Annual Antisemitism Barometer
2015 Full Report

Report of findings from new polls commissioned by the Campaign Against Antisemitism

© 2015 Campaign Against Antisemitism
Foreword:

A Wakeup Call

The Annual Antisemitism Barometer is the largest study of its kind. It reveals both the scale of antisemitic sentiment in Britain, and its effect on the increasingly-threatened British Jewish population.

Whilst antisemitism in Britain is not yet at the levels seen in most of Europe, the results of our survey should be a wakeup call. Britain is at a tipping point: unless antisemitism is met with zero tolerance, it will continue to grow and British Jews may increasingly question their place in their own country.

The year 2014 saw a record-breaking number of antisemitic incidents perpetrated against Jewish people and Jewish property in Britain. Antisemitism is usually most visible in Great Britain during crises involving Israel, but the sentiment behind it does not simply disappear when the crises end.

Britain is at a tipping point: unless antisemitism is met with zero tolerance, it will continue to grow and British Jews may increasingly question their place in their own country.

The Mayor of London’s office recently revealed that in July 2014, when fighting between Israel and Hamas peaked, the Metropolitan Police Service recorded its worst ever month for hate crime in London, 95% of which was antisemitic hate crime directly related to fighting between Israel and Hamas.

It was in response to this record-breaking wave of antisemitism that in August 2014, the Campaign Against Antisemitism organised a grassroots-led movement dedicated to identifying and combatting antisemitism of both a classical ethno-religious nature and also a political nature related to Israel.

Some antisemitic views may be totally unintentional but are no less offensive for it. Many people in the UK have simply never met Jewish people, and might have stereotypical ideas of them. This is a smaller problem which simply needs better education and discussion so that people can appreciate that, as with any minority group, Jewish people are not defined only by their religion or race. ‘Unintentional’ stereotypes should be highlighted more often, and those espousing them will be able to better understand that they are offensive.

To effectively fight antisemitism we must examine both its origins and its consequences. It is our hope that this study will shed light on both of these aspects of this pernicious form of racism, in order that we can reduce its presence in British society. Antisemitism is not a problem only for Jewish people, but for all of Britain, which must uphold its tradition of tolerance and pluralism.

Gideon Falter
Chairman

Jonathan Sacerdoti
Director of Communications

British anti-Semitism set to hit record high, Daily Telegraph, 29th December 2014
Acknowledgements

Project Team

Angela Levin
David Schiller
Eddie Woolf
Gideon Falter
Jonathan Sacerdoti

Polling

We would like to thank YouGov Plc for surveying the British Public as well as the Movement for Reform Judaism, Spanish and Portuguese Jews’ Congregations and the United Synagogue, among many others, for helping us to poll a representative sample of the British Jewish community.

Donors

This project was made possible due to the generous support of the Anglo-Jewish Association and private donors.
Executive Summary

The Annual Antisemitism Barometer contains the findings of two separate surveys. Together, they measure both the scale of antisemitic sentiment amongst the British public, and its effect on British Jewry. This is the first such survey.

YouGov Survey for Campaign Against Antisemitism of the British Public’s Attitudes Towards British Jews

A nationally-representative sample of 3,411 British adults were polled by YouGov, twice the number statistically required.

- Shockingly almost half (45%) of British adults believe at least one of the antisemitic statements shown to them to be true, 1 in 4 people (26%) believe at least two statements to be true and 17% believe at least three statements.

- 1 in 4 people (25%) believe that “Jews chase money more than other British people”.

- 1 in 5 (20%) believe “Jews’ loyalty to Israel makes them less loyal to Britain than other British people.”

- 1 in 6 people (17%) believe that “Jews think they are better than other people” and that “Jews have too much power in the media.”

- 13% believe that “Jews talk about the Holocaust too much in order to get sympathy.”

- Of those polled, people who said that they intend to vote for UKIP consistently believed more antisemitic statements to be true than average, by an average margin of 9%.

- Of those polled, 51% of men believe at least one antisemitic statement to be true, versus 39% of women.

All statistics and visualisations must be credited to “Campaign Against Antisemitism”.

Media 0330 822 0321  info@antisemitism.uk  @CAAntisemitism
Campaign Against Antisemitism Survey of the Jewish Community’s Reactions to Antisemitism

2,230 British Jewish people, equivalent to almost 1% of the Jewish population of Great Britain, were polled by Campaign Against Antisemitism.

