**Conflict in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories**

Although the situation in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories is not a counter-terrorism issue for the UK at present, we are continuing to collate community sentiment and feed this up to seniors.  We are aware that this escalation in violence has been felt very strongly with communities and has the potential to exacerbate inter-faith tensions, at a holy time for both the Muslim and Jewish communities.  We are also aware of the potential for extremists to exploit the situation to spread polarising and hateful narratives, with increasing levels of Antisemitic incidents and Islamophobic narratives noted.

We also wanted to provide some resources to aid in any conversations you may be having locally:

* The Minister for the Middle East and North Africa, James Cleverly, made [this statement](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fhansard.parliament.uk%2FCommons%2F2021-05-12%2Fdebates%2F5CB9BFF2-D70C-44FB-988B-425CDC0FEA6B%2FViolenceInIsraelAndPalestine&data=04%7C01%7CAlice.Huggett-Smith%40homeoffice.gov.uk%7Cc959b7cdf7db4be9e18408d91947aabc%7Cf24d93ecb2914192a08af182245945c2%7C0%7C0%7C637568617852477144%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=FDA6uIAJJwTv8FJV0Qbc0H67KDF5Au%2BKL59s1LOFvOI%3D&reserved=0) to Parliament on 12 May.

The statement sets out the UK Government position, which calls for a restoration of peace and security to end the cycle of violence and to avoid tragic loss of life. The Minister’s statement unequivocally condemns the firing of rockets at Jerusalem and other locations in Israel.  The statement also makes clear that violence against peaceful worshippers of any faith is unacceptable, and that the UK has been clear that the attacks on worshippers must stop.

In addition, the statement expresses concern regarding the threatened evictions of Palestinian families from their homes in Sheikh Jarrah, and details that the UK Government urges Israel to cease such actions.

* The [Community Security Trust](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcst.org.uk%2F&data=04%7C01%7CAlice.Huggett-Smith%40homeoffice.gov.uk%7Cc959b7cdf7db4be9e18408d91947aabc%7Cf24d93ecb2914192a08af182245945c2%7C0%7C0%7C637568617852477144%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=%2F6I3ERU0FFS1%2FjubcVW%2FQSx4Zoh5RXergNThi5EGaVk%3D&reserved=0) (CST) has published a number of resources on their social media feeds, including [guidance](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ft.co%2FDTNYr0Apa3%3Famp%3D1&data=04%7C01%7CAlice.Huggett-Smith%40homeoffice.gov.uk%7Cc959b7cdf7db4be9e18408d91947aabc%7Cf24d93ecb2914192a08af182245945c2%7C0%7C0%7C637568617852487134%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=KljTLVILIFbkPz%2F9jkpk1%2B2GYAp3kAlMUh5jwRewdZ0%3D&reserved=0) on how to communicate about Israel in a non-antisemitic way. A host of other resources can be found on their website here: [Educational Resources – CST – Protecting Our Jewish Community](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcst.org.uk%2Fantisemitism%2Feducational-resources&data=04%7C01%7CAlice.Huggett-Smith%40homeoffice.gov.uk%7Cc959b7cdf7db4be9e18408d91947aabc%7Cf24d93ecb2914192a08af182245945c2%7C0%7C0%7C637568617852487134%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=ZS%2Bm906svFd%2FUTGtLHf93JcmKSMkMqdzG%2BWDENsnrHE%3D&reserved=0). CST also has a national emergency number which should be used to report antisemitic attacks, alongside calling 999: 0800 032 3263.
* Tell Mama is a confidential support service for those suffering from Islamophobia across the UK. Their website features a number of different ways to report anti-Muslim hate or Islamophobia, including via phone or WhatsApp: [Report in Anti-Muslim Hate or Islamophobia (tellmamauk.org)](https://tellmamauk.org/). The site also hosts useful [resources](https://tellmamauk.org/national-mosques-security-panel/), including on mosque security.
* Solutions not Sides is a programme aiming to tackle antisemitism, Islamophobia, and polarisation around the issue of the Israel-Palestine conflict in the UK by promoting critical thinking and open discussions to encourage a solutions-focussed approach. The group have published a number of [blogs](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsolutionsnotsides.co.uk%2Fnews-blog&data=04%7C01%7CAlice.Huggett-Smith%40homeoffice.gov.uk%7Cc959b7cdf7db4be9e18408d91947aabc%7Cf24d93ecb2914192a08af182245945c2%7C0%7C0%7C637568617852497130%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=UQkAFtKZBcWsejHv8VcxgZSucn%2BKJG91iG7xdple3PE%3D&reserved=0) on the current situation, as well as a teachers’ handbook and resources on fact-checking. Resources can be found here: [SNS Resources on Israel-Palestine for Students & Teachers | SNS (solutionsnotsides.co.uk)](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsolutionsnotsides.co.uk%2Flearning-resources&data=04%7C01%7CAlice.Huggett-Smith%40homeoffice.gov.uk%7Cc959b7cdf7db4be9e18408d91947aabc%7Cf24d93ecb2914192a08af182245945c2%7C0%7C0%7C637568617852507121%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=k4w5n3ajHh7DzHtM2ygdYT6ORpFzqShlvlkcV45Uo%2B4%3D&reserved=0)

The Forum for Discussion of Israel and Palestine runs a ‘Tough Options’ programme for 14-19 year olds’, which looks at how difficult issues impact communities here in the UK. Their website has a number of useful resources, including information on how to engage with Tough Voices and their other programmes: [FODIP | Forum for Discussion of Israel & Palestine](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fodip.org.uk%2F&data=04%7C01%7CAlice.Huggett-Smith%40homeoffice.gov.uk%7Cc959b7cdf7db4be9e18408d91947aabc%7Cf24d93ecb2914192a08af182245945c2%7C0%7C0%7C637568617852507121%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=6U%2FdV8xZAXU2mfNYndFJZLEAv8TbgOIUkag9wkwDaZE%3D&reserved=0)

[Handbook for teachers/community leaders supporting young people in the UK who are affected by this issue](https://solutionsnotsides.co.uk/sites/sns.hocext.co.uk/files/2021-05/SNS%20TEACHER%20HANDBOOK.docx.pdf)

[Guide to avoiding antisemitic and Islamophobic hate speech when talking about Israel-Palestine](https://solutionsnotsides.co.uk/blog/2021/avoiding-antisemitic-islamophobic-hate-speech)