

# Hate Crime

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NOTTINGHAMSHIRE  
**POLICE**  
PROUD TO SERVE

# What is a hate crime?

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A hate crime is any incident where someone is targeted because of their identity. Hate crime can take any shape and isn't always illegal behaviour, but it is always motivated by prejudice, often in the following areas:

- Race
- Religion
- Sexual orientation
- Disability
- Transgender
- Misogyny
- Alternative sub-culture, e.g. goth

It can disguise itself under many different names (homophobia, Islamophobia or racism to name a few) but, whichever name it's taking, it's still wrong and we can take action against offenders. All hate crime is serious: everyone has the right to live their life without fear of prejudice, discrimination and hate.

Some hate crimes are obvious, such as openly racist attacks. Others are less obvious, such as teasing, name-calling and bullying. Some are aimed at whole communities, whilst others target individuals. They can involve attacks on people or on buildings and property. The important thing is that if it's happening because of who you are then it needs reporting.

# How can I report it?

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If you want to report a hate crime you can call 101, where you will be able to speak to a member of staff who can offer advice and take your report. If you're not comfortable speaking to someone directly, you can make a report online at [www.report-it.org.uk](http://www.report-it.org.uk).

In an emergency, always call 999. Remember, even if you don't think a crime has been committed, if you feel you've been targeted because of your identity then we would encourage you to report this.

If English isn't your first language, please still report the incident. We have interpreters for more than 100 languages available via telephone at all times of the day.

Nottinghamshire Police also has the Pegasus scheme which offers a greater number of ways to contact the police and helps individuals who may find the usual ways of reporting a crime difficult. You can either register online via the Nottinghamshire Police website or by filling in an application form which can be obtained by emailing [pegasus@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:pegasus@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk).

# What happens if I report it?

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Our number one priority is making sure you are safe.

We can help you get any emergency help or support that you need and then we'll make an appointment to come and meet you to get full details of the incident. If you feel that you have been targeted because of your identity, then we will treat it as a hate crime.

We will treat you fairly and with respect, but we'll also be honest and keep you informed with what's happening. Sadly, in some cases, there isn't enough evidence to find the offender but we will conduct a professional investigation and, if we can find the offender, we'll ask your opinion on what we do next.

If you agree, your local neighbourhood policing team will make regular contact with you to update you and check that you are okay. Your safety and well-being are our priority from beginning to end.

Sometimes people don't report a hate crime because they fear it will 'out' them. Rest assured, we will not look into your personal circumstances or question your reasons for being somewhere. Your report will be confidential and your case will be handled with the utmost discretion.

# What should I do if I've been a victim?

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Aside from reporting it, there are a few things you can do to help us with our investigation:

- When you report the incident, make a note of the name of the person who comes to see you and the reference number
- If anyone sees the incident, ask for their name and contact details so that we can speak to them directly
- Write down what happens, noting the time, date and location
- If anyone gets injured, make sure they get medical attention
- Take photos of any damage
- If social media is involved, either print the page or take a screenshot. Equally, if someone has been texting you with abusive messages, save them on to your phone
- Keep tickets or receipts for any expenses

# What can be done about it?

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It can be emotionally difficult to cope with a hate crime – after all, it’s an attack on you as a person and it can leave people feeling scared and isolated. Sometimes, knowing what can be done about it can help.

We will investigate hate crimes using all of the powers available to us, including laws protecting you from personal and online abuse. This can lead to us making arrests and using bail conditions to keep you safe. It is also sometimes possible to get a bigger sentence for hate crimes at court.

We’ll ask you some questions to find out how the incident has affected you and your family and, with your consent, we’ll work with other agencies to help you feel safe, including support services for victims.

# For more information

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If you would like more information about hate crime or advice on how to keep yourself safe, you can visit:



[www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/hatecrime](http://www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/hatecrime)  
[report-it.org.uk/home](http://report-it.org.uk/home)



@nottspolice



101 or in an emergency dial 999

