



Anti-Racism and Diversity Group of the  
European Parliament

Hearing on Antisemitism and Islamophobia in Europe  
16 February 2016

**Presentation by Michael Whine MBE,  
Community Security Trust**

My first point is that the Community Security Trust (CST) is an agency of the Jewish community that monitors and advises on Antisemitism. We also assist other faith communities and have done so since our foundation in 1994. These include Muslim communities, churches, Hindus and others.

As part of our ongoing work we published our Annual Report on Antisemitic incidents last week in which we recorded 924 incidents, a fall of 22% over 2014, but the third highest ever.

There were no significant 'trigger events' in 2015 which would have resulted in a temporary spike, so our assumption is that we now face an elevated ambient level of antisemitism in the UK

Among these incidents we recorded 86 violent incidents, an increase of 6 per cent over 2014, and among them 4 incidents categorised as Extreme Violence, that is life threatening incidents.

Our data is shared with and validated by the National Communities Tensions Team, a national police agency with whom we have a contractual data-sharing agreement, whereby we compare and exchange antisemitic incident reports.

My second point is about my concern that EU Member States are failing in their obligations to their Jewish citizens.

Jews are threatened by terrorism, not just as ordinary citizens of their countries, but also specifically as Jews.

In recent years we have suffered a wave of terror attacks, but since 1968 we have recorded nearly 500 successful and foiled terror plots against Jews and Jewish institutions.

The consequence of EU Member States' failure to properly and effectively transpose the 2008 Framework Decision, the 2012 Victims' Directive, and the Additional Protocol on Cyberhate to the Council of Europe Cybercrime Convention has resulted in a weak and inconsistent legal regime against hate crime, of which antisemitism is a prominent feature.

My third point is that EU Member States' failure to monitor and publish data on antisemitic hate crime results in an incomplete picture of what is happening, although Member States' failure to gather data must not be used by EU institutions as an excuse not to take more effective action.

Among the most vital actions EU Member States could and should take is to ensure the security of their Jewish citizens, and yet after the Toulouse, Paris, Brussels and Copenhagen attacks, it is still only a minority of states that provide adequate security protection, or funding for security, for their Jewish citizens.

Only a minority of EU Member States provide police or military guards for Jewish institutions.

We recognise that this is difficult on long term basis, although we are grateful for what has been done, so far.

What we do need however is state funding for security, including for access control, CCTV and perimeter defences. The cost of providing these, and for commercial man guarding, is crippling Jewish communities, particularly the small ones. Some estimate they have to spend up to 25% of their income on security measures.

Finally, can I remind you that the OSCE Ministerial Council, in December 2014, committed its participating states, which includes EU member States, to investigate and deal effectively and promptly with violent antisemitism, and that in February 2015, it called on states to 'assess the security needs of Jewish communities and to take all necessary steps' to prevent terrorism against them from happening again.

Thank you.