



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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Home Affairs

House of Commons Ministerial Statement and Q&A

Prevent: Independent Review

col 912 **The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Suella Braverman):** ... The United Kingdom is an extraordinary place to live. Our history, our culture, our institutions, our liberties and, crucially, our values make it so: democracy, the rule of law, sexual equality, freedom of religion, freedom of expression and freedom of inquiry. ...

Those rights and freedoms are underpinned by our shared values. We cannot be timid when it comes to those values. If we do not argue for them, if we do not defend them, there is no guarantee that they will endure, because there are those who seek to undermine them through extremist and even terrorist activity. ...

Terrorist attacks are not random acts of violence. They are inherently and necessarily ideological. The very freedoms and values we cherish are the things terrorists want to destroy. Terrorists come from a much wider pool of extremists. That is why we must ensure we address the whole problem, not just the sharpest, most violent end of the extremist-terrorist spectrum. ...

Prevent is an early intervention programme. Its mission is to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. It relies on frontline sectors across society, including healthcare, education, local authorities and the police. William Shawcross has led a superb independent review of Prevent ... The review is unflinching: Prevent needs major reform. It needs to better understand the threats that we face and the ideology underpinning them. Eighty per cent. of the counter-terrorism police network's live investigations are on Islamist terrorism. MI5 is clear that that remains our predominant threat, accounting for 75% of its caseload. Yet only 16% of Prevent referrals in 2021-22 were Islamist. Prevent has shown cultural timidity and an institutional hesitancy to tackle Islamism for fear of charges of Islamophobia.

col 913 The truth is that there is nothing anti-Muslim about tackling Islamism, and we must continue to work closely with Muslim communities if we are to do so effectively. ...

While obscuring the Islamist threat, Prevent has defined the extreme right wing too broadly,

encompassing the respectable right and centre-right. The threat from the extreme right wing must not be minimised. ... But it is not the same, either in nature or in scale, as the threat from Islamism. ...

Prevent's first objective will be to tackle the ideological causes of terrorism. ...

The review establishes that Prevent has funded—using taxpayer money in the name of counter-extremism—those legitimising extremism. That ends on my watch. ...

In too many aspects of British life, hatred directed at Jewish people has been tolerated, normalised, and accepted. Racism that would rightly be called out and enforced against were it directed at another minority group is too often ignored when directed at Jews. The review makes clear that that double standard must change, so Prevent will do more to recognise and combat the prevalence of antisemitism in extremist ideology and narratives.

col 914 Yvette Cooper (Labour): ... Extremism is a stain on our society. Perpetrated in the name of one ideology or another, it feeds on fear. Its purpose is to tap into vulnerabilities, exploit people and drive us apart; to force us to hate rather than love; and to divide us rather than recognise what we share in common ...

We should condemn terrorist and extremist activity wherever it comes from. Fighting against it is a core part of our national security and of defending our democracy. The resilience that we build against extremists is about standing up for what we have in common and always challenging hatred and extremism wherever we might find it. ...

Prevent is—or should be—just one aspect of a wider counter-extremism and counter-terrorism strategy; it works only if it is located within those. The focus on it today, as if there were only the one aspect, is too narrow and means that it fails to tackle the pressures that we face. ...

col 915 The situation is likewise on the elements of the Contest strategy—the wider counter-terror strategy, of which Prevent is a part. ...

The review and its conclusions, and the Home Secretary's response to them, feel confused. At one point she said that the focus should be narrower and on those most likely to pose a terrorist threat, but at the same time, that the focus needs to be more on wider non-violent extremism. It will be unclear to practitioners what it is that they are expected to do. ...

The review does not seem to address the big increase and the record numbers of teenagers who have been arrested for terrorist offences. The Home Secretary talks about Islamist and far-right extremism, and it is clear that Prevent and the wider counter-extremism strategy need to tackle both, and both are changing fast. Islamist extremism often now is about single actors and lone actors, not just the organised groups that we saw some years ago. With far-right extremism, likewise we have seen many changes in how those threats take place, and we have seen the rise of new kinds of ideologies and extremist threats, including incels. There should be no hierarchy of extremism. The counter-terror police and the experts need to go wherever the evidence takes them. ...

