



LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR

A RESOURCE ABOUT ANTISEMITISM
AND OTHER PREJUDICE
INCLUDING POWERPOINT WITH VIDEOS



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**“The world is a dangerous place to live; not because of the people who are evil,
but because of the people who don’t do anything about it.”**

Albert Einstein



Dear Teacher

Thank you for taking the time to address this vital topic. Anti-Jewish racism, known as antisemitism, is on the rise. Unfortunately it is not always taken as seriously as other forms of racism. Within living memory of the Holocaust, antisemitism is once again increasing. At Campaign Against Antisemitism (CAA) we pursue justice. Our motto is "Justice, Justice shall you pursue" (Deuteronomy 16:20), and that is what we do. A core part of this work is ensuring that future generations are inoculated against antisemitism and to do this we need your help. Jews are a tiny minority and cannot fight hatred alone. Jews make up roughly 0.2 percent or 1 in 500 of the world's population. In fact there are only 269,000 Jews in the UK, according to the most recent census. The CAA analysis of Home Office statistics shows that Jews are almost four times more likely to be targets of hate crime than other faith groups. They need the help of good people of other faiths.

This begins in the classroom. Education is critical to the fight against antisemitism. Hopefully this material will form a basis for challenging tropes before children are faced with them at university, work or even at home.

This resource for teachers is designed to accompany a PowerPoint presentation but can also be used on its own.



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INTRODUCTION

Slide 2 – Pope Francis and former Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks are two men who are working hard to encourage tolerance.

Slide 3 – Pope Francis said:
There is an intrinsic kinship (family feeling) between Christianity and Judaism and G-d has never abandoned his solemn agreement with the Jewish people.

He also said:
 Catholics should do all that is possible with our Jewish friends to reject anti-Jewish tendencies.

As the Pope says:
 The Catholic Church can never be anti-Jewish because of the Jewish roots of Christianity.
 'Remember the Old Testament is holy for both of us.'

DIVERSITY AND TOLERANCE (PRIMARY SCHOOL LEVEL)

Slide 4 – A Tale of Two Eggs

Eggs can look different on the outside – some are brown and some are white – but on the inside they are the same.

*What are the eggs like on the inside?
 What message is this giving you?*

Teacher could bring one brown and one white egg, open them up and ask the children to explain the differences and similarities between eggs.

It is easier to get along with and like people who are just like you.
 If we open ourselves up to mixing with or just listening to people who are not just like us we are opening ourselves up to kindness and making ourselves cleverer at the same time.

Why might mixing with people that are not just like you make you kinder and cleverer?

Slide 5 – Love your Neighbour

How can we be different from each other?

- Age
- School
- Youth club, Brownie or Cub group
- Race
- Religion or branch of religion
- Education
- Home town
- Football team

Being asked to mix with someone from a different culture or background requires us to leap outside our comfort zones.

Ask the children which is the most important for them in the list on the PowerPoint.

Can they think of other ways of loving their neighbour?

The Old Testament or Hebrew bible says in the book of Leviticus (19:18) :
 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

Jesus says in Matthew (22:37):
 'Love the Lord your G-d with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'
 The Old Testament says in the book of Deuteronomy (6:4,5) :
 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our G-d, the Lord is one. Love the LORD G-d with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.'
 Jesus's second great commandment (Matthew 22:39) is:
 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

What does "Love your neighbour" mean?

These two commandments, loving G-d and loving your neighbour, are taken from the Old Testament which is followed by Jews and Christians.

Pope Francis also said:
 Every day I pray with the Psalms of David – my prayer is Jewish. I also say the Eucharist which is Christian.

Today Catholics in Britain have chosen Judaism as the second religion to study in their schools. Catholics and Jews have much in common as they share the same family values and the same sense of social responsibility.

Slide 6 – Rabbi Sacks and Mother Teresa have both been winners of the Templeton Prize for their exceptional contributions to spirituality.

Rabbi Sacks believes in 'the dignity of difference.' This means we should respect the different ways we worship G-d.

There is nothing wrong with being different. G-d loved diversity. This is why there are so many different creatures, flowers and trees on this earth and so many different languages and races and religions.

Some Christians, Jews, Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs may wear different clothes but this is no reason not to like them. Not judging a book by its cover is what tolerance and loving your neighbour is all about. Mother Teresa said: 'If you judge people you have no time to love them.'

What did she mean?

In her Christmas message in 2018 the Queen said: 'Even with the most deeply held differences, treating the other person with respect and as a fellow human being is always a first good step to greater understanding.'

**Can you put this into your own words?
Create a slogan.**

We have a thriving Council of Christians and Jews and a Muslim Jewish Forum. Jews, Christians and Muslims can get along very well. But there is more to do to foster greater understanding and tolerance.

The former Chief Rabbi, Lord Jonathan Sacks says:

'We are all different, unique, that is what makes us human. A society that has no room for difference has no room for humanity. The hate that begins with the Jews never ends with the Jews. Whenever you find antisemitism there will also be a threat to freedom.'

'The hate that begins with the Jews never ends with the Jews.'
Put this sentence into your own words.

PREJUDICE

What is prejudice?

Slide 7 – Prejudice definition

Prejudice is a dislike of an individual or group of people based on ideas that are false.

As the word suggests, prejudice involves prejudging others. When prejudice occurs, stereotyping, discrimination and bullying may result.

Give each child a piece of paper and ask them to write down examples of prejudice that they have faced themselves, or seen take place.

How did it make you feel?

What can we do to overcome prejudice?

Slide 8 – Our Differences

If you hear someone say '**all** Jews, black people or Irish are'... you know it is prejudice.