- More than half of all British Jews feel that antisemitism now echoes the 1930s
- Well over half of British Jews (58%) believe Jews may have no long-term future in Europe.
- Over half of British Jews say that they have witnessed more antisemitism in the past two years than they have witnessed ever before.
- 1 in 4 British Jews has considered leaving the country in the past two years because of rising antisemitism.
- 45% of Jews questioned feel their family is threatened by Islamist extremism.
- 69% of British Jews believe that the Jewish community has to protect itself because the state does not protect it enough and 63% say that the authorities let too much antisemitism go unpunished.
- 77% of Jews questioned have witnessed antisemitism disguised as a political comment about Israel.
- 84% of Jews consider boycotts of businesses selling Israeli products to be intimidation and 82% say that media bias against Israel fuels persecution of Jews in Britain.

All statistics and visualisations must be credited to “Campaign Against Antisemitism”.
Methodology

Survey of the British Public’s Attitudes Towards British Jews, carried out by YouGov on behalf of Campaign Against Antisemitism

YouGov Plc surveyed 3,411 adults online for the Campaign Against Antisemitism’s survey of antisemitic sentiment within the British public. The results have been weighted and are representative of all adults in Great Britain (aged 18 and above). The fieldwork was conducted online between 21st December 2014 and 6th January 2015.

The fieldwork was conducted in two stages, each of which gathered a fully-representative sample of all adults in Great Britain. When individually weighted and compared, all of the figures in the two sub-samples were within margins of error, making it extremely unlikely that the figures are unrepresentative of adults in Great Britain.

All of the figures in the survey of the British public are from YouGov, which is a member of the British Polling Council and is registered with the Information Commissioner.

The survey was conducted using an online interview administered to members of the YouGov Great Britain panel of more than 185,000 individuals who have agreed to take part in surveys. An e-mail was sent to a sub-sample of panelists selected at random from the base sample according to the adult population of Great Britain, inviting them to take part in the survey and providing a link to the survey.

YouGov normally achieves a response rate of between 35% and 50% to surveys however this varies depending on the subject matter, complexity and length of the questionnaire. The responding sample has been weighted to the profile of the British adult population to provide a representative reporting sample. The profile is derived from census data or, if not available from the census, from industry accepted data.

The factors used to weight this survey were age and gender, social grade, newspaper readership, region and party identification.

Further information can be found at www.yougov.co.uk/about/panel-methodology.
Survey of Jewish People’s Reactions to Antisemitism, carried out by Campaign Against Antisemitism

The survey was completed by 2,230 Jewish people who reside in Great Britain. The fieldwork was conducted online between 23rd December 2014 and 11th January 2015.

The Campaign Against Antisemitism conducted this online survey by sending a weblink to members of the Jewish community. Several methods were used to ensure a wide and varied sample. The weblink was shared on social media sites, and was also served to users of Facebook through a targeted advertisement system. This offered the survey to users in Great Britain who identify on Facebook as having an interest in Judaism or Jewish issues. Additionally the weblink was shared by numerous individuals on their social media pages, as well as by mainstream Jewish organisations ranging from Limmud through to Jews for Justice for Palestinians.

In order to achieve representation of Jewish people of different Jewish denominations, the Movement for Reform Judaism, the Spanish and Portuguese Jews’ Congregations (Sephardi community) and the United Synagogue assisted by sending the weblink to the survey to their e-mail lists. Between them, the three organisations represent 43 Reform Jewish congregations, 4 Sephardi Jewish congregations and 62 Orthodox Jewish congregations.

The survey made use of web cookies and other electronic identifiers to avoid duplication of results by the same person completing the survey multiple times. The first question filtered out any respondents who did not identify as Jewish and residing in the United Kingdom. Respondents from Northern Ireland were subsequently filtered out manually.

The Campaign Against Antisemitism approached major polling organisations prior to conducting the survey itself, but was advised that they did not have enough Jewish panellists on their databases to conduct an effective or valid survey of the Jewish community.

They advised that a better quality of data could be obtained were the Campaign Against Antisemitism to distribute a survey online using its extensive network within the Jewish community.

There is little reliable data on the precise composition of the Jewish community, however census data shows its geographical distribution and accordingly the results of the survey have been weighted according to region, in order to provide a representative sample of British Jewish people.

