

ANTISEMITISM POLICY TRUST

All About Us





About the Trust

The Trust works with parliamentarians, other decision-makers and opinion formers, delivering **events and educational programming** to help them better **understand antisemitism, and supporting them to take action against it**. This work occurs predominantly through the **All-Party Parliamentary Group Against Antisemitism** to which the Trust provides the secretariat.



232 Parliamentarians
engaged with in 2019



30 APT and APPGAA
events in 2018 and 2019



Antisemitism in the UK

Every year in the UK, as work carried out by the Antisemitism Policy Trust shows, there are **170,000 antisemitic searches** on Google. In 2019, the Community Security Trust recorded **1,805 antisemitic incidents**, the highest total recorded in a calendar year. In research conducted by the Institute of Jewish Policy Research for the EU's Fundamental Rights Agency and published in 2018, **84% of 4,000 British Jews surveyed said antisemitism is a problem in public life**. Extremist rhetoric in politics is rising, antisemitism in public life is pervasive and **anti-Jewish racism is on the increase**. The work of the Antisemitism Policy Trust to educate parliamentarians and policy makers and empower them to take action against antisemitism is therefore vital.



International Work

Throughout 2019 the Trust organised and assisted with **overseas visits to engage in global efforts to address antisemitism**. This included visits to Bratislava and Washington. In addition, the Trust's expertise was sought by the OSCE for a conference on gendered antisemitism in Denmark, by French civil servants for a meeting on the IHRA definition, by visiting Austrian and Australian MPs and by the US Special Envoy for Combating Antisemitism. We also benefited from our stakeholder partnerships, visiting Boston and Berlin with Chelsea and Facebook respectively. We engaged with the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, working with the APPG Against Antisemitism to host an evidence session for him. Our work was referenced in his subsequent report which underpins UN plans to address antisemitism.



Media Engagement

The Trust works with journalists to in its efforts to **educate opinion formers**, through the press and other means. In 2019, the Trust engaged in a significant volume of media work, and was cited in or otherwise contributed to The Times, iNews, Evening Standard, The Guardian, BBC News, Huffington Post, Jewish Chronicle and Jewish News.





Policy Work

Both through engagement with Parliament, and outside it, the Antisemitism Policy Trust has **sought to inform and pursue policy changes to improve efforts to address antisemitism.**

The Trust worked to **support parliamentary debates** on antisemitism, the Holocaust, discrimination in sport and international antisemitism. The Trust also **provided evidence to parliament** about measures to address electoral abuse.

Our focus in 2019 remained digital policy and specifically work to address online harms. The Trust **engaged heavily in the Government's pre-legislative processes**, meeting officials, MPs, industry and regulators and submitted to the Online Harms White Paper consultation.



Many of our proposed policy positions, of introducing a regulator and a duty of care for social media and other operators in the online space, have been adopted by Government. In addition to this formal policy work, we **published our 'Big Data' report** which was featured in the Guardian, mentioned in parliamentary debates and referenced in reports by the UN, the Extremism Commission and others.

The Trust continued to **produce policy and other briefings** throughout 2019, including on; antisemitism in major political parties; the IHRA definition of antisemitism; international antisemitism; misogyny and antisemitism and on penal reform.



APPG Against Antisemitism

The Trust provides the **secretariat to the All-Party Parliamentary Group Against Antisemitism** (APPG). In this role, Trust staff supported its then chair John Mann MP (now Lord Mann) in his work against antisemitism, sent regular updates to parliamentarians and helped to **increase the size of the group**. Numerous MPs and Peers joined the APPG in 2019 through engagement with the Trust's work, and the group membership now stands at **over 150 members across both Houses of Parliament**.

In addition, the Trust assisted with events run under the APPG banner, and sometimes jointly between the two organisations.



For example, the Trust **organised tours of London** seeking to provide parliamentarians with a clearer understanding of the impacts of antisemitism on the Jewish community. The Trust also helped **organise performances of a unique one-man show by actor Marlon Solomon** which explores conspiracy theories and anti-Jewish racism.