Not all black people, Asian people or Jewish people are the same. There are good and bad people of all religions, colours and nationalities. People are just people. Prejudice against Jews is called antisemitism. Antisemitism is a hatred of Jews – individually or as a group. It is the world's oldest hatred.

As Rabbi Jonathan Sacks says:
'Jews were hated because they were different, but difference is what makes us human. It is a fact that each one of us, even genetically identical twins, is different. That makes each one of us irreplaceable. It is our difference that makes every human life 'a universe'. And it is the difference in every culture that makes every culture unique, special, and have the non-negotiable right to exist.'

Every single human being is holy, and every culture is special, because it is different. Difference is what makes us human. And a society that has no room for difference has no room for humanity.

**Does Rabbi Sacks like difference?
Do you agree with Rabbi Sacks?**

Write down what you think is good about difference and diversity.

Exercise:

Ask all the children to stand up.

Ask all the children with brown eyes to sit down.

Then ask all the children with blonde hair to sit down. Then ask all the children with a sister to sit down. Then ask those that remained standing how they would feel if they were picked on because they were different.

At an interfaith event at a Salford school a few years ago an 11-year-old boy repeatedly asked the Rabbi to remove his hat. Why? He was not trying to be disrespectful. It was because he was looking for horns. It was because for centuries people believed Jews had horns and were therefore devils. This is because the famous sculptor Michelangelo depicted Moses with horns. This was based on a bad translation of the book of Exodus [34:29] where it was reported that when Moses came down from Mount Sinai his face gave off rays of light. The Hebrew word karan, meaning "gave off rays" was translated as "gave off horns"!

Prejudice is often based on false "facts".

Can you think of an example when someone spread a false rumour and everybody thought it was true?

In public life there is something known as fake news. For example it was fake news that the measles vaccine was dangerous. There is a saying: 'If you tell a lie often enough, people begin to believe it.' What does it mean? A lot of prejudice starts with fake news.

It is important to speak to children about prejudice as prejudice can motivate race crime.

What examples can you think of race crime or hate crime?

Racism and racist bullying includes:

- *Being called racist names or sent racist messages.*
Which messages are more cruel – face to face or online?
- *Being left out or treated differently.*
People make assumptions about you because of your religion or race – this is stereotyping.
- *Being made to feel that you have to change how you look.*
- *Racist jokes.*
- *Racist graffiti.*

In January 2020 a swastika and a Celtic cross (a symbol of white supremacy) were daubed on a Caribbean takeaway in Greenwich. Another Celtic cross, Stars of David, and the word "Jews" were daubed on a Barclays Bank nearby.

Racist graffiti has been found on gravestones in a Jewish cemetery in Blackley, Manchester.

How would you feel if you went to visit your relatives' graves and found them trashed and disrespected?

The black Labour MP for Tottenham, David Lammy, was trolled with the words: 'Be glad we have taken in a black man. Go back to where you originally came from.' There are children from Poland/Romania/Pakistan/India/Jamaica in your school. Would you say 'Go back to where you came from' to them?

Racism is even found in football. At some Spurs matches the opposing fans make hissing noises to sound like the gas chambers where the Jews were murdered in World War II. Spurs are called 'the Yids' because they have a history of Jewish supporters and owners and have had Jewish managers.

Black footballers such as Raheem Sterling have also received hurtful racist remarks. At the Montenegro v England international match in March 2019 black players were subjected to appalling racist chants. Some fans even made monkey noises, a common insult made against black people.

Why do some 'fans' behave like this? What have they not learnt?

Would you report or ignore racist behaviour like this?

STEREOTYPES

If you don't get to know someone of a different race, religion or background you may believe stereotypes about them such as all old people are unable to use technology, midwives and childminders are always women, all Asians are good at maths, all black people are good at sports, only men like watching football, all Jews are rich. Stereotyping people leads to prejudice and discrimination.

Stereotypes around Jews are centuries old and they persist throughout the world. Jews are not all wealthy, do not wield some kind of collective power and are not responsible for the state of Israel, or the behaviour of other people who happen to be Jewish. In reality Jews in Britain work in exactly the same jobs as everybody else, ranging from taxi drivers and plumbers to doctors and teachers. Stereotypes that are often applied to Jews do not relate to reality. To break these stereotypes can be tough and takes serious analysis, honesty and open discussion.

Can you give me an example of a stereotype?

A clue is if someone uses the word 'all' when describing a group. Viewing someone as different or 'the other' can have tragic consequences. Stereotypes can not only lead to false beliefs, but they can also result in prejudice and discrimination and even bullying and violence.

*How does prejudice start?
How does it end if left unchecked?*

What do you think of when somebody mentions a Jewish person?

Do you know anybody who is Jewish or has Jewish relatives?

What do Jewish people do for a living? Are they all bankers or rich?

*Jews are often portrayed as evil and money-grabbing characters in literature, like Fagin in Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens or Shylock in The Merchant of Venice by William Shakespeare.
Why is this? Is this fair?*

Some England football fans get drunk and behave badly. Does this mean that all English people drink too much and behave badly?

Slide 9 – Belgian carnival float

In March 2019 a carnival float going through Aalst, a Belgian town, showed grotesque caricatures of Chassidic Jews: hooked noses, hands reaching out for money, rat on shoulder and sitting on money bags. In 2020 the same carnival depicted Jews as hideous insects.

What stereotypes of Jews can you identify?

Slide 10 – Nazi propaganda stereotype of a Jew

Compare with Nazi poster from 1937.
What are the similarities between the two?
Answer: Both feature grotesque images of religious Jewish men with big noses holding or hoarding money. These are all classic anti-Jewish stereotypes.

