

Guidance for Victims of Hate Crime – Collecting Evidence

What is a Hate Crime or Incident?

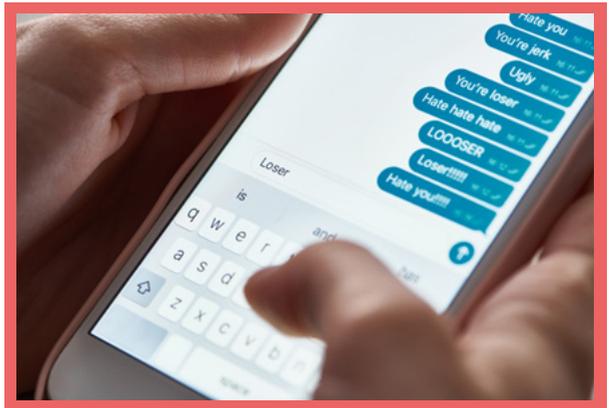
A Hate Crime is when someone commits a crime against you because of your disability, identification as LGBTQ+, race or religion.

A Hate Incident is behaviour which is perceived by the victim to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person's race, religion, disability, sexuality, or gender. These incidents are still as important and should be reported to the police.

A Hate Crime isn't always physical violence. Someone using offensive language towards another or harassing another because of who they are, or who they think they are, is also a crime. The same goes for someone posting abusive or offensive messages about a person online.

Hate Crime affects whole communities, destroys lives and causes real fear for victims and witnesses. If these crimes are not tackled, it can lead to isolation, further

victimisation of individuals and vulnerable groups, and the marginalisation of communities.



Introduction

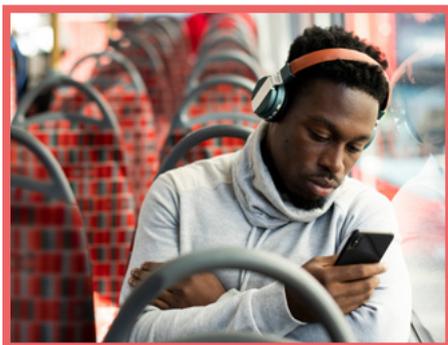
If you have experienced a Hate Crime or Hate Incident, there are services to help you.

You can get support locally from any of the services listed at the bottom of this leaflet. You can also report an incident to the police. If it happened close to your home, and you are a council or housing association tenant, you can also report it to your landlord. The Police (or your landlord) will record details and investigate to see what action can be taken.

The Police or your landlord must consider your views on risk and safety and will always keep your information confidential.

This guide provides information that will help you to collect evidence of a Hate Crime or Incident.

Local support services can also provide advice regarding gathering evidence. Please see details of these services at the end of this leaflet.



Collecting evidence to support your case

Although evidence helps professionals to build a case against the perpetrator, you do not need evidence to report an incident for it to be recorded as a Hate Crime. There are different ways that you can collect evidence and they are as follows:

- Complete logs or diary sheets. Write down the facts of each incident including the time, date, location, words used, any witnesses and the impact it had on you or your family. If you have a social housing tenancy, you may be able to request a diary sheet from your landlord. Otherwise, you can use the examples provide by Galop [Diary-Sheets-and-Guidance-on-Keeping-a-Written-Record-of-Hate-Crime.pdf \(galop.org.uk\)](https://www.galop.org.uk)
- Keeping records helps professionals to identify patterns and increase their understanding of what you are experiencing.
- If anyone else witnessed the incident and would be willing to support you, remember to record their details and ask them to write a short, factual statement of what they saw or heard.
- Remembering the exact location and times of the incident will assist with the investigation, as there may be CCTV in the vicinity, or people who are local to the area that may have witnessed it.



Types of evidence

Evidence can take several forms. There are four main types of evidence that can be collected:

- 1. Documentary evidence:** documentary evidence consists of documents and reports which have been created to support your case, including letters from support services or professionals such as GPs.
- 2. Physical evidence:** physical evidence can consist of items like photographs, text messages, emails, social media, videos or audio files.
- 3. Witness evidence:** these are people who have seen or heard an incident and can include friends, family, or any other member of the public, as well as professionals such as the police, social workers or council officers.
- 4. Victim personal statement:** a victim's personal statement enables you to explain the impact of the crime in your own words. It also allows professionals to gain an understanding of how the crime has affected you.



Types of Hate Crime

Hate Crime falls into one of the following main types:

Physical assault

Any kind of physical assault is a criminal offence. Depending on the level of violence used, a perpetrator may be charged with common assault, actual bodily harm (ABH) or grievous bodily harm (GBH).

Verbal abuse

Verbal abuse, threats or name-calling can be a common and extremely unpleasant experience for minority groups. You don't need to know who abused you in order to report it or seek support.

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 among others. That could be through their words, pictures, videos or 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 perceived differences
- Chat forums where people ask others to commit Hate Crimes against a specific person or group

How are you coping?

Quite often, the process of collecting evidence and talking to agencies can take months. If you are building a case while you are experiencing Hate Crime, it can become particularly stressful.

It's important if you are feeling

overwhelmed to seek support from your friends and family, your GP or local support services, as shown here:



Faith, race, religion Hate Crime support service
020 3747 9862 reporthat@griproject.org.uk



LGBT hate crime support service **020 8305 5003** /
safer@metrocharity.org.uk metrocentreonline.org



MetroGAD hatecrime support service **020 8305 2221** /
info@gad.org.uk gad.org.uk

Please contact these services if you are experiencing Hate Crime or need further advice or guidance.

