



The All-Party Parliamentary Group Against Antisemitism

A Decade in Review



Who We Are

The All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) Against Antisemitism was established to combat antisemitism and help develop and seek implementation of effective public policy to combat antisemitism. The group enjoys support from committed members of all parties, and specifically encourages the involvement of parliamentarians who are not Jewish and do not have Jewish constituency interests.

What We Do

The All-Party Parliamentary Group Against Antisemitism runs events and briefings, undertakes campaigns and hosts speakers in parliament. However, in addition, members of the APPG Against Antisemitism commit to action to tackle antisemitism and the pursuit of better policy to fight antisemitism. Most of the success which the APPG has achieved has benefitted not just the Jewish community but all victims of hate crime.

Over the past ten years, the APPG has sought to transform the way in which antisemitism is both perceived and combated in the UK. Until 2015, the most significant and high profile piece of work had been the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Antisemitism in the UK which took place between 2005-6. 14 MPs were convened as an inquiry panel and they found that there had been a rise in antisemitism in the UK over recent years and the panel was shocked by the details they learned during the process of the inquiry. As a result, they published a report with 35 recommendations for Government, Parliament and civil society in September 2006. In an unprecedented response to an All-Party Inquiry, the Labour Government officially responded with two Command Papers over two years. The Coalition Government issued their own responses in 2010 and 2014. This vindicated the cross-party approach to combating antisemitism showing that it is in the interests of all governments to fight antisemitism and that momentum can be maintained through a change of Government.

The APPG Against Antisemitism has worked successfully with Government and other partners to implement the inquiry recommendations and other measures and a table of progress against each of the All-Party Inquiry recommendations can be found at the back of the last two government reports on antisemitism. In 2015, a second All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry was published and received wide-ranging political support and praise. A summary of some of the successes, achieved together with key stakeholders follows.



FROM L-R: LORD SACKS, JOHN MANN MP,
RT HON ERIC PICKLES MP, DANNY STONE

1 • Frameworks for Tackling Antisemitism

The key to tackling antisemitism and other forms of hate crime is not to address incidents on a case-by-case basis but rather to institute appropriate frameworks which can then be fine-tuned. Over the past decade the APPG has worked with partners to erect some of these frameworks which are gaining a reputation for success and sustainability.

Two Landmark Parliamentary Inquiries

The All-Party Parliamentary Inquiries into Antisemitism of 2006 and 2015 are widely recognised as the fundamental markers in the UK's efforts to tackle antisemitism. The recommendations contained in the resultant reports have formed the benchmark for substantial work to combat antisemitism.

Four Government Responses

The four official responses to the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Antisemitism have established a precedent for government to report to parliament on the steps it is taking to combat antisemitism.

A Unique Whitehall Government Working Group

The Cross-Government Working Group on Antisemitism brings together civil servants from a number of Government departments including the Home Office, Communities and Local Government, Foreign Office and Ministry of Justice with key Jewish communal representatives. The meetings of this group have proved an essential forum for discussing cross-cutting concerns such as education and online hate. The model was so successful that a Cross-Government Working Group on Anti-Muslim Hate Crime was consequentially established.

A Clearer Understanding of Antisemitism

The broad definition of hate crime widely supported in the UK is as follows: "A hate crime is a criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by

a hostility or prejudice based on person's race, religion, sexual orientation, disability or transgender". The EUMC (now FRA) working definition of antisemitism highlighted in the All-Party Inquiry into Antisemitism has proven to have practical application as a guide for police forces, the judiciary and others.

Enhanced Government-Community Co-operation

The Jewish communal organisation the Community Security Trust (CST) has always been well regarded by Government and Parliamentarians and is often cited as a model of best practice. The relationship between the CST, the Police, the Home Office and Department for Communities and Local Government has intensified and developed since the first All-Party Inquiry, not least because of the relations that exist on the cross-government working group.

Better Electoral Conduct

The APPG Chair, John Mann MP, commissioned a full-scale parliamentary inquiry into discrimination and racism in elections. The resultant recommendations of the All-Party Inquiry into Electoral Conduct report have already started to make a difference in UK approaches to electioneering. The law relating to Local Authorities powers to correct false information during an election has been clarified, the Electoral Commission and political parties are extending their training and stakeholder consultation processes, the Equality and Human Rights Commission has updated their guidance and we hope in the future to secure cross-party agreement on a framework for reporting discrimination during elections.



FROM L-R: DR EILIDH WHITEFORD MP, LORD ALDERDICE, RT HON SIR ANDREW STUNELL OBE MP, SEEMA MALHOTRA MP, RT HON JOHN BERCOW MP, NATASCHA ENGEL MP, RT HON DAVID LAMMY MP, STUART ANDREW MP



RT HON DAVID CAMERON MP



SUPT PAUL GIANASSI WITH RT HON SAJID JAVID MP

2 • Policing & Prosecution

Whilst frameworks for tackling antisemitism are important, so too is a well-informed and communicative police force and judiciary. The APPG has spearheaded efforts to ensure best practice prevails in the fight against antisemitism for UK policing and judiciary.