If you saw a float like this showing a stereotype of a Jew, a black person or a Muslim what would you think?

SCAPEGOATS

When times are bad, communities project their fears and aggressions on 'the other'. 'The other' is usually different in ways such as colour, culture, dress, language or nationality.
For centuries the Jew had been 'the other' in Europe and elsewhere and the one to blame when things went wrong.
In the 18th century during the Enlightenment, Jews became more accepted in European society. Jews became successful in the professions, industry, commerce and the arts. But after World War I Germany and Austria were humiliated by their defeat and their economies were in ruins. The Jews became a scapegoat, leading to the Holocaust in WWII.

Is it human nature to blame somebody else when something goes wrong rather than take responsibility for the problem yourself?

What's the right thing to do?

Can this be true of nations as well as people?

Is it fair to blame all Chinese people for the coronavirus pandemic that started in Wuhan in China?

THINKERS

Slide 11 – 13 Pastor Niemöller’s message

Who was Martin Niemöller?

He was born in Germany in 1892.

He served in the German navy in World War I but was discharged for failing to obey orders.

Niemöller began training to become a pastor, got married and had six children.

Like many Germans he believed Germany needed a strong leader and welcomed Hitler’s rise to power. But Niemöller came to realise that Germany was becoming a dictatorship. He began to openly oppose the Nazis, who wanted to ‘purify the German race’ by killing Jews, political dissidents and others. This led to Niemöller being arrested several times and thrown into a concentration camp. He remained in German concentration camps for seven years.

After the War Niemöller became president of the Protestant Church in Hesse and Nassau. He spent the rest of his life working for peace.

Niemöller’s famous poem recognised that hatred towards one group usually does not end there, and is about the importance of being an upstander and not a bystander.

Upstander definition:

‘An upstander is someone who recognises when something is wrong and acts to make it right. Being an upstander is being a hero: we are standing up for what is right and doing our best to help support and protect someone who is being hurt.’

Definition of a bystander:

‘A bystander is someone who does not speak up or act when they see an act of intolerance taking place.’

Which groups, according to the poem, did Hitler and the Nazis come for?

Answer: Socialists (Communists), trade unionists, Jews, everyone else they did not like.

Is the person in the poem an upstander or a bystander?

What is the message of the poem?

The Nazis singled out the Jews as the main target for killing but they also picked out:

- People with mental or physical disabilities
- Psychiatric patients
- Male homosexuals
- Gypsies
- Criminals
- Alcoholics

Did anybody stand up for these groups? Were they upstanders? Not many.

Why did people stay quiet?

Some supported the Nazis and others, they were afraid or they didn’t care what happened to others as long as their own lives improved.

You do not have to risk your life to be an upstander but you can do something small to show that you think bullying people of a different race or religion is wrong.

What can we do if we witness injustice, brutality, hatred or discrimination?

If we all had the courage to stand up to bullying of ‘the other’ we could make a difference and make the world a better place.

Was Niemöller an upstander or a bystander? Was he brave?

What traits do you need to be an upstander? Courage, open-mindedness, good conscience.

What can you do if someone is being bullied in a racist manner?

Don’t laugh, don’t encourage bullying, don’t join in. Speak out, befriend victims, tell a teacher or a parent/guardian, etc.

Slide 14 – 15 Edmund Burke

Edmund Burke was an 18th century Anglo-Irish philosopher, politician and writer.

“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil... ... is that good men do nothing.”

What does this mean?

Edmund Burke means that good people should oppose evil actively. If they just ignore evil it will grow and spread. Eventually evil will become so powerful that it will win over good.

Do you agree with Edmund Burke?

Is Edmund Burke an upstander or a bystander?

Is Germany under the Nazis an example of good men doing nothing in the face of evil?

'Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little.'

Explain:

'I am only one small person, what can I do to change the world for the better?'

Give an example of how you could do something small to help wipe out racism.

As former Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks says:
 Antisemitism is a hatred that begins with Jews, but never ends with Jews. And that is why we have to stand together with as many friends and allies as we can, with Christians, with moderate Muslims, with Sikhs, with Hindus.'

HISTORY (HIGH SCHOOL YR 8 -13)

Slide 16 – Video: Jonathan Sacks on The Mutation of Antisemitism
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3UAcYn4uUbs>

PowerPoint note: After the embedded video, click on to slide 17.

It is useful to know the history of antisemitism before looking at the present.

Antisemitism mutates to survive and has always spanned the political spectrum. In ancient times, the Egyptians, Greeks and Romans, who worshipped many gods, expressed hatred toward the Jews, who worshipped only one G-d. Pontius Pilate, a Roman governor, killed Jesus, himself Jewish, but the Jews were blamed.

Historically racism against Jews in England and Europe has been based on religious persecution, accusing Jews of Satanic rituals, the killing of Jesus and even child sacrifice in the form of the "Blood Libel", an infamous claim that Jews use the blood of Christian children in their bread – a baseless claim that persists to this day. In the Middle Ages, Jews were told they were guilty of killing Christ, even though Jesus, who was Jewish, was crucified by the occupying Romans who saw him as a Jewish agitator.

In 1096 the armies of the First Crusade set out from Western Europe to rescue the holy places of Christianity from Islamic rule. On their way they slaughtered Jews in France and Germany. In Christian medieval Europe, Jews were said to have a special smell and were prohibited

from entering many professions. Throughout the centuries in Europe, the Jew has been 'the other' – set apart by culture, religion, rituals and dress.

Slide 18 – Medieval Jewish hat

Write down what you might say if a bully told your Jewish friend they had to wear a humiliating hat or similar.

