



Hate Crime

What is a Hate Crime?

A hate crime is any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person to be motivated by a hostility or prejudice based on:

- a person's **race** or perceived race, or
any racial group or ethnic background including countries within the UK and Gypsy and Traveller groups
- a person's **religion** or perceived religion, or
any religious group including those who have no faith
- a person's **sexual orientation** or perceived sexual orientation, or
any person's sexual orientation
- a person's **disability** or perceived disability, or
 - any disability including physical disability, learning disability and mental health or developmental disorders
- a person who is **transgender** or perceived to be transgender,
including people who are transsexual, transgender, cross dressers and those who hold a Gender Recognition Certificate under the Gender Recognition Act 2004.

Hate crime examples include:

Physical attacks, such as physical assault, damage to property, offensive graffiti and arson;

Threat of attack, such as inciting hatred by words, pictures or videos, offensive letters, abusive or obscene telephone calls, groups hanging around to intimidate, and unfounded malicious complaints.

What is a Non-Crime Hate Incident?

Any non-crime incident 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, or

any racial group or ethnic background including countries within the UK and Gypsy and Traveller groups

a person's **religion** or perceived religion, or

any religious group including those who have no faith

a person's **sexual** orientation or perceived sexual orientation, or

any person's sexual orientation

a person's **disability** or perceived disability, or

any disability including physical disability, learning disability and mental health or developmental disorders

a person who is **transgender** or perceived to be transgender,

including people who are transsexual, transgender, cross dressers and those who hold a Gender Recognition Certificate under the Gender Recognition Act 2004.

Non-crime hate incidents must also be recorded by the police and Force policy outlines how they should be recorded locally.

For allegations of Hate Incidents, Police need to apply their judgement in establishing whether there is hostility towards a protected characteristic group. If, having applied their judgement and taking account of the full context, no hostility is found, the Incident would **not** be recorded as a Hate Incident.

Non-crime hate incident examples include:

Verbal or online abuse, insults or harassment, such as taunting, offensive leaflets and posters, abusive gestures, dumping of rubbish outside homes or through letterboxes, and bullying at school or in the workplace.

A hate incident doesn't mean that we won't take it seriously if someone reports it.