

September 2026

Caught Between Sides

Britons' shifting attitudes to the Israel-Palestine conflict and its consequences at home



**More in
Common**

Robert Darke
Alex Newton
Luke Tryl

Contents

Acknowledgements	2
Executive Summary	3
Context	3
Findings	3
The Seven Segments	6
Introduction	8
Chapter 1 Britons' attitudes to the conflict in Israel and Gaza	9
Opinion shift	9
Continued divides	10
Chapter 2 How the conflict has changed what Britons think about each other	15
Conflation of Jews and Israel	16
Anti-Muslim hate	18
Hearing hate	20
Hardening of divides	23
The 'other side'	25
Institutions	28
Chapter 3 Talking (and shouting) about the conflict	30
Conclusion	34
Methodology	35

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to the Pears Foundation for their support in funding this research. More in Common retained full editorial control over its content.

Executive Summary

Context

In November 2025, two years after October 7, More in Common released *After Choosing Sides*. It was an in-depth analysis of the British public's attitudes towards the Israel-Palestine conflict and community relations. The core finding was that while a significant minority of Britons adopted a side in the conflict, most did not. Rather, they shared a fundamental horror at the impact of the conflict on civilians on both sides and a desire for the war to end.

Even though most Britons did not take a side in the conflict, there was a sense that some of those who had chosen a side were increasingly unable or unwilling to engage in good faith discussion with those who disagreed. This had led many Britons to worry about the impact the conflict was having on the country and their communities – from a rise in antisemitism and anti-Muslim hate to a broader erosion of everyday civic cohesion.

Almost a year on from the release of that report and the agreement of the ongoing but fragile ceasefire that exists between the two sides, More in Common has conducted follow-up research. This report examines where Britons stand on the conflict today: what has changed, what has stayed the same, and what impact, if any, a conflict that most Britons do not see through a partisan lens is having on cohesion at home.

The bulk of this research was conducted before the UK government announced sanctions on Israeli settlements in the West Bank – although the data on sympathies in the conflict was updated the following week (fieldwork: 11 – 15 September 2026). Over the coming months, More in Common will conduct further research to explore what impact, if any, these sanctions have on Britons' views regarding Israel-Palestine and its domestic consequences moving forward. This further research will be published in early 2027.

Findings

Much of the core sentiment from *After Choosing Sides* is echoed in this research. It remains true that most Britons don't take a side in the Israel-Palestine conflict. Sympathy with Israel has fallen from 16 to 12 per cent since November 2023. Sympathy with Palestine has risen over the past few years but is down three per cent from its high in July 2025. Meanwhile, Britons are increasingly likely to say they support 'neither side'.

And yet, the impact of conflict is ongoing. A third of the country would feel worse about someone who posted on social media in support of Israel, up from just over a quarter in October 2025. There has been a similar shift in the proportion saying they would feel better about someone if they didn't post about the conflict at all (30 per cent, up from 18 per cent in October 2025). Britons seem to want to disengage from the conflict – or at least for temperatures to cool enough to have a less inflammatory discussion.

Conversations with the public suggest that this disengagement can stem from very different but equally negative experiences of the conflict. Some say they feel pressured to comment on the issue even though they don't feel properly informed. Others say they don't want to comment on the topic for fear of backlash if they say the wrong thing.

Perhaps the most sobering finding to emerge from this round of research is that the public is now evenly split as to whether or not the UK is a safe place for Jewish people. In May 2024, Britons were 23 per cent more likely to say it was safe than unsafe. They are now equally likely to say both. Additionally, six in ten Britons say the UK is more dangerous for Jewish people now than it was a few years ago, while four in ten think the number of antisemitic hate crimes is set to rise in the coming years. The Heaton Park synagogue and Golders Green attacks seem to have understandably led more Britons to think that British Jews are no longer safe in the UK.

The public also thinks there has been a rise in the threat posed to Muslims. Nearly half of the public think it is more dangerous to be a Muslim in Britain today than it used to be. While the public is less likely to say the UK is unsafe for Muslim people than Jewish people, Britons say they hear and witness anti-Muslim statements more often than they hear or witness antisemitism (28 vs 20 per cent among friends; 25 vs 16 per cent among family; 23 vs 17 per cent among colleagues).

The notion that Muslims and Jewish people in the UK face an increased threat is more than just a perception. The number of antisemitic incident reports in the UK rose by a fifth in the first half of 2026. The Islamist stabbing of two Jewish men in Golders Green in April and the arson attack on Jewish ambulances in the area are just the clearest and most horrifying examples. The homes, cars and mosques of Muslim communities have also come under attack from factions of the far right. There are real, tangible threats faced by both communities, but those who express sympathy with a particular side in the conflict, whether Israel or Palestine, are much more likely than average to say the (perceived) 'other side' is safe in the UK. For those who sympathise with the Palestinian side, for example, a majority (54 per cent) say the UK is safe for Jews. This is 11 percentage points higher than the general public. Similarly, 78 per cent of those who sympathise with Israel say the UK is safe for Muslims – 25 points higher than the general public. While the direction of causation isn't clear, it may suggest that ideological starting points are influencing not just people's view on the conflict, but their view of other groups' safety in the UK.

The public overwhelmingly holds social media companies responsible for propagating divisions around the conflict and between communities. 19 per cent of the country think social media companies are doing enough to make Jews in the UK feel safe; 46 per cent say they are not. In fact, the notion that social media companies are failing to deal with antisemitism is the only argument that unites Britons regardless of their age, gender, politics or stance on the Middle East. All segments of society are also significantly more likely to report hearing both antisemitic and anti-Muslim comments in the media than they are from friends, family or colleagues. In conversations with the public, multiple people reported never having witnessed antisemitism in real life but seeing it regularly online.

Ultimately, the reason this research remains necessary and relevant long after the ceasefire agreement is that public sentiment continues to shift, sometimes in fundamental ways. In this report, the starkest and most sobering change is this: in October 2025, a majority of Britons believed British Jews and British Muslims can live harmoniously together even if they disagree when it comes to Israel-Palestine. Now, a majority believe they can't (53 vs 47 per cent). Fewer Britons believe in community coexistence now than they did a year ago.

The Seven Segments

Using extensive research into Britons' core beliefs, their values and behaviours, More in Common has developed a unique segmentation of the British public. This segmentation allows us to look upstream not just at what different groups think, but why they think it, reflecting fundamental differences between groups in how they relate to authority, change, community and the future.

More in Common's analysis produces seven segments within the British population, which are referred to throughout this report:

Progressive Activists – 12 per cent of the population

A highly engaged and globally-minded group driven by concerns about social justice. Politically active, but feeling increasingly alienated from mainstream party politics, they prioritise issues such as climate change and international affairs. Occasionally outliers on social issues, they maintain a strongly held and sometimes uncompromising approach to their beliefs.

Incrementalist Left – 21 per cent of the population

A civic-minded, community-oriented group holding views which are generally left-of-centre but with an aversion to the extreme; they prefer gradual reform over revolutionary change. They trust experts and institutions yet are largely tuned out of day-to-day politics and can be conflict-averse, stepping away from issues they see as particularly fraught or complex.

Established Liberals – 9 per cent of the population

A prosperous, confident segment who believe the system broadly works as it is and who trust experts to deliver continued progress. They have a strong belief in individual agency which can make them less empathetic to those who are struggling. Institutionally trusting, they maintain faith in democratic processes and have a strong information-centric way of engaging with issues.

Sceptical Scrollers – 10 per cent of the population

A digitally-native group whose unhappiness with the social contract means they have lost faith in traditional institutions and seek alternative sources of truth online. Often shaped by their experience of the Covid pandemic, they prefer individual influencers over mainstream media and are increasingly drawn to conspiratorial thinking.

Rooted Patriots – 20 per cent of the population

A patriotic but politically untethered group which feels abandoned and overlooked by political elites and yearns for leaders with common sense, but does not want to overthrow the system as a whole. They are particularly concerned about community decline and the pressures of migration. Interventionist on economics but conservative on social issues, they have shaped much of Britain's politics over the past decade.

Traditional Conservatives – 8 per cent of the population

Respectful of authority and tradition, this group believes in individual responsibility and established norms that have served them well. Nostalgic for the past but optimistic about the future, they are deeply sceptical of many forces of change such as immigration or the path to net-zero.

Dissenting Disruptors – 20 per cent of the population

Frustrated with their circumstances and with an appetite for radical solutions, this group craves dramatic change and strong leadership. Highly distrustful of institutions, opposed to multiculturalism and feeling disconnected from society, they are drawn to political movements that promise to overhaul the status quo and put people like them first.

Introduction

On 10 October 2025, two years and three days on from Hamas' October 7 terrorist attack on Israel, a ceasefire agreement came into effect between the two sides. However, the conflict is far from fully resolved.