col 916 Suella Braverman: ... The shadow Home Secretary does not seem to understand the main point, or one of the main points, made by William Shawcross, which is that we cannot ignore the seriousness of non-violent extremism and groups that purport to be operating in the name of community cohesion and in the name of Islam, but are actually propagating mendacious and malicious campaigns to discredit Prevent as anti-Muslim and to undermine community cohesion. ... CAGE, for example, is an Islamist group. It has excused and legitimised violence by Islamist terrorists. Muslim Engagement and Development is an anti-Prevent group, with a history of partnering with actors of extremist concern. Prevent has been routinely smeared by such groups as a vehicle for spying on Muslims. They have slandered those who work with Prevent to combat Islamist extremism as disloyal, sinful or “native” informants—derogatory terms that are entirely unacceptable in our free and liberal society. ...

William Shawcross has exposed a real problem: a cultural timidity, a blind eye being

turned to extremism, a fraternisation with those who would do us harm, and a hesitancy to confront head on and bravely the threat of Islamist extremist ideology. ...

col 917 Julian Lewis (Conservative): ... may I ask ... the Home Secretary to focus on the voluntary aspect of the Prevent programme? Although one can understand that it will always have to operate in a fairly gentle and very carefully worded way to encourage people voluntarily to engage with it, does that mean that there is a gap in the system whereby people espousing extreme views who would benefit from a course on the Prevent programme are, by simply refusing it, allowed to proceed without any attempt at all to encourage them or deter them from an extreme position in the future?

Suella Braverman: ... Although Prevent is predominantly about security and safety and must be heavily informed by the security assessments, there is a very strong community element. That is why work with local authorities and agencies in healthcare and education is vital. ... Let me be clear that, for every Prevent failure that is exposed in the media or otherwise publicly, there are many stories—which the public will never read about—of lives turned around and harm averted ...

Kirsten Oswald (SNP): ... Does the Home Secretary agree that whatever steps are taken in response to the report, it would be wrong and indeed damaging to stigmatise or marginalise Muslim communities, and that the risks posed by ideologies such as right-wing extremism and antisemitism, as well as Islamic extremism, must all remain central to any UK counter-terror strategy? ...

col 918 ... the Home Secretary will know that Scotland takes its own approach to Prevent, with our focus on strong links between the community and the police, leading to positive relationships and grassroots-based initiatives aimed at countering extremism. Can she tell us how she will protect that specific approach in relation to recommendation 14, and whether she will be guided by Scotland's experience in her own application of the Prevent strategy?

Suella Braverman: I do not agree with the hon. Lady's characterisation that this is unfairly stigmatising Muslims. I have been clear that the vast majority of Muslims are peaceful and law-abiding. What we are talking about here is a minority of Islamist extremists, and we must not shy away from calling out their unacceptable behaviour. ...

John Hayes (Conservative): ... the Islamist threat she described has been defined and interpreted too narrowly, whereas some of the other threats, which are less significant, as she said, in scale and character, have none the less been defined too widely. The truth of the matter is that Prevent is now out of kilter both with the subjects of interest to the police and the intelligence services and with the active inquiries of those services ...

Suella Braverman: ... 80% of the counter-terrorism police network's live investigations are Islamist. MI5 is clear that Islamist terrorism remains our predominant security threat, accounting for 75% of its case load. Yet, judging by the referrals made by Prevent, that is entirely inconsistent with the work being done on the ground. ...

col 919 Khalid Mahmood (Labour): ... until we get this issue out into the mainstream community and get the main Muslim community on board, Prevent will have detractors ...

Suella Braverman: ... we need to work with communities, community leaders, and those in the Muslim community who support this work and recognise the benefit of preventing radicalisation and terrorism. The caricature of Prevent as an authoritarian and thinly veiled means of persecuting British Muslims is not only untrue, but a grotesque insult to all those who work in the Prevent network and within communities, doing such diligent work to stop terrorism. ...

col 920 Kevan Jones (Labour): ... I fear that in her attempt to construct a hierarchy of terrorism threats, she will play into the hands of those in the Islamic community who want to damage Prevent. ...

Suella Braverman: ... the security threat assessment cannot be ignored. When we hear from agencies that are on the frontline, combating activities across the country, and looking at their caseload and at the numbers of subjects of interest they monitor, it is undeniable that by far the greatest security threat that this country faces is that posed by Islamist extremism. ... It is a bogus equivalence to equate the threat of extreme right-wing terrorism and the threat of Islamist extremism ...

