

**Report of the Community Security Trust (CST)  
January – December 2004**

**1. Introduction**

1.1 The CST is the defence agency of the Jewish community in the UK. It was established in 1994 as a charitable trust and succeeded the Community Security Organisation of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, with whom it continues to work closely. The establishment of the CST was aided by the Home Secretary (minister of the interior) and the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service.

The CST works closely with the police and relevant departments of state.

1.2 The remit of the CST falls into two areas: security; information. A communications and public affairs department exists to promote the work of the CST, to work with the media (reactively and proactively), to publish internal and external publications and to provide advocacy services to the CST and for the Jewish community's defence requirement.

1.3 The CST is primarily a voluntary organisation managed by a headquarters staff with offices in London and Manchester. It is a national organisation which spans the Jewish community, from secular to strictly orthodox.

1.4 The CST is an associate member of INACH; we do not provide complaints bureau services. However we research the publication of hate online and the use of the internet for command and control by extremist groups opposed to the Jewish community.

We have as a consequence referred offensive websites to the authorities, both the police and the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF).

**2. Information provided by IWF**

2.1 The remit of the IWF

'restricts us to incitement to racial hatred content posted in the UK but we are concerned about potentially illegal sites (if hosted in the UK) that are hosted outside of the UK but seem to operate with impunity.

2.2 In recent discussion with the Home Office and other related parties, we were assured that if a UK resident posted content for UK consumption that was criminally racist, then regardless of where it was

hosted a prosecution could be brought. However, it was also pointed out that to ensure freedom of speech, the bar is set very high and it requires the authorisation of the Attorney General to bring any prosecution.

2.3 In the UK, virtually all ISP's will remove content if it is deemed to breach their terms and conditions; most ISP's do not want race hate content on their servers. Overseas remains a problem, but with the UK gaining presidency of both the G8 and EU in 2005 we hope to bring this to the agenda for the presidency, and the Home Office supports this.

2.4 During the past 12 months (November 2003-November 2004) the IWF received 403 reports alleging criminally racist material.

In only two of these reports were the IWF satisfied that the report related content hosted by UK ISP's, and in both cases (one anti-Muslim and one anti-Black), the ISP removed the content immediately.

A further thirty-three intelligence reports were passed to UK police authorities concerning apparent UK offenders posting overseas.'

2.5 The IWF website is at [www.iwf.org.uk](http://www.iwf.org.uk) and contains an easy to use guide to making a report, IWF remit, background information on internet regulation, hotline details, online protection, website ratings, public campaigns, IWF newsletter.

### **3. Internet use by extremists**

3.1 As reported in our Overview for 2003, extremist political groups in Britain increasingly use the internet to: advertise themselves and their ideologies; advertise their activities; communicate with their members; raise funds.

The most prolific users are the far-right (neo-Nazis and white supremacist groups, Islamist groups)

### **4. Legal moves and prosecutions**

4.1 A bill is currently before parliament which would make incitement to religious hatred illegal (Serious Organised Crime and Police Bill, schedule 10). This will give additional powers to the existing Public Order Act legislation but again the threshold will be set very high and the consent of the Attorney General will be required for a prosecution.

4.2 In February 2004 Philip Norman from Bucknell was jailed for 18 months after pleading guilty to a campaign of racially aggravated harassment against Ed Doolan, a Jewish Radio West Midlands presenter. Norman had bombarded him with more than 100 antisemitic abusive and threatening emails.

4.3 In mid-November 2004 extradition proceedings commenced in the London courts against Babar Ahmad, who is accused by the United States government of using websites to recruit terrorists and raise funds for the Taliban and Al Qaeda. The case has been adjourned until March 2005 and Ahmad was remanded in custody.