Appropriate and Robust Data

As a result of the first All-Party Inquiry into Antisemitism, agreement was reached for all police forces to record antisemitic hate crimes. The first official disaggregated statistics were published in 2010. As a result of the second inquiry, a national data sharing agreement between the police and the CST was agreed. In addition, the Government has funded CST projects through the Victims Fund to encourage more people to report hate crime.

A Well-Informed and Responsive Judiciary

Following the first All-Party Inquiry into Antisemitism, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) undertook a review of cases where prosecutions for incitement to racial hatred had been brought, in order to see what lessons could be learned. The subsequent action plan designed in consultation with key stakeholders including the police and Jewish community representatives has been cited as an example of international best practice in the prosecution of hate crime. The CPS also developed a training pack for all hate crime prosecutors and continues to update and improve its training procedures and has committed to action following the second All-Party Inquiry report.

Best Practice in Policing

As a result of the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Electoral Conduct, the Association of Chief Police Officers has undertaken to improve its training and guidance for the policing of elections. This includes enhanced communications and data collection.



SUPT PAUL GIANASSI WITH LILIAN GREENWOOD MP

3 • Education & Research

Having appropriate frameworks in place and effective policing are vital tools in the fight against antisemitism but prejudice can only be defeated through education and knowledge. Ensuring that the right environment exists for education, that research is well-directed and that barriers are continuing to be broken down between young people from different backgrounds remain key goals for the APPG.

Secure Jewish and Other Faith Schools in the State Sector

Members of the APPG lobbied intensively to ensure Jewish and other faith schools were able to properly secure their pupils against the threat of terrorism. An agreement has been in place since 2010 by the Department for Education to fund the counter-terrorism security needs of Jewish faith schools within the state school sector. The funding is available to all faith communities subject to application and for the Jewish community, the money is administered by the Community Security Trust. APPG members continue to monitor the delivery and effectiveness of the fund. In 2015, following the second All-Party Inquiry report, further funding for the security of the Jewish community was announced.

Good Relations Between Children of Different Faiths

Inspired by the recommendations of the All-Party Inquiry, the Schools Linking Network was established in 2007 and continues to receive funding from the Department for Communities and Local Government. It has involved thousands of young people, schools and local authorities in projects to explore identity, diversity, equality and community.

A Safe and Welcoming Higher Education Sector

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills established

the BIS group on Antisemitism and Higher Education under the auspices of the Cross-Government Working Group on Antisemitism. The Group brought together higher education and Jewish community stakeholders at a time of increased concern about campus antisemitism. Subsequent to that group's disbandment, two important reports have been published; the Equality Challenge Unit's 'Religion and Belief in Higher Education' and Universities UK's 'External Speakers In Higher Education Institutions' guidance. The former report in particular addressed concerns about appropriate reporting and thanked the APPG for inspiring its outcomes. The National Union of Students have also published relevant guidance. The All-Party Group 'hosted' three successful lobbies of parliament by the Union of Jewish Students which helped pave the way for these results.

Research into Modern Discursive Antisemitism and Its Roots

The Department for Communities and Local Government has supported research by the European Institute for the Study of Antisemitism (EISCA) into antisemitic discourse. The APPG has been working with the Pears Institute for the Study of Antisemitism, Birkbeck College, University of London to try to better understand some of the drivers and effects of antisemitism. This included two symposiums in parliament and a subsequent report.



RT HON ED MILIBAND MP WITH UJS STUDENTS



FROM L-R: LADY SYLVIA HERMON MP, RT HON SIR ANDREW STUNELL OBE MP, JOHN MANN MP

4 • Traditional & New Media

Free speech and transparency are key to a free society. The media can provide a platform from which to educate and challenge, and developing technology should be embraced for its potential to do good. The APPG has worked with industry to ensure that good practice prevails across traditional and social media and that appropriate recourse is available to the victims of online hate. It is important that the right tools are in place to tackle the rapid transmission of antisemitism and other forms of hate.

The Establishment of Best Practice

Recognising the independence of the media and at the urging of the APPG, the Cross-Government Working Group on Antisemitism engaged in a number of discussions and meetings with the Press Complaints Commission (now IPSO), OFCOM, the Society of Editors and others. Subsequent to these discussions, DCLG funded work by the Society of Editors on best practice in newspaper moderation, the results of which have now been published. The PCC, for its part, established a working group to consider the moderation of User Generated Content (USG). The APPG continues to urge IPSO to update its Code of Conduct with regard to discrimination and submitted a formal proposal to the Code Secretary to that effect.

