



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

A progress update to the All-Party
Parliamentary Group against Anti-Semitism
Inquiry into the rise in the number of anti-
Semitic incidents following the Gaza conflict
in 2014.



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Introduction

In 2015 the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) against Anti-Semitism launched an Inquiry into Anti-Semitism in the UK following the Gaza conflict in 2014. This caused a spike in anti-Semitism in the UK, leading to the Community Security Trust recording the highest number of anti-Semitic incidents seen in a year (1179).

In June 2015, Ministers at the Department for Communities and Local Government agreed that the Cross Government Working Group on Anti-Semitism would respond to the 34 recommendations in the APPG against Anti-Semitism Inquiry report which looked at the increased levels of anti-Semitism following the 2014 Gaza conflict and undertook to report back to Parliament.

Significant progress has already been made against a number of the recommendations including work being undertaken by the Crown Prosecution Service and the police to seek to publicise arrests and prosecutions relating to anti-Semitism as this will provide reassurance that anti-Semitism is taken seriously.

This report outlines our progress to date.

The terms of reference for the report were:

1. To consider the events of July/August 2014 and the causes and consequences of the highest-ever recorded number of anti-Semitic incidents during that period.
2. To consider this in the light of the 2006 All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Anti-Semitism report.
3. To review the situation in the UK in the light of similar events in Europe and draw any lessons that can be learnt.
4. To identify and review the effectiveness of existing legal and other frameworks for addressing anti-Semitism in the UK, with a view to avoiding the extreme anti-Jewish violence in Europe that resulted from the conflict.
5. To identify models of best practice for guaranteeing intercommunal cohesion and Jewish communal welfare at times of increased tension.

Progress in Combating Anti-Semitism

Anti-Semitism in the UK

- 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.**

Response

The Government is happy to support further research into concerns and attitudes about anti-Semitism in the UK. We are pleased to confirm that DCLG has agreed to part-fund research currently being planned by the Institute for Jewish Policy Research (JPR) to look at the interplay between anti-Semitism and the conflict in the Middle East. The initial research is expected in the spring.

- 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.**

Response

DCLG have funded through its Near Neighbours programme and the Interfaith Network, a toolkit which highlights the key principles for faiths working together. The toolkit aims to help communities to reach out and engage with people of different religious backgrounds, as well as to develop and deepen cross-faith understanding and relationships along the way. We believe that cross-faith work makes a positive difference to local communities, be it through social action, or dialogue and shared learning can be hugely beneficial to communities. The toolkit is available here:

Faiths Working Together

Dame Louise Casey's Review has considered how state agencies can work more effectively with isolated communities to promote integration and community cohesion, including identification of good practice.

The Faith and Integration Minister Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth is meeting with his counterparts in the Devolved Administrations on 12th December to discuss a range of interfaith and cohesion issues including sharing best practice.

- 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.**

Response

In response to the All-Party Inquiry into Anti-Semitism, the Community Security Trust and a campaign by the *Jewish Chronicle* newspaper, all of which had sought to highlight the risk to synagogues, schools and other potentially vulnerable Jewish community buildings, the then Prime Minister David Cameron announced a combined total of £11.9 million funding for Jewish communal security in 2015. The former Home Secretary Theresa May subsequently announced that the government had committed to provide a further £13.4 million for security measures in the Jewish community in 2016. The money is administered by the Community Security Trust.

- 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.**

Response

In June 2015, Baroness Williams of Trafford, the then Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Department for Communities and Local Government, wrote to John Mann MP, chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group Against Anti-Semitism confirming that DCLG Ministers would be happy to report back to Parliament on progress against the recommendations. DCLG is pleased to be able to provide this first update response.