Slide 19 – Antisemitism mutates

In medieval Europe Jews were not allowed to own land or enter trades so many were made to be moneylenders – a trade forbidden to Christians.

They were often accused of the Blood Libel. Jews were further blamed for causing the Black Death by poisoning wells. In medieval art Jews were portrayed as devils with evil faces, horns and tails. The Protestant Church inherited much anti-Jewish prejudice from Catholics. In 1543 Martin Luther, the reformer, initially supportive of the Jewish community, reacted badly to the Jews' refusal to convert and wrote an antisemitic book, *On the Jews and Their Lies*. He denounced the Jews as 'the devil's people', as 'liars and bloodhounds' and a 'bloody and revengeful people'. He said: 'We are not at fault in slaying them. Set fire to their synagogues and schools and bury or cover with dirt whatever will not burn.' Luther also had a big influence on later European antisemitism, including the Nazis in the 20th century.

In the early modern period Jews were made outcasts by being made to live in ghettos – enclosed areas for Jews – and to wear special badges or hats. Throughout this period religious based antisemitism continued and Jews continued to face discrimination and separation.

[Note: Ghetto is Italian for foundry. The first ever ghetto was on the site of a former foundry in Venice. The word came to mean any enclosed area for Jews.]

Following the Enlightenment, in the 18th century religion ceased to be an acceptable basis for discrimination and Jews became more accepted in society, afforded a measure of equal rights. But antisemitism mutated and religious persecution gave way to racial hate. Jews were discriminated against for their genetics rather than their beliefs. This has predominantly come from the far right, culminating in the worst atrocity committed on European soil, the Holocaust, in which 6 million Jews, alongside gay people, Roma, disabled people, communists, socialists and others were massacred.

INTRODUCTION TO THE HOLOCAUST

Hitler believed the Aryan race – white Northern Europeans – were a superior race. Hitler believed in euthanasia (painless killing) for those who were considered inferior in society. When the Nazis came to power in 1933 they carried out ‘mercy killings’ on 70,000 men, women and children in institutions. This included old people, disabled people, sick people, mentally ill people and people with special educational needs.

Hitler also believed a forged document called *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*. This document, which was actually written by a Russian Jew-hater, pretended to show that Jews were planning to rule the world.

In 1925, Hitler wrote *Mein Kampf* [My Struggle]. In it he said: ‘No boy or girl must leave school without having a clear insight into the meaning of racial purity and the importance of maintaining the racial blood unadulterated.’

This is what the white supremacists who killed Jews in a synagogue in Pittsburgh, USA and Muslims in mosques in New Zealand and other racist attackers believe. They admire Adolf Hitler because, like him, they think white people are superior to other groups and races.

The Nazis wanted to create a Jew-free Europe. To do this they took concrete steps to dehumanise Jews, stopping people from seeing their Jewish friends and family as human.

First the Nazis spread vicious stereotypes against Jews, such as:
 All Jews are rich
 Jews control the banks
 Jews control the news and the radio
 Jews are stingy

The Nazis also made the Jews the scapegoat for all the bad that had happened to the Germans, such as losing World War I, the negotiation of the Treaty of Versailles, rising prices and a poor economy.

Slide 20 - 23 Nuremberg Laws

The Nuremberg Laws were anti-Jewish laws introduced by the Nazis in stages from 1933. At first the laws made life difficult for the Jews. As more were introduced they made life unbearable.

Jews cannot own agricultural land
 Jews are banned from smoking
 All Jewish organisations are dissolved and their assets seized
 Jews must hand in their radios
 Jews are banned from the Civil Service
 Jews must hand in their pets
 Jews are banned from senior positions in the Unions
 Jews must hand in their bikes
 Jews are banned from swimming pools

This, combined with propaganda that made Jews appear evil, led many Germans, Austrians, Poles and others to turn a blind eye when Jews were dismissed from their jobs and Jewish children were sent home from school. They looked the other way when Jewish shops were boycotted and Jews had their homes and businesses taken off them.

Was Einstein right when he said “The world is a dangerous place to live; not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don’t do anything about it”? Could more good people have done more?

Jews cannot be members of sports clubs
 Jews have to have a permit to travel
 Jews cannot buy newspapers
 Jews cannot buy magazines
 Jews cannot meet together
 Jews over the age of 6 must wear a Yellow Star
 Jews are banned from exhibitions
 Jewish converts are still Jews

Jews can be thrown out of their house at any time
 Jews cannot have clothes ration cards
 Jews who entered Germany after 1914 are stripped of their citizenship
 Who is a Jew defined by Nazis
 Jewish children cannot ask or answer any questions in class
 Jewish children must sit separately in class
 Jewish children cannot mix with non-Jewish children at break or at lunch

Jews cannot buy milk and eggs
 Jews must be in their house by 8pm in winter and 9pm in summer

Jews cannot buy white bread
 Jews cannot buy vegetables
 Jews cannot employ non-Jews
 Jews cannot be pharmacists
 Jews cannot hold political office or vote
 Jewish journalists cannot work for German papers
 Jews must not say 'Heil Hitler'

Following this Jewish people were crammed into ghettos such as the Warsaw Ghetto where many died of starvation or disease. Those who survived the ghettos were sent to concentration camps where they were worked to death, shot or gassed. Eventually the Nazis introduced the industrial slaughter of Jews by gassing in extermination camps such as Auschwitz. A new word was invented to describe this mass killing of Jews: genocide.

The Nazis held Jews collectively responsible for the perceived actions of any Jew they disliked, and many non-Jews as well, from communist to capitalist.

