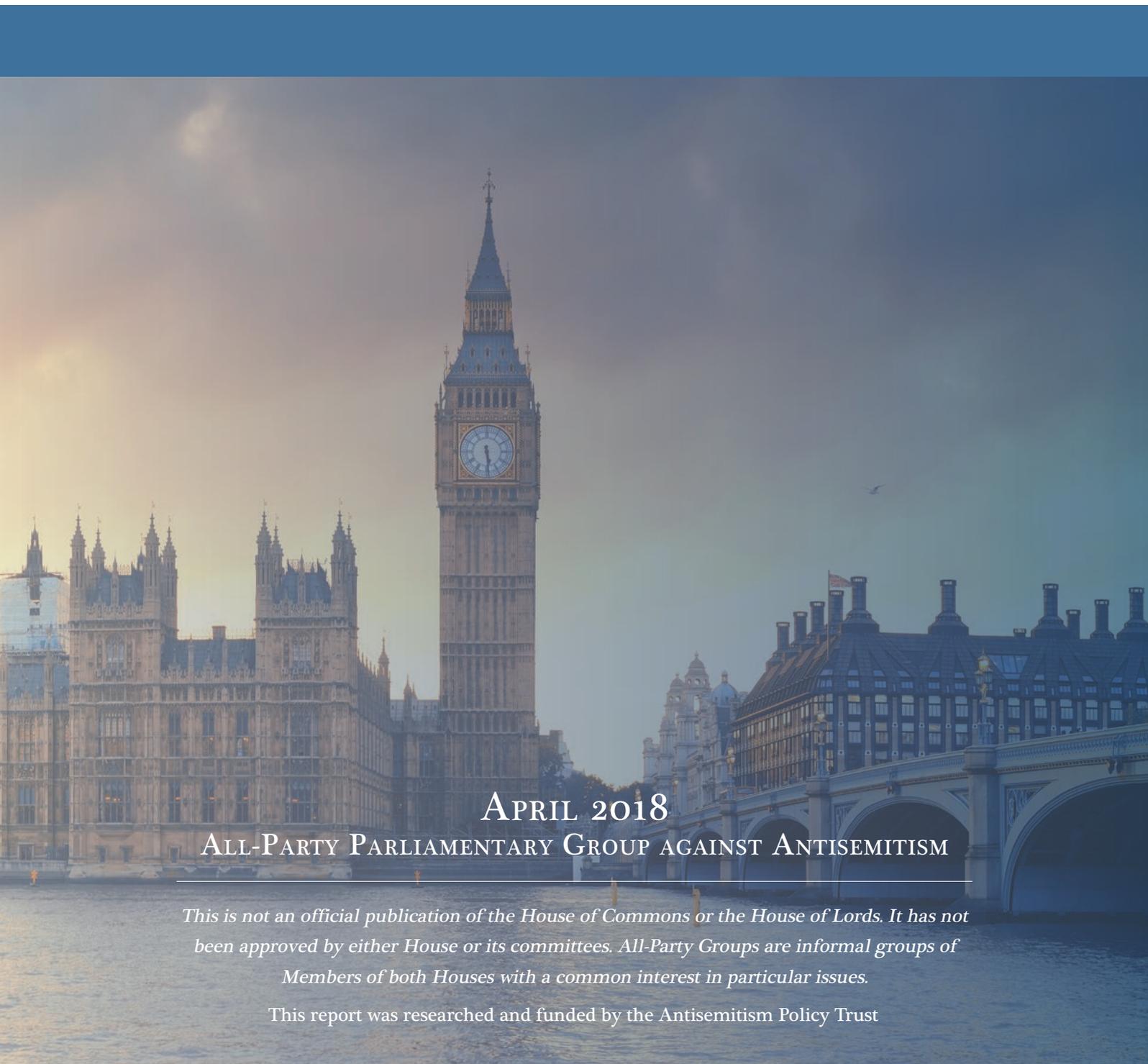




IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY REPORT INTO ANTISEMITISM



APRIL 2018

ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP AGAINST ANTISEMITISM

This is not an official publication of the House of Commons or the House of Lords. It has not been approved by either House or its committees. All-Party Groups are informal groups of Members of both Houses with a common interest in particular issues.

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Overview

In 2014, a number of cross-party MPs examined the nature, prevalence, and frameworks for addressing antisemitism in the UK, following the significant surge in antisemitic incidents during the Israel-Hamas conflict that summer. The report of the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Antisemitism, published February 2015, levelled 34 recommendations for tackling antisemitism in the UK.¹ Following this report, unprecedented progress has been achieved by successive governments, documented in the All-Party Inquiry update reports of May 2015² and April 2016³ and the Government's update report of December 2016.⁴

Since the publication of the first All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Antisemitism in 2006, the nature of antisemitism, and indeed many other hate crimes, has transformed significantly. The digital age has drastically excelled methods of discourse, resulting in a substantial surge of online hatred and abuse. It is essential that frameworks to combat hate crime thus remain contemporary and relevant, responding to the constantly changing nature of modern hatred.

This document provides the final update to the 2015 inquiry process, two years ahead of the self-imposed 2020 deadline. The 34 recommendations of the February 2015 report will each be explored, categorised into the following sections: investment in research; enhancing interfaith/community work; education/awareness-raising; security and protection for communities; cross-sector communication; improved public bodies; and increased public national/international discourse. (NB: After each cited recommendation, the government department, public body or other group to which the recommendation was directed is noted in brackets).

**Please note, the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), as referenced in this document is now the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). References to DCLG in the document have not changed as the department was predominantly operating under this name when it took the various actions described.*

Investment in Research

Recommendation 1: “There is a requirement for further reputable quantitative and qualitative research about the concerns of British Jewry, UK antisemitism and the interplay with the Middle East conflict. We recommend that the government direct funds to appropriate organisations to undertake such research.” (DCLG)

In its 2016 update report on antisemitism,⁵ DCLG confirmed its commitment to partially fund research due to be conducted by the Institute for Jewish Policy Research examining the connectivity

¹ <https://www.antisemitism.org.uk/files/cj3e6rg8y906h0104uh8bojao/cj4mu8p40000x01455ae3ae66>

² <https://www.antisemitism.org.uk/files/cj3e6rg8y906h0104uh8bojao/cj4mtzal3000p0145eh63t4ol>

³ <https://www.antisemitism.org.uk/files/cj3e6rg8y906h0104uh8bojao/cj4mty4dr000l01452nelfvw>

⁴ <https://www.antisemitism.org.uk/files/cj3e6rg8y906h0104uh8bojao/cj4mugspc001h0145117xecip>

⁵ <https://www.antisemitism.org.uk/files/cj3e6rg8y906h0104uh8bojao/cj4mugspc001h0145117xecip>

of antisemitism in the UK and events in the Middle East. The research was an in-depth study, supported by the Community Security Trust, analysing attitudes towards Jews and Israel among the British public, both generally and within key subgroups (notably the far-left, far-right, and Muslim community).

The resultant report, ‘Antisemitism in contemporary in Great Britain: Key findings from the JPR survey of attitudes towards Jews and Israel’,⁶ published in September 2017, is the most comprehensive and thorough investigation into the connectivity of anti-Jewish and anti-Israel sentiment to date; the findings provide a reputable source of reference and will undoubtedly act as a benchmark for relative future studies. Research into the prevalence and manifestation of antisemitism, the concerns of the British Jewish community, and its intersection with the conflict in the Middle East, has been promising.