- 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.**

Response

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) developed a Religiously Aggravated and Anti-Semitic Crime Action Plan, which addressed a number of the relevant recommendations of the All-Party Inquiry report. The CPS has renewed its focus on working with targeted communities, raising awareness and increasing reporting. As part of a hate crime communications strategy, the CPS has committed to ensure that its efforts to improve the prosecution of anti-Semitism will be shared with a wider community audience. The CPS will continue to capture key cases with particular resonance for local communities as well as relevant policy development. This message was underlined when the Director of Public Prosecutions met with the Chief Executive of the Community Security Trust on 1st September 2016.

The CPS has devised a new training package, mandated for all prosecutors, for delivery between November 2016 and March 2017 with input in planning and piloting from the Community Security Trust including the provision of case studies concerning anti-Semitism.

Since the report was published we have worked with individual and national Police agencies' media teams to try and provide messages that reassure the Jewish community. Assistant Chief Constable Garry Shewan has been appointed as the National Policing Lead for Jewish community engagements, combining protective issues with working closely with ACC Mark Hamilton who leads on hate crime policy.

The National Police Chiefs' Council's Media and Marketing team have been tasked with seeking out opportunities for key messages to be shared and supporting individual agencies to provide consistent messages.

We recognise that the successful resolution for those crimes that come to court can be remote from the media coverage of the crime itself. Media presence in courts has also diminished and so often prosecutions are not reported. To try to overcome this and seek to provide reassure messages, we have proactively worked with police agencies and the CPS to highlight live prosecutions and to make statements where appropriate.

One such example was the prosecution for stirring-up racial hatred by one of the self styled organisers of the planned far right protest in Golders Green in July 2015. Given the concerns in the community about the planned march we wanted to maximise our messages to ensure the community that we were actively working to protect them from the crime they feared would accompany the protest.

The Metropolitan Police Service led on community engagement activity and alongside key partners, such as the Community Security Trust, they carried out extensive local activity. However we recognised that the event was raising concerns nationally and even internationally. The picture below shows the social media advert that targeted Jewish residents of the UK, reached 76,122 people (a quarter of the Jewish population) with 877 people interacting with the article by either liking, sharing or commenting on it. We use this cost effective method extensively as it enables us to reach specific groups for relatively small cost (£130 in this instance).

The screenshot displays a Facebook Boost Post interface. At the top, it asks 'How effective was the boost?' with a five-star rating. Key performance indicators are shown: 76,122 Paid Reach, 877 Actions, and £130.00 Budget Spent. Below these are tabs for 'Actions', 'People', and 'Countries'. A bar chart shows 696 Link Clicks (blue bar), 15 Page Likes (light blue bar), and 143 Post Likes (pink bar). A 'See More Details' link is present. On the right, a notification states: 'You're close to your account spend limit and may not reach as many people as you might like. Increase your limit in Ads Manager now to get the most from your boosted post.' Below the notification are tabs for 'DESKTOP NEWS FEED' and 'MOBILE NEWS FEED'. The main content area shows a sponsored post from 'True Vision' with a 'Like Page' button. The post title is 'News from the BBC' and the text reads: 'Somerset man charged with inciting racial hatred ahead of march. A man has been charged with inciting racial hatred ahead of a proposed demonstration in an area of London with a large Jewish population... See More'. An image of a street scene is shown below the text. At the bottom right of the post are 'Close' and 'Add Budget' buttons.

Evaluation of the Incidents and the Responses

- 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.**

Response

The growth of the internet has brought many opportunities to communicate globally, share information and exchange views. However, it has also been exploited by those who seek to use it as a tool to spread hatred and target individuals and communities because of who they are or what they believe.

Tackling hate online is a key focus for the recently published Hate Crime Action Plan, which includes a number of actions to bring together industry representatives, raising awareness, and improving data and guidance. DCLG is working with MoJ, the Home Office and police to do further research on the sources and nature of anti-Semitism on social media.

- 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.**

Response

The National Police Chief's Council is pushing ahead with efforts to combine the existing work in the UK, Europe and the USA to annually review and update the existing index of flags and symbols.