Munira Wilson (Liberal Democrat): ... Does the Home Secretary agree that in order to combat violent extremism, we must engage with marginalised communities, and that by demonising one community in particular, which her language has sought to do today, we are doing precisely the opposite?

col 921 **Suella Braverman:** ... we must not shy away from speaking the truth, however uncomfortable that may be. I have not sought, and nor do I ever seek, to demonise any particular community in this country. ... Too many groups have been attacking Prevent for far too long, in a campaign to undermine its objectives, smearing it as unfairly targeting Muslims, and suggesting that it is spying on Muslims. All of that is totally untrue. ...

Scott Benton (Conservative): It is evident ... that Prevent has been dragged badly off course as a consequence of political correctness and misplaced cultural sensitivities. Our response to the threat from terrorism must be based on the level of risk. Islamist terrorism remains the greatest security risk to the UK, yet last year only 16% of referrals were associated with that ideology. ...

Suella Braverman: ... This is not just about focusing on the sharp end of violent activity; this is about ensuring there is wider understanding of non-violent extremism within the wider Islamist movement that promotes grievance narratives and propagates a wider ideological movement that is undermining of western values and liberal democracies. We must not shy away from taking action against those groups. They may fall just below the threshold of terrorism, but they none the less foster ideologies and narratives that may lead to very deadly and destructive behaviour. ...

Jeremy Corbyn (Independent): ... Would she acknowledge that within our community in Finsbury Park, the Jewish community, the Muslim community, the Christian community, imams and many other religious leaders have done a great deal to try to bring the community together and promote community understanding and cohesion, and that it is important we bring people together and do not demonise any particular community or allow racism in any form to thrive in our society?

Has the Home Secretary had the opportunity to look at the response by Zara Mohammed from the Muslim Council of Britain to the trailing of this statement? Will she arrange to have a discussion with the MCB on its concerns that the statement will, in fact, not deal with the issue of far-right extremism ... but will actually continue the demonisation of one community over another?

col 922 **Suella Braverman:** ... It is absolutely important to bring all communities together. ...

Zarah Sultana (Labour): ... When the Government appointed William Shawcross to lead the review of Prevent, more than 450 Muslim organisations and leading human rights organisations such as Amnesty International boycotted it. Shawcross's anti-Muslim attitude is well known. He said, for example, that "Europe and Islam is one of the...most terrifying problems of our future." ...

Human rights groups said that this attitude meant the review's supposed objectivity was a farce, warning that it would ignore Prevent's discriminatory impact and its undermining of democratic freedoms. That warning has been borne out today. Human rights organisation Liberty has previously called Prevent the biggest threat to free speech on campuses and highlighted its anti-Muslim impact. Why does the Home Secretary think that perspective is absent from the review?

Suella Braverman: I have nothing but gratitude for William Shawcross and the very firm and robust work that he has carried out to assess the operations of Prevent. ...
col/ 923 Afzal Khan (Labour): The review appears to be suggesting that there should be less emphasis on far-right terrorism. Given the terrorist attack at a migrant centre by an individual who wanted to “obliterate Muslim children”, and given the statistics that show how there are more referrals to Prevent and more Channel interventions for the far-right than for Islamist cases, is that really the right thing to do?

Suella Braverman: I am going by the data and by the facts. Counter-terrorism police make it clear that Islamist cases make up 80% of their investigations; MI5 says that they account for 75% of its caseloads. ... in the past year the proportion of referrals to Prevent was not consistent with that security threat. Yes, the threat from the extreme right wing is growing and serious and we must never shy away from fighting it, but overwhelmingly the greatest security threat that this country is facing is from Islamist extremists. Prevent must be oriented to meet that threat. ...
col/ 924 When it comes to the Muslim community, the Government are clear that we will not tolerate any anti-Muslim hatred, in any form, and that we will seek to stamp it out wherever it occurs. We have some of the strongest legislation in the world to tackle hate crime. We have supported organisations such as Tell MAMA with nearly £5 million between 2016 and 2023 to monitor and combat anti-Muslim hatred. That, as well as many other provisions and resources led by this Government, is a reflection of our commitment to protecting those communities who feel vulnerable. ...

