



Home Office

Sarah Jones MP
Minister of State for Policing and
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Dr Agnes Kory, Mr Stephen Kapos & Co-Signatories
Holocaust Survivors & Descendants Against the Gaza Genocide

By email: hsdagg@proton.me

DECS Reference: MIN/1509670/26

30 June 2026

Dear Dr Kory, Mr Kapos and Co-Signatories,

Thank you for your joint email of 12 May to the Prime Minister and copied to the Home Secretary on behalf of Jewish survivors and descendants of survivors of the Holocaust, about recent attacks on Jewish people and property and pro-Palestinian marches. I am replying as the Minister of State for Policing and Crime.

Let me begin by saying how very sorry I am to hear that you have experienced offensive and racist language while taking part of pro-Palestine marches. No one should ever be a victim of hatred because of their race, religion, or political views, and the Government continues to work with police and community partners to monitor and combat this.

The right to peaceful protest is a vital part of our democracy. It is a long-standing tradition in the UK that people are free to gather and express their views, provided they do so within the law. This Government has no intent to diminish this but seeks to protect this right by balancing it against the need to protect the public from serious disruption or harm.

While our legal framework protects the right to peaceful protest and robust public debate, it does not extend to language that incites violence, hatred, or criminal behaviour. Those who cross that line should expect to face the full force of the law. The police have powers under sections 4, 4A and 5 of the Public Order Act 1986 to address conduct that causes incitement, harassment, alarm, or distress. In particular, the Metropolitan Police Service and Greater Manchester Police have publicly stated that they will arrest individuals who incite hatred using chants such as 'globalise the intifada'.

The Public Order Act 1986 grants police powers to manage protests by imposing conditions on public processions and assemblies to prevent serious disorder, disruption, or intimidation, while balancing the right to peaceful protest. The use of these powers and the management of demonstrations are an operational matter for the police, who must act lawfully, proportionately and with due regard to Articles 10 and 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights. The new Crime and Policing Act 2026 equips police with targeted powers to manage evolving protest tactics while safeguarding public safety and the right to protest. These include strengthened police powers to impose conditions on intimidatory protests near places of worship, and a new duty on senior officers to consider the cumulative impact of repeated protest activity when determining whether to impose conditions. These measures will help provide better protection to religious communities affected by repeat protests.

I understand your concerns regarding reports of support for the banning of marches. Under section 13 of the Public Order Act 1986, if a police chief officer assesses that the imposition of conditions will not be sufficient to prevent serious public disorder, they can seek an order prohibiting for a period not exceeding three months all public processions in that area. The decision to prohibit processions under section 13 is exceptional and requires the approval of the Home Secretary. This power is used rarely and only where the legal threshold is met.

There has been an alarming rise in antisemitism both in this country and across much of the globe, including the horrific antisemitic terrorist attacks in Golders Green, Heaton Park and Bondi Beach as well as a number of recent attacks on Jewish Synagogues, charities and property. The Government fully recognises the seriousness of these attacks, and, on 5 May, the Prime Minister convened an antisemitism summit, bringing together leaders across public life to drive a whole-of-society response to antisemitism. This recognises that everyone must stand up and play their part in eradicating hatred, with representatives from business, civil society, health, culture, higher education and policing all working together.

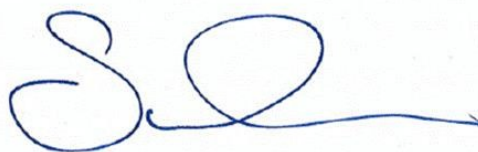
On 30 April, the Government announced £25 million of immediate funding in 2026/27 to strengthen policing, protect Jewish communities and provide reassurance in response to the terrorist attack in Golders Green and recent spate of antisemitic attacks. The Home Office is working urgently with the Metropolitan Police Service and other senior policing leaders to further strengthen the national policing and security response to antisemitism over the long-term.

The Home Secretary launched a review of public order and hate crime legislation on 5 October. To lead this vital work, the Home Secretary has appointed Lord Macdonald of River Glaven KC, former Director of Public Prosecutions and one of the UK's most respected legal authorities. His independence and expertise will ensure a rigorous and impartial review. He will be supported by former Assistant Chief Constable Owen Weatherill KPM, who brings operational experience from his role as the National Police Chiefs' Council Lead for Civil Contingencies and National Mobilisation.

The review will address whether the existing legislation is effective and proportionate, whether it adequately protects communities from intimidation and hate and whether it strikes a fair and sustainable balance between the right to freedom of expression and peaceful protest, and the need to prevent disorder and keep communities safe. The review is underway and will report its findings to the Home Secretary by the end of May 2026.

Thank you very much for your email, and I hope this response provides you with some reassurance. I would be very grateful if you could share this response with your fellow co-signatories.

Very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'SJ' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Sarah Jones MP
Minister of State for Policing and Crime