



Hate crimes tear at the very fabric of our communities.

They divide us, create fear and mistrust, and can lead to devastating consequences for individuals and families.

There is no place for hate crime. You can be the change. We encourage people to find out more about the different types of hate crime and to learn the signs to spot, so that if you do see something, you can speak up.

What is hate crime?

In most crimes it is something the victim has in their possession or control that motivates the offender to commit the crime. With hate crime it is 'who' the victim is, or 'what' the victim appears to be that motivates the offender to commit the crime.

Hate crime is an act of violent behaviour or hostility that is usually motivated by hatred of a person's disability, age, race, religion, transgender identity or sexual orientation.

A hate crime is defined as 'Any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person's race or perceived race; religion or perceived religion; sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation; disability or perceived disability and any crime motivated by hostility or prejudice against a person who is transgender or perceived to be transgender.'

A hate incident is any incident which the victim, or anyone else, thinks is based on someone's prejudice towards them because of their race, religion, sexual orientation, disability or because they are transgender.

Evidence of the hate element is not a requirement. You do not need to personally perceive the incident to be hate related. It would be enough if another person, a witness or even a police officer thought that the incident was hate related.

Types of hate crime

Hate crime can fall into one of three main types: physical assault, verbal abuse and incitement to hatred.

Physical assault - of any kind is an offence. If you've been a victim of physical assault, you should report it. Depending on the level of the violence used, a perpetrator may be charged with common assault, actual bodily harm or grievous bodily harm.

Verbal abuse - threats or name-calling can be a common and extremely unpleasant experience for minority groups. Victims of verbal abuse are often unclear whether an offence has been committed or believe there is little they can do. However, there are laws in place to protect you from verbal abuse.

Incitement to hatred - The offence of incitement to hatred occurs when someone acts in a way that is threatening and intended to stir up hatred. That could be in words, pictures, videos, music, and includes information posted on websites.

Hate content may include:

- messages calling for violence against a specific person or group
- web pages that show pictures, videos or descriptions of violence against anyone due to their perceived differences
- chat forums where people ask other people to commit hate crimes against a specific person or group

How to report hate crime

Is it an emergency - Call [999](#) now in emergency situations like these:

- there is an immediate danger to life
- someone is using violence or is threatening to be violent
- a crime is happening right now, and the suspect is still at the scene

Hearing or speech impairments

- If you've pre-registered with the [emergencySMS service](#), use the Relay text app: textphone service 18000 or text us on 999.
- Call [999 BSL](#) to use a British Sign Language interpreter.

Nothing to report?

- [Learn more](#) about the difference between hate incidents and hate crime.
- In the event you witness a hate crime, be prepared by [learning safe ways to support victims](#) there and then.
- [Volunteer](#) with Crimestoppers to raise awareness of our unique crime reporting service in your community.
- Hate crime is under-reported. Only half of hate crimes are reported to police, according to the [Crime Survey for England and Wales](#). When it is, satisfaction with the response is low.