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📘 Community Security Trust 📺 CSTmedia

Community Security Trust is a registered charity in
England and Wales (1042391) and Scotland (SC043612)

UK HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL: SECURITY MATTERS

1. CST

CST is Community Security Trust, a registered charity that provides security guarding, equipment and assistance to British Jews. CST works very closely with police forces, government and civil servants. CST is widely acknowledged as Britain's leading non-state authority on antisemitism, anti-Jewish terrorism and Jewish communal security issues.

2. The Principle of enabling Jewish life

CST works with others to help enable British Jews to lead the lives of their choice. It is the same as the police do for all of society: working with partners in government and elsewhere to manage risk and mitigate threat, so that life continues as normal, enabling and protecting basic human rights.

No UK Jewish event or building is withdrawn because of generalised security concerns. Security measures are put in place but cancellation would only occur upon police or security service advice of imminent danger.

3. Security as an excuse to prevent the proposed UK Holocaust Memorial

Anyone is free to oppose the building of UKHM in Westminster, but to keep using security as an excuse for prevention is unjustified and deeply unacceptable.

Preventing UKHM in Westminster on security grounds is perverse, as it is a unique deviation from the accepted practise of public activities being enabled by implementation of the necessary security mitigants. Cancellation only occurs if hard intelligence warns of imminent danger.

Those using the security excuse go further than merely seeking the cancellation of a single public event. They claim that the overall security risk to UKHM in Westminster is so high, both now and for the foreseeable future, that it cannot

even be built. Such an exceptional and dramatic claim requires a high level of proof that far exceeds the generalised fears currently voiced.

It is always offensive when unsubstantiated claims are made that amount to antisemitism scare stories. This case goes further as it uses scare tactics as an excuse not to build a Holocaust memorial and learning centre in Westminster. That is deeply offensive and neither CST, nor police, should have to waste more valuable time and distraction arguing the case.

4. Terrorism against Jews

CST will never deny the reality of antisemitic terrorism. It is the reason CST exists. CST and British Jews have spent well over £100 million in recent decades on counter-terrorist security measures.

Most people have no idea how extensive the threat of antisemitic terrorism actually is in Britain, including how many plots are disrupted and stopped by police and security services, sometimes assisted by CST.

Terrorist plots are typically Nazi, Jihadist or Iranian. They come from radicalised individuals, local radicalised grouplets, international terrorist organisations and hostile states, notably Iran. They occur regardless of the overall level of general antisemitism but escalate during and after important UK and global events. Currently, the threat of such terrorism is unusually high, given everything post 7 October 2023 in Israel, Gaza, Lebanon, Yemen and Iran.

The antisemitic terrorist threat is real and it is high, but that does not justify preventing the creation of UKHM in Westminster any more than it justifies the closure of public Jewish life in Britain.

The correct reaction to the threat is to confront its reality, without exaggeration or denial. Next, the requisite mitigants need to be put in place. That is what British Jews do; and it is what police, security services and government do.

5. Terrorism in Westminster

Opponents of UKHM in Westminster have claimed that the security risk prevents it being built in Westminster but not elsewhere. This is nonsense.

Westminster is one of the most heavily protected areas in Britain, with overt and covert security layers, armed police and nearby reinforcements. If Westminster cannot host a UKHM on security grounds, then nowhere in Britain can.

The reason for Westminster being so extensively secured is very obvious. The threat against the Palace of Westminster (and nearby buildings, memorials,

bridges etc) is high. This is shown by the number of terror plots that have been prevented and is tragically demonstrated by those terror attacks that have occurred. In this context, it is an offensive fallacy to claim that a UKHM brings so much more added risk to Westminster that it cannot even be built there.

6. Jews cannot or will not be protected by Britain

The security excuse against UKHM effectively amounts to the British state surrendering to anti-Jewish terrorism.

It tells British Jews that whilst others can enjoy their freedoms, Jews cannot.

It tells British Jews that the UK Parliament does not believe that the government, police and security services are capable of protecting a Jewish manifestation in the physical and political heart of UK public life.

It tells British Jews that the UK Parliament is not willing to make the security investment that is required to have a Holocaust memorial and learning centre in the physical and symbolic heart of British democracy.

7. Parliament surrendering to extremism and threats

If UKHM cannot exist in Westminster on security grounds, then what will be the next thing to be cancelled in this way? Or is it only the Holocaust and Jews that are put up for cancellation in Westminster? Neither option is acceptable.

UKHM is a learning centre. The learning is that running from extremists only fuels more extremism. The learning is that freedom always needs securing.

Mark Gardner MBE, Chief Executive, CST.