Additionally, the Government published its Hate Crime Action Plan in July 2016,⁷ reiterating the importance of the work of the International Network for Hate Studies. This network is constituted of academics and experts, conducting vital research into the manifestations of hatred, its interconnections, and the motivations of perpetrators.

Recommendation 6: “We recommend that further research be carried out into the sources, patterns, nature and reach of the antisemitism on social media. Such learning can help to identify the most appropriate responses and effective deployment of resources to combat hate online.” (Civil Society/Academics/DCLG)

Since 2015, the police are mandated to implement an ‘online flag’ for all crimes recorded with an online nature; this helps depict the scale of online hate crimes, directing research respectively. The government’s Hate Crime Action Plan,⁸ issued July 2016, includes plans to raise awareness and enhance understanding of online hate. The Action Plan recognises the significant surge of online hate, detailing the importance of research in evidencing its prevalence, and specificities, such as gender-based and religiously motivated online hate crime. At the urging of the All-Party Parliamentary Group Against Antisemitism, the Government committed to convening a ministerial seminar on hate on the internet, bringing together victims’ groups, stakeholders and industry representatives, aiming to identify best ways to tackle this rising phenomenon. That seminar took place in late 2017 and Government has committed to follow-up on a number of suggestions made at the meeting, including for training of the judiciary and police and working with social media companies on third-party contracting.

In October 2016, the Home Affairs Committee published its report ‘Antisemitism in the UK’,⁹ in which paragraphs 48-59 dealt specifically with antisemitism online. The report highlighted that social media has substantively altered the manner in which individuals experience hate, and its prevalence. Further, the Home Affairs Committee did recognise that “Antisemitic abuse online is an under-researched issue in the UK”. The instantaneous, and essentially anonymous, nature of online speech renders social media platforms an extremely fertile ground for disseminating hatred and abuse.

⁶ <https://cst.org.uk/data/file/7/4/JPR.2017.Antisemitism%20in%20contemporary%20Great%20Britain.1504799735.pdf>

⁷ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/543679/Action_Against_Hate_-_UK_Government_s_Plan_to_Tackle_Hate_Crime_2016.pdf

⁸ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/543679/Action_Against_Hate_-_UK_Government_s_Plan_to_Tackle_Hate_Crime_2016.pdf

⁹ <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmhaff/136/136.pdf>

In its ‘Antisemitic Incidents Report 2017’,¹⁰ published in February 2018, the Community Security Trust recorded 247 incidents of antisemitism on social media in 2017, constituting 18% of the annual total of 1,382 incidents. However, the numerous difficulties associated with producing research and statistical data on online abuse are frequently cited by the CST: the “numbers are only indicated, rather than being a guide to the actual number of antisemitic tweets, comments and posts, which is likely to be far higher”. This is, in part, due to the fact that online incidents of hate crime are severely under-reported.

In February 2018, the Community Security Trust published its landmark report ‘Antisemitic Content on Twitter’,¹¹ analysing 2.7million UK tweets relating to Jews and antisemitism posted on Twitter between October 2015 and October 2016. The novel research presents a number of important findings, including that: antagonistic content related to Jews represents only a small proportion of overall content relating to Jews on Twitter; offline events in mainstream politics and public life can trigger online antisemitism; information flows from antisemitic agents on Twitter gain less traction than information from organisations challenging negative narratives; and antisemitic content operates in an online ‘echo chamber’ of like-minded individuals. This research essentially reveals the way in which hate is propagated online, and the scale and expanse of the problem, and should shape and inform relevant policy accordingly.

Recommendation 34: “We recommend that in order to properly educate about the language of antisemitism, further research be commissioned by government with a specific focus on properly identifying and explaining antisemitic themes whether or not they are used intentionally. This research must include practical recommendations for its application.” (DCLG)

As noted, DCLG helped to fund the Institute for Jewish Policy Research and Community Security Trust report, ‘Antisemitism in contemporary in Great Britain: Key findings from the JPR survey of attitudes towards Jews and Israel’,¹² published in September 2017. The same month, the Community Security Trust published its ‘Antisemitic Discourse in Britain 2016’¹³ report, examining the substantive themes, ideas, and language of antisemitism, within general discourse, mainstream media, politics, and public debate. The CST quotes Anthony Julius, relaying the four kinds of contemporary antisemitism operative in society, namely: radical antisemitism of defamation, expropriation, murder and expulsion; literary antisemitism; modern antisemitism of insult and partial exclusion; and a new configuration of anti-Zionism which treats Zionism and the State of Israel as illegitimate Jewish enterprises.¹⁴

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of antisemitism, formally adopted by the UK Government in December 2016 and subsequently by Her Majesty’s Official Opposition and a number of other political parties, includes various examples of attitudes and language that could indicate antisemitism “taking into account the overall context”. The accompanying guidance provides a useful outline of antisemitic themes, including: legitimising the killing/harming of Jews; demonising stereotypical allegations, such as the power of Jews, world Jewish conspiracy, or Jewish control of societal institutions; accruing responsibility to Jews as a

¹⁰ <https://cst.org.uk/data/file/a/b/IR17.1517308734.pdf>

¹¹ <https://cst.org.uk/public/data/file/4/2/Antisemitic%20Content%20on%20Twitter.pdf>

¹² <https://cst.org.uk/data/file/7/4/JPR.2017.Antisemitism%20in%20contemporary%20Great%20Britain.1504799735.pdf>

¹³ <https://cst.org.uk/data/file/6/7/Antisemitic%20Discourse%20Report%202016%20final.1504698121.pdf>

¹⁴ Anthony Julius, *Trials of the Diaspora* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010), pp.xxxvi-xxxvii

people for real/imagined wrongdoing by a single Jewish person or group; accusations of inventing/exaggerating the Holocaust; allegations that Jews have split loyalty, based on loyalty to Israel or Jews worldwide; denying the Jewish people a right to self-determination, claiming that the State of Israel is a racist endeavour; holding Israel to a standard of behaviour not expected of any other democratic nation; using symbols/images associated with classic antisemitism to characterise Israel/Israelis; drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to Nazi policy; holding Jews collectively responsible for the actions of Israel. The definition is now being used as a guide by police, judges, political parties and others to assess action against antisemitism.

In its 2017 Antisemitic Incidents Report, published February 2018, the Community Security Trust did usefully outline thematic types of antisemitic language online, including Holocaust-related language/Holocaust denial, comparisons between Nazis and Jews, conspiracy theories, mentions of Zionism, Blood Libel, and so on. Perhaps this research into the patterns and substantive content of online antisemitism can progress research in this area, making online hate easier to identify and categorise.

The All-Party Parliamentary Group Against Antisemitism continues to conduct briefings about antisemitic discourse with members of all political parties.