A Plan to Tackle Online Hate

At the behest of APPG members a cross-party Ministerial seminar was convened with key agencies and officials to discuss antisemitism on the internet and actions to address it. Topics covered included anonymity and operational jurisdiction. A series of actions were agreed from the seminar including one for the FCO to work with others to seek international co-operation on these matters. The UK successfully achieved commitment to act from the OSCE in 2009 and further action has followed.

A second cross-departmental conference was held in 2011 which focussed on the lessons to be learned about online hate crime from the experiences of those working to tackle child exploitation on the internet. The results of these discussions fed into international work against online hate with the Inter-parliamentary Coalition for Combating Antisemitism (ICCA) which established a task-force and later permanent working group of parliamentarians and industry experts including Google, Facebook and Twitter which had made significant progress against this agenda. Remaining priority police issues include: the identification of single points of contact, addressing anonymous hate posts and highlighting best practice. In addition to the work on online hate, some progress was made with online payment system providers. Many indicated their willingness to act but were limited by what was feasible.

Help to Report Online Hate

The APPG also helped to promote the online reporting portal 'True Vision' (www.report-it.org.uk) to parliamentarians during Safer Internet Day. The site has already had some 56,000 visitors and offers information to victims, downloadable resources and the ability to report crimes online. To date over 1,300 reports have been made to the site with just over 300 of these relating to Internet offences.

5 • Sport

Like the media, sport can be an overwhelming force for good or occasionally, a platform for hate. Focussing in particular on football, the APPG has worked to shape responses to antisemitism and racism so that the beautiful game can stay true to its name.

A Leading Football Association

Inspired by the APPG, a call was made for a clear, all-agency strategy to tackle antisemitism and islamophobia in football. At the FA's invitation, APPG chair John Mann MP led a working group created to oversee the design of such a strategy and the report produced by that group made recommendations for improved refereeing, policing, stewarding, incident monitoring, reporting and community engagement in football. The FA has committed to trialling and implementing a number of the recommendations and continues to work to eliminate racism from the game, most recently heeding John Mann's advice to pursue strict liability rules in English football.

Establishment of International Best Practice

At the suggestion of APPG members, the FA worked with the Holocaust Educational Trust to take the England team to Auschwitz prior to the Euro 2012 tournament. At the urging of APPG members and the sports Minister whom they had lobbied, the FA also established a contact network with key anti-fascism experts for the duration of the tournament. In addition, John Mann MP visited Poland and Ukraine and met key officials at UEFA to ensure better ties between the organisation and local anti-racism campaigns. Details of best practice and highlights of the worst incidents in football are detailed in the APPG report: 'Antisemitism In European Football: A Scar on the Beautiful Game'.

Education Against Football Hate

The APPG worked with Kick It Out and the Baddiel brothers, Ivan and David, on a number of educational initiatives related to antisemitism in football including educational documentaries.



FROM L-R: GARTH CROOKS, DAVID BADDIEL, GEMMA DOYLE MP

6 • International Affairs

Working to affect public policy in both media and sport requires a global perspective. So too, the wider fight against antisemitism is worldwide. Using the good practices that the APPG has established in the UK, members have sought to influence other countries around the world to follow suit. The result has been shared recognition of the UK as a world leader in this field.

International Replication of the APPG Model

The first All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Antisemitism in the UK was widely considered to be a success and the same is true of the 2015 report. Some of the key elements were easy to repeat. This included having senior, non-Jewish parliamentarians with little if any constituency interest address this serious matter on a cross-party basis within a process that mirrored parliamentary procedure. As a result a number of parliaments including Germany, Italy and Canada have run their own parliamentary inquiries into antisemitism. The group has met with successive envoys from the State Department in the USA and there is some appetite to adopt the process there. In addition, diplomats from across Europe attending the OSCE's ODIHR division have been briefed on the key lessons from the UK experience.

An International Coalition

The Inter-Parliamentary Coalition for Combatting Antisemitism was co-founded by John Mann MP together with Canadian MP Irwin Cotler in order to further the international fight against antisemitism. Boasting members from over 100 countries, the ICCA's inaugural conference was held in London. The resultant 'London Declaration' was signed by the leadership of all three major parties in the UK at that time and has now been signed by leading parliamentarians from across the world. In the UK, the recommendations of the London Declaration were referred to the Cross-Government Working Group on Antisemitism. As noted, the ICCA has made good progress on tackling online hate and has taken its model and work to other parliaments in countries where antisemitism remains a major problem.

