

Hate crime - advice sheet

Being you is not a crime: Hate crime is

Tackling hate crime is a priority for Warwickshire Police. We know that on a national and local level hate crimes are underreported and are committed to ensuring all victims have the confidence to come forward and report any incidents or crimes to the police.

People who commit hate crimes are targeting people because of who they are and often victims are some of the most vulnerable members of our communities. This can have a devastating impact on the individual and the wider community.

We will carry out an investigation into every reported hate crime, aim to bring perpetrators to justice and ensure safeguarding measures are in place to look after victims and their families.

What is a hate crime?

Hate crime is any crime that is perceived by the victim or any other person to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone because of their:

- **Race** (including nationality, national origin, ethnic origin, race and colour)
- **Religion**
- **Sexual orientation**
- **Disability**
- **Gender identity**
- **Individual characteristics** that makes someone appear different (e.g. a visible alternative lifestyle or culture)



It's important to know that you don't have to be a member of the group the hostility is targeted at. You don't have to be gay to have had homophobic abuse shouted at you. You may not be part of a religion but still have someone target you because they think you are. **Anyone** can be a victim of a hate crime.

The difference between a hate crime and a hate incident

A hate incident is an act that falls short of being a criminal act and is therefore not a criminal offence, but is still perceived by the victim to be motivated by a hostility or prejudice based on any of the same characteristics.

All hate incidents should be reported to the police; they will be logged and receive a police response.

What type of incident can be a hate incident?

- Verbal abuse such as name calling or offensive jokes
- Bullying or intimidation

- Hoax calls, offensive phone or text messages
- Online abuse; for example on social media – for tips for protecting yourself online please refer to our [cyber bullying and online harassment advice guide](#):
- Throwing rubbish in a garden

Depending on the circumstances of the incident, some of these may be a criminal offence and logged as a hate crime. They should **all** be reported and **will** receive a police response.

When a hate incident is a criminal offence, it is logged as a hate crime. All types of crime can be a hate crime.

If you are a victim of a crime then please keep any evidence which may help the police. Examples may be:

- Photographs of any damage / injuries
- Text Messages / answer phone messages
- Screenshots
- Times / dates / description of any previous incidents or contact.

What response can you expect from police?

All reports of hate crimes and hate incidents will receive a police response.

We may not be able to respond immediately but we will act on all reports.

How do I report a hate crime?

- In an emergency call 999
- For non-emergencies call 101
- Call in at your local police station
- Report online to True Vision at www.report-it.org.uk
- Talk to a trusted friend, family member, support worker, social worker or teacher
- Through a third party reporting centre

There is also other support out there

Report Hate Now

Set up by the Warwickshire Hate Crime Partnership, this website offers further advice for anyone affected by hate crime, and also provides users the opportunity to report a hate crime or incident.

www.reporthatenow.com

Victim Support Warwickshire

An independent charity for victims of crime in England and Wales. They can offer help for anyone who has been a victim of crime and tailor support to suit your needs.

T: 01926 682 693

www.victimsupport.org.uk

EQuIP

EQuIP's aim is to eliminate discrimination in all its forms, all across Warwickshire. If you've been the victim of or a witness of Hate Crime, there's always something you can do about it. If you make a report to EQuIP you can get the advice and support that you need.

T: 01788 863 117

www.equipequality.org.uk

True VISION

Report hate crime to the police

www.report-it.org.uk/home