Hitler also murdered people who disagreed with his political views, people with mental or physical disabilities, homosexuals and gypsies.

Discuss these laws, especially the ones relating to children and school and ask how they would feel.

Put the laws in order of, in your opinion, the least to the most horrible and severe.

What makes the law you have chosen as most severe the most repellent?

Imagine you were a Jewish child living in a Nazi-occupied country during World War II. How would these laws affect you? Why would they make you feel sad or scared?

Can you believe this killing of the innocent – this greatest crime of all mankind – occurred only 75 years ago?

Should all Germans today be held responsible for what Adolf Hitler and the Nazis did in World War II? Are all British people responsible for the behaviour of a minority of drunk and racist football fans?

Are all British people of Chinese descent responsible for the actions of the Chinese government over the coronavirus pandemic?

(If you would like more educational material and resources relating to the history and impact of the Holocaust, please contact Campaign Against Antisemitism.)

MODERN ANTISEMITISM (YR 5 - 13)

Slide 24 – Modern antisemitism

Following the Holocaust the ideology of racial antisemitism lost mainstream support. Although groups such as the British National Party, National Action and Combat 18 (the number 18 stands for Hitler's initials, as A is the first letter of the alphabet and H is the eighth letter), continue to promote it, and racial antisemitism continues to flourish in dark corners of the internet, it is not presently a viable political movement in the UK and lacks mainstream sympathy. However, racial antisemitism endures in several areas and political parties in Eastern Europe, as well as within far right movements in Western Europe and America. Meanwhile, religious and racial antisemitism remain very influential ideologies in parts of the Middle East and Asia.

While religious and racial antisemitism persist, a modern antisemitism has also developed for the present era. Often today antisemitism takes aim at the Jewish state, Israel. This 'new antisemitism' transfers many historic antisemitic tropes and ascribed characteristics onto the nation state of Israel, for example that it has outsized influence over world affairs. Just as in the past, people blamed Jews for social evils and persecuted them, today people blame the Jewish state for the wrongs of the world and claim that Israel should not exist. Calling for the destruction of the one and only sovereign Jewish state is antisemitic as it removes from Jews their right to self-determination. Whereas, in the past, people would proudly call themselves antisemites, today it is no longer fashionable to do so, and many Jew-haters, who do not believe themselves to be antisemitic, are obsessively critical of Israel whilst ignoring the outrages committed by other countries.

Antisemitism is racism against Jews. Antisemitism can target Jews in religious terms and in racial terms. A survey by Deltapoll taken in March 2019 showed that 51 percent of young adults aged 18-24 did not know what the term "antisemitism" meant.

This is especially worrying when a 2017 Campaign Against Antisemitism/YouGov survey of 1,500 adults across the UK showed:

36% of UK adults believe at least one antisemitic stereotype.

One in five people believe British Jews chase money more than other British people; and

13% think Jews have too much influence in the media.

These notorious falsehoods about undue influence come from the fraudulent Protocols of the Elders of Zion, published in Russia in 1903. It was meant to show that the Jews had a plan to rule the whole world. Though obviously absurd, it was also debunked by The Times in 1921, but it remained popular, with Henry Ford (the car magnate) publishing it in the US, Hitler using it as a basis for his hatred of the Jews and Islamists using it for propaganda purposes (one report suggested Arabic translations were even being sold in London). Today, images portraying Jews as rich and exploiting or dominating others persist, for example some critics of the billionaire and political activist George Soros needlessly emphasise his Jewishness and portray him as an octopus whose tentacles dominate the world, which is also a classic antisemitic trope.

More than one in ten said that Jewish people talk about the Holocaust just to further their political agenda.

According to a CNN poll in 2019: One in five said racism against Jews was a response to the way Jews behave.

Can you say ALL Jews behave in a certain way or is this stereotyping?

If certain Jews, Christians, Muslims or Hindus behave badly should you blame ALL of that group?

If some England football supporters are drunk and disorderly, does this mean ALL England fans behave badly?

This is an opportunity to discuss collective blame.

ANTISEMITISM TODAY IN ENGLAND

75 years after the Holocaust – the worst genocide in human history – people said “never again”. This represented a commitment that the Jews would never again be the targets of racism and antisemitic violence. But 2019 saw the highest number of antisemitic incidents ever recorded in a single calendar year in the UK, a growth on a continuous spike going back four years. We are living through a period of record levels of race hate crime. The Community Security Trust (CST) which monitors race hatred against Jews in the UK recorded over 1,800 antisemitic incidents in 2019. This is the second highest level since records began. And remember: most incidents go unreported, so the real figures are much higher.

The most common form of incident was verbal abuse directed at visibly Jewish people in public. As well as ultra-religious Jews who wear traditional religious garb (so are obviously Jewish) being targeted, children from Jewish schools have been subjected to abuse on the way to and from their schools.

There have been numerous incidents of damage to and desecration of Jewish property. For example there was £100,000 worth of damage to the Jewish cemetery in Urmston, Manchester. Police have treated the incident as a hate crime.

There have also been violent attacks on Jewish people and threats against Jewish children in their schools. Most Jewish institutions - including synagogues, schools and community centres - have security guards and other safety measures in place.

Holocaust denial is another key and prominent problem today. Some Holocaust deniers refer to the “holohoax”, downplaying the extent of the Holocaust or claiming it never really took place. This is happening despite all the excellent Holocaust education going on in schools across the country.

Jews are a tiny minority and cannot fight antisemitism alone. They need the support of Christian, Muslim, Hindu and Sikh friends. (Jews are very active in speaking out against forms of hatred toward other religions and groups.) Antisemitism and racism are not just about violence and bullying but can also be expressed as verbal insults, social media trolling and social and professional exclusion. Sadly Jews know that hatred that begins with words rarely ends with words.