The impact of the Israel-Palestine Conflict is still felt far beyond the region, dividing people along existing ideological faultlines and new ones alike. For some Britons, the conflict has become a core part of their political identity. For others, it was an atrocity and a tragedy, but not one they wished to involve themselves in. In November 2025, More in Common released *After Choosing Sides*, detailing British attitudes to the conflict and the impact on community relations in the UK. At the centre of the report was a core and often under-expressed insight: most Britons do not sympathise more with one side or the other. Instead, they want an end to suffering abroad and cooler heads in debates at home. Despite not being the loudest voices, this group makes up the majority of the public and was the focus of that report.

Ten months on from *After Choosing Sides*, this report explores what's changed, where Britons stand on the Israel-Palestine conflict and its ongoing domestic impact today. That includes rising antisemitism in the UK, exemplified by the Islamist attack in Golders Green in April, in which two Jewish men were stabbed, and an arson attack on Jewish ambulances in the area just weeks before. There has also been a rise in anti-Muslim sentiment and violence, which reached record levels in 2024. Crucially, the impact of the conflict is shaping broader questions of inter-faith cohesion, multi-ethnic integration, trust in institutions, and the resilience of British communities, all of which remain at the heart of debates around national identity and governance.

This research draws on polling conducted in June 2026 and a focus group conducted in July 2026. It addresses the concerns set out above, the growing issue of safety for different communities in the UK, and what the public considers to be the key drivers of division and community conflict.

Chapter 1 | Britons' attitudes to the conflict in Israel and Gaza

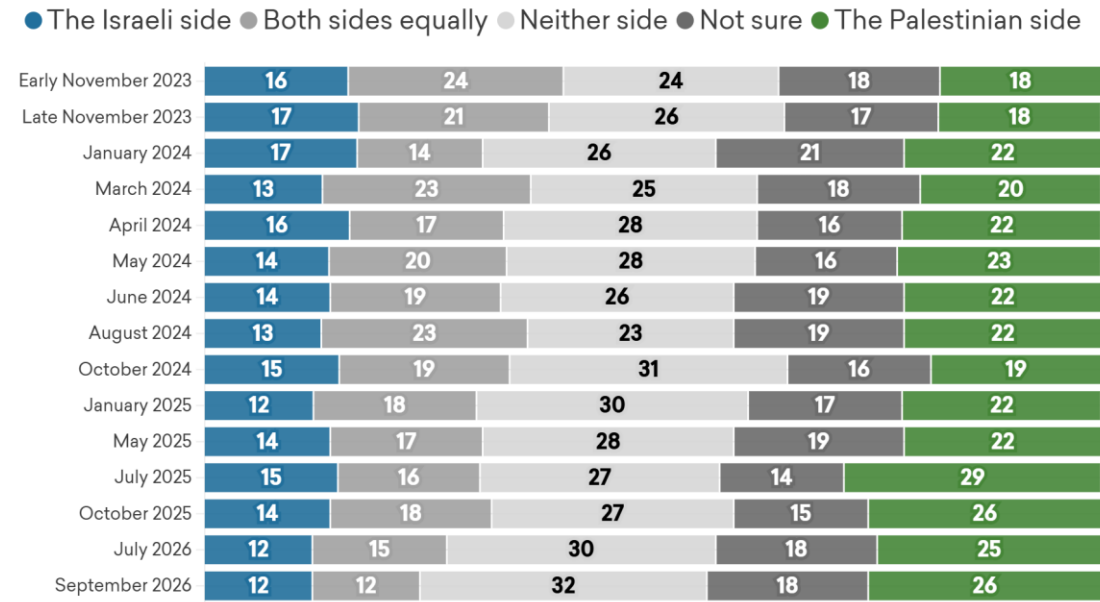
Opinion shift

Almost three years on from October 7, the proportion of people who say they sympathise more with a particular side in the conflict has shifted, but only slightly. The proportion saying they sympathise more with the Israeli side has fallen from 16 to 12 per cent. The proportion saying they sympathise more with the Palestinian side has risen from 18 to 26 per cent, though notably dropped from its 29 per cent high in July 2025. In fact, the greatest shift in the last nine months is an increase in those saying they sympathise with neither side or are unsure.

Most Britons have not taken a side in the conflict

Which side in the Israel-Palestine conflict do you sympathise with more?

Which side in the Israel-Palestine conflict do you sympathise with more?



I'm not a pro-Palestinian or I'm not pro-Hamas, but equally I'm not pro Netanyahu. So I would post on both sides offering my opinion that it's wrong what was being done on both sides.

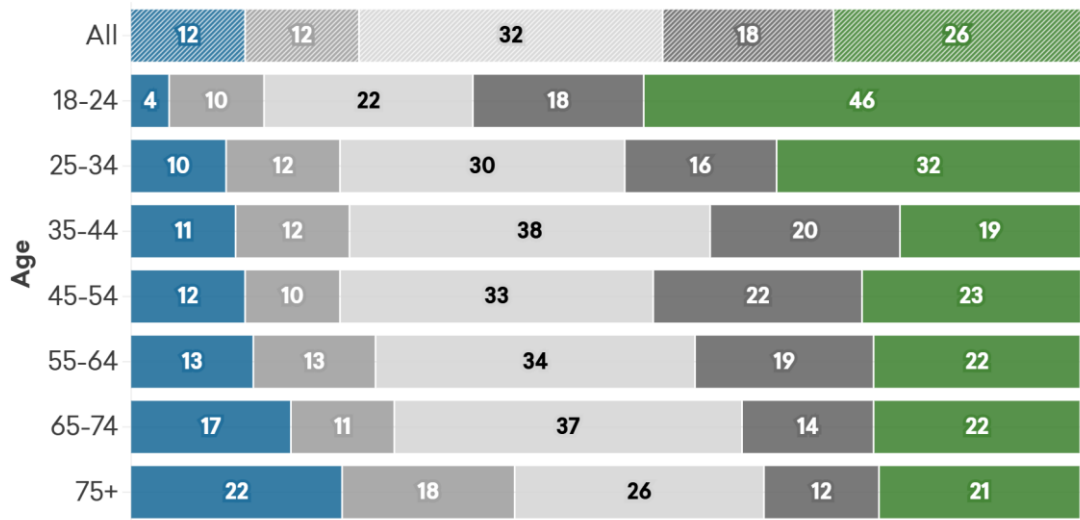
Patrick, 73, Retired

Young people stand out from other Britons in that almost half (46 per cent) of 18-24 year-olds say they sympathise more with the Palestinian side. This is slightly lower than the 55 per cent who said the same in October 2025, but the pattern remains consistent that the youngest Britons are distinct from every other age group on this topic.

Younger Britons are almost twice as likely as older Britons to sympathise with Palestine

Which side in the Israel-Palestine conflict do you sympathise with more?

● The Israeli side ● Both sides equally ● Neither side ● Not sure ● The Palestinian side



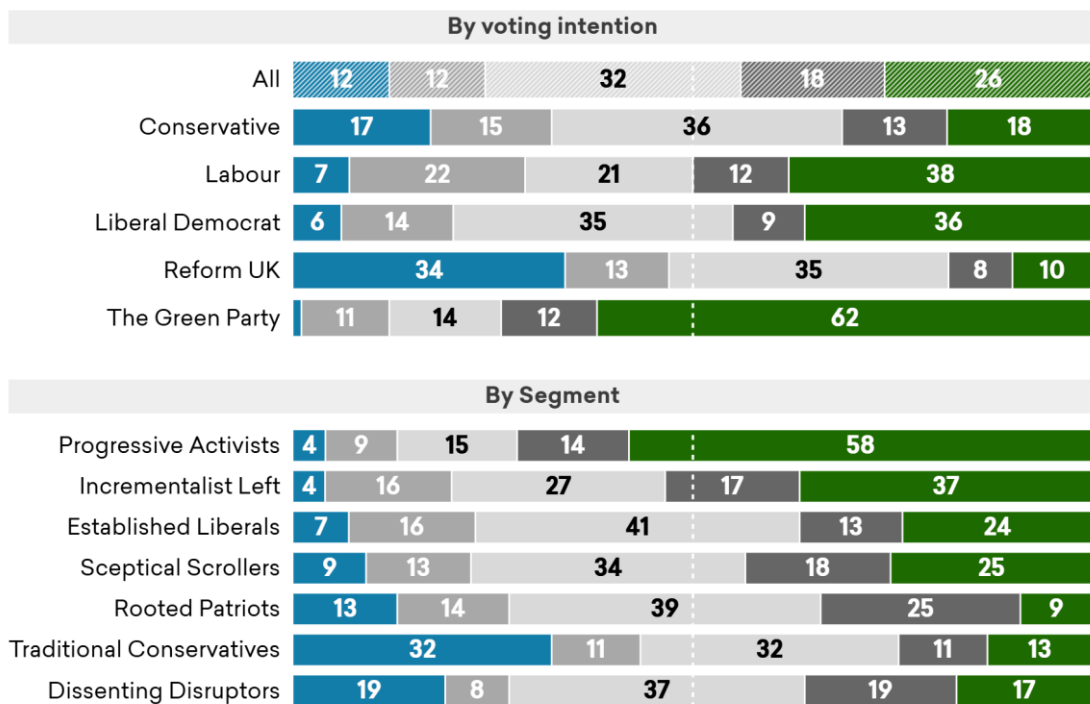
Continued divides

The slight drop in sympathy for individual sides and rise in sympathy for neither side should not be interpreted as an increased neutrality or indifference regarding the conflict. The public is just as likely to have their opinion of someone shaped by their stance on the conflict today as they were in October 2025, if not more so. There has been a slight rise in the number of Britons who say they would feel worse about someone if they posted on social media in support of Israel, up to a third (33 per cent) from just over a quarter in October 2025 (27 per cent). Meanwhile, the number saying they would feel better about someone if they didn't post about the conflict on social media has also risen from 24 to 30 per cent. This reflects a broader shift - not only does much of the public not take a partisan stance on the issue, but they are increasingly judgemental of those who do.

