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Reporting Hate Crime

Hate crimes are any crimes that are targeted at a person because of hostility or prejudice towards that person's disability, race or ethnicity, religion or belief, sexual orientation or transgender identity.

All hate crimes and incidents should be reported, whether you have been a victim, a witness or you are reporting on behalf of someone else.

Hate crimes and incidents can be committed against a person or property. Hate incidents can feel like crimes to those who suffer them and often escalate to crimes or tension in a community. These incidents may include verbal abuse, physical assault, domestic abuse, harassment and damage to property.

If a person is bullied as a result of their disability, race, religion, sexual orientation or transgender identity, this is also dealt with either as a hate crime or non-crime hate incident. Bullying could include name-calling, being spat at or kicked, or having your things taken or damaged.

The police can only prosecute when the law is broken but can work with partners to try and prevent any escalation in seriousness.

By reporting them when they happen, you may be able to prevent these incidents from happening to someone else. You will also help the police understand the extent of hate crime in your local area so they can better respond to it.

There are several ways you can report a hate crime, whether you have been a victim, a witness, or you are reporting on behalf of someone else:

1. In an emergency call 999 or 112.

2. Contact the police - who you can speak to in confidence. You do not have to give your personal details, but please be aware the investigation and ability to prosecute the offender(s) is severely limited if the police cannot contact you. Contact your local police force, either by telephone or by visiting your local police station. Details on how to contact your local police force can be found at www.police.uk.

3. Report online – on the official hate crime website True Vision. Go to the 'Reporting online' page.

4. Self-reporting form – You can download the self-reporting form on the 'Report a hate crime' page and send this to your local police force.

5. Third party reporting centres - Local agencies such as the Citizens Advice Bureau, Community Voluntary Services etc. (see 'Organisations that can help' page) can also report the incident and provide advice and support. The Stop Hate UK organisation provides confidential and independent Hate Crime reporting services in various areas in the UK including a 24 hour helpline.

6. Contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 or at www.crimestoppers-uk.org. You can give them as little or as much personal information as you wish. But please note:

- With your details... the incident can be investigated fully and you can get the service you deserve and the support you need.

- Without your details... the report will be used for monitoring purposes to get a true vision of what is happening.