To read the full transcript see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-02-08/debates/8470D67C-39A3-4AD5-A3B9-8671889E0607/PreventIndependentReview>

The Review referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1134986/Independent_Review_of_Prevent.pdf

The Government response to the Review referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1134828/The_response_to_the_Independent_Review_of_Prevent.pdf

The MCB statement referred to above can be read at

<https://mcb.org.uk/building-trust-into-an-effective-counter-terrorism-strategy/>

House of Commons Written Answers

Armed Forces: Protective Clothing

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [137939] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether he has made a recent assessment of the potential merits of improving general service respirators for service personnel who have facial hair for religious reasons.

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [137940] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of using silicone bands on general service respirators for service personnel who have facial hair for religious reasons.

Andrew Murrison: Acknowledging previous PQs on the same theme, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 5 February 2021, to Questions 145107 and 145108 and relating to Questions 133119, 133120 and 133121, that articulated MODs historical and ongoing approach to and consideration of inclusive solutions for Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) respiratory protection, including communication of the fundamental complexities.

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is committed to active encouragement and growth of research, education, and advancements in the provision of inclusive counter-

CBRN capabilities. The necessity for diversity and inclusion consideration is recognized globally and features within the key requirements of MODs counter-CBRN policy, strategies, research and international engagements.

In specific response to the recent questions, it is to be highlighted that, amongst other activities, the MOD ran a targeted “Respiratory Protection and Facial Hair Compatibility Workshop” in January 2022, supported by the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl). This workshop directly discussed “the potential merits of improving general service respirators for service personnel who have facial hair for religious reasons” and “the potential merits of using silicone bands on general service respirators for service personnel who have facial hair for religious reasons”.

The workshop included representation from the Diversity and Inclusion and Faith Networks and provided an opportunity to better inform the User community on the subject of respiratory protection and facial hair, focusing on the General Service Respirator (GSR).

Some of the recommendations from this workshop were incorporated into Defence Counter-CBRN policy and Defence continues to fund academic research and development programmes that explore alternative respiratory options appropriate for Service personnel who have facial hair for religious reasons.

[Armed Forces Protective Clothing](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-01/137939>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-01/137940>

The answers referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-28/145107>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-28/145108>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-30/133119>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-30/133120>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-30/133121>

House of Lords Written Answer

Schools: Freedom of Information

Lord Jackson of Peterborough (Conservative) [HL5022] To ask His Majesty's Government what guidance they provide to schools and Local Education Authorities on their application of the Freedom of Information Act 2000; and in particular with regard to any parent's request to access information on Relationships and Sex Education curricula delivered by external contractors and providers.

Baroness Barran: Schools are responsible for what is taught in Relationship, Health and Sex Education (RHSE) lessons, including anything taught by external providers. Schools should agree reasonable requests from parents to view curriculum materials. We would expect schools to avoid entering into any agreement that seeks to prevent them from ensuring parents can be made properly aware of the materials that are being used to teach their children. The department will soon be writing to schools to clarify this.

Regarding Government providing advice on the application of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000, local authorities and schools are public authorities in their own right for the purposes of the FOIA. This means that they must make their

own decisions on how they should respond to specific FOIs they receive, including any from parents requesting access to information on Relationships and Sex Education curricula delivered by external contractors and providers. Accordingly, the department does not advise schools or local authorities on the responses that they should provide to such requests.

The Information Commissioner's Office makes guidance on the application of the FOIA available to all public authorities. This guidance is available at:

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-freedom-of-information/>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-24/hl5022>

TOP

Holocaust

House of Commons Oral Answer

Business of the House

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour): ...The Government's announcement of a Holocaust memorial Bill is welcome. It will allow the building of a new memorial and learning centre, which will go such a long way in educating future generations about the Holocaust. I offer the Government Labour's co-operation in getting the Bill through as quickly as possible, because there must be no delay. ...

Penny Mordaunt: ...I welcome her remarks about the Holocaust memorial and am glad to have her support for that. ...

<https://hansard.parliament.uk//commons/2023-02-09/debates/306A686A-9B53-42BE-9367-C12AB4771504/BusinessOfTheHouse#contribution-FC212CDE-EE49-48FE-896D-BC4E76E453A9>

Church of Scotland

Edinburgh Council to install 'Stolpersteine' memorial to Scots Holocaust victim Jane Haining

... The City of Edinburgh Council has agreed to pay for the installation of a Stolperstein or 'stumbling stone' memorial to Jane Haining in response to a proposal from Edinburgh Central SNP MSP, Angus Robertson.