Enhancing Interfaith/Community Work

Recommendation 2: “The UK National, Scottish, Welsh and Local Authorities were keen to highlight their support for and the significance of inter-communal and interfaith work. Given the importance of keeping communities together when events elsewhere can serve to drive them apart we recommend that the UK Government together with the devolved administrations undertake a national review of this work, including and specifically identification of good practice and case studies of where dialogue has succeeded in spite of international events.” (DCLG & Devolved Administrations/Governments)

Subsequent to the All-Party Inquiry, DCLG funded and produced a ‘toolkit’, entitled ‘Faiths Working Together’, to outline the core principles of effective interfaith work, produced through its Near Neighbours programme and the Interfaith Network. DCLG have noted the positive impact of this cross-faith work, highlighting the beneficial difference in social action, dialogue, and shared learning within communities.

In January 2017, Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth, Minister of Faith and Integration, announced a £210,000 funding boost to be spread amongst various Near Neighbours community projects in England. By 2017, the Near Neighbours project had been granted a total of £9.5million by the Government, reaching over 1million beneficiaries.

Recommendation 16: “We know that local authority action is almost never motivated by antisemitism but conclude that political gesturing gives out entirely the wrong messages. We call upon all local councils to do their utmost to bring people together during times of foreign conflict, particularly in the Middle East, to strengthen inter-communal ties and to avoid isolating or inspiring fear in constituents they are elected to represent.” (DCLG, Devolved Administrations/Governments)

In 2014, there was some progress in relation to local council responses to offensive graffiti and the displaying of flags. The then Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Rt Hon Sir Eric Pickles MP, and the Chief Executive of the Community Security Trust David Delew, composed a joint letter to local authorities, reminding them of the importance of acting promptly in the removal of offensive graffiti, as well as reporting any such material to the police. Sir Eric also contacted the All-Party Inquiry, clearly outlining his opinion on the flying of the Palestinian flag by local authorities, branding such acts as “a clear political statement on an area of public policy for which the municipal body has no responsibility”.¹⁵

At the beginning of 2016, the Government issued guidance asserting that procurement boycotts by public authorities are inappropriate (excluding situations where legal sanctions, embargoes and restrictions have been implemented by Government). In its December 2016 report, DCLG expressed the view that town hall boycotts “undermine good community relations, poisoning and polarising debate, weakening integration and fuelling anti-Semitism”. DCLG reiterated that they “have been clear that imposing local level boycotts can damage integration and community cohesion within the United Kingdom, hinder Britain’s export trade, and harm foreign relations to the detriment of Britain’s economic and international security”. DCLG further outlined that any public body found to be in breach of the Government guidance could be subject to penalties.

In February 2017, DCLG produced a Consultation Paper, proposing an addition to the Revised Best Value Statutory Guidance, making clear the inappropriateness of procurement boycotts by local authorities. On 13 February 2017, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, announced further steps which prevent local authorities from conducting boycotts when such is in contravention to government guidance. The new steps legally prohibit councils from boycotting any country or industry unless such restrictions have already been implemented by the Government; the move effectively outlaws locally-imposed boycotts.

Following a call for a judicial review by an NGO of Government’s position, the High Court ruled¹⁶ in June 2017 that Secretary of State, Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP’s acted outside the scope of his statutory powers, as he had not issued the guidance for pensions purposes. In this context, the government will need to consider which departments issue future rounds of guidance.

Recommendation 18: “The interfaith work undertaken during the summer months was vitally important. In particular, work on training individuals and organisations in ‘handling difficult conversations’ is paramount. We recommend that the government look to support an extension of this work in particular to local authorities with a view to implementation

¹⁵ <https://www.antisemitism.org.uk/files/cj3e6rg8y906h0104uh8bojao/cj4mty4dr000l01452nelsevfw>

¹⁶ <http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2017/1502.html>

of a national support structure, through local authorities, for intensified interfaith activity during periods of potential disharmony between communities.” (DCLG/Local Government)

In November 2016, Home Secretary Amber Rudd awarded over £700,000 of funding for schemes tackling hate crime in communities and the protection of places of worship.¹⁷ Of this funding, £300,000 was allocated to nine community projects tackling specific hate crimes.

In 2017, in collaboration with the charity ‘Remembering Srebrenica’, members of the National Union of Teachers (NUT) created a video to be used as an advocacy tool for the promotion of community cohesion and peaceful societies.¹⁸ The National Union of Teachers has also issued guidance on potential issues which may arise within schools in relation to the conflict in the Middle East.¹⁹ The NUT advises, amongst other suggestions, that schools should hold secure and controlled discussions for pupils to both voice and hear opinions, that pupils should be reminded of the necessity to respect all ethnic and religious communities, and that teachers must encourage pupils to understand, recognise and challenge the discrimination experienced by Muslim and Jews, including the both the connections and consequences.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government published its single departmental plan on 14 December 2017.²⁰ The report outlines the Department’s intention to build integrated communities and enhance social cohesion, doing so through, inter alia, a new integrated communities strategy and the establishment of a Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre.

The ‘Near Neighbours’ projects, funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government, have played a vital role in promoting interfaith communication and relations. In April 2016, Baroness Williams of Trafford announced an additional funding of £1.5million to the ‘Near Neighbours’ programme, bringing total funding at that point to £9.5million. This funding is translated into small grants for grassroots groups running community projects to promote harmony in areas of religious diversity. Baroness Williams of Trafford praised the programme, announcing that the “new funding is a great boost to the important work Near Neighbours does to build stronger local ties, mutual understanding and respect to make our neighbourhoods even better places to live”.²¹ The programme works out of ‘hubs’ in Bradford, Birmingham, the Black Country, Leicester, Luton and London, where cultural and religious diversity is most apparent.

Education/Awareness-Raising

Recommendation 22: “True Vision (www.report-it.org.uk) is a critically important framework for third-party reporting which deserves wider publicity and we recommend the government works with industry partners to organise a prominent awareness campaign about methods for reporting online racist and other abuse.”(SCMS, Industry/Home Office)

The Home Office published its Hate Crime Action Plan²² in July 2016, including a specific section

¹⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-awards-700k-to-tackle-hate-crime>

¹⁸ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wYcOXF1b25Y>

¹⁹ https://www.teachers.org.uk/sites/default/files/2014/new-nut-advice_conflict-in-the-middle-east-2015.pdf

²⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/department-for-communities-and-local-government-single-departmental-plan/department-for-communities-and-local-government-single-departmental-plan>

²¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-15-million-funding-to-bring-communities-together>

²² https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/543679/Action_Against_Hate_-_UK_Government_s_Plan_to_Tackle_Hate_Crime_2016.pdf

dedicated to increasing the reporting of hate crime. The Action Plan recognises that reporting via a third party, rather than directly through the police, improves accessibility to justice. The Home Office stated its commitment to therefore encourage third party reporting through targeted communications and advertising of True Vision, aimed at those communities with the highest rates of under-reporting. It also outlined its intention to identify other locations where third-party reporting could be made available, increasing the availability of such reporting centres. Specifically, the Action Plan highlights the need to tailor efforts to specific communities (including Muslim, Christian, Jewish, refugees/asylum seekers and Gypsy, Traveller, Roma) to increase awareness of what constitutes a hate crime, encouraging reporting, and providing opportunities to report hate.