Only among Progressive Activists and Green voters have more than half chosen a side in the conflict

Which side in the Israel-Palestine conflict do you sympathise with more?

● The Israeli side
 ● Both sides equally
 ● Neither side
 ● Not sure
 ● The Palestinian side



More in Common • 11 - 15 September 2026

Some groups do remain engaged though. Progressive Activists have become increasingly intolerant of anyone demonstrating support for Israel. The proportion saying they would feel worse about someone if they posted in support of Israel has risen from 45 per cent in October 2025 to 59 per cent in June 2026. Meanwhile, the proportion who wouldn't pass judgement has almost halved, with the 50 per cent who said they would feel neither better nor worse in October 2025 falling to just 29 per cent in June 2026.

A lot of gaslighting, a lot of hypocrisy. The word antisemitism has been used so much to the point where it's just used in everything. It's nothing to do with antisemitism, it's anti-Zionism genocide.

Reem, Westminster

Young people are particularly likely to form negative views about those who express support for Israel. The proportion of 18-24 year-olds who would feel worse about someone

who posts in favour of Israel has risen from a third (34 per cent) to nearly half (48 per cent). Meanwhile older people are more likely to prefer that Britons avoid expressing public comment on the conflict. More than a third of over-55s (34 per cent) say they would feel better about someone who didn't post on the topic compared to under a quarter who said the same in October 2025 (23 per cent).

Support for posting about Israel has also softened among Dissenting Disruptors, who were the only segment more likely to feel better than worse about someone who posted on social media in support of Israel in October 2025 (18 per cent better, 16 per cent worse). As of June 2026, they are now twice as likely to feel worse about a person posting than they are to feel positive (28 per cent vs 14 per cent).

All segments other than Progressive Activists also feel increasingly negative about those who post in support of Palestine. In October 2025, 20 per cent of Established Liberals said they would feel better about someone who posted in support of Palestine. In June 2026, this dropped to 12 per cent. The proportion of Traditional Conservatives who would feel worse about someone who did this increased from 34 to 43 per cent in the same timeframe. Britons from across the political spectrum, then - including those with quite different values - are increasingly hostile towards online commentary or activism about the conflict.

Since October 2025, all segments barring Traditional Conservatives think more negatively of someone who posts in support of Israel

In general, would you think better or worse of someone if they posted on social media in support of Israel? Net scores:



Since October 2025, all segments barring Progressive Activists think more negatively of someone who posts in support of Palestine

In general, would you think better or worse of someone if they posted on social media in support of Palestine? Net scores:



In conversation about the conflict, Britons' increased detachment and the inflammatory nature of much debate are not unrelated. Rather, the fact that the topic causes so much division has created a fear that saying 'the wrong thing' will provoke a backlash. As a result, engaging with the topic has become increasingly unappealing. For many, it feels easier and less stressful to simply not engage.

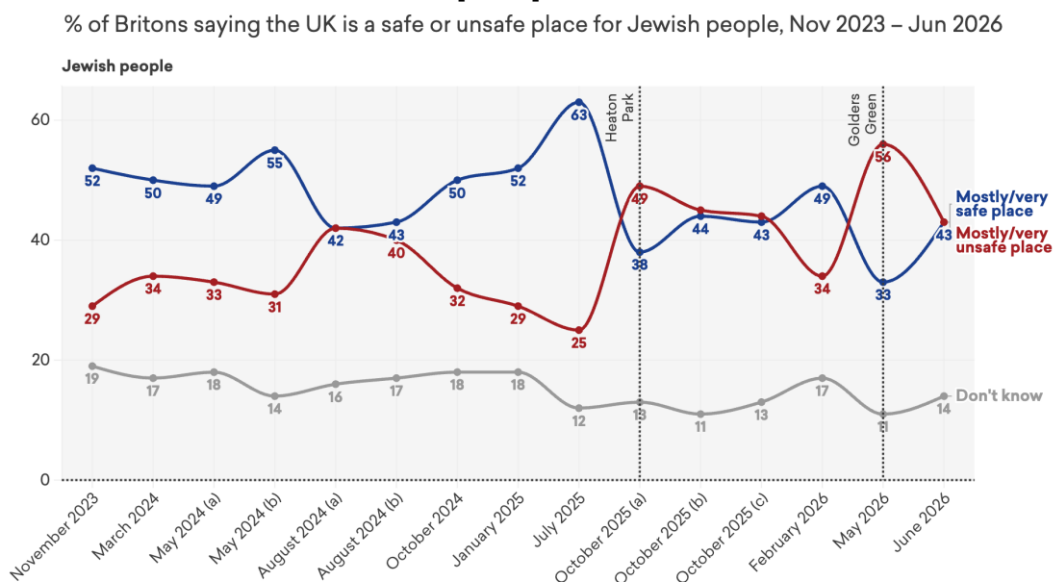
I've had conversations about it with people before who've had different views and you can just honest to God, sometimes conversations like that can just go on and on and on and on for so long. And it's almost like when you've got a different view with someone, it's almost like you're just not getting anywhere. And I've literally just been like, "Do you know what? Change the subject. This is boring me now." As bad as that might sound.

Jasmine, 25, Healthcare worker

Chapter 2 | How the conflict has changed what Britons think about each other

After a spate of antisemitic attacks, Britons are divided as to whether the UK is a safe or unsafe place for Jewish people (43 per cent each). The overall trend since the start of the current conflict is clear: since November 2023, the proportion saying the UK is safe for Jews has dropped nine points, from 52 per cent, while the proportion saying it is unsafe has risen fourteen points, from 29 per cent.

Do you think the UK is a safe or unsafe place for Jewish people?

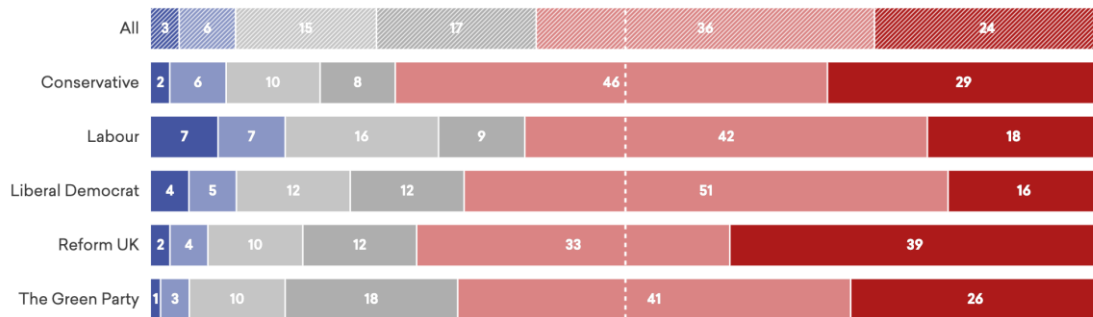


Six in ten Britons say that it is more dangerous for Jewish people in the UK now than it was a few years ago (60 per cent). Equally concerning is the fact that many expect the situation to get worse. Nearly four in ten believe the number of anti-Jewish hate crimes will go up in the next few years (39 per cent). The proportion who thinks they will go down sits in single figures (nine per cent).

There is cross-party consensus that the UK has become more dangerous for Jewish people

Which of the following comes closest to your view? Over the last few years, being a Jewish person in the UK has become:

● Much less dangerous than it used to be
 ● A bit less dangerous than it used to be
 ● It has not changed
 ● Don't know
● A bit more dangerous than it used to be
● Much more dangerous than it used to be



More in Common | June 2026

Conflation of Jews and Israel

A key facet of antisemitism in Britain is people being unable or unwilling to separate their feelings on the Israel-Palestine conflict from their feelings towards Britain's Jewish community. The impact on Jewish communities is readily apparent to the wider public.