Miss Haining trained as a Church of Scotland missionary in Edinburgh and in 1932 became matron of the Scottish Mission School in Budapest which had around 400 day and boarder pupils aged from 6-16 years old, a mixture of Jews and Christians.

She helped keep the children safe until she was betrayed and arrested by German officers in April 1944. Charged with eight offences she was jailed in Budapest before being transported to Auschwitz-Birkenau by rail in a cattle wagon along with scores of others on the 14 May 1944.

Jane Haining was killed in Auschwitz in 1944 and subsequently recognised as 'Righteous Among the Nations' at Yad Vashem World Holocaust Remembrance Centre in Jerusalem, the only Scot to be given the honour. The motion was passed by acclaim by City of Edinburgh Councillors on Thursday 9 February. ...

Angus Robertson MSP, who proposed the memorial, said: "Jane Haining is Scotland's most prominent Holocaust victim and is Righteous Amongst the Nations at Yad Vashem. A 'Stolperstein' to her memory would be fitting, perhaps outside Edinburgh's St Stephen's Church, where her mission to help Jewish children was dedicated. As well as being a

proper commemoration, it will also serve as a warning to never forget the lessons of history."

Professor Joe Goldblatt, Chair of the Edinburgh Interfaith Association ... brought a motion to the City of Edinburgh Council to have the Stolperstein paid for and installed by the City. Professor Joe Goldblatt said: "I hope that in the years to come when children and others pass the Stolperstein stone and plaque they will feel pride because of this daughter of Edinburgh whose courage and bravery saved so many Jewish lives. I hope that the Church of Scotland and Jewish community will work closely together to plan a meaningful and memorable unveiling of the stone."

Rt Rev Dr Iain Greenshields, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, said: ... "A woman of deep Christian faith, she was fully aware of the risks she was taking but repeatedly refused Church of Scotland pleas to leave Budapest and return home to Scotland as the war engulfed Europe. ...

"Her story is moving, humbling, heart-breaking and inspirational and we hope that this honour will help keep her memory alive for generations to come." ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2023/articles/edinburgh-council-to-install-stolpersteine-memorial-to-scots-holocaust-victim-jane-haining>

The Proposal referred to above can be read at 8.5 of

<https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=150&MId=6472&Ver=4>

The Minutes of the Council meeting referred to above are not yet available online

TOP

Israel

House of Commons Written Answer

Occupied Territories: War Crimes

Munira Wilson (Liberal Democrat) [136857] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, if he will clarify the UK's position on the International Criminal Court's investigation into alleged war crimes in the West Bank and Gaza.

David Rutley: The UK is a strong supporter of the International Criminal Court and we respect the independence of the Court. We do not consider that the ICC has jurisdiction in this instance as the UK does not currently recognise Palestinian statehood.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-31/136857>

Scottish Government FOI Release

Occupied Palestinian Territories: FOI release

... I request ... details of correspondence between the Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism and Enterprise and companies identified as operating in Occupied Palestinian Territories. In particular, replies from 'any companies, thus identified' by those public bodies as being on the 'UN list' and to which Mr McKee may have subsequently written. Such generated correspondence requested should be confined to the period from May 23, 2022 until the present. ...

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/foi-202200334471/>

and

Foreign Affairs

House of Commons Written Answer

Religious Freedom: Christianity

Alexander Stafford (Conservative) [138075] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, if he will make an assessment of trends in the level of freedom of religion and belief for Christians in other countries.

Andrew Mitchell: Promotion of the right to freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) is a longstanding human rights priority for the UK. A range of analyses, including reports from organisations which look at trends, informs our work and approach to freedom of religion or belief. We demonstrated the depth of our commitment to FoRB by hosting an international Ministerial conference in July 2022. We continue to recognise the issue of persecution of Christians globally on account of their faith, alongside recognising the persecution of others on the basis of their religion or belief.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-01/138075>

Other Relevant Information

Community Security Trust (CST)

Antisemitic Incidents Report 2022

CST's *Antisemitic Incidents Report 2022*, published today, shows 1,652 anti-Jewish hate incidents recorded nationwide in 2022. This is the fifth-highest annual total ever reported to CST, and a 27% decrease from the 2,261 antisemitic incidents in 2021, which was a record high sparked by antisemitic reactions to the conflict in the Middle East that year. CST recorded 1,684 incidents in 2020, 1,813 in 2019 and 1,690 in 2018. ...