The resulting information will be hosted on the True Vision website as a secure database that allows access to law enforcement agencies and our key partners.

We hope to have our database complete and operational by the end of 2016.

- 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.**

- 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.**

Response to 8&9

The value of partnerships with community and expert organisations is recognised by police leaders. These have been strengthened by data sharing agreements, which are an anonymized sharing of incidents between Police Forces and trusted partners such as the Community Security Trust, Tell MAMA and Galop to improve reporting as well as our understanding of hate crime.

For example, Greater Manchester Police worked closely with the Community Security Trust in response to a violent attack on a Jewish boy in Bowker Vale in September 2015. The organisation agreed a community and engagement strategy and providing briefings to key personal. This partnership was invaluable, not only in reassuring the local community but also to counter some of the sensationalist relations from organisations and individuals who were not informed by information and intelligence available to the partners.

In addition, there are many examples of a collaborative relationship around public protest events that have taken place, predominantly in metropolitan areas. For example, in Merseyside the Countering Extremism Unit has a strong relationship with community groups including both Tell MAMA and the CST. Both these partners were involved in the planning and preparations for a number of 'White Man Marches' in the Merseyside area.

One police leader from West Yorkshire Police summarised the value placed in these partnerships:

“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.”

We believe these partnerships are best developed between individual police forces and relevant organisations, rather than requiring new systems.

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.

Response

In late March 2015, the National Police Chief’s Council announced that the police had reached an agreement to share hate crime data with the Community Security Trust and Tell MAMA.

These agreements have now been in place since May 2015 and are posted on the True Vision website at [True Vision](#)

The agreements allow for local arrangements to supplement those at the national level that share information every 6 months.

We carried out a review of the arrangements and are working to agree similar arrangements with other suitable national groups, such as the recent agreement with GALOP who support Lesbian, Gay Bisexual and Transgender victims of hate crime.

11. 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).

Response

A detailed explanation of how the CPS organises referral of its cases has been provided to the All-Party Inquiry. The CPS has committed to further strengthen the expertise available locally to prosecutors, in support of effective decision-making and potential referral to the SCCTD, by holding a joint event for force and CPS Area specialists in conjunction with the College of Policing, Ministry of Justice and Chief Police Officers. It is also developing detailed support materials for prosecutors that will target decision-making and case handling in relation to hate crime. The CPS has also published a public policy statement on stirring up hatred which sets out the requirements for a prosecution under the law for stirring up hatred on the grounds of

race, religion and sexual orientation, including the differing thresholds involved and highlighting the relevance of freedom of expression in such cases.

- 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”.**

Response

A review of the existing guidance relating to communications sent via social media was undertaken by the CPS to assess whether it might benefit from a more specific focus on hate crime. This concluded in late 2015, with a public consultation undertaken on refreshed social media legal guidance and revised guidance was published in October 2016.

- 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 an effective mechanism for wide distribution and communication of the guide.**

Response

The board of the Judicial College has met to consider the proposed revisions to the Equal Treatment Bench Book. The College has agreed to establish a faculty and intends the recommendation to be one of the matters the faculty will address.

- 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.**

Response

The report clearly reflects the Government position that there is no academic boycott of Israel in place in the UK. The Government fully supports academic freedom and is firmly against any academic boycotts of Israel or Israeli academics. The legal advice from the University and College Union (UCU) to its members from 2007 confirms that an academic boycott of Israel would be unlawful and in contravention of equalities legislation.

- 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.**

Response

The Government has taken forward a number of initiatives to remind local authorities of their role in tackling and avoiding anti-Semitism. Early in 2016, the Government published guidance to make clear that procurement boycotts by public authorities are inappropriate, outside of where formal legal sanctions, embargoes and restrictions have been put in place by the Government.