I think because it's so politically rife at the moment, I think the rise in antisemitism is maybe the general public or some members of the public taking their frustrations at the Israeli government and their frustrations at the Palestinian and Israeli conflict. I think they're taking their frustrations on the Israeli government out on just normal Jewish people, which is totally unfair.

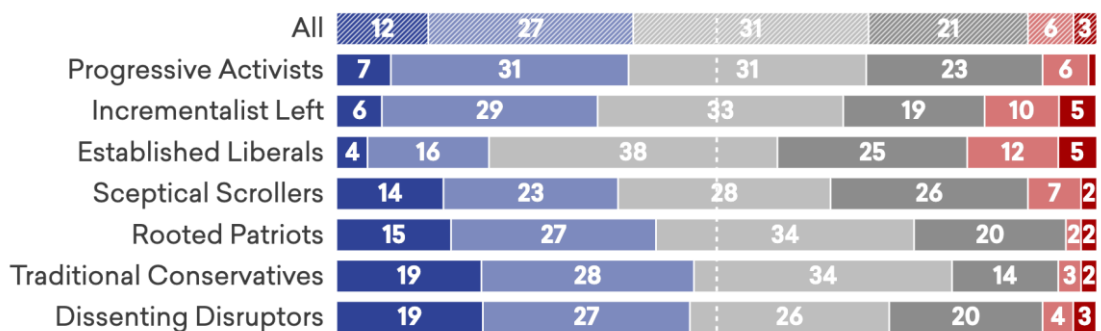
Sylvie, 23, Urban Tree Officer

In a focus group in Greater Manchester, one participant described a friend who was wearing a Star of David necklace while out in the city and was harassed by pro-Palestine protesters on a march. Another said they had heard about Jewish neighbours taking off their Star of David necklaces before heading into town for fear of being targeted. Given the proximity of the participants to the Heaton Park synagogue, which was attacked last year, the group was particularly attentive to the nature, scale and impact of this threat.

A plurality of Britons expect the number of antisemitic hate crimes to rise in the coming years

Over the next few years, do you expect the number of hate crimes targeting Jewish people in the UK to:

- Increase significantly
- Increase somewhat
- Remain roughly the same
- Don't know
- Decrease somewhat
- Decrease significantly



More in Common • July 2026

The community feels a need to spend, I would imagine, in the millions of pounds just to protect themselves so they can go about their daily life. Kids can go to school, they can go to shops, they can pray, they can worship. I think the government has got to take a massive responsibility for that.

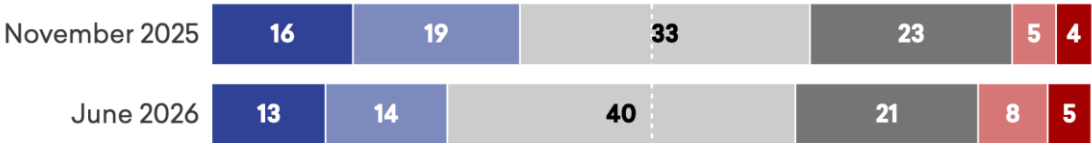
Kevin, 68, Retired Police Officer

Additionally, more Britons think negatively of those who support the right of the Jewish people to have a nation in Israel. In November 2025, 35 per cent of the public had a positive opinion of people in the UK who support the right of Jewish people to have a nation in Israel. Just eight per cent felt negative, giving a net score of 27. In the seven months since, that net score has fallen to 14, twelve points lower than in November 2025. This change is less the result of increased negativity, which exists but has not shifted to a large degree. Rather, there has been a notable drop in the proportion who feel positive about such people. It seems more Britons are ambivalent about people who support the right of Israel to exist as a Jewish state, rather than becoming actively hostile toward them.

Britons today hold a less favourable view of people in the UK who support Israel's right to exist than they did last year

Would you say you have a positive or negative opinion of people in the UK who support the right of Jewish people to have a nation in Israel?

● Very positive ● Somewhat positive ● Neither positive nor negative ● Don't know
● Somewhat negative ● Very negative



More in Common • June 2026

Jewish people have done nothing. Even if people disagree with the Jewish government, that's not a reason to hate on or do anything to the people that are just wandering our streets here. They don't really have a say in it.

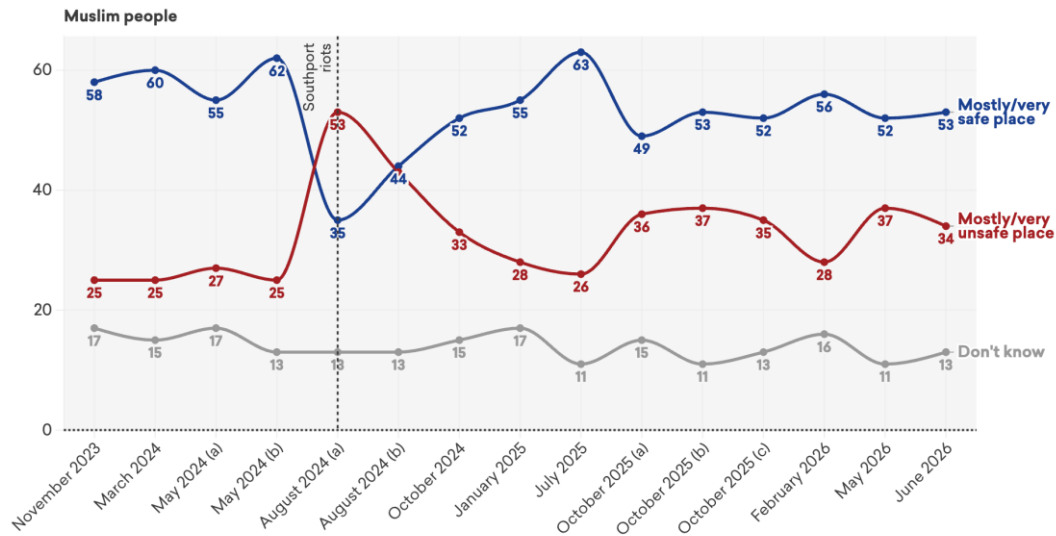
Max, 18, Part-time Administrator

Anti-Muslim hate

The public tends to perceive the UK as a safer place for Muslims than Jewish people (53 vs 43 per cent). However, there has been significant variation over the past three years. The low point for perceptions of Muslim safety came in August 2024 following the Southport riots. This was the first and only time a majority of the public said the UK was an unsafe place for Muslims (53 per cent unsafe vs 35 per cent safe). Current perceptions of Muslim safety have remained broadly steady since October 2025, hovering around 53 per cent, after a slight spike to 63 per cent in July 2025.

Do you think the UK is a safe or unsafe place for Muslim people?

% of Britons saying the UK is a safe or unsafe place for Muslims, Nov 2023 – Jun 2026



More in Common | June 2026

It's made my family and some of my friends really question whether we want to remain as Brits really. And we've become thinking about is it better to raise our children in a different country? And I have friends who've moved to Qatar to Dubai, which obviously they have their own issues, no nation's perfect, but it don't feel like it's such a racist nation.

Fatimah, Teacher

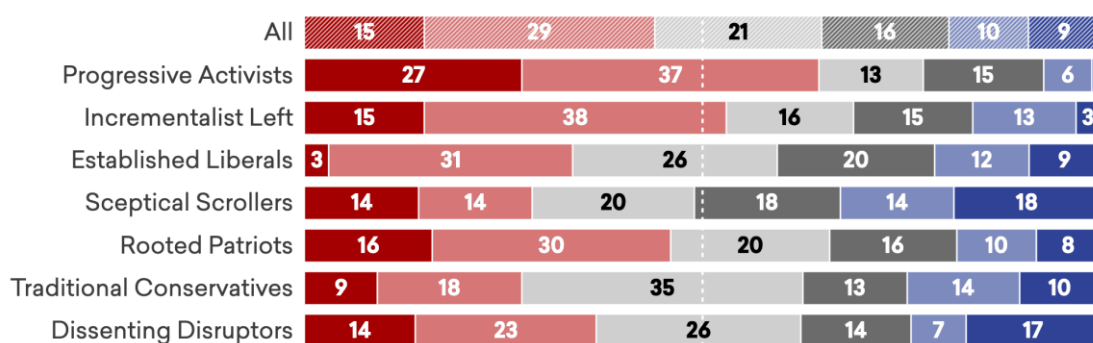
The only generation to think the UK is less safe for Muslims than Jewish people is Gen Z (50 per cent saying 'unsafe' for Muslims vs 38 per cent for Jews). This generally left-leaning cohort is also almost twice as likely to sympathise with Palestine as any other generation (40 per cent). A majority of this age bracket (58 per cent) reside within the Progressive Activist and Incrementalist Left segments – the two segments most likely to perceive the country to be unsafe for Muslims and to sympathise with Palestine in the conflict. Progressive Activists are the only group to have a plurality (and very nearly a majority) that consider the country to be unsafe for Muslims (49 per cent). A majority of both of these segments consider the country more dangerous for Muslims now than it used to be, as do a plurality of all segments other than Traditional Conservatives and Sceptical Scrollers.