Appointment of a Special Envoy

The first All-Party Inquiry called for the appointment of a US-style roving ambassador against antisemitism. Following representations from the APPG and others, the Government decided on a more focussed role than an antisemitism rapporteur and in 2010 appointed Sir Andrew Burns as the UK Envoy for Post-Holocaust issues. Sir Andrew has helped to ensure the UK stays on the front foot, leading in the international arena on appropriate Holocaust memorial and restitution. This includes his role in facilitating the UK to chair the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.



PARLIAMENTARY MEMBERS OF THE ICCA STEERING COMMITTEE

In and out of Parliament

Antisemitism has been a feature of parliamentary debate, questions (both written and oral), Early Day Motions and select committee reports. This is often a result of All-Party Group initiatives. Our website at www.antisemitism.org.uk has a log of all the relevant parliamentary activity dating back a number of years.

The APPG seeks broad influence and so members of the group have helped to helm individual party briefings on antisemitism both at party political conferences and in Westminster. Group members have also spoken at regional events, in order to highlight work that has been undertaken in parliament to local communities around the country.

Who Supports Us

Administrative support for the APPG is provided by the Parliamentary Committee Against Antisemitism Foundation. This consists of the provision of staff and other declared support. Financial funding declarations for the Group as well as details of the members can be found on the register of All-Party Groups.

The Parliamentary Committee Against Antisemitism Foundation (PCAAF) is a registered charity (1089736) centred on the principle that the struggle against prejudice and discrimination is not just the responsibility of the victims.

The PCAAF Mission is "To make antisemitism a societal concern and, in doing so, help create a more tolerant and unprejudiced society". Its' vision is "To develop a society that understands that prejudice in general and antisemitism in particular is not just unacceptable but is also the responsibility of that society to eradicate".

Our Ask

The APPG Against Antisemitism is the sum of its parts and it can only ever be as good as its parliamentary champions. We seek parliamentarians committed to acting and speaking out against antisemitic and racist prejudice to join our group. This booklet has sought to display the multiplicity of policy concerns that we have engaged with over the past decade. As we look to the next ten years we want to grow and strengthen our networks. Our ask is simple; join us and become active.

In doing so you will not just be benefitting the victims of Jew hatred but victims of all hate crimes in the UK and beyond.

Our Supporters

APPG members and supporters over this period included: Rt Hon Douglas Alexander MP, Rushanara Ali MP, David Amess MP, Stuart Andrew MP, Rt Hon James Arbuthnot MP, Ian Austin MP, Guto Bebb MP, Rt Hon Sir Alan Beith MP, Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP, Rt Hon John Bercow MP, Luciana Berger MP, Bob Blackman MP, Nicola Blackwood MP, Rt Hon Hazel Blears MP, Nick Boles MP, Graham Brady MP, Rt Hon Tom Brake MP, David Burrowes MP, Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP, Lorely Burt MP, Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP, John Cryer MP, David Davies MP, Rt Hon Nigel Dodds MP, Michael Dugher MP, Mark Durkan MP, Louise Ellman MP, Natascha Engel MP, Mike Freer MP, Mike Gapes MP, Lilian Greenwood MP, Rt Hon Dominic Grieve MP, Robert Halfon MP, Richard Harrington MP, Lady Sylvia Hermon MP, Rt Hon Margaret Hodge MP, Mark Hunter MP, Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, Rt Hon Tessa Jowell MP, Barbara Keeley MP, Rt Hon David Lammy MP, Ivan Lewis MP, Naomi Long MP, Jack Lopresti MP, Khalid Mahmood MP, Seema Malhotra MP, John Mann MP, Rt Hon Esther McVey MP, Rt Hon Jim Murphy MP, Matthew Offord MP, Eric Ollerenshaw MP, Iain Paisley Jr MP, Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP, Rt Hon Sir John Randall MP, Rachel Reeves MP, Jonathan Reynolds MP, Andrew Rosindell MP, Lee Scott MP, Rt Hon John Spellar MP, Rt Hon Sir Andrew Stunell MP, Stephen Twigg MP, Rt Hon Theresa Villiers MP, Tom Watson MP, Dr Eilidh Whiteford MP, Hywell Williams MP, Stephen Williams MP, Phil Wilson MP, John Woodcock MP, Lord Alderdice, Rt Hon Lord Anderson of Swansea, Lord Beecham, Baroness Benjamin, Lord Boswell of Aynho, Lord Carlile of Berriew, Baroness Deech, Rt Hon Lord Dholakia, Lord Dubs, Lord Haskel, Rt Hon Lord Howard of Lympne, Rt Hon Lord Hunt of Wirral, Rt Hon Lord Knight of Weymouth, Lord Ouseley, Lord Palmer of Childs Hill, Lord Sacks, Rt Hon Baroness Warsi and many more.



The All-Party Parliamentary Group Against Antisemitism

www.antisemitism.org.uk

 @APPGAA