Today the internet is providing a platform for repackaging old antisemitic tropes and spreading new ones.

This is common on the far right and has also become prevalent on the far left: The MP for Liverpool Wavertree, Luciana Berger experienced such hateful antisemitic internet trolling and death threats from far-left members of the Labour Party that she left the party.

'Shame on Luciana Berger, a Zionist bitch, I hate her, I hate her baby, her Israel.'

What hatreds can you identify in this statement?
Answer: "Zionist" is being used in a way that "Jewish" used to be. References to "bitch" and "baby" (Berger was pregnant at the time) may also be indicative of misogyny.

She also has had comments directed at her such as: 'Hitler was right'.

Why do you think this would be particularly hurtful to Jews? **Answer:** It suggests that Hitler and the Nazis were right to try to exterminate the Jewish people and implies regret that some Jews survived the Holocaust.

There was also an internet picture of Luciana Berger with a yellow star over her face with the words: 'You can always trust a Jew to show their true colours eventually.'

What is the yellow star a reference to? Why is this offensive?

Answer: The Nazis made the Jews wear yellow stars to identify them (Jews have also been made to wear stars or other distinctive clothing in other periods and places in history), and thereby functions as a threatening reference to the Holocaust and signals the user's agreement with the Nazis.

Slide 25 – Video Luciana Berger

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kej1Y84OdGM>

PowerPoint note: After the embedded video, click on to slide 26.

Why is it offensive to call her a Judas, a parasite, a Nazi? Answer: Referring to her as Judas suggests she is a traitor to her countrymen and alludes to old Christian antisemitism. The reference to "parasite" is also a classic antisemitic trope claiming that Jews exploit others for personal or collective gain. Calling her a "Nazi" is to suggest that Jews are perpetrators of great evil (another antisemitic trope) and that they deserved the Holocaust, and it is even more offensive for equating/substituting the victims of the Holocaust with their oppressors.

Discuss points on this video

Should Luciana Berger put her head in the sand and ignore racism?

Lord John Mann, the former Labour MP, who is not himself Jewish, has spoken up for MPs like Luciana Berger who have been driven out of the Labour Party just because they are Jewish.

Because John Mann has challenged racism against Jews his wife was sent a dead bird through the post by a Marxist antisemite. His wife was threatened with violence by far-left members of the Labour Party and their allies just because her husband spoke out against antisemitism. His teenage son received an Islamist death threat. His daughter had to be protected by the Special Branch of the Police.

Slide 27 – Hitler you were right

Why is this banner hurtful for Jewish people? Because of the Holocaust, Nazi imagery and prejudices are particularly hurtful and threatening. How would you feel if you were Jewish and had relatives who were killed in the Holocaust and you saw this message? Would you do anything about it? If so, what?

The Head of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, Marie van der Zyl, said:
 'We cannot let Britain become a place where a hijab or a kippah makes somebody a target.'
 Teacher may put kippah on pupils' heads (if available).

Campaign Against Antisemitism's "Antisemitism Barometer" showed that:
 36 percent of British adults still believe at least one antisemitic stereotype;
 one in three Jews have considered leaving Britain in the last two years over antisemitism; and
 36 percent of Jews conceal their Judaism in public. For example:
 Some Jewish girls used to wear a Star of David pendant on their necklaces but no longer feel safe doing so.
 Religious men cover their kippah (skullcap) with a baseball cap so as not to stand out as Jewish and become a target of antisemitism.

Here are a few stories to give you an idea of what it is like to suffer antisemitism in Manchester today.

Slide 28 – Avrom

*How would you describe this man? – Note that he is wearing a black kippah on his head.
 He is also wearing traditional black clothes worn by Orthodox Jews and has a beard, another sign of observant Judaism.*

Let me tell you his story.

His name is Avrom and he works as a social worker in a community centre for older, disabled and visually impaired members of the community. When asked if he ever experienced antisemitism, he replied: 'Are you joking? Look at me.' He said he could not walk down Bury New Road in North Manchester to synagogue anymore because people opened their car windows and shouted 'Dirty Jew'. He has even had a McDonald's meal thrown at him. He has stopped going for walks in the evening because he does not feel safe. He does not go into Manchester by bus any longer because of the abuse he has received at the bus station at Piccadilly Gardens.

The secretary in a large synagogue office was asked if he suffered antisemitism as he wears a large black kippah. He said: 'No, not really.' But when asked "Do people shout insults out of the car window at you?" He said: "All the time." This antisemitism had gone on for so long that he saw it as normal.

Should men wear a kippah on the way to the synagogue or should they hide the fact that they are Jewish? What do you think?

Should you be frightened to wear a religious symbol in public such as a cross, a hijab or a turban?

A young Jewish man who dresses very modernly but wears a kippah and tzitzit (a garment with fringes – a visible sign of being a religious Jew) has been told:

'Go back to where you come from – you don't belong here.'

He has been shoved and sworn at and referred to as 'You people'.

*What is wrong with saying 'You people'?
 Is he any less British than anybody else?*

Slide 29 – Going to school

Do you want to know what it is like to go to a Jewish school?

Many Jewish schools in the UK are surrounded by high fences, have bulletproof windows and are guarded 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Young children have sleeping bunny drills, a security measure in response to intruders and potential terrorists.

The head teacher of a Jewish school in Bury says that the parents of her pupils hear people shouting "Dirty Jew" at them as they deliver their kids to school.