We believe that town hall boycotts undermine good community relations, poisoning and polarising debate, weakening integration and fuelling anti-Semitism. Any public body found to be in breach of the regulations could be subject to penalties. We have also consulted on changes to the local government pension scheme investment regulations, which will require authorities to set out policies on how social, environmental or corporate governance considerations are taken into account in making investments.

We 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. That is why we propose to issue guidance to authorities to remind them of these important matters. We will therefore we will shortly consult on proposals to amend the existing Best Value Statutory Guidance to make clear that procurement boycotts by public authorities are inappropriate, outside of where formal legal sanctions, embargoes and restrictions have been put in place by the Government.

In 2014 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 wrote to local authorities reminding them of the importance of quickly removing offensive graffiti and reporting it to the police.

In a letter to the All-Party Parliamentary Group against Anti-Semitism Inquiry, Sir Eric also set out his views on flying the Palestinian flag on municipal buildings, which he labelled "a clear political statement on an area of public policy for which the municipal body has no responsibility".

- 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.**

Response

The leadership of the APPG against Anti-Semitism has discussed the idea of an independent council of leading non-Jewish figures from parliament and across public life to identify long-term trends in anti-Semitism and are currently considering plans on how to take this forward.

- 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 of a national support structure, through local authorities, for intensified interfaith activity during periods of potential disharmony between communities.**

Response

See response to recommendations 2 and 26.

- 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.**

Response

The Editors’ Code of Practice Committee is currently holding a public consultation to review the Editors’ Code of Practice. The Government encourages the Jewish community to engage in this process and take the opportunity to raise their concerns. The link to the consultation is available at: [Editors Code](#)

- 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.**

Response

Government is satisfied that there exists clear ways to register complaints regarding media content. To meet the specific needs of the UK’s Jewish community, it might be beneficial for a group with strong links to this community to produce a guide and we would encourage all regulators to engage with them in that work.

- 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.**

Response

In its action plan, the CPS set out how it planned to assess the value and feasibility of deploying prevention orders in respect of anti-Semitism and other hate crimes, including consideration of the availability and use of relevant ancillary orders. Given the link with prosecution of communications sent by social media, the CPS review of the handling of prosecutions of communications sent via social media and related guidance has incorporated a section on ancillary orders and, following public consultation, was launched in October 2016.

- 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.**

Response

We are grateful for the APPG's support of the True Vision facility, which we see as an integral part of our response and provides the framework for so much of our work to close the gap of under-reported hate crime. Further funding of £25,000 from the Department of Communities and Local Government has allowed True Vision to develop more tailored products and to target advertising to affected communities.

We will continue to develop True Vision and during 2016/17 will refresh the site giving specific culturally-appropriate 'landing pages' for groups who may be better served by the site. Such groups include young people, internet users, transgender victims and Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities.

Through True Vision we have funded the continuation of the No Hate Speech UK initiative which is equipping and training predominantly young people to challenge online hate, support victims and to report damaging or illegal material to hosts or authorities as appropriate.

Anti-Semitism in Europe and the Events of July/August 2014

- 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.**

Response

The UK takes a leading role in the OSCE on human rights issues. Working with EU Member State partners, we have supported the work of the Office for Democratic

Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the OSCE's autonomous institution which leads on tolerance and non-discrimination, including tackling anti-Semitism. The OSCE's work on anti-Semitism is underpinned by the Berlin 2004 Ministerial Council Declaration and the Basel 2014 Ministerial Council Declaration. Examples of ODIHR's resources to tackle anti-Semitism can be found on their website.

In July 2015, the UK Delegation to the OSCE organised an event at the OSCE in Vienna with Faith Matters, a UK-based organisation that works to promote inter-faith dialogue. The event was centred on stories of Muslims who saved Jews during the Holocaust. Using personal stories the event highlighted the importance of mutual respect and the role faith played in protecting the life of those from a different religion.

