



# Together Against Hate Crime

An Advice Leaflet for  
Usdaw Members

# What is a Hate Crime?

Hate crimes are crimes committed against a person (or property) motivated by prejudice based on race, sexual orientation, transgender identity, disability, religion or belief.

**The number of recorded hate crimes in the UK has more than doubled in the past five years. The majority of hate crimes are race hate crimes. These are crimes that are directed against someone because of their race, skin colour or ethnic origin.**

Hate crimes and hate incidents are acts of violence or hostility directed at people because of who they are or who someone thinks they are. For example, you might be verbally abused in the street because you are disabled or because someone thinks you are gay.

The law defines an incident as a hate crime if it is motivated by prejudice based on:

- Race.
- Sexual orientation.
- Transgender identity.
- Disability.
- Religion or belief.

The impact of hate crime is serious and often life-changing. It has a devastating impact on the lives of individuals, their families and communities. Hate crimes often leave people feeling confused and frightened and as a result the majority of hate crime goes unreported.

Not all hate incidents are hate crimes, but any incident that makes you feel attacked, uncomfortable or upset should be reported to the police.

Without calling out and reporting hate incidents, the perpetrators of hate crimes often go on to commit more and more serious offences.

Hate crime and hate incidents can be verbal or physical. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Name-calling and offensive jokes.
- Bullying, harassment or intimidation by adults, children, neighbours or strangers.
- Threats of violence.
- Hoax calls, abusive phone or text messages or hate mail.
- Online abuse (on Facebook or Twitter or other social media).
- Inciting others to commit hate crimes.
- Harm or damage to things such as your home, pet or vehicle.
- Damage to a building such as a place of worship, or an organisation supporting groups with a protected characteristic.
- Graffiti.
- Arson.

**In an emergency – where a hate crime is in progress or someone is in immediate danger – you should always call 999.**

## What Should I do if I Experience or Witness a Hate Crime?

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Speaking up can be difficult but reporting makes a big difference. If you are distressed about an incident and want something done about what happened then please don't let it go. Often hate crimes grow from seemingly small incidents.

By reporting a hate crime you may be able to prevent it happening to somebody else. It also helps the police understand the extent of hate crime in your local area so they can better respond to it.

**You do not have to experience a hate crime yourself to report it. The incident could have been directed at a friend, neighbour, family member, colleague or stranger. If you see it or hear it – you can report it.**

## How to Report a Hate Crime

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You can report a hate crime directly to the police by calling the non-emergency number 101.

Hate crimes in England, Wales and Northern Ireland can be reported to the police online through True Vision at [report-it.org.uk/home](https://report-it.org.uk/home)

People living in Scotland should use the Police Scotland online reporting form at [www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/c3](https://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/c3)

If you need any help reporting a crime you can contact your local Citizens Advice Bureau or call the Usdaw Helpline: **0800 030 80 30**.

In addition, you can report hate crime to the following independent organisations who support those communities most at risk and offer an alternative way of reporting if you don't want to report to the police, including:

- Stop Hate UK (all hate crime).
- Tell Mama (anti-Muslim hate crime).
- Community Security Trust (anti-Semitic hate crime).
- GALOP (anti-LGBTQ+ hate crime).

If the incident happens at work, talk to your Usdaw rep and your manager.

## Usdaw – Together Against Hate

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Usdaw is working together with our reps and activists to prevent hate crime in our workplaces, lives and local communities.

As well as more robust reporting procedures, we support the Equality and Human Rights Commission's calls for a better understanding of what drives hate crime, tougher sentences for perpetrators and the gathering of evidence that will tell us whether existing strategies to tackle hate crime in the UK are working.

To show your support for our Together Against Hate Campaign and to raise awareness in your workplace of what hate crime is and how to report it, please visit the Usdaw website for more details: [www.usdaw.org.uk/togetheragainstthate](https://www.usdaw.org.uk/togetheragainstthate)

# Find Out More

To find out more about the work of the Regional Equalities Forums and Usdaw's equality work or about joining Usdaw contact your local office on **0800 030 80 30** or visit: [www.usdaw.org.uk/equalities](http://www.usdaw.org.uk/equalities)



Scan the QR code to join today.



[www.usdaw.org.uk](http://www.usdaw.org.uk)

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