An Irish lady returning from a week's holiday said to the taxi driver: 'I'm glad I've been away from Brexit for a week!' The taxi driver replied: 'It's the Jews' fault.' This is an example of scapegoating and blaming the troubles of society on the Jews.

A comic appeared on stage at the Edinburgh Festival and announced she was Jewish. At this point a whole section of the audience stood up and walked out. Why?

A newly-appointed head at a Bury primary school attended the local mosque. The headline in the Manchester Evening News quoted the worshippers reporting: 'She's Jewish but she's OK.' What is wrong with this?

*Another headteacher in a Jewish school reports that there are one-way windows in her school so people can look out but not look in. As well as the sleeping bunny exercises, where children hide under tables and remain silent, there are secret hiding places.
 Does this trouble you?*

Many Jewish schools in the UK have been installing extra security due to increased reports of anti-Jewish hate crime, incidents, and threats. In many countries in Europe, Jews have armed police protect them while they pray. Jewish children have armed guards protect them at school.

Synagogues in this country are guarded by volunteers from the Community Security Trust. Volunteer guards outside synagogues wear stab-proof vests under their jackets.

Not only do security guards put themselves at risk to protect worshippers and schoolchildren, but they can also become targets of antisemitic abuse because they are associated with a Jewish institution, even if they are not themselves Jewish. For example, a professional security guard on duty at a synagogue had 'Dirty Jew' shouted at him despite not being Jewish.

Why do the schools and synagogues need so much security? Answer: Unfortunately Jewish buildings and people are at a higher risk than the rest of society. Visibly Jewish buildings have been targeted in the UK. Extremists say they will kill children in their schools. Children have already been killed at Jewish schools and synagogues in France and Italy, and there have been attacks in the United States, Denmark and Turkey as well as on Jewish community centres, memorials and museums in Belgium, Greece, the United States, India and Argentina.

One Catholic teacher who used to teach at King David High School in Crumpsall, Manchester, which is a Jewish school, discovered what it was like to be Jewish in Manchester today. He reported that all members of staff had to wear a lanyard with their name and the name of the school. When he started, other teachers said 'Take that lanyard off before you go out of school at lunchtime'. They said if people saw the school name he would be called racist names and even attacked. He said "I am not even Jewish but I could be a victim of antisemitism."

In 2017 two kosher restaurants in Manchester were targeted in arson attacks by racists. In the summer of 2018 70 graves in a Jewish cemetery in Urmston were vandalised, leaving relatives heartbroken. £100,000 of damage was caused during three attacks in just over a month. Around 25 headstones were pushed over or smashed at the burial ground and a further 30 were damaged.

How would you feel if the grave of one of your loved ones was smashed or vandalised?

Other incidents of antisemitic crimes against Jews in Manchester in recent years include a plot, foiled by relatives, to plant a bomb in a Jewish communal building in Salford, and a man with an axe threatening people leaving a synagogue in Prestwich after Jewish New Year services. In 2019 a Jewish man at a kebab shop in Manchester was given the Nazi salute and subjected to vile antisemitic abuse. He was told that Jewish people should be 'wiped out' and his abusers even denied that the Holocaust took place.

Why would this incident be particularly hurtful to Jewish people?

In December 2019 antisemitic graffiti '9.11' was daubed outside a London synagogue. Why was this offensive. Discuss?

Answer: 9.11 refers to the attack on the twin towers office blocks in New York on September 11 2001, in which almost 3,000 people were killed. It implies that Jews, rather than Islamic terrorists, were responsible for the attack.

RACE HATE IN THE UK

The number of antisemitic incidents in Britain reached the highest levels on record in 2019, with a dramatic rise in abuse in social media.

Why do you think there is so much racial abuse on social media? Are you still a bully if you abuse someone on social media? What would you do if you saw racial abuse on social media?

At one of the Labour Party leadership hustings in February 2020 candidate Lisa Nandy MP said: Antisemitism is 'a sort of racism that punches up not down, that argues that Jewish people are privileged and powerful. And because there are people on the Left who believe it is their job to challenge privilege and power, therefore, wrongly and disgracefully, argue that Jewish people are a legitimate target for racism'.

Lisa Nandy believes antisemitism is different from other forms of racism.

Why is it different? Do you think it is harder to combat than other forms of racism?

RACE HATE IN THE WORLD

In October 2019, Robert Bowers, a white supremacist, opened fire and killed eleven worshippers at the Tree of Life Synagogue, Pittsburgh, USA. Inspired by Bowers, in March 2019 another white supremacist, Brenton Tarrant, murdered 50 Muslims and injured dozens of others in two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Why did they do this?

The clue is in the term white supremacist. White supremacists think anyone who is not white is inferior. They are often openly antisemitic, racist, homophobic and anti-Muslim.

The Jewish community in Pittsburgh responded by raising £150,000 to support the Muslim communities affected by the Christchurch shootings. Meanwhile, the Jewish community in New Zealand showed their solidarity with the Muslim community by shutting down all the synagogues in the country on the sabbath after the attack. Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis said in response to the Christchurch attack: 'There can be few acts of greater evil than the massacre of peaceful people at prayer. The victims and their families are in our hearts and prayers.'

Are these examples of upstanding? Why?

In Germany in 2018 there was a 10 percent increase in crimes linked to hatred of Jews and a 60 percent increase in violent attacks on Jews, according to the German government. 'Antisemitism in schools is a big problem', says German Families Minister Franziska Giffey. Germany is to send 170 anti-bullying experts into selected schools to tackle antisemitism among children.

Does it surprise you that German schools need to do this? Do you think it is particularly significant that antisemitism is on the rise in Germany?