In addition to the Trust's work servicing the APPG, it was called on to provide a further **secretariat role to the newly appointed Independent Advisor on antisemitism** to HM Government.



Stakeholder Engagement

In addition to working with Members of Parliament, throughout 2019 the Trust engaged with other key figures, for example, the **independent Extremism Commissioner**.

The Trust has been **awarded grants from Government for our work**, including to address antisemitism online. We are a trusted partner for Government Departments and in 2019, provided **expert opinion on Government policy** both to departments and through official consultations. We also gave evidence to Parliamentary Select Committees and helped to inform the development of policy for a number of official regulatory bodies.

The Trust was also called on to explain antisemitism and its impact at a number of **events with NGOs and other third sector bodies**.

Recent publications

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Antisemitism:

What you need to know

What is antisemitism?

In essence, antisemitism is discrimination, prejudice or hostility against Jews.¹ History shows that increases in antisemitism often reflect growing extremism or division within society as a whole. Like any racism, open antisemitism is now somewhat taboo.

Antisemitism is strongly associated with the Nazi Holocaust; but antisemitism is not only a far right phenomenon. It has taken many forms, including religious, ethnic, racial, biological and nationalist. Jews have been blamed for many things, such as the death of Jesus, the Black Death, communism, capitalism and inciting revolutions and wars. Nowadays, the same charges are laid against 'Zionists', with conspiracy theories updated to fit contemporary needs by their users.

Racism tends to treat its victims as primitive, lonely, inhuman and worthless. Conversely, antisemitism tends to portray Jews as cunning and all-powerful liars and manipulators. Historically, antisemitism has

persistently shown allegations of Jewish conspiracy, immorality, wealth, power and hostility to all others. Today, these themes are far too often found within discourse about 'Zionists' or the 'Jewish lobby'. Such antisemitism can be more difficult to define or explain than, for example, explicitly racist attacks on a synagogue or visibly Jewish people. Any theory that uses stereotypes of Jewish cunning or wealth, such as alleged control of media or politics, is likely to be considered antisemitic.

The term antisemitism is often written as 'anti-semitism'. Antisemitism Policy Trust and CST use antisemitism as a single word because there is no such thing as 'semitism' to which you can be 'anti', in the way that a person might be anti-racist or anti-capitalist. This also minimises appropriation of the word by some non-Jewish organisations and individuals, who claim that their belonging to semitic language groups, means they are somehow definitively incapable of being antisemitic against the Jewish people.

¹ <https://www.antisemitismpolicytrust.org.uk/about-us/mission-and-approach>

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MISOGYNY AND ANTISEMITISM

SEXIST ABUSE, ONLINE, OFFLINE AND ANTISEMITIC

There are inherent and historic structural discriminations that render women's harassment as essentially gender-based. Harassment of women often targets their gender directly, as is rarely the case for men. Gendered slurs, objectification and the minimisation or denial of female agency are commonplace, particularly in online abuse.

The Internet has provided new, more opaque channels for perpetrating violence against women and girls.¹ It hides abuse on different tactics and means, the goal remains the same: to embarrass, humiliate, scare, threaten, silence women and girls, or to encourage mob attacks or misdirected engagements against women and girls.² The expression of sexism that existed in the 'real world' was simply transferred and translated to online networks.

The European Women's Lobby identified the three pillars of impunity for online abuse against women: mod-maturity, anonymity, online permanence of outrage.³ In her book 'Understanding How Misogyny went Viral', Kara Martin identified many dimensions of the 'gender trolling' phenomenon. It is targeted at women asserting their opinions, it features graphic sexualised and gendered insults, it occurs at unusually high levels of intensity and frequency, it exists for an unusually long duration (months or even years).⁴

Research carried out by DEMOS in 2014, examining the prevalence of misogyny on Twitter, found that in an approximate 6-week period, the word 'bitch' was used from UK Twitter accounts around 100,000 times, with 12% attributed to threatening. The expression of women that existed in the 'real world' was simply transferred and translated to online networks.