DCLG has extended further funding of £25,000 to True Vision, enabling it to enhance and improve its advertising, directing its products more explicitly at those most vulnerable to hate crime. DCLG updated the True Vision site, implementing culturally-appropriate pages for specific groups to ensure they can report hate crimes more effectively (including young people, internet users, transgender persons, and Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities). Further, DCLG, through True Vision, has funded and supported the ongoing No Hate Speech UK initiative, which aims to empower and train mainly young people to challenge and report online hate or illegal material. On its website, True Vision outlines three options for the removal of hateful online content, with useful relevant links respectively: reporting to website administrators, reporting to hosting company, reporting to police.

In August 2017, ‘Hate Crime: A Guide for Those Affected’ was published, co-authored by the Community Security Trust, Tell MAMA, the CPS, and the Department for Communities and Local Government. The document includes guidance on reporting hate crime, both directly to the police and secondarily to CST or Tell MAMA, and further outlines the process which ensues to inform those making a report.

Recommendation 20: “Given the diversity of mechanisms that exist for registering complaints about media content, we recommend that the government identify the most suitable agency to produce a guide for consumers which sets out roles, responsibilities and grievance procedures in plain terms for all.” (DCMS)

In its 2016 update report, DCLG stated that Government was satisfied that the process of making complaints regarding media content is clear and comprehensive. DCLG did, however, recommend that an appropriate group produce specific guidance for the Jewish community, and encourage all regulators to contribute to this production. In 2018, Secretary of State Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP committed, at a meeting with the All-Party Parliamentary Group Against Antisemitism, to organise a departmental roundtable about concerns relating to the media and one of the matters to be addressed will be a revisit of this all-party inquiry recommendation.

Recommendation 24: “We recommend that the government makes and seeks all-party commitment to a long-term plan for and continuing state funding of Holocaust education.” (DfE)

Since 2006, the Government has supported and funded the Holocaust Educational Trust’s ‘Lessons

from Auschwitz' programme, and since 2008 has also funded the UCL Institute of Education's Centre for Holocaust Education.

On 27 January 2014, Rt Hon David Cameron announced the establishment of a new Holocaust Commission, mandated to "ensure Britain has a permanent and fitting memorial to the Holocaust, along with sufficient educational and research resources for future generations".²³ In 2015, the then Prime Minister committed £50million for the full implementation of the Holocaust Commission. The United Kingdom Holocaust Memorial Foundation (UKHMF) was also established, acting as a cross-party advisory body in the enactment of the Commission's recommendations. The UKHMF has since accrued an additional £1.4million, which has contributed to the Holocaust testimony project, the National Holocaust Centre, and The Weiner Library, among others.

The Holocaust Educational Trust teaches lessons from the Holocaust, inspires students to consider their social responsibilities, and empowers generations to speak out against hatred and intolerance. The charity relies on government funding for the implementation of its Lessons from Auschwitz Project. In 2016-17, HET received a grant of £1.95million from the Department for Education, enabling the running of fourteen projects across England. In 2016, the Department for Education confirmed its commitment to continue funding this valuable work; HET will receive renewed grants of £2,002,758 for 2017/18, and £2,080,054 for 2018/19 financial years. Additionally, for 2017/18 HET received grants of £296,000 from the Scottish Government, £107,000 from the Welsh Government, and £160,000 from the Department for Education and Department for Communities in Northern Ireland.²⁴

The Parliamentary Education Select Committee dedicated its Second Report of Session 2015-16 to Holocaust Education,²⁵ to which the Government published a Response²⁶ in April 2016. The Education Committee recognised that Holocaust education did require improvement, highlighting that "too many young people have far too superficial an understanding of the causes, nature and consequences of the Holocaust".

On 16 January 2018, Communities Secretary Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP announced the grant of £144,261 funding, in partnership with the Department for Education, to launch an educational programme to combat antisemitism on university campuses.²⁷ The Holocaust Educational Trust and the Union of Jewish Students will be responsible for programme delivery, involving the organisation of a visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau for 200 students and university leaders. Upon their return, those 200 in attendance will further engage over 7,500 university students, dealing explicitly with the reality of where antisemitism, and other hatreds, can lead.

Government also funds other organisations carrying out important work in this area, including Holocaust Memorial Day Trust²⁸ and the Anne Frank Trust.²⁹ Government, at least in the medium term, does appear to have committed to funding Holocaust education on an on-going basis.

Recommendation 25: "We recommend that the government increases its grant for the evidence-based teacher training conducted by the Centre for Holocaust Education at the

²³ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/275198/Terms-of-Reference-PM-Holocaust-Commission.pdf

²⁴ http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Accounts/Ends92/0001092892_AC_20170331_E_C.PDF

²⁵ <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmselect/cmeduc/480/480.pdf>

²⁶ <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmselect/cmeduc/974/974.pdf>

²⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-144000-of-new-funding-to-help-universities-tackle-antisemitism-on-campus>.

²⁸ <http://hmd.org.uk/page/about-hmdt>

²⁹ <https://annefrank.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/PRESS-RELEASE-Department-for-Education-awards-the-Anne-Frank-Trust-UK-funding-to-tackle-hate-related-incidents-in-schools.pdf>

Institute of Education, with a view to expanding its work and the number of teachers it is able to train.” (DfE)

Since 2008, the Government has, matched by the Pears Foundation, provided funding to the UCL Institute of Education’s Centre for Holocaust Education; in 2013-14 the fund allocated doubled to £500,000.³⁰ These allocations fund teacher training in Holocaust education, including both initial training and continuing professional development.

In April 2016, the Government responded³¹ to the Education Committee’s Second Report³² of Session 2015-16 on Holocaust Education. The Education Committee heard, however, that although the Centre for Holocaust Education’s programme effectively reaches 6,000 teachers, this is just a small fraction of the “perhaps 30,000 history teachers...as well as tens of thousands of... other teachers teaching about the Holocaust”.³³ The Committee recommended, in paragraph 15, that the “Department for Education should take steps to support the organisations it funds to deliver Holocaust education to more history teachers...[and] consider how the teacher training it funds could be extended to teachers of subjects other than history”. Additional to funding, the Department for Education also agrees key performance indicators to be applied by the Centre for Holocaust Education in conducting their programmes; “[t]hese targets are often exceeded and are reviewed annually”.³⁴

At the end of 2017, the Government confirmed it would provide a further one million pounds of funding over two years, to be matched by the Pears Foundation. There are continuing concerns about the sustainability of the programme without a longer-term funding commitment from Government.

Recommendation 26: “We recommend that relevant officials on the Cross-Government Working Group on Antisemitism identify suitable partners to seek appropriate redress for the lack of educational resources for teachers about how to sensitively handle the Middle East conflict in the classroom and in particular to support Jewish, Muslim and other pupils in what can be difficult circumstances.” (DCLG/DfE)

DCLG led a pilot project in Bradford to provide teachers with the necessary tools to handle challenging topical issues. Building upon this project, the Department for Education outlined its intention to support programmes aimed at training teachers to hold responsible debates and conversations within classrooms, covering extremism, hatred, prejudice, and foreign policy among other topics. In its 2016 Update Report, DCLG also stated its commitment to ‘Stand-up’: a grassroots project which empowers young people to combat anti-Jewish and anti-Muslim hate crime.