Nationally, a plurality of Britons believe the UK is a more dangerous place for Muslims than it used to be (43 per cent more vs 20 per cent less). Additionally, more than a third of the public expect the number of hate crimes targeting Muslims to go up in the next few years (36 per cent).

Left-segments are more likely to think the UK is becoming more dangerous for Muslims than right-segments

Which of the following comes closest to your view? Over the last few years, being a Muslim person in the UK has become:

- Much more dangerous than it used to be
- A bit more dangerous than it used to be
- It has not changed
- Don't know
- A bit less dangerous than it used to be
- Much less dangerous than it used to be



More in Common • June 2026

The public also say they are witnessing anti-Muslim views or comments more than antisemitic views or comments from their friends, family, work colleagues and strangers or passersby. However, they are more likely to report hearing antisemitism than anti-Muslim views or comments in the media.

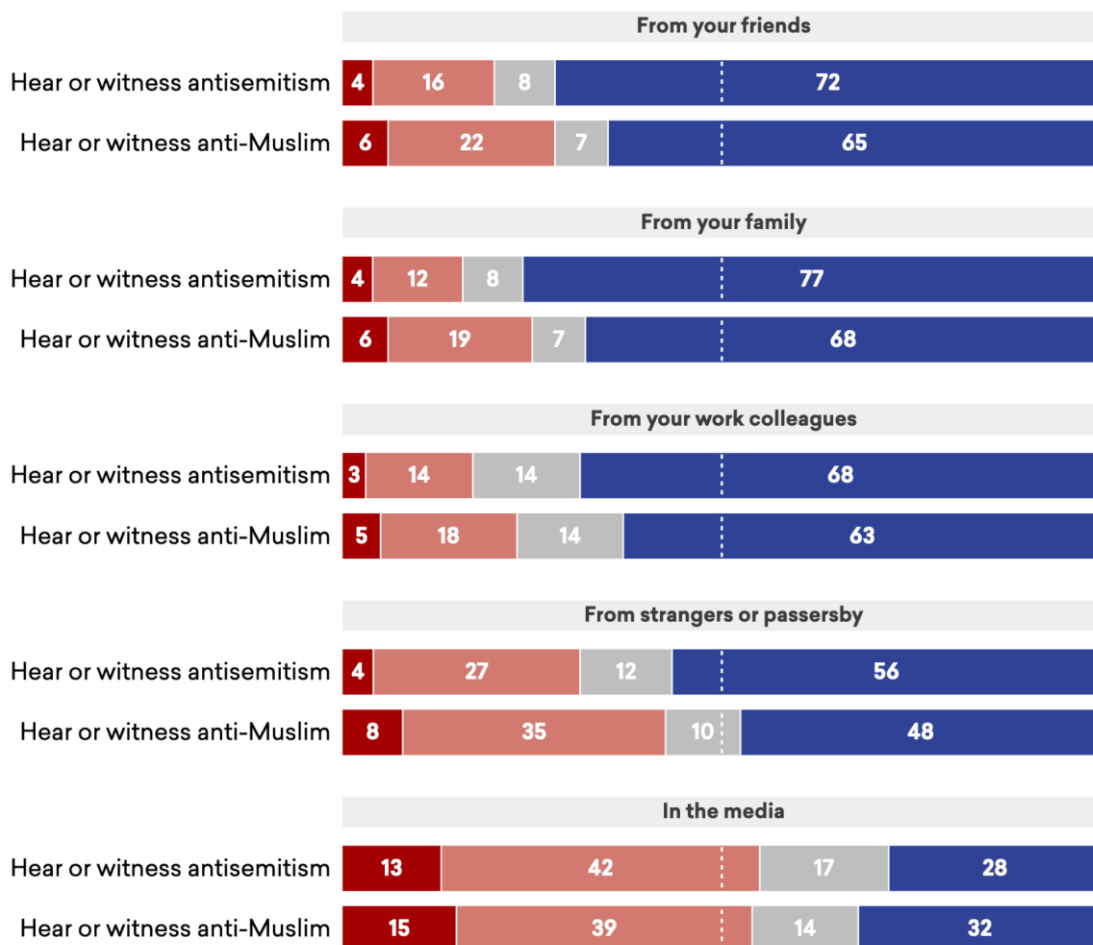
Hearing hate

A majority of Britons say that they never hear or witness antisemitic or anti-Muslim comments from their friends, family or colleagues. A majority also report never hearing antisemitic comments from strangers or passersby (56 per cent), while a plurality say the same for anti-Muslim comments (48 per cent). However, a majority of the country reports hearing both antisemitic and anti-Muslim comments in the media.

The public is more likely to hear or witness anti-Muslim comments than antisemitic comments from their friends, family, work colleagues and strangers

How often, if at all, would you say you hear or witness antisemitic/anti-Muslim views/comments from each of the following...

● Regularly ● Occasionally ● Don't know ● Never



Across all age groups, respondents are more than twice as likely to say they see or hear antisemitic comments in the media than they are to see or hear them from friends, family or colleagues. This is particularly pronounced among younger Britons, with one in three 18-24 year-olds (28 per cent) saying they regularly hear or witness antisemitism in the media compared to just eight per cent of those aged over 55. Nonetheless, the disconnect between the harmful content people see online and everyday experiences in their communities came through strongly in many conversations with Britons during this research.

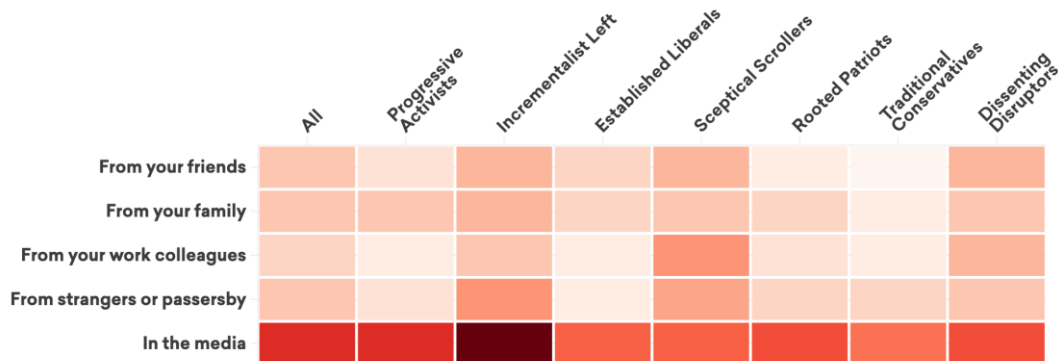
If I've ever seen any form of antisemitism, it would be online.

Chloe, 23, Apprentice Building Surveyor

All segments of Britain say they are much more likely to hear or witness antisemitism in the media than in person

How often, if at all, would you say you hear or witness antisemitic views/comments from each of the following...

Selected 0 20 %



Source: More in Common | June 2026

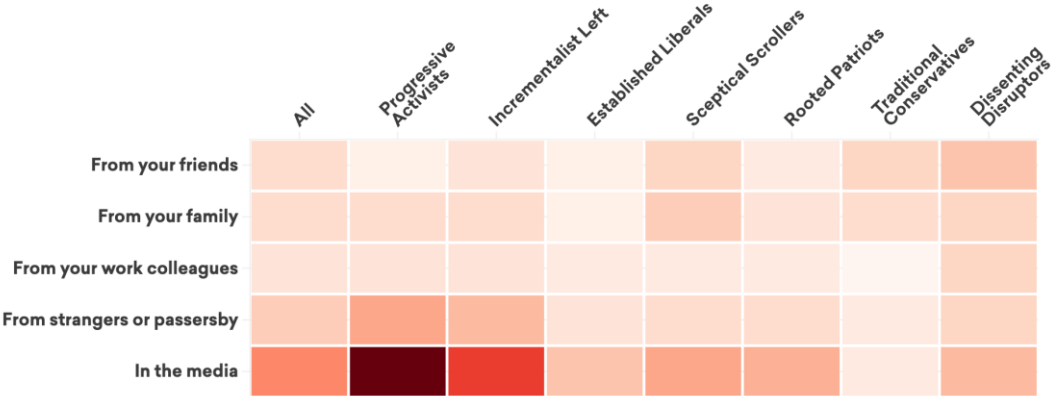
Most segments report seeing a roughly similar amount of anti-Muslim sentiment in the media occasionally or regularly – between 40 and 51 per cent. Progressive Activists and the Incrementalist Left are the exceptions. Among these two groups, the numbers jump up. More than six in ten among the Incrementalist Left say they see anti-Muslim comments in the media (62 per cent), including 22 per cent who see them regularly. This rises to 77 per cent among Progressive Activists, including 34 per cent who see them regularly. These segments are either more attuned to spotting anti-Muslim comments than other segments, or more likely to interpret a comment as anti-Muslim where the other segments do not.