Definition of Regions

Respondents from all of the regions of Great Britain were included in both surveys, and grouped as follows:

- Scotland: Just Scotland
- North: Includes North West, North East and Yorkshire and the Humber
- Midlands/Wales: Includes West Midlands, East Midlands and Wales
- London: Just London
- South: Includes South West, South East and East of England but excludes London
Results

Survey of the British Public’s Attitudes Towards British Jews, carried out by YouGov on behalf of Campaign Against Antisemitism

YouGov asked respondents eight questions, as follows:

1. Which one word do you most associate with the word “Jew”?

2. Here are a number of comments that different people have made about Jews in Britain these days. In each case, how true or untrue do you think these statements are in general?
   2.1. Jews think they are better than other people.
   2.2. In business, Jews are not as honest as most people.
   2.3. I would be unhappy if a family member married a Jew.
   2.4. Jews have too much power in the media.
   2.5. Jews chase money more than other British people.
   2.6. Jews’ loyalty to Israel makes them less loyal to Britain than other British people.
   2.7. Jews talk about the Holocaust too much in order to get sympathy.

The answers to question 1 are being used by the Campaign Against Antisemitism for its own analysis but are included as an appendix to this report.

The answers to all seven parts of question 2 are included below. We have also analysed how many respondents answered that at least one antisemitic statement was “probably true” or “definitely true”.

How many people in Britain believe the antisemitic statements to be definitely or probably true?

45% of the British public believe at least one statement to be true (definitely or probably).

1 in 4 people – 26% of the British public – believe at least two statements to be true.

17% of the British public believe at least three statements to be true.

11% of the British public believe at least four statements to be true.
Of those polled, men were more likely than women to believe at least one statement to be true, with 51% of men believing at least one statement to be true and 39% of women. 32% of the men polled believe at least two statements to be true.

Of those polled, 30% of Scots believe at least one statement (the lowest regional figure) compared to 49% of residents of the North of England (the highest regional figure).

“Jews think they are better than other people”
17% of British adults believe this to be true, however the number was 27% amongst respondents who intend to vote for UKIP.
Amongst these, the numbers were highest for respondents in London (24%) and the North (20%).
25% of respondents who were neither Christian, Catholic nor atheist also thought that the statement was true.

“In business, Jews are not as honest as most people”
11% of British adults believe this to be true.

“I would be unhappy if a family member married a Jew”
10% of British adults believe this to be true.
73% of those who believe this statement to be true also believe at least one other statement to be true.

“Jews have too much power in the media”
17% of British adults believe this to be true.
24% of the Londoners polled believe this to be true.
29% of respondents who were neither Christian, Catholic nor atheist also thought that the statement was true.
Of those polled, 23% of male respondents believe this to be true, versus 11% of women.

“Jews chase money more than other British people”
1 in 4 British adults (25%) believe this to be true, however the number was 39% amongst respondents who intend to vote for UKIP.
Of these, 29% of male respondents believe this to be true, versus 21% of women.
Of those polled, 30% of respondents aged over 60 believe this to be true.

“Jews’ loyalty to Israel makes them less loyal to Britain than other British people”
1 in 5 British adults (20%) believe this to be true.
Of these, 25% of male respondents believe this to be true, versus 15% of women.
27% of the Londoners polled believe this to be true.

“Jews talk about the Holocaust too much in order to get sympathy”
13% of British adults believe this to be true, however the number was 21% amongst respondents who intend to vote for UKIP.
Of those polled, 17% of male respondents believe this to be true, versus 10% of women.
20% of the Londoners polled believe this to be true.
Survey of Jewish People’s Reactions to Antisemitism, carried out by Campaign Against Antisemitism

We asked respondents two data integrity questions, then thirteen survey questions, as follows:

1. Are you a Jew currently living in Britain? (Those not answering “yes” were disqualified)
2. Simply so that we can identify trends in different regions, please let us know which part of the UK you live in.

We will now show you a series of statements. Please tell us for each statement whether you strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree or strongly disagree.

1. I am concerned that Jews may not have a long-term future in Britain.
2. I am concerned that Jews may not have a long-term future in Europe.
3. My family and I are threatened by Islamic extremism in Britain.
5. Media bias against Israel fuels persecution of Jews in Britain.
6. I have witnessed antisemitism that was disguised as a political comment about Israel.
7. I try not to show visible signs of my Judaism when I go out, like a Magen David or a kippah.
8. I often avoid mentioning that I’m Jewish when I’m with new people.
9. In the past two years I have witnessed or experienced more antisemitism than in previous years.
10. In the past two years I have considered leaving Britain due to antisemitism.
11. The authorities let too much antisemitism go unpunished.
12. The Jewish community has to protect itself because the state doesn’t protect it enough.
13. The recent rise in antisemitism in Britain has some echoes of the 1930s.