IMPORTANCE OF INTERFAITH

Cardinal Vincent Nichols said in his December 2019 message: "... hatred can have no place in our way of life. Only when we see the good in each other will every person feel welcomed and unafraid."

But how can we see the good in each other unless we speak to each other and learn about each other?

The more people of different religions meet and get to know each other and their customs the better our understanding of one another will be. Loving your neighbour is an important principle in Christianity and Judaism. Much of the evil in the world starts with thinking and saying bad things about people from a different religion, race or colour.

Learning about other faiths increases understanding and fosters tolerance. Christianity and Judaism are both monotheistic faiths, as is Islam, which means they all believe in one G-d. All three religions started in the Middle East and trace their beginnings to Abraham, therefore they are known as the Abrahamic faiths. Interfaith means working together on issues of common concern and learning about what our faiths have in common, and also what sets them apart. Too often difference can lead to suspicion and hatred, therefore it is important to have the courage to acknowledge and respect differences between faiths, cultures and communities.

Education and interfaith work are therefore important ways to fight hatred and discrimination.

SUGGESTED SUMMARY

Slide 30 – Love Your Neighbour

What have you learned over the last term about being tolerant?

How do you understand “Love your neighbour as yourself”?

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks says:

‘We are all different, unique, that is what makes us human. A society that has no room for difference has no room for humanity.’

What do you think this means?

Rabbi Sacks also says:

‘The hate that begins with the Jews never ends with the Jews. Wherever you find antisemitism there will also be a threat to freedom.’

What does this mean?

Give me an example of a stereotype.

What is prejudice?

Dislike of an individual or group of people based on ideas that are false.

As the word suggests, prejudice involves prejudging others.

What is prejudice against Jews called?

Antisemitism or anti-Jewish racism

Is it easier to hate somebody you do not know? Why?

Is it easy to spread hate on the internet? Why?

How do racist attacks, such as those perpetrated on the synagogue in Pittsburgh, or on the mosques in Christchurch start?

What would you do if you heard somebody say “I hate the dirty Jews”?

What does it mean to be an upstander?

Why should you be an upstander and not a bystander?

How brave will you be in speaking out against racism and hatred? If everyone does it together – solidarity – then we can beat race hatred.

Former Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks said: ‘Antisemitism is not about Jews it is about antisemites.’

What does he mean? Do you think being antisemitic or hating other groups has an effect on the hater?

He explains: ‘It is about people who cannot accept responsibility for their own failures and instead have to blame somebody else.’

For example the Nazis blamed losing World War I, among many other things, on the Jews.

Was it the fault of the Jews?

Slide 31 – Faith Leaders

In December 2018, Cardinal Vincent Nichols joined other Christian leaders and Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis in a letter to The Times, saying:

“Antisemitism and antisemitic discourse is noticeably growing in public life and within social media in the UK”, they said. “As leaders of the Jewish and Christian communities in the UK we are concerned where this situation may lead. Antisemitism has no place in our society and those in positions of power and influence must listen to these concerns. Similarly we continue to speak out on anti-Christian sentiment and persecution of Christians in many parts of the world.”

We affirm our belief that all humankind is made in G-d’s image. In our respective faiths we pursue the biblical commandment to uphold a community that is fair to its people and generous to the stranger. Our faiths compel us to speak to defend truth, celebrate our diversity and common humanity, be a voice for those in need and seek transformation for the common good.

We call on people of faith to act together with us to promote religious and cultural understanding and advance the elimination of religious and racial prejudice, with particular reference to antisemitism, through education, dialogue, and social action.”

APPENDIX – DEFINING ANTISEMITISM

A recent poll for the *Jewish Chronicle*, a national Jewish newspaper, showed that fewer than half of British adults know what antisemitism means. This is in spite of the fact that over 1,800 antisemitic incidents were recorded in 2019. The lack of awareness is shocking and shows just how much education is needed. This reinforces just how vital it is that children learn this from an early age.

The truth is that antisemitism mutates. It has become clear that to identify it can sometimes be a struggle. It has become vitally important therefore in tackling antisemitism first to define it. You may have noticed high profile discussions around this.

The International Definition of Antisemitism has become the standard definition used around the world, including by the European Parliament, the UK College of Policing, the US Department of State, the US Senate, and the 31 countries comprising the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

In 2016, the powerful House of Commons Home Affairs Committee joined Campaign Against Antisemitism's longstanding call for the British Government and its agencies, as well as all political parties, formally to adopt the International Definition of Antisemitism, following which the British government formally adopted the definition.

The full International Definition of Antisemitism is as follows:

Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.

Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for "why things go wrong."

It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.

Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanising, demonising, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination (e.g. by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavour).
- Applying double standards by requiring of Israel a behaviour not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g. claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterise Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.



WHAT YOU CAN DO

SUBSCRIBE AND STAY INFORMED
at antisemitism.uk/subscribe

GET INVOLVED
JOIN OUR TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS
at antisemitism.uk/volunteer

INVITE US TO SPEAK
Campaign Against Antisemitism can also provide education and training for your school. Our team of experienced speakers can come and run talks or debates, be it about antisemitism or what you can do to fight racism in general. If you have any questions don't hesitate to get in touch at outreach@antisemitism.uk

SUPPORT US WITH A DONATION
Campaign Against Antisemitism is a volunteer-led charity and proud to operate with extremely low overheads, however our work costs money, whether it is to pay court fees when we litigate, or to commission important research. Consequently we fundraise throughout the year to raise the sums needed to enable our work to continue. Please consider supporting us with a donation at antisemitism.uk/donate

Campaign Against Antisemitism is a volunteer-led charity dedicated to exposing and countering antisemitism through education and zero-tolerance enforcement of the law.