The National Union for Teachers (NUT) has recognised the imperative to conduct lessons on antisemitism and Islamophobia, considering the ongoing Middle East and Israeli-Palestinian conflict.³⁵ The NUT recommends that schools attempt to alleviate any tension or hostility between ethnic or religious groups through “curriculum opportunities”, ensuring anti-racism is examined within formal classroom settings. Further, citizenship/religious education will help foster respect

³⁰ <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmselect/cmeduc/480/480.pdf>

³¹ <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmselect/cmeduc/974/974.pdf>

³² <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmselect/cmeduc/480/480.pdf>

³³ <http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/education-committee/holocaust-education/written/24223.html>

³⁴ <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmselect/cmeduc/974/974.pdf>

³⁵ https://www.teachers.org.uk/files/Gaza-6pp-A4-6289_1.pdf

for different religious and ethnic communities, improving the attitudes held by many students and creating harmonious school environments.³⁶ Personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education could provide the ideal forum for such discussions and teachings, also potentially requiring such teachings to be carried out by specifically trained teachers. The opportunity to make such education statutorily compulsory was cemented in the Children and Social Work Act 2017, conferring power upon the Education Secretary to make such teachings part of basic curriculum.

Efforts to promote effective education on the conflict in the Middle East are ongoing. A Middle East Educational Conference is to be held in the House of Lords on 11 July 2018, hosted by Lord Turnberg, to discuss how the Israeli-Palestinian conflict should be taught in schools.

Security and Protection for Communities

Recommendation 3: “We were pleased to learn that the essential funding for security of Jewish schools in the state sector had been considered effective. Given the continuing threat of terrorism against the Jewish community, we recommend that a governmental fund be established to cover both capital and revenue costs for the security of British synagogues.” (DfE/DCLG/HO)

In 2015, then Prime Minister Rt Hon David Cameron allocated total funding of £11.5million for Jewish communal security; this action was in response to the combined effort of the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Antisemitism and the APPG Against Antisemitism, the Community Security Trust, and the ‘Jewish Chronicle’ to improve the security of Jewish schools, synagogues and community buildings. The following year, then Home Secretary Theresa May awarded an additional £13.4million for the security of the Jewish community, to be administered by the Community Security Trust. On 1 March 2017, at the CST Annual Dinner, Home Secretary Amber Rudd announced the continuation of £13.4million funding for Jewish community protective security, to be expended on protection at independent and state Jewish schools, nurseries, synagogues and community sites. Additionally, she marked CST as a “valued and trusted government partner” and committed to “listen to the funding needs of the community going forward”.³⁷

This commitment to provide £13.4million funding for security was again renewed by the Home Secretary in March 2018 at the CST Annual Dinner.³⁸ In January 2018, Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, Secretary of State for Communities, gave an undertaking to the APPG Against Antisemitism that he would be discussing with the Home Secretary how to secure such funding on a more long-term basis, given the continuing terrorist threat to the Jewish community.

Recommendation 8: “We recommend that expert organisations like the CST, Hope not Hate, Shomrim and Tell Mama be invited to attend police briefings ahead of relevant protests to ensure that individual officers have a firm understanding of relevant concerns and to distribute briefing materials.” (Police)

³⁶ https://www.teachers.org.uk/files/Gaza-6pp-A4-6289_1.pdf

³⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/home-secretary-speech-to-community-security-trust-annual-dinner>

³⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/home-secretarys-speech-to-the-community-security-trust>

and

Recommendation 9: “We recommend that the police establish systems for convening preparatory briefing sessions in advance of major events, so that protest organisers, stewards and moderators can benefit from expert advice on antisemitism, or other forms of prejudice where appropriate.” (Police)

The 2016 update report on antisemitism produced by DCLG³⁹ highlighted the effective collaborative relationships around the organisation and security of public protest events. Particularly, the report referenced the relations between the Merseyside Countering Extremism Unit and community groups including Tell MAMA and CST; a collaboration which proved effective in preparations for the numerous ‘White Man Marches’ in the Merseyside area.

The DCLG quoted a West Yorkshire Police Leader: “We have a great operational relationship with the CST. Not only do we debrief previous operational events and incidents at our quarterly meetings but also look ahead to events in the calendar. In between the forum meetings there is a much more localised [Neighbourhood Policing Team] link with the CST regarding day to day lower level events and policing footprint agreed with the CST and when relevant, CST are jointly involved in police briefings”.

In September 2015, CST hosted security briefings across the country ahead of Rosh Hashana, addressing audiences of around 800 volunteers and Police in North London, Redbridge, Leeds, Manchester, Brighton, South London, Liverpool, South Wales and Birmingham. CST reported that the briefings were well received, with Police and volunteers expressing their confidence, feeling well-equipped to provide the necessary security and reassurance to Jewish communities.⁴⁰ In September 2016, CST again reported its involvement in the pre-High Holy Day security briefing, delivering specialised briefings to approximately 300 volunteer personnel, security guards and Police.⁴¹ The organisation continues to maintain excellent links to the police and reports a strong and positive working relationship.

Recommendation 15: “People have a legitimate right to protest against Israel through boycott or other peaceful means. However, such protest becomes entirely illegitimate when constituting an attack on or intimidation of British Jews. We have set out that cultural boycotts, implemented in the way they were during the summer, were unacceptable. The boycott movement faces a challenge of how to put their tactics into effect while not slipping into antisemitism, unlawful discrimination or assaulting valued freedoms.” (Civil Society)

The DCLG 2016 update report⁴² reiterated government’s stance that there should be no academic boycott of Israel occurring in the UK; the Government is firmly against such academic boycotts. In 2007, the University and College Union has legally advised its members that academic boycott of Israel is unlawful, contravening equalities legislation.

³⁹ <https://www.antisemitism.org.uk/files/cj3e6rg8y906h0104uh8bojao/cj4mugspc001h0145117xecip>

⁴⁰ <https://cst.org.uk/news/latest-news/2015/09/11/cst-hosts-security-briefings-across-the-country-ahead-of-rosh-hashana>

⁴¹ <https://cst.org.uk/news/latest-news/2016/09/14/cst-hosts-successful-pre-high-holy-day-briefing>

⁴² <https://www.antisemitism.org.uk/files/cj3e6rg8y906h0104uh8bojao/cj4mugspc001h0145117xecip>

Cross-sector Communication

Recommendation 5: “We recommend that government together with the CPS, police and other relevant bodies work with the Jewish community to devise a communications strategy which effectively conveys the work that has been undertaken to combat antisemitism.” (Government- DCLG, CPS, Police & Others)

In its 2016 Update report on antisemitism, DCLG indicated that it had been working with individual and national Police agencies’ media teams to issue messages of reassurance to the Jewish community. The National Police Chiefs’ Council’s Media and Marketing team were tasked with sourcing opportunities to convey and share key messages, and supporting smaller agencies to provide similar, consistent such messages. DCLG recognised that often successful prosecutions are not reported in media coverage, and sought to overcome this through proactive engagement with police agencies and the CPS to highlight prosecutions and make statements when appropriate.

For the period between November 2016 and March 2017, the CPS devised a new training package, mandated for all prosecutors. The Community Security Trust contributed to the training package, including various case studies concerning antisemitism.

In August 2017, the CPS revised its Religiously Aggravated and Anti-Semitic Crime Action Plan,⁴³ covering a number of the Inquiry recommendations. In its hate crime communications strategy, the CPS committed to relaying its efforts to improve the prosecution of antisemitism to a wider community audience. The CPS works to capture those cases which are particularly resonant or evocative for local communities. These efforts were underlined in the Director of Public Prosecutions meeting with the Chief Executive of the CST on 1 September 2016.