The fall in reported incidents serves to illustrate the unprecedented volume of anti-Jewish hate recorded by CST in May and June 2021, during and following the escalation of violence between Israel and Hamas. In 2022, there was no similar external circumstance to have such an impact on the content or scale of antisemitic incidents in the UK. While the relative drop was predictable, the overall figure remains significant. Over 100 cases of antisemitism were reported each month, and the average monthly total was 138 incidents. For comparison, barring May and June – when incident figures were affected by the war-related surge in reports – the average monthly total in 2021 was 116 incidents. Without any relevant trigger event, the 1,652 instances of anti-Jewish hate recorded in 2022 can be considered a 'new normal' for antisemitism in the country, far exceeding what was typically observed prior to 2016.

Over three-quarters of all antisemitic incidents in 2022 took place offline ... This is the second-highest total for offline incidents ever recorded by CST ... It suggests that in-

person antisemitic activity has returned in force since the outbreak of Covid-19 ...

In contrast, the number of online incidents reported to CST fell by 35%, from 552 online incidents in 2021 to 358 in 2022. ...

In 2022, the anti-Jewish manipulation of current affairs was observed in the 16 incidents that were in some way inspired by the war in Ukraine. They included conspiracy theories accusing Jewish people of causing and bankrolling the war, and of Jews being behind every aspect of the conflict, filling positions of power and pulling the strings on both the Ukrainian and Russian sides ...

Changes were also seen in the number of incidents containing rhetoric linked to Israel and Palestine alongside anti-Jewish language or targeting. They fell from 826 in 2021 – fuelled largely by anger about the conflict – to 244 in 2022, typical of a year without a substantial intensification of hostilities in the Middle East. Instead, the most common discourse observed included references to Hitler, the Nazis, the Holocaust or other aspects of the Nazi era, present in 28% of all antisemitic incidents reported to CST ...

An alarming trend that began in 2021 persisted in 2022, whereby the proportion of incidents involving children as victims, offenders, or both, was higher than the averages typically observed in previous years. In incidents where CST obtained the victim or victims' age, 15% were minors, and 20% of incidents where the offender or offenders' age was provided involved child perpetrators. ...

It suggests that the surge in antisemitism enacted by a younger demographic, while initially a reaction to events in the Middle East and responsible for the spike in school-sector anti-Jewish hate last year, runs deeper than the desire to blame Jewish people for wars involving Israel. Offenders under the age of 18 years were also more likely to incorporate politicised, conspiracist or extremist rhetoric within their antisemitism. ...

CST recorded 136 antisemitic incidents in the category of Assault in 2022, a decrease of 22% from the 174 incidents in this category in 2021, and an additional incident severe enough to be classified as Extreme Violence (meaning it involved a threat to life or Grievous Bodily Harm). ...

CST recorded 74 incidents of Damage & Desecration of Jewish property in 2022, a 10% fall from the 82 incidents of this type in 2021. ...

To read the press release in full see

<https://cst.org.uk/news/blog/2023/02/09/antisemitic-incidents-report-2022>

Antisemitic Incidents 2022

<https://cst.org.uk/public/data/file/e/6/CST%20Incidents%20Report%202022.pdf>

TOP

Relevant Legislation ** new or updated today

UK Parliament

Bill of Rights Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3227>

Education (Non-religious Philosophical Convictions) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3186>

**** Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2862>

Commons Disagreement and Reason

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/49810/documents/2930>

House of Commons Library Briefing: Progress of the Bill

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9295/CBP-9295.pdf>

Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3325>

**** Online Safety Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3137>

Notice of amendments

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/49700/documents/2936>

Palestine Statehood (Recognition) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3217>

Private Burial Grounds and Cemeteries Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3188>

Universal Credit (Removal of Two Child Limit) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3163>

Schools Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3156>

Scottish Parliament

Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/charities-regulation-and-administration-scotland-bill>

Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/gender-recognition-reform-scotland-bill>

TOP

Consultations

** new or updated today

Equality and Human Rights Commission Statutory Review (closing date 1 March 2023)

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-statutory-review>

Draft guidance: charities use of social media (closing date 14 March 2023)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/draft-guidance-charities-use-of-social-media>

TOP

The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC) is Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438