The German Chairman in Office (CiO) has made tolerance and non-discrimination a priority for its chairmanship in 2016, and chose this as the topic for the first Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting (SHDM) in April 2016. The German CiO also organised a meeting of international representatives on post-Holocaust issues in Berlin in June. We have been supporting their efforts to focus attention on this important issue, including as we work towards the Ministerial Council in Hamburg in December 2016.

We also continue to look for opportunities to raise awareness of the importance of tolerance and non-discrimination, including in the context of tackling anti-Semitism and hate crime. The UK Ambassador to the OSCE also wrote an article in May 2016 for the FCO Blogs website on the importance of tackling intolerance, highlighting the role Sir Nicholas Winton had played in saving the lives of Jewish children in 1939.

In October 2016, the UK co-organised and co-hosted a side event at the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw with the Government of Poland. Experts, including from the police and Crown Prosecution Service, were able to share best practice on the UK and Poland's national responses to hate crime, including the Government's Hate Crime Action Plan.

The UK is a founding member of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA). Our Delegation, which plays an active role in the working groups and committees, is led by Sir Eric Pickles, the UK Envoy for Post-Holocaust Issues. Anti-Semitism, Holocaust denial and denigration are regularly discussed here. The UK delegation played an active role in supporting IHRA's adoption in May 2016 of a working definition of anti-Semitism based on that previously used by the EUMC.

We continue to ensure that the UK is represented at the appropriate level at international meetings, such as the Global Forum against Anti-Semitism.

- 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.**

Response

The Government is committed to continuing to support and fund Holocaust education. The Government has funded the Holocaust Educational Trust's 'Lessons from Auschwitz' (LfA) project, since 2006; and the UCL Institute of Education's Centre for Holocaust Education (CfHE) since 2008. Both projects receive cross-party support, and grants for both projects have been renewed for 2016-17.

In addition, on Holocaust Memorial Day 2015, the then Prime Minister announced that he was accepting the recommendations of the Prime Minister's Holocaust Commission in full. The Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition both supported the Government's commitment of £50 million to kick start the project.

The then Prime Minister also announced the establishment of the United Kingdom Holocaust Memorial Foundation (UKHMF), an independent, cross-party advisory board to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State of the Department for Communities and Local Government, to take forward and implement the Commission's recommendations.

The Foundation secured an additional £1.4 million of new money, over and above the £50 million, for work on Holocaust testimony. This includes a UKHMF project to record the testimony of over 100 survivors and camp liberators, as well as funding for the National Holocaust Centre for their project to capture survivor testimony in such a way that it can be used interactively. Funding was also given to The Wiener Library to help accelerate work to translate and digitise its large collection of written eyewitness testimonies taken in the 1950s and 1960s. An additional £100,000 was also secured for UKHMF to conduct ground-breaking archaeological work at Bergen Belsen to coincide with the 70th anniversary of its liberation by British forces in April last year.

- 25. We recommend that the government increases its grant for the evidence-based teacher training conducted by the Centre for Holocaust Education at the Institute of Education, with a view to expanding its work and the number of teachers it is able to train.**

Response

It is important that teachers are properly equipped to teach about the sensitive subject of the Holocaust, and to this end, the Government has funded the UCL Institute of Education's Centre for Holocaust Education (CfHE) since 2008. The funding, which is matched by the Pears Foundation, was doubled to £500,000 from 2013-14. The grant for the project has been renewed for 2016-17, and the Department for Education is in discussion with the CfHE regarding future funding.

- 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.

Response

It is vital that young people and teachers are given the right tools and skills to challenge hatred and prejudice from an early age. Building on a Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) pilot project in Bradford, the Department for Education (DfE) will support a programme to equip teachers to hold debates and conversations with pupils on a range of difficult topical issues. The programme is designed to give pupils the space in which to debate issues, to voice their concerns and to repeat what they have heard; teachers should listen and be ready to challenge when necessary. This will cover debates about extremism and fundamental shared values and will also be a chance to discuss issues concerned with equality, prejudice, hate crime and foreign policy.