Recommendation 10: “In order to be totally effective and to ensure the UK is a world leader in monitoring and recording data on antisemitism, the police should enter into a national data sharing agreement with the CST and look at similar arrangements with groups like Tell Mama.” (Police/CST)

A national hate crime data sharing agreement was announced between the police and the Community Security Trust, Tell MAMA and Galop in March 2015, coming into effect since May 2015 and available to access via the True Vision website.⁴⁴

Recommendation 17: “A number of worrying trends have developed in recent years particularly as regards conflict related antisemitism. We recommend that an independent council of leading non-Jewish figures from parliament and across public life be convened to identify long-term trends in antisemitism, to speak out against it and make recommendations for action.” (PCAAF)

⁴³ <https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/racist-and-religious-hate-crime-prosecution-guidance>

⁴⁴ http://report-it.org.uk/information_sharing_agreements

In 2016, discussions took place amongst the leadership of the APPG Against Antisemitism on the establishment of an independent council of leading non-Jewish figures from both parliament and across public life. It was determined that this would require support from the third sector, if it were to proceed. The Parliamentary Committee Against Antisemitism Foundation which supported the All-Party Inquiry discussed and agreed on a different approach to engaging with leading non-Jewish figures from parliament and across public life. The Antisemitism Policy Trust replaced the PCAA Foundation in 2017.

Recommendation 27: “We recommend that the Cross-Government Working Group seeks to establish a calendar of engagement and crisis planning procedures for meetings to address antisemitism in those areas of British public life giving the greatest cause for concern. This should include a broader engagement with NGOs.” (DCLG)

DCLG’s 2016 update report on antisemitism stated that the Cross-Government Working Group planned to engage with a wider, more diverse range of NGOs in the then forthcoming quarterly meeting; the Working Group was set to discuss emergency responses to the domestic and international incidents which cause vulnerability in the Jewish community. DCLG highlighted that such responses will particularly include reassurance messaging.

Improved Public Bodies

Recommendation 11: “The CPS should instigate, at speed, a better management or sampling system which allows for a simple search and analysis function for the data that it holds.” (CPS)

The All-Party Inquiry was provided with detailed guidance on the CPS’ organisation of referral of cases. The CPS also expressed its commitment to strengthen the expertise given to local prosecutors, improving the efficacy of decision-making and referral to the Special Crime and Counter-Terrorism Division (SCCTD); this was to occur in a joint event for force and CPS specialists in conjunction with the College of Policing, Ministry of Justice and Chief Police Officers.

On 21 August 2017 the CPS revised its Prosecution Guidance for Racist and Religious Hate Crime.⁴⁵ Within these guidelines, it states that it is “essential that the CPS identifies all those cases that might properly be prosecuted as specific racist or religious crimes, or where evidence of such hostility can be put before a court when it is deciding on a sentence”. All cases referred to the CPS which have been identified as racially or religiously aggravated are required to be immediately flagged on its Compass Case Management System using respective case monitoring codes. Further, a public statement by the CPS on the prosecution of racist and religious hate crime, issued that same month, states that once a case has been flagged as a hate crime and received by the CPS, policy dictates that the flag cannot be removed for any reason other than administrative error.

⁴⁵ <https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/racist-and-religious-hate-crime-prosecution-guidance>

Such a policy “signals the CPS commitment to treat all such crimes seriously and to accept the victim’s perspective, even where we are unable to identify sufficient evidence to prosecute as a hate crime”.⁴⁶ The CPS has recognised the importance of diligent flagging so that effective monitoring of hate crime can be conducted, and relevant services may report back to communities on the performance of the CPS in tackling specific categories of hate crime. Additionally, in its Social Media Guidelines,⁴⁷ the CPS requires hate crimes to be identified as such at an early stage and flagged on the Case Management System, regardless of whether they are charged as hate crimes.

Recommendation 12: “We recommend that as part of the ongoing review of hate crime procedures by the CPS, consideration is given as a priority, to the decision making arrangements for referral to the Special Crime and Counter-Terrorism Division (SCCTD).” (CPS)

In its revised 2017 Prosecution Guidance for Racist and Religious Hate Crime,⁴⁸ the CPS outlines that when an Area becomes aware of a case that may constitute incitement to racial hatred, it must be referred to the Special Crime & Counter Terrorism Division within seven days. If it is decided that the case shall be prosecuted as an incitement to racial hatred offence, the Special Crime & Counter Terrorism Division will take over conduct of the case. Similarly, where a case is to be prosecuted under the offence of stirring up religious hatred, it must be referred to the Special Crime & Counter Terrorism Division in a similar manner. However, in cases of stirring up religious hatred, the parameters of referral to the Special Crime & Counter Terrorism Division are slightly more stringent, with Areas being required in such instances to carry out initial reviews, preparing a report that the circumstances of the case prime facie evidence the required legal elements.

The guidance indicates that prosecution of a crime as an incitement to racial hatred offence requires: the act to constitute “threatening, abusive or insulting” behaviour, in its ordinary meaning; the act to be deemed as intended to or likely in all circumstances to stir up racial hatred; prosecution to be in the public interest, balancing freedom of expression rights with the duty of the state to act proportionately in the interest of public safety, to prevent disorder and crime, and to protect the rights of others.

The guidance on the prosecution of stirring up religious hatred operates on slightly different grounds. The act is only required to be “threatening”, not abusive or insulting, and the defendant must have intended to stir up religious hatred, such that recklessness will not suffice. Further, a freedom of expression defence provided by Section 29J of the Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006 states that nothing in the Act “prohibits or restricts discussion, criticism or expressions of antipathy, dislike, ridicule, insult, or abuse of particular religions, or the beliefs or practices of its adherents”.

Recommendation 13: “We recommend that as part of the ongoing review of hate crime procedures by the CPS, consideration is given as a priority, to the suitability of existing guidance on communications sent via social media as regards racist/religious hatred. We further recommend that hate crime guidance material on grossly offensive speech be reviewed to clarify what amounts to “criminal acts” that “will be prosecuted”.” (CPS)

⁴⁶ <https://www.cps.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/publications/racist-religious-hate-crime-statement-2017.pdf>

⁴⁷ <https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/social-media-guidelines-prosecuting-cases-involving-communications-sent-social-media>

⁴⁸ <https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/racist-and-religious-hate-crime-prosecution-guidance>

The CPS undertook a review of the existing guidance on communications sent via social media, examining whether a more specific focus on hate crime was needed. The review was completed by the end of 2015, after which a public consultation on social media legal guidance was carried out, and the revised guidance then published in October 2016. These Social Media Guidelines⁴⁹ for prosecuting cases involving communications sent via social media provide specific guidance for online hate crime offences. In such cases, the guidance outlines that a high threshold applies at both the initial evidential stage and the secondary public interest consideration; however, as regards the latter consideration, it is more likely that a prosecution is required where the offence was motivated by any form of discrimination.⁵⁰

Further, the Social Media Guidelines do recognise that hate crime communications may invoke language unfamiliar to prosecutors, but nonetheless grossly offensive to those to whom it relates. To ensure proper understanding of derogatory, offensive, or hateful language, further information may be sought from the complainant or relevant community groups.