Left-leaning segments are much more likely to say they hear or witness anti-Muslim views in the media than right-leaning segments

How often, if at all, would you say you hear or witness anti-Muslim views/comments from each of the following...

Those who answered 'regularly'...

Selected 0 35 %



Source: More in Common | June 2026

Hardening of divides

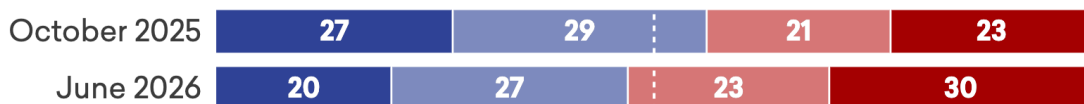
There has been a hardening of divides among Britons who have differing views on the conflict. This is reflected in a rise in the proportion of Britons who would feel worse about someone who posted something they disagreed with on social media. Not only does that hostility cause greater division in the here and now, but it makes any long-term hopes of building bridges much more difficult.

In October 2025, a majority believed that British Jews and Muslims could live harmoniously together (56 per cent) even if they disagreed on Israel-Palestine. Since then, the number who believe this has fallen below half, to 47 per cent.

A majority of Britons no longer believe British Jews and Muslims can live harmoniously despite Israel-Palestine

Please use the scale below to indicate which of the following statements you agree with most.

- 1- British Jews and British Muslims can live harmoniously together, even if they disagree when it comes to Israel-Palestine
- 2 3
- 4- There will be tensions between British Jews and British Muslims so long as they disagree with each other when it comes to Israel-Palestine



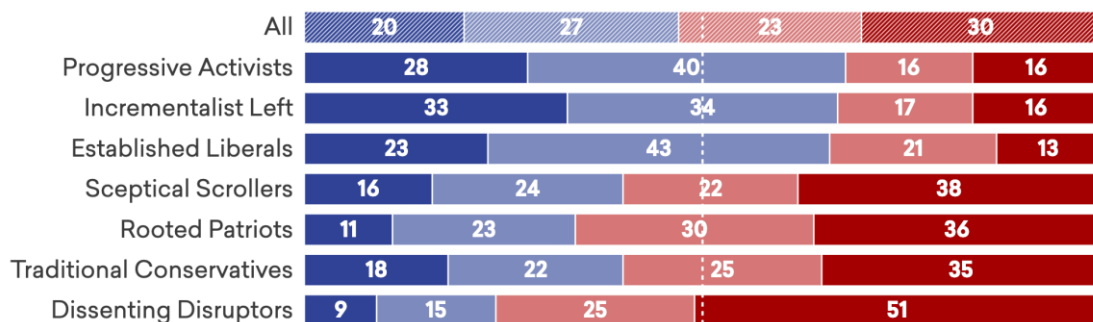
More in Common • June 2026

This divides along ideological lines, with those on the left more optimistic about the future of community relations than those on the right. Around two-thirds of those who are more socially liberal on cultural issues – Progressive Activists, the Incrementalist Left and Established Liberals – believe that British Jews and British Muslims can live harmoniously together, even if they disagree when it comes to Israel-Palestine. Meanwhile, more than six in ten of those who lean right on cultural issues – Rooted Patriots, Traditional Conservatives and Dissenting Disruptors – think there will be tensions between British Jews and British Muslims so long as they disagree with each other on the issue. This rises as high as 76 per cent among Dissenting Disruptors.

Left segments think British Jews and Muslims can live harmoniously together; right segments think they can't

Do you believe that the following groups are doing enough or not doing enough to make Jews in the UK feel safe?

- 1- British Jews and British Muslims can live harmoniously together, even if they disagree when it comes to Israel-Palestine
- 2 ● 3
- 4- There will be tensions between British Jews and British Muslims so long as they disagree with each other when it comes to Israel-Palestine



More in Common • June 2026

They don't integrate ... physically you can see that ... There's literally one street there and it's the Jewish community. And then the next street over is the Muslim community.

Chloe, 23, Apprentice Building Surveyor

This clearly has a negative impact. If people see this as an issue with no solution, efforts to build bridges appear more futile. There is no need to reach across the divide in the name of long-term progress if that long-term progress is deemed impossible. The lack of willingness to engage with the other side – because what's the point? – creates a cyclical effect where progress becomes less and less likely. This can then lead to a further lack of empathy for the perceived 'other side'.

The 'other side'

Among those who sympathise more with one side than the other, there is a significant disparity in how they see the perceived 'other side' of the debate from the wider public. This disparity is particularly apparent in perceptions of the levels of safety of Jewish and Muslim communities in the UK. While 43 per cent of the overall public see the UK as a safe place for Jewish people, among those who sympathise more with Palestine this rises to 54 per cent. Among those who sympathise more with Israel, it drops to 29 per cent.

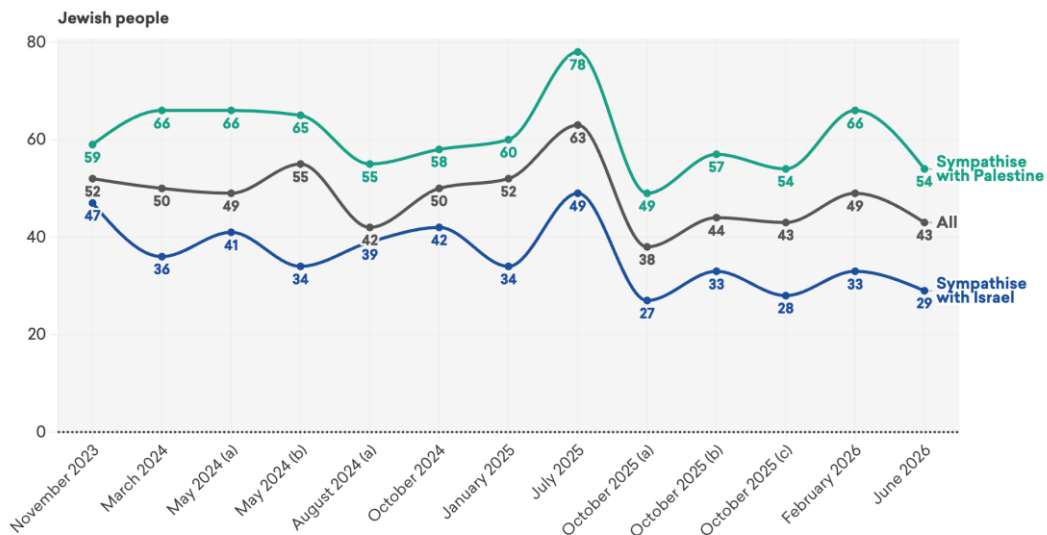
The gap is even wider on the question of Muslim safety. While 53 per cent of the overall public see the UK as a safe place for Muslims, this falls to 50 per cent among those who

sympathise more with Palestine. It rises to 78 per cent among those who sympathise more with Israel. In other words, those who sympathise more strongly with either side have a very different conception of the safety of minorities in Britain than that held by the general public, and sometimes a very different conception of the safety of these communities from those who sympathise with the 'other side'.

What's more, these gaps have widened since the start of the conflict. Those who sympathise more with Israel and those who sympathise more with Palestine are now 25 percentage points apart on the issue of Jewish safety and 28 percentage points apart on the issue of Muslim safety. In 2023, these gaps were 12 and 13 percentage points respectively. It is difficult to build a consensus between the two sides when the perception of threat faced by each community is so polarised.

