

Altogether
safer

Safe Durham Partnership

Hate crime Information and advice

Targeting people because of their:

- Race, ethnic origin, nationality
- Religion
- Sexual orientation
- Disability
- Gender identity



www.durham.gov.uk/hatecrime

We will not tolerate hate crimes or hate incidents within our communities. This leaflet gives information on hate crimes and hate incidents and explains how to report them and where to go for help and support.

What is a hate crime?

A hate crime is a criminal offence where the victim is targeted because of their race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, disability or gender identity.

Hate incident

A hate incident is perceived by the victim, or any other person, as being motivated by prejudice or hate. This may or may not constitute a criminal offence.

Hate crimes and hate incidents can be committed against a person or property and can include:

- Harassment
- Bullying
- Threats
- Verbal abuse
- Physical violence and assault
- Financial abuse - someone taking your money
- Malicious communications - offensive mail, texts or emails
- Offensive or dangerous substances posted through the letterbox
- Graffiti
- Arson

Disability related harassment

Research shows that disabled people are at specific risk of hate crimes and hate incidents.

If you know of someone suffering harassment who has a physical disability, a learning disability, mental health problems or an older person who needs extra support, please report what you know and identify that a vulnerable person is involved.

The worst thing you can do is do nothing.



Reporting a hate crime

If you have been a victim or have witnessed a hate crime or hate incident it is important that you report it however small it may appear to you.

You can report it to the police or other agencies. Help and support is available even if you choose not to report the hate crime or hate incident directly.

See Useful contacts section on the back of this leaflet.

In an emergency call 999.



Why report it?

- Everyone has the right to live free from fear of harassment – we need to bring to justice people who attack that right
- The nature and frequency of hate incidents often gets worse over a period of time – by reporting them now you can prevent things getting worse
- We need to know how many hate crimes are taking place so that we can respond to them effectively

What are we doing to eliminate hate crime?

We want our communities to be places that are fair and tolerant with a strong local culture where everyone can feel safe. Everyone has a right to live their life without fear.

We all have a responsibility to report hate crimes or hate incidents wherever we see them.

We are working hard to:

- Make it easier to report hate crimes and hate incidents
- Make sure victims of hate crimes and hate incidents receive the best possible support
- Make sure all partner agencies respond effectively to hate crimes and hate incidents

Effective responses to hate crimes and hate incidents will help our aim of preventing such incidents from taking place.



Useful contacts

To report a hate crime or hate incident contact:

- Durham Police on 101
- In an emergency 999
- Call in to a local police station
- Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 calls are free and confidential
- Online via True Vision website www.report-it.org.uk



To speak to someone anonymously and in confidence for advice and support without reporting the incident contact:

- A Community Cohesion Officer On 101
- Citizens Advice Bureau
www.citizensadvice.org.uk
03444 111 444
- Victim Care and Advice Service
www.victimcareandadvice.org.uk
Freephone: 0303 0401 099
- Equality and Human Rights Commission
www.equalityhumanrights.com
0808 800 0082
- Social Care Direct
www.durham.gov.uk/hatecrime
03000 26 79 79

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