In the August 2017 public statement on the prosecution of racist and religious hate crime,⁵¹ the CPS included a specific section on internet and social media communications. The CPS outlined its approach to online hate crime, stating that, amongst other things, the CPS will “prosecute complaints of hate crime online with the same robust and proactive approach used with offline offending, whilst recognising that children may not appreciate the potential harm and seriousness of their communications”, and will “treat online complaints as seriously as offline complaints and encourage all to be reported to the police”.

In December 2017, the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) published its report ‘Intimidation in Public Life’.⁵² The report makes a number of recommendations on the law surrounding social media and online hate, drawing on recommendations laid out in the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Electoral Conduct.⁵³ In February 2018, in response to the report of the CSPL, Government directed the Law Commission to review existing communications legislation (namely the Malicious Communications Act 1988 and the Communications Act 2003), ensuring what is illegal offline is also illegal online.

Recommendation 21: “We recommend that the Crown Prosecution Service undertakes a review to examine the applicability of prevention orders to hate crime offences and if appropriate, take steps to implement them.” (CPS)

The CPS hate crime action plan outlines the assessment undertaken of the efficacy of the deployment of prevention orders in respect of antisemitism and other hate crimes. This assessment was incorporated into the CPS public consultation on communications sent by social media, and the revised guidance published in October 2016 incorporated relevant guidance on the use of ancillary orders. In these revised Social Media Guidelines⁵⁴ for prosecution, the CPS included specific guidance on the applicability of ancillary orders, recognising that they are a “useful tool to address the abuse of social media, whether the abuse amounts to a criminal offence or not, and particularly in circumstances where a person is in fear or requires protection”. If there is a need to

⁴⁹ <https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/social-media-guidelines-prosecuting-cases-involving-communications-sent-social-media>

⁵⁰ Code for Crown Prosecutors, paragraph 4.12(c), <https://www.cps.gov.uk/publication/code-crown-prosecutors>

⁵¹ <https://www.cps.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/publications/racist-religious-hate-crime-statement-2017.pdf>

⁵² https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/666927/6.3637_CO_v6_061217_Web3.1_2_.pdf

⁵³ <https://www.antisemitism.org.uk/files/cj3e6rg8y906h0104uh8bojao/cj4muuuz500250145fwnqvzat>

⁵⁴ <https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/social-media-guidelines-prosecuting-cases-involving-communications-sent-social-media>

stop or prevent an individual from engaging in certain behaviours, prosecutors may advise that the police seek a Prevention Order, but the CPS cannot apply for this order directly.

Such an order was implemented against defendant Joshua Bonehill-Paine, who harassed Luciana Berger MP in a campaign of antisemitic online abuse. In December 2016, the defendant was found guilty, and the judge, in addition to a two-year prison sentence, imposed a criminal behaviour order. The order enacted carried a penalty of up to five years imprisonment and barred the defendant from directly or indirectly contacting Luciana Berger, her former assistant, and two other individuals. Additionally, the order empowered Police to monitor the defendant's behaviour and activity online for its duration, requiring the forfeiture of passwords, retention of browsing history and other measures, immediately effective upon his release from prison.

Recommendation 29: “We recommend that the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners and Mayoral offices in London and Manchester perform a short case study of the Mayor of Amsterdam’s approach to policing during the conflict and update their thinking and preparedness procedures accordingly.” (APCC/Mayors)

In 2017 the APPG Against Antisemitism liaised with the Amsterdam Mayoral Office, seeking a visit for the Mayor to the United Kingdom to discuss his specific approach to antisemitism with respective mayors and police officers. The mayor passed away in October 2017 at the age of 62.

Recommendation 30: “We further recommend that the Metropolitan Police and College of Policing organises for representatives from relevant forces to visit Paris to meet with police officials and Jewish community organisations to learn the lessons of the extreme antisemitic violence that manifested over the summer of 2014.” (MPS/COP/ACPO)

In October 2015, parliamentarians including Rt Hon Sir Eric Pickles, West Streeting MP, Tulip Siddiq MP and Baroness Jenny Jones, together with ACC Garry Shewan (National Police Lead for Jewish Communities), visited Paris under the auspices of the All-Party Parliamentary Group Against Antisemitism. The visit aimed to ensure that the UK could improve its understanding of the manifestations and prevalence of antisemitism in France, learning from the French efforts to combat this hatred following the extreme violence they endured in the summer of 2014. Discussions with and questions to the Foreign Office have also helped highlight relevant concerns.

Recommendation 32: “We recommend that the government offers additional resources to the police to enhance and develop policing and investigation of online hate crime.” (HO)

With a view to obtaining a comprehensive, and more accurate, understanding of online crime, the police are now required to flag whether a reported crime has an online element. In its 2016 update report, DCLG committed to working with police forces to improve the operation of these online flags, to improve their indication of the national prevalence and nature of online hate crime. On 10 October 2016, the Director of Public Prosecutions published its revised guidance⁵⁵ on the prosecution of cases involving social media communications, including specific guidance on hate crimes and the invocation of ancillary orders to prevent reoffending.

⁵⁵ <https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/social-media-guidelines-prosecuting-cases-involving-communications-sent-social-media>

The College of Policing inserted a specific section on responding to internet hate crime in its ‘National Policing Hate Crime Strategy’ and ‘Hate Crime Operational Guidance’. By December 2016, this guidance had been viewed or downloaded on over 15,000 occasions from True Vision, additional to the hardcopies distributed around relevant institutions.

On 8 October 2017, Home Secretary Amber Rudd announced the creation of a new national online hate crime hub,⁵⁶ run by police officers for the National Police Chiefs’ Council. The hub is intended to improve the support received by victims and increase the number of prosecutions by ensuring cases are handled by the correctly responsible force, with expert case management. This should streamline, simplify and excel the existing process, avoiding duplication of cases, correct referral, and timely responses.

Recommendation 14: “We recommend that the Judicial College updates its Equal Treatment Bench Book to include basic reference to antisemitism and ensures it has in place effective mechanisms for wide distribution and communication of the guide.” (Judicial College)

The board of the Judicial College met to deliberate proposed amendments to the Equal Treatment Bench Book, following which the College agreed to establish a faculty; antisemitism was to be one of the issues addressed by the faculty. On 28 February 2018, the Judicial College published its revised Equal Treatment Bench Book,⁵⁷ showing significant improvements and expansions on the guidance issued to judges. The Bench Book now includes specific sections on litigants in person, refugees, modern slavery, Islamophobia and antisemitism.

Of particular note, the Bench Book incorporates the IHRA definition of antisemitism,⁵⁸ explains ‘Zionism’ as a term,⁵⁹ and outlines use of appropriate terminology such as use of ‘Jewish person’/‘Jew’.⁶⁰ John Mann MP, chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group Against Antisemitism, welcomed the change, stating the vital importance that the judiciary upholds a “full understanding of modern antisemitism and the modes and methods antisemites are using to spread anti-Jewish hate”.

Recommendation 28: “We recommend that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office enhance its systems for coordinating feedback from embassies specifically to plan for antisemitism during times of increased tension in the Middle East and where appropriate brief Ministers to raise the matter with foreign counterparts.” (FCO)

The Foreign Commonwealth Office (FCO) is believed to have distributed the British Best Practice Guide to Combating Antisemitism⁶¹ to all diplomatic embassies, and work is continuing to ensure the FCO is doing all it can to support efforts to address antisemitism. This will require parliamentarians to hold the department to account on an ongoing basis.