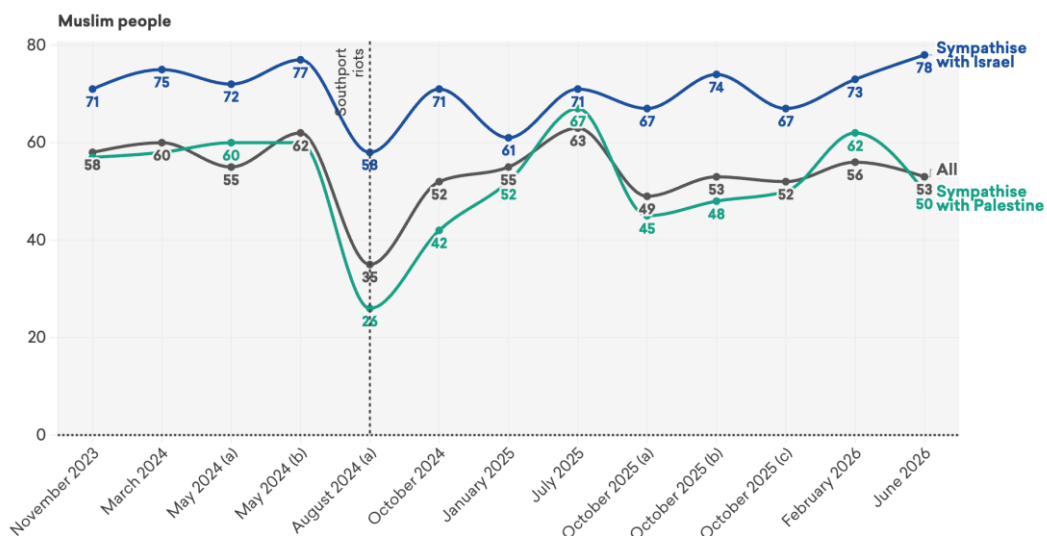
Perception of Jewish safety in the UK varies by stance on Israel-Palestine

% saying the UK is a safe place for Jewish people, by which side people sympathise with more



Perception of Muslim safety in the UK varies by stance on Israel-Palestine

% saying the UK is a safe place for Muslim people, by which side people sympathise with more



There's also a divide between those who sympathise with Israel and those who sympathise with Palestine on the possibility of positive relations between the two sides moving forward. A majority of those who sympathise with the Palestinian side think British Jews and Muslims can live together harmoniously (53 per cent). A majority of those who sympathise with Israel think they can't (69 per cent). The general public is split on the issue (47 to 53 per cent).

Institutions

There are also partisan divides regarding the role of institutions in tackling or propagating anti-Muslim or antisemitic sentiment. Those who sympathise with the Palestinian side are far more likely to think the government, law enforcement and educators are doing enough to make Jewish people in the UK feel safe. Not only are they roughly 20 percentage points more likely to say that the government, the police, charities, schools and universities are doing enough to make Jews in the UK feel safe than those who sympathise with the Israeli side, but they are around 15 percentage points more likely to say so than the public more broadly. This gulf in perception of whether institutions are doing enough exacerbates divisions between the sides. This is further evidence on top of the previous findings on perceptions of safety. Those who sympathise with Israel and those who sympathise with Palestine often have a different conception of both the scale of the problem and what's needed to solve it.

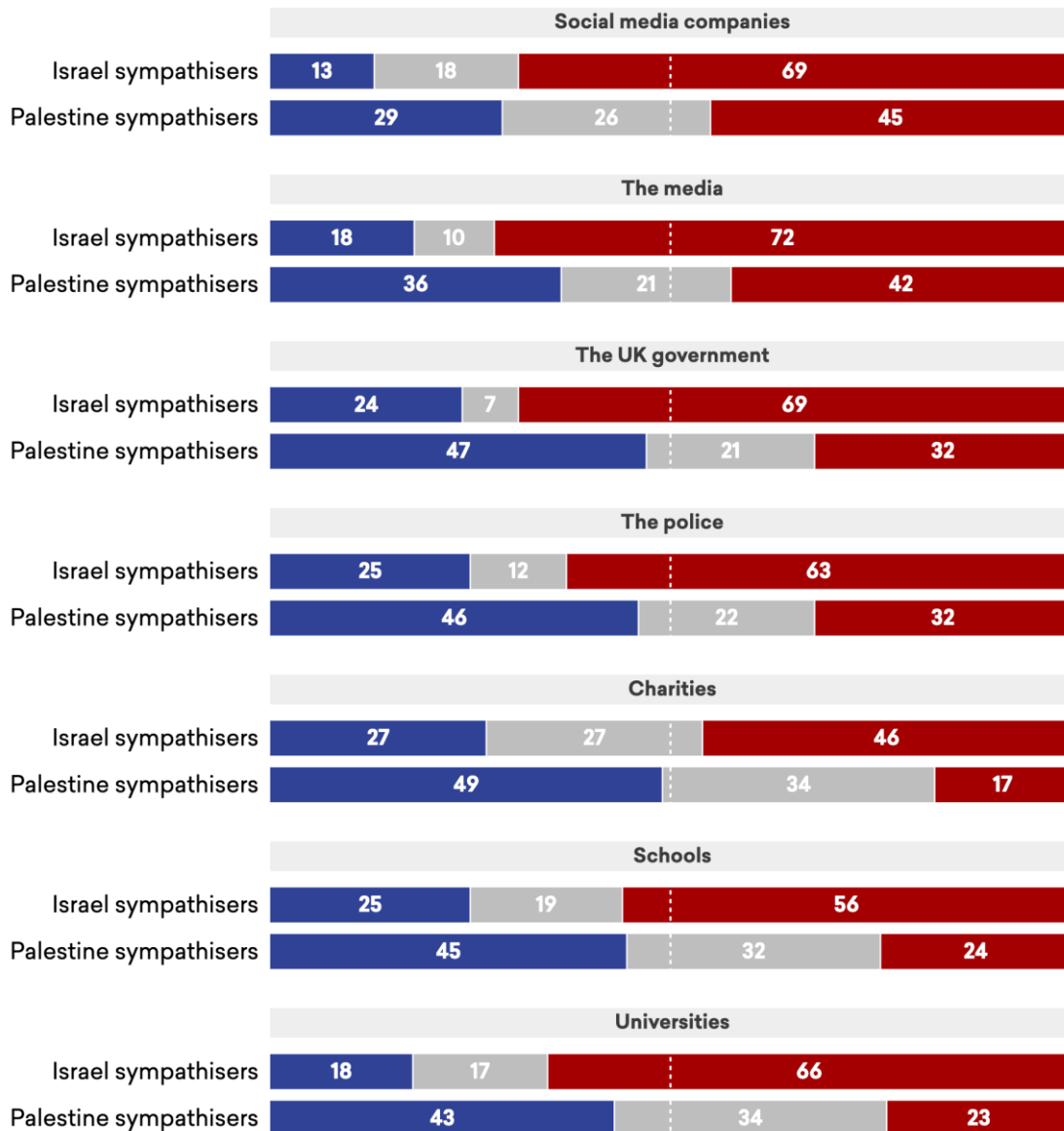
As with questions of safety, I don't think antisemitism is on the increase at all. So there's a distinct difference. It's being conflated because I think there's a distinct difference between antisemitism and anti-Zionism. And I think most people are, because of obviously what is being made aware, a lot of people are anti-Zionist and there is a lot of movement towards anti-Zionism, which is being spoken as being antisemitism, which is not the case.

Maryam, Administrator, Barking

Israel and Palestine supporters are totally divided as to how well UK institutions are handling antisemitism

Do you believe that the following groups are doing enough or not doing enough to make Jews in the UK feel safe?

● Doing enough ● Don't know ● Not doing enough

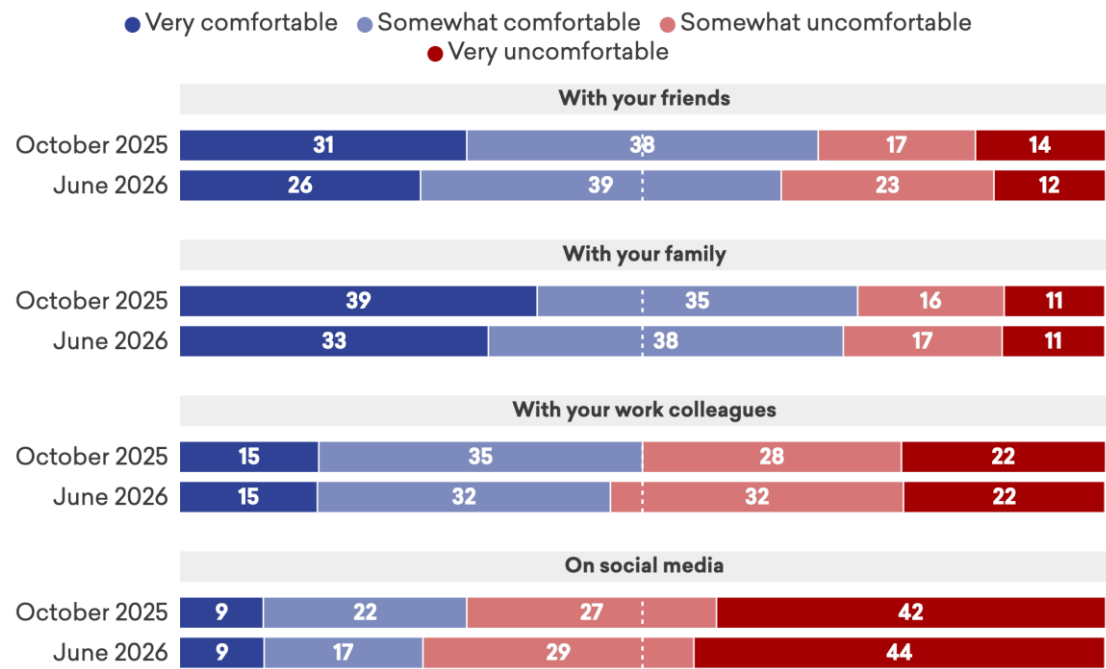


Chapter 3 | Talking (and shouting) about the conflict

Britons feel slightly less comfortable talking about Israel-Palestine than they did last year. Roughly two-thirds (65 per cent) are comfortable talking about it with their friends and 71 per cent with their family. There is a large drop in comfort when it comes to talking about it with work colleagues (47 per cent). However, by a distance the least comfortable place to talk about the issue is on social media, where just 26 per cent of the public are comfortable and 73 per cent uncomfortable. Britons today are less comfortable talking about the conflict in all of these settings than they were in October 2025.