Results

“I am concerned that Jews may not have a long-term future in Britain”

45% agree (15% strongly agree)
37% disagree
60% of Jewish people in Scotland agree, 54% in the North of England and 46% in London

“I am concerned that Jews may not have a long-term future in Europe”

58% agree (25% strongly agree)
28% disagree
65% of Jewish people in the North of England agree
“My family and I are threatened by Islamic extremism in Britain”
45% agree (15% strongly agree)
37% disagree
60% of Jewish people in Scotland agree, 54% in the North of England and 46% in London

Boycotts of businesses selling Israeli products constitute intimidation
84% agree (57% strongly agree)
11% disagree
90% of Jewish people in the North of England agree

“Media bias against Israel fuels persecution of Jews in Britain”
82% agree (57% strongly agree)
11% disagree
88% of Jewish people in the North of England agree

“I have witnessed antisemitism that was disguised as a political comment about Israel”
77% agree (44% strongly agree)
13% disagree
82% of Jewish people in the North of England agree, 80% in the Midlands

“I try not to show visible signs of my Judaism when I go out, like a Magen David or a kippah”
37% agree (12% strongly agree)
42% disagree (19% strongly disagree)

“I often avoid mentioning that I’m Jewish when I’m with new people”
27% agree (9% strongly agree)
57% disagree (28% strongly disagree)

“In the past two years I have witnessed or experienced more antisemitism than in previous years”
56% agree (27% strongly agree)
26% disagree
66% of Jewish people in the North of England agree, 64% in Scotland

“In the past two years I have considered leaving Britain due to antisemitism”
25% agree (9% strongly agree)
63% disagree
31% of Jewish people in the North of England agree
“The authorities let too much antisemitism go unpunished”
63% agree (34% strongly agree)
19% disagree
68% of Jewish people in the North of England agree

“The Jewish community has to protect itself because the state doesn’t protect it enough”
69% agree (33% strongly agree)
18% disagree
77% of Jewish people in the North of England agree

“The recent rise in antisemitism in Britain has some echoes of the 1930s”
56% agree (23% strongly agree)
27% disagree (10% strongly disagree)
64% of Jewish people in the North of England agree
Appendix
Responses to the Word-Association Question

Duplicates have been removed and corrections have not been made.

antisemitism,  
Apartheid,  
arab,  
arabic,  
argumentative,  
artistic,  
Astute,  
auschwitz,  
Auschwitz,  
Austwich,  
Avrice,  
Avarice,  
Awful,  
bacon,  
Bacon,  
bagel,  
baiges,  
Bagels,  
barister,  
Barmitzpa,  
Barmitzva,  
Bar Mitzvah,  
Barmitzfa,  
BARMITZFA,  
beard,  
Beard,  
beards,  
Being united as a race,  
belief,  
Believer,  
Bellson,  
bible,  
Bible,  
big nose,  
big nosed,  
Bigot,  
Bigoted,  
bigotted,  
black,  
blamed,  
Blessed,  
Blinkered,  
born,  
buisness,  
Buisness,  
bullys,  
business,  
Business,  
business people,  
businesman,  
Businessmen,  
bussiness,  
camps,  
canny,  
Careful people,  
Cartman,  
celebratory,  
certain,  
charming,  
chassidic,  
Chbfsd,  
cheap,  
chosen,  
CHosen,  
Christ,  
CHRIST,  
Christ.  
Christian,  
Christian.