⁵⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-announces-new-national-online-hate-crime-hub>

⁵⁷ <https://www.judiciary.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/equal-treatment-bench-book-february2018-v5-02mar18.pdf>

⁵⁸ <https://www.judiciary.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/equal-treatment-bench-book-february2018-v5-02mar18.pdf>, paras 168-174.

⁵⁹ <https://www.judiciary.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/equal-treatment-bench-book-february2018-v5-02mar18.pdf>, paras 175-177.

⁶⁰ <https://www.judiciary.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/equal-treatment-bench-book-february2018-v5-02mar18.pdf>, para 197.

⁶¹ <http://archive.jpr.org.uk/download?id=2822>

Recommendation 19: “We recommend that the Editors’ Code of Practice be reviewed and that the relevant section be extended to give recourse for groups to complain about discrimination on the grounds of race or religion whilst ensuring a sensible balance for freedom of speech.” (IPSO)

The Editor’s Code of Practice, which is applied by IPSO, was reviewed in 2017 by its Code Committee. In relation to discrimination and freedom of expression, the Review received a number of amendments, including: a suggestion that complaints relating to groups might be accepted, subject to a public interest test; a prohibition on incitement to hatred; a new provision prohibiting levelling of abuse; a new provision prohibiting material overwhelmingly comprising entirely negative stereotypes or stigmatisation of a group.⁶² Disappointingly, the Code Committee concluded that “none of these suggestions would produce a workable formula – in particular in points already covered by the law, which the Code seeks to supplement rather than echo or replace”.⁶³

The Editor’s Codebook, most recently published 1 January 2018, still specifies that Clause 12: Discrimination “does not cover generalised remarks about groups or categories of people”, as such “would inhibit debate on important matters, would involve subjective views and would be difficult to adjudicate upon without infringing on the freedom of expression of others”.⁶⁴

However, the Committee did welcome a suggestion by the All-Party Parliamentary Group Against Antisemitism that the Codebook should explicitly outline the circumstances in which a representative group affected by an alleged breach can bring a complaint, subject to substantial public interest. It determined that IPSO may consider such a complaint “where an alleged breach of the Editors’ Code is significant and there is substantial public interest in the regulator considering the complaint from a representative group affected by the alleged breach”.⁶⁵ The first complaint brought by a representative group to IPSO was *Trans Media Watch v The Sun*.⁶⁶

Increased Public National/International Discourse

Recommendation 4: “We recommend that government continue to report at least once per session to parliament about its work on antisemitism and commits to continuation of the world-renowned Cross-Government Working Group on Antisemitism.” (Government, DCLG)

In 2015, DCLG committed, via communication with the All-Party Parliamentary Group Against Antisemitism, to report to Parliament on progress made in combating antisemitism. The first update response of DCLG was provided in December 2016.⁶⁷ The 2017 report was deferred due to the unexpected 2017 election. In a meeting held on 31 January 2018 with the APPG Against Antisemitism, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, reiterated his department’s commitment to produce annual reviews on work undertaken to tackle antisemitism.

⁶² <https://www.editorscode.org.uk/downloads/reports/Editors-Code-of-Practice-Review-2017-Report.pdf>

⁶³ <https://www.editorscode.org.uk/downloads/reports/Editors-Code-of-Practice-Review-2017-Report.pdf>

⁶⁴ <https://www.editorscode.org.uk/downloads/codebook/codebook-2018.pdf>

⁶⁵ <https://www.editorscode.org.uk/downloads/reports/Editors-Code-of-Practice-Review-2017-Report.pdf>

⁶⁶ <https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=00572-15>

⁶⁷ <https://www.antisemitism.org.uk/files/cj3e6rg8y906h0104uh8bojao/cj4mugspc001h0145117xecip>

In the October 2016 Home Affairs Committee Report ‘Antisemitism in the UK’, it was recognised that the Cross-Government Working Group on Antisemitism “appears to be an effective forum for relationship-building, sharing of information and collaborative work aimed at addressing antisemitism in all communities, and is held up as an international model of best practice”.⁶⁸

Recommendation 7: “We recommend that police and Home Office officials work with experts on a pan-European basis to annually review and update the existing index of flags and symbols.” (Police/HO)

The National Police Chiefs’ Council made efforts to accumulate the existing work of the UK, Europe and USA to annually receive and update the existing index of flags and symbols. The information was to be hosted on the True Vision website as a secure database allowing access to law enforcement agencies and key partners. DCLG intended to have this database complete and operational by the end of 2016 but work is ongoing.

Recommendation 23: “It is right and proper that the UK should continue to take a leadership role within the OSCE. We recommend that Britain continues to send high level representation to key events in order to show our dedication to tackling antisemitism at home and abroad. In addition, we recommend that commitments we make in OSCE fora should be implemented fully and in a timely way.” (FCO/UK Delegation to the OSCE)

The UK Ambassador to the OSCE published an article in May 2016 for the FCO Blogs website, emphasising the imperative to tackle intolerance. In October of the same year, the UK, together with the Government of Poland, organised and hosted an event at the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw. Experts, including the police and the CPS, shared national best practice on the UK and Poland’s own responses to hate crime, referencing the Government’s Hate Crime Action Plan.

The UK is a founding member of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA). In May 2016, the UK delegation played an active role in promoting IHRA’s adoption of a working definition of antisemitism.

The UK continues to be represented at international meetings. For example, in March 2018, John Mann MP and Andrew Percy MP, Chair and Vice-Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group Against Antisemitism respectively, attended the 6th Global Forum for Combating Antisemitism in Jerusalem.

Recommendation 31: “We recommend that officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and other relevant departments pursue a strategy of mainstreaming concerns about social media and cyber hate into existing discussion forums in Europe including the EU Fundamental Rights Agency working groups on hate crime, with a view to securing further Ministerial decisions.” (FCO/DCMS/DCLG)

In its 2016 report, DCLG committed to continue to support the work of existing initiatives to

⁶⁸ <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmhaff/136/136.pdf>

tackle online hate, including through the Cyber Hate Working Group, established by the Inter-Parliamentary Coalition for Combating Antisemitism, engaging with the internet industry. The work of this group has led to wide range of initiatives and policy changes, including best practice guidance. The UK Government has displayed leading involvement in the European Commission's work on social media policy, and the takedown of illegal hate material.

On June 23 2016 the UK voted to leave the European Union by referendum, and discussions about its role post-Brexit are ongoing.

Recommendation 33: “The UK employs a number of internationally-recognised good practices in combatting antisemitism. We recommend that the government works with civil society groups to design a simple toolkit that can be distributed in European and international fora to serve both as a guide to official efforts for combatting antisemitism and as a celebration of UK achievements in the field.” (DCLG/FCO)

Rt Hon Sir Eric Pickles MP and John Mann MP launched ‘Combating Antisemitism: A British Best Practice Guide’ at the March 2016 conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Coalition for Combatting Antisemitism.



<https://www.antisemitism.org.uk/the-appg>



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The All-Party Parliamentary
Group Against Antisemitism