DCLG is also supporting 'Stand-Up' a Streetwise project to work with young people to tackle anti-Semitism and anti-Muslim hate crime.

- 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.**

Response

The Cross-Government Working Group is currently planning to engage with a broader spectrum of NGOs in a forthcoming quarterly meeting to discuss our emergency response to local and international incidents which leave the Jewish community feeling vulnerable. This will include reassurance messaging.

- 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.**

Response

The German Chairman in Office (CiO) has made tolerance and non-discrimination a priority for 2016, and chose this as the topic for the first Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting (SHDM) in April 2016. The German CiO are also organising a meeting of international representatives on post-Holocaust issues in Berlin in June. We will support their efforts to focus attention on this important issue, including as we work towards the Ministerial Council in Hamburg in December 2016.

We also continue to look for opportunities to raise awareness of the importance of tolerance and non-discrimination, including in the context of tackling anti-Semitism and hate crime. In January 2015 and 2016 we coordinated with EU partners on an

EU statement in the OSCE's Permanent Council to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The UK Ambassador to the OSCE also wrote an article in May 2016 for the FCO Blogs website on the importance of tackling intolerance, highlighting the role Sir Nicholas Winton had played in saving the lives of Jewish children in 1939.

- 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.**

Response

The APPG against Anti-Semitism has had contact with the Mayor of Amsterdam's offices and are seeking convenient dates for him to visit the United Kingdom to discuss his approach to combatting anti-Semitism with the relevant mayors and police.

- 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 anti-Semitic violence that manifested over the summer of 2014.**

Response

In October 2015, parliamentarians including Rt Hon Sir Eric Pickles, Wes Streeting MP, Tulip Siddiq MP and Baroness Jenny Jones together with ACC Garry Shewan, the National Police Lead for Jewish Communities, visited Paris to meet with their counterparts and other relevant bodies. The aim was to better understand manifestations of anti-Semitism in France, efforts to combat it and lessons that could be learned for Britain.

- 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.**

Response

We will continue to support the work of existing initiatives to tackle hate online, including through the Cyber hate Working Group, established by the Inter-parliamentary Coalition for Combating Anti-Semitism in order to engage with the internet industry. The Group has successfully brought together UK parliamentarians, government and community representatives to work with many of the largest industry companies at executive level; this has led to a range of initiatives and policy changes, including best practice guidance.

- 32. We recommend that the government offers additional resources to the police to enhance and develop policing and investigation of online hate crime.**

Response

To give a clear picture of online crime, including online hate crime, the police are now required to flag whether a crime has an online element. We will work with police forces to improve the use of these online flags which will in future give us a national picture of the levels of online hate crime.

To respond to the challenge of online hate crime, the College of Policing has included guidance to police and partners on responding to internet hate crime in its *National Policing Hate Crime Strategy* and *Hate Crime Operational Guidance*. This guidance has been viewed or downloaded more than 15,000 times from True Vision, in addition to the physical documents that were circulated to individual agencies.

Following public consultation, the Director of Public Prosecutions has published revised guidance to prosecutors on prosecuting cases involving communications sent via social media. This includes specific guidance on hate crime offences and the use of ancillary orders in preventing further offending. The CPS will continue to monitor the application of the guidance and consult on its contents and subsequent updates.

These improvements are funded as part of core Police funding and we have not any representations that a lack of funding has impeded police investigations of online hate crime.

- 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.**

Response

Combating Antisemitism – A British Best Practice Guide was launched by Rt Hon Sir Eric Pickles MP and John Mann MP at the March 2016 conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Coalition for Combatting Anti-Semitism. It is available online at:

[Combating antisemitism](#)

Addressing Anti-Semitic Discourse

- 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 anti-Semitic themes**

whether or not they are used intentionally. This research must include practical recommendations for its application.

Response

DCLG is currently discussing how to take this research proposal forward.