

# Hate Crime

Information for parents and carers



## What is a hate crime?

A hate crime is defined as 'any criminal offence 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; religion or perceived religion; sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation; disability or perceived disability, and any crime motivated by hostility or prejudice against a person who is transgender or perceived to be transgender.' There is no legal definition of hostility, so the Crown Prosecution Service uses the everyday understanding of the word, which includes ill-will, spite, contempt, prejudice, unfriendliness, antagonism, resentment and dislike. Evidence of the hate element is not a requirement. You do not need to personally perceive the incident to be hate related. It would be enough if another person, a witness or even a police officer thought that the incident was hate related.

## Types of Hate crime

**Physical assault** of any kind is an offence. Depending on the level of violence used, a perpetrator might be charged with common assault, actual bodily harm (ABH) or grievous bodily harm (GBH).

**Verbal assault** Threats or name calling can be a common and extremely unpleasant experience for minority groups. Victims of verbal abuse are often unclear whether an offence has been committed or believe there is little they can do. However, there are laws in place to protect people from verbal abuse.

**Incitement to hatred** occurs when someone acts in a way that is threatening and the intention was to stir up hatred. That could be in words, pictures, videos, music, and includes information posted on websites. Hate content may include messages calling for violence against a specific group.

## Signs that a person may be the target of hate crime can include:

Depression or anxiety

A change in dress or behaviour

Unexplained absence from school

Aggression

Self-harm

## Support and Report

You can report any information to the police: 999 in an emergency, or otherwise via 101 or our [website](#)

If it's not an emergency, visit [Crimestoppers](#) to report your concerns anonymously

[True Vision](#) Information and support as well as a way to report hate crime online

[NSPCC Helpline](#) Help and advice if you have concerns about a child's welfare

[Tell Mama:](#) report anti-Muslim hate or Islamophobia

## Find out more

For further information, please visit the following websites:

[Hate crime - Victim Support](#)

[Discrimination, hate crime and equality - Childline](#)