Research carried out by one UN Committee in 2015 found that 9 million girls in Europe experience some kind of cyber violence before turning 15 years old. Further it was discovered that, globally, women are 27 times more likely than men to be harassed online.⁵ Worldwide, 73% of women surveyed had reported experiencing abuse online, with 18% (around 9 million women) deeming it serious internet violence.⁶

In November 2017, Amnesty International published the results of its research into online abuse against women. Amnesty initially found a staggering prevalence of women's experiences of abuse online: 21% of respondents said they had experienced online abuse or harassment at least once, with 36% of this report stating that such online experiences made them feel that their physical safety was threatened.⁷ Of the women who had

- ¹ <https://www.antisemitismpolicytrust.org.uk/about-us/mission-and-approach>
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IHRA WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM

WHAT IS IHRA?

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) is an international body that seeks to remember the Holocaust and tackle antisemitism by bringing governments together, supporting Holocaust education, research and commemoration. IHRA was founded by former Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, and now has 32 countries as members (and a further nine observer/associate members) who seek to uphold the 2000 Stockholm Declaration. The Declaration includes commitments to remember the Holocaust as an event from which universal lessons can be derived, tackle Holocaust denial, address all types of racism and genocide, encourage studying all dimensions of the Holocaust and making all related documentation available for research, and committing to observe an annual Holocaust Memorial Day.¹

In pursuit of some of these aims, IHRA adopted a working definition of antisemitism that includes 11 examples as illustrations. IHRA refers to it as a 'working definition', reflecting that it is subject to change.

DEVELOPING A DEFINITION: THE EUMC DEFINITION

Most of the language of the IHRA definition was taken from the 2006 working definition of the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EMUC). The creation of the EUMC definition was not led by the Institute itself but by European Jewish communities more than a decade ago. The EUMC reported in 2004 on Jewish concerns that antisemitism was coming from new directions and not being properly detected, nor appropriately recorded by European institutions. The Racism and Xenophobia Network (RXNEN), which collected data, had different approaches and incompatible statistics. It was argued that a definition was needed to capture classic and new antisemitism; to understand and analyse them together. The EUMC, RXNEN, Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Jewish representative groups AIC and ECJ and others, drafted a definition that the OSCE went on to recommend to law enforcement agencies and others.

The EUMC definition recognized that antisemitism can include discourse relating to Israel. Either by targeting Israel itself as a proxy for Jews or by repeating old antisemitic slanders with 'Israel' or 'Zionist' swapped in for the word 'Jew'. The working definition was designed for diverse European police forces, prosecutors and governments to understand antisemitism, to ensure anti-racism groups and Jewish organisations could better assess their efforts, and ultimately to assist those suffering anti-Jewish racism. The European experience of antisemitism has, in some cases, included Jews feeling forced to flee the continent.

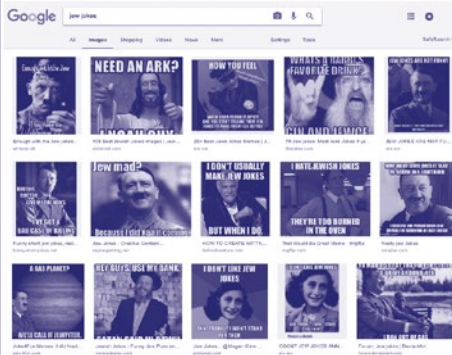
The EUMC called for adoption of the definition by the European Parliament. It was recommended by European Justice Commissioner Vera Jourová, and continued to be referenced under the EUMC's existence, including by the European Union to the OSCE Permanent Council on January 28, 2017.²

¹ <https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/about-us>
² <https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/about-us>
³ <https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/about-us>
⁴ <https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/about-us>
⁵ <https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/about-us>
⁶ <https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/about-us>
⁷ <https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/about-us>



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Authored by Seth Stephens-Davidowitz



HIDDEN HATE:

What Google searches tell us about antisemitism today



www.antisemitism.org.uk



[@antisempolicy](https://twitter.com/antisempolicy)



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