Circumcise,  
circumcision,  
Circumcision,  
Circumsicion,  
clan,  
cleansing,  
clever,  
Committed,  
community,  
Compassion,  
Complaining,  
complicated,  
Complicated,  
con,  
concentration camps,  
conflict,  
conservative,  
Conspiracy,  
corruption,  
craftsmen,  
Cruel,  
cruelty,  
culture,  
Culture,  
cultured,  
dk,  
damp morning,  
david,  
Death,  
Decent,  
derided,  
Derogatory,  
devout,  
diamonds,  
Diamonds.
Humour
hunicka
hypocrite
i
I don't
I dont
I find this question very strange and I have no answer to it.
If used instead of 'Jewish' a warning bell rings,
immigrant
inappropriate
industrious
industrious
influential
Injustice
Inspirational
Insular
insult
Intellect
intelligent
Intelligent
Intelligent argument
interesting
Interesting
intolerance
intransigance
israel
ish
ish.
israel
Israel
ISRAEL
Israel.
israeli
Israeli
Israeli
Israeli
Israeli
Israeli
Israelite
Israelite
ISRAELITE
Israelite.
israeli
israel
ISRAIL
Israeli
isreal
Israel
isreali
Isreali
isrealite
isrel
It is the term used for Jewish people I believe
jerusalem
Jerusalem
JERUSALEM
jesus
Jesus
JESUS
jew
Jew
jewish
Jewish
jewish people
jewish person
jews
Jews
jews jeweilears
Judah
judiasm
Judaism
Judaism
jumping
judaism
killers
Kind
Kipa
kippah
kite
klezmer
kosha
Kosha
kosher
Kosher
laughter
law-abiding
Law-abiding
Leaders
Lending
locks
love
lovely
loyal
Manchester
Manipulative
me
Me
mean
Mean
Mean and miser
Men
Merchant
messiah
Middle eastern
miliband
Minority
minority's
miser
Miser
miserly
misinformed
money
Money
MONEY
money grabber
Money-grabbing
monotheism
moses
Moses
mosque
mother
mum
murder
murderers
music
muslim
myself
Myself
n/a
N/a
N/A
na
narzis
Nationality
nazi
Nazi
nazis
Nazis
Neighbour
nice
NICE
nicest
no associations
No comment
No one word
no word but an image of a
sallow-skinned man.
none
None
NONE
Normal
northlondon
nose
Nose
Noses
not
NOT SURE
not very nice
nothing
Nothing
occupation
oddball
ok
One of oldest religions
one religion of many
oppressed
Oppressed
oppression
Oppression
opressed
Orthodox
orthodox
Orthodox
outcast
palastine
palantine
Palestine
Palestine
Palestine!
Palestine
parranoid
Passover
pass
passion
passover
Passover
peaceful
people
People
PEOPLE
PEOPLE BORN IN ISRAEL AND THEIR CHILDREN

People with a good sense of humour
perscution
persecuted
Persecuted
PERSECUTED
persecuted.
Persecuted.
persecution
Perscution
persicuted
person
Person
perscuted
pogrom
Pork
Powerful
predudice
prejudice
problems
prolific
rabbio
Rabbi
rabi
race
Race
raceist
racism
Racism
racy
Radicalism
Rebeccas
Refugee
region
rejected
religion
Religion
Religion
RELIGION
Religious
religious
Religious
RELIGIOUS
Religious belief
religious foreign people
Religious Group
Religious people very kind
Religious person
religious person originally from Israel
religiousness
religion
Religion
religious
repression
Resilient
Respectable
revenge
rich
Rich
ringlets
rude
Rude
sabbath
Sabbath
Sadness
scapegoat
scientists
scrooge
scrooged
segregation
selfish
Selfish
Semetic
semite
Semite
semitic
Semitic
semitism
Separated
Serious
Shabbat
shalom
Shalom
Shekels
shingle
shoah
Shoah
Shopkeeper
short for Jewish, slang for Israeli
shrewd
Shrewd
shylock
Shylock
sideburns
Significant
sister
Skinflint
skull cap
skull caps
Skullcap
smart
smash
someone from Israel
Someone who follows Judaism
someone who is Jewish
someone who practices the Jewish faith
someone whose faith is Judaism
soup
spiritual
spiteful
Spring
spurs
Spurs
Stamfordhill
star
Star
Star of David
stateless
stingy
Stingy
strength
strong
Strong
successful
Successful
suffering
Suffering
sugar
Swarthy
synagog
Synagog
synagogue
synagogue
 SYNagogue
szczeka
tailor
Talented
Talmud
terror
Terrorist
The Holocaust
The Torah
their beleave
Thrift
Thrifty
THRIFTY
tight
Tight
tight fisted
Tight with money
Tight/thrifty (in the UK)
tightfisted
tightwad
torah
Torah
Tormented
tottenham hotspur fc
tottenham
Tottenham
tough
trade
trader
tradition
Tradition
Traditional
traditions
trauma
tribe
trouble
Trouble
trustworthy
unacceptable
unapproachable
underdogs
unfair
Unjust
unpleasant
Unrest
unsure
untrustworthy
Untrustworthy
Usury
victim
victimised
victims
Violent
Wanderer
wandering
War
WAR
war mongers
war-like
warm
water
wealth
Wealth
wealthy
Wealthy
Whinging
why
Wisdom
wish
Wittgenstein
witty
Wrong
ww
Ww2
x
xdfghdfgh
yes
YHWH

yid
Yid
YID
yiddish
Yiddish
yiddo
zionism
Zionism
zionist
Zionist
zionists
Zionists
Ziva