

## What is Hate Crime?

The Scottish Government defines Hate Crime as crime committed against a person or property that is motivated by 'malice or ill-will towards an identifiable social group'. It is likely that you have been a victim of a hate crime if you believe that you have been targeted because of your:

- race
- religion
- sexual orientation
- transgender identity
- disability

If you are reporting something that you believe has happened to you because of the above, please tell the police about it. The Police take hate crime very seriously and if you tell them that you think an incident is motivated by prejudice they are obliged to investigate both the incident and the motivation.

## Hate Crime can take a number of forms, including, but not limited to:

- physical assault
- criminal damage to property e.g. graffiti, arson, vandalism
- intimidating or threatening behaviour including obscene calls or gestures
- offensive literature such as letters, leaflets, posters
- verbal abuse or insults including name-calling or offensive 'jokes'
- emotional and psychological abuse
- bullying
- murder

## What the Government Says

"The Scottish Government believes that there is no excuse for any form of hate crime: it is simply not acceptable and it will not be tolerated. When it does happen, we want the justice system to deal with such crimes effectively so that victims have the confidence to report it, secure in the knowledge that they will receive a good level of service from the police and other agencies."

The Scottish Government, May 2011

## Why report a Hate Crime?

There are a number of reasons why reporting Hate Crime is important.

- If you are a victim you can receive appropriate support and advice
- All reports help the police build a picture of the nature and extent of Hate Crime in your community and in Glasgow so we know what areas we should be focusing resources on.
- It may prevent a minor situation developing into a more serious one
- You will help to raise awareness of the issue and lead to a change in attitudes
- Your information may lead to an arrest and conviction
- You will help us to prevent hate incidents in the future

## What to do if you experience or witness a Hate Crime or Hate Incident

If you experience or witness a Hate Incident, whether it's a crime or not and no matter how trivial or unimportant you may think it is, your complaint will be recorded and taken seriously when you choose to report it to the police. You can make a report:

- in person, by telephone or letter
- through the on-line crime reporting facility available on Police Scotland website.
- through a Third Party Reporting Centre

**REMEMBER – ALWAYS CALL THE POLICE ON 999 IF YOU NEED IMMEDIATE HELP.**

## What is Third Party Reporting?

Many people, for various reasons, are reluctant to report crime directly to the police. Third party reporting is an important way to overcome this. Third Party Reporting Centres are organisations that have agreed to take on the role of third party reporting in addition to the services which they normally provide.

Reports of hate crime can be made, by victims and/or witnesses, to any third party reporting centre in Glasgow. They will pass the information to the police on the victim's behalf. The police are then required to act on this as if they had received the report directly from you. Your report will be in confidence and you can give as much or as little personal information as you wish. You don't even have to give your name if you don't want to. These centres have received appropriate training and can also provide you with any additional support or advice required.

To locate a Third Party Reporting Centre near you, or one which is particularly relevant to your concerns follow this link to the Police Scotland website and look for the list of Third Party Reporting Centres in your area.

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/contact-us/hate-crime-third-party-reporting/>

## How do I report to the police online?

Sometimes people feel sufficiently confident to report directly to the police but may not want to go to a police office or have a police officer visit them. The on-line crime reporting facility allows you to make a direct and confidential report to the police. The report can be entirely anonymous if you wish, although this may limit the action that the police can take. To report on-line click on this link to the Police Scotland online hate crime form <http://www.scotland.police.uk/contact-us/hate-crime-third-party-reporting/>

## Resources

If you would like leaflets or posters about hate crime contact Glasgow Community & Safety Services on 0141 276 7494 or email: [gcssenquiries@glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:gcssenquiries@glasgow.gov.uk). To view more information about hate crime on line visit the GCSS website at <http://www.saferglasgow.com/corporate/hate-crime.aspx>

There are a number of other web based resources that are useful for victims of hate crime, including:

[www.gha.org.uk/content/mediaassets/doc/anti-harassmentweb.pdf](http://www.gha.org.uk/content/mediaassets/doc/anti-harassmentweb.pdf)

<http://www.victimssupportsco.org.uk/page/index.cfm>

[http://scotland.shelter.org.uk/get\\_advice/advice\\_topics/complaints\\_and\\_court\\_action/discrimination\\_and\\_harassment/racial\\_harassment/dealing\\_with\\_racial\\_harassment](http://scotland.shelter.org.uk/get_advice/advice_topics/complaints_and_court_action/discrimination_and_harassment/racial_harassment/dealing_with_racial_harassment)

<http://www.stophateuk.org/>

[http://www.stonewallscotland.org.uk/scotland/at\\_home/hate\\_crime\\_domestic\\_abuse\\_and\\_criminal\\_law/2792.asp](http://www.stonewallscotland.org.uk/scotland/at_home/hate_crime_domestic_abuse_and_criminal_law/2792.asp)

<http://www.samh.org.uk/our-work/policy-campaigns/hate-crime>

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Justice/crimes/8978>

<http://www.capability-scotland.org.uk/what-can-capability-do-for-me/what-do-you-need-to-know/advice/disability-hate-crime/>

[www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/.../L4 - racial harassment 18 Nov 2009.pdf](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/.../L4_-_racial_harassment_18_Nov_2009.pdf)