

# Unprecedented Surge in Anti-Semitic Incidents in the UK and France

Since the October 7, 2023 terrorist attack by Hamas, and subsequent response from Israel, there has been an unprecedented surge in anti-Semitic incidents in the United Kingdom and France, which are home to the largest Jewish communities in Europe. Though anti-Semitic incidents have occurred elsewhere on the continent during this timeframe, the situation has been markedly worse in the UK and France.

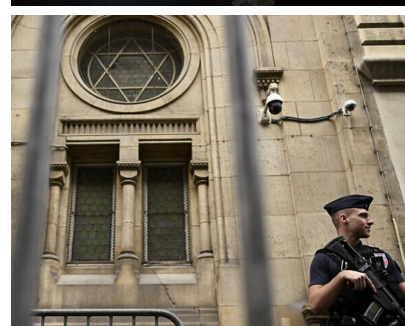
## UNITED KINGDOM

There are more than 270,000 Jewish people in the UK, according to the 2021 [census](#). Since 1984, the Community Security Trust has been the official safety and security organization for the Jewish community in the UK. According to its December 6, 2023, [update](#):

- ✓ CST recorded **1,890 antisemitic incidents** in the UK between October 7 and December 6, more than any similar period since 1984. This eight-week total is more than the number of incidents CST logged January 1 through October 2023 and for all of 2022.
- ✓ The number of anti-Semitic incidents exceeded that of the same period in 2022 by **528%**.
- ✓ **At least 140 anti-Semitic incidents were related to universities.** CST recorded 17 university incidents for January to June 2023 and 56 incidents for all of 2022.
- ✓ **At least 126 incidents were related to K-12 schools.**

## FRANCE

France's Jewish population of 500,00 is the third largest in the world after Israel and the United States. From October 7 through early November, there were at least 1,500 anti-Semitic incidents, more than three times the total in 2022, [according](#) to France's Interior Ministry. Like SCN in the United States and CST in the UK, the Jewish community in France has an official safety and security organization, [Service de Protection de la Communauté Juive](#) (Jewish Community Protection Service).



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*The Religious Freedom Institute works to secure religious freedom for everyone, everywhere, starting at home.*

*This factsheet is part of RFI's multi-year project to counter criminal attacks on religious people and their institutions. As part of this project, RFI issued a [report](#) in September 2022 on the surge in crimes against Catholic churches that began in the summer of 2020 and against pregnancy resource centers following the leak of the Supreme Court's draft opinion in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* in May 2022. In July 2023, RFI released its [Security Toolkit for Religious Institutions](#), which helps religious organizations improve the security of their facilities and the safety of those who gather or work there.*

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