalism to their home or car had not reported it.<sup>1</sup> It is likely, therefore, that most antisemitic incidents go unreported either to CST or to the Police, and that the true figures will be higher than those recorded in this report. No adjustments have been made to the figures to account for this.

- Ends -

<sup>1</sup> *Discrimination and hate crime against Jews in EU Member States: experiences and perceptions of antisemitism* (Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2013)