Britons are slightly less comfortable talking about Israel-Palestine today than they were last year

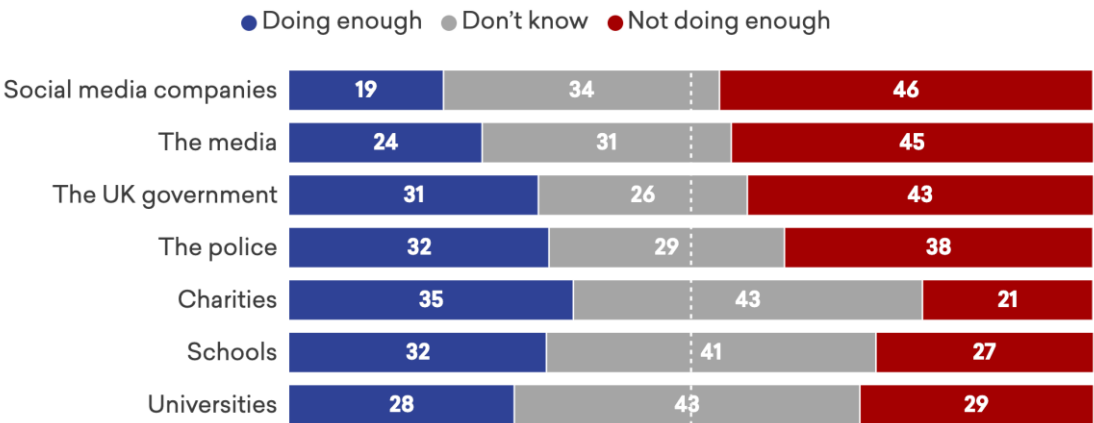
And how comfortable or uncomfortable do you feel talking about the Israel-Palestine conflict?



Britons consider social media companies to be doing a worse job at preventing antisemitism than other institutions like lawmakers and educators. In fact, the only thing uniting those who sympathise with Israel, those who sympathise with Palestine, those who sympathise with both sides equally and those who sympathise with neither side is the belief that social media companies and the media more broadly are not doing enough to make Jews in the UK feel safe.

The public is twice as likely to say social media companies are not doing enough to make Britain's Jews feel safe than doing enough

Do you believe that the following groups are doing enough or not doing enough to make Jews in the UK feel safe?



More in Common • June 2026

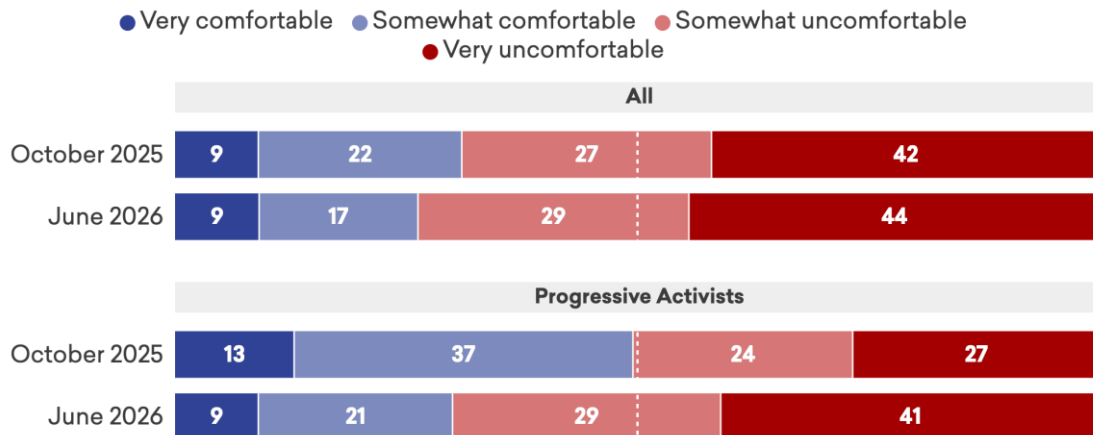
There has been a particular shift among Progressive Activists in their stance on social media. Since October 2025, the number of Progressive Activists who feel comfortable talking about Israel-Palestine online has dropped nineteen points, from 49 to 30 per cent – with 70 per cent now uncomfortable doing so. This is reflective of a broader trend across the country that comes out in the focus groups: posting on social media poses too many risks and is amplifying division.

I would be frightened... I think if I thought something and I was on Facebook or whatever, I would definitely not comment for fear of backlash, people being nasty. Put me under. I couldn't cope.

Sandra, 65, Charity Information and Support Officer

Progressive Activists are increasingly uncomfortable talking about Israel-Palestine on social media

And how comfortable or uncomfortable do you feel talking about the Israel-Palestine conflict on social media?



More in Common • June 2026

All age groups are more likely to say social media companies are not doing enough than doing enough to make Jews in the UK feel safe. This is the case among younger and older Britons, with those aged 18-24 and all age groups older than 45 more than twice as likely to say they are not doing enough than doing enough. Supporters of all major political parties other than Labour are also twice as likely to say social media companies are not doing enough than doing enough (and among Labour supporters, 30 per cent say doing enough vs 47 per cent not doing enough). In other words, the belief that social media companies aren't doing enough to protect Jews in the UK unites an extremely broad coalition of Britons that cuts across generational and political divides.

There's a lot more they can do to protect people and there's a lot more they can do to actually identify the offenders. For me, it's not really that hard, but they're making a fortune. There's too much money involved.

Kevin, 68, Retired Police Officer

The only 'institution' even comparable to social media in terms of the negativity of responses is 'the media' itself. 45 per cent of the public say the media hasn't done enough to make Jews in the UK feel safe while 24 per cent say it has. This is perhaps unsurprising given that Britons report hearing and witnessing both antisemitic and anti-Muslim comments in the media far more often than in their day-to-day interactions.

With growing concern among the public over the safety of Jewish people in the UK and a real imbalance between the regularity with which the public encounters antisemitism in the real world compared to within media spaces, it is unsurprising that Britons of all ages

would deem the media and social media to be doing a worse job on the issue than even the government or police (though these institutions are not immune to criticism).

Conclusion

The Israel-Palestine conflict continues to have an outsized impact on social cohesion in the UK. Britons are even less likely to choose a side today than they were in October 2025. Yet the issue still drives division, particularly among those with strong views. Many feel negatively about those who hold opposing views. Others are exasperated by anyone who takes a view either way, sometimes perceiving them to be amplifying division. But it is difficult to disengage from a conflict that continues to have a negative, sometimes chilling, sometimes inflammatory, impact on community relations in Britain, even if many find it increasingly difficult to talk about.

Despite most Britons' reluctance to pick a side in the conflict, ideological divides continue to harden. Britons are less comfortable talking about the issue in real life and online and are more critical of those who do. The public think social media companies are particularly culpable for the spread of this division and, as many made clear in discussions about this topic, far too slow to act in instances of hate speech. Other institutions divide opinion, though there is a notable contingent that think the government and police should be doing more. As long as those who take a side in the conflict are increasingly unlikely to see the other side's viewpoint in good faith, or to accept the danger posed to other communities, it will be difficult to rebuild trust - though doing so remains essential.

The fact that the public is divided as to whether the UK is a safe place for Jewish people or not should serve as a wake-up call. Finding ways of bringing together Britons with different points of view is a challenge, but enormously necessary.

Ten months on from the ceasefire, tensions remain high. A decline in the scale of violence abroad has not cooled debate back home. The silent majority outlined in 'After Choosing Sides' still exists. However, they are not the ones shaping current debate.

Methodology

Polling for this research was conducted between 26 – 29 June 2026. More in Common surveyed 2,146 adults online. The polling is weighted to be representative of GB adults by age/sex, region, ethnicity, education level and past vote.

A focus group was conducted, online, on 16 July 2026. The participants were a mix of adults in the Greater Manchester area.

Following the UK Government's announcement of sanctions on West Bank settlers in September 2026, More in Common conducted follow-up polling between 11 – 15 September, surveying 2,042 adults online.

Other quantitative and qualitative data in this report comes from other published More in Common research, chiefly [*After Choosing Sides*](#).

More in Common is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules. Full data tables are available on our website.

