

What is hate crime and what can you do about it?

Paragraph 1

A hate crime is a crime against another person because of their race, nationality, religion, disability, sexual orientation or transgender identity.



Paragraph 2

People can commit hate crime in many ways. Here are some examples:

- Verbal abuse: for example saying very rude and unkind things to the person.
- Bullying or making the other person frightened: for example, sending letters, texts or emails that make someone scared, or making offensive (rude) phone calls.
- Physical attack: for example, hitting or pushing someone, damaging someone's house, writing offensive graffiti on the wall, or throwing rubbish into a garden or letterbox.





Paragraph 3

You should always report hate crime to the police. Hate crimes hurt people. If it happens to you, you will be very confused and frightened. If you report it to the police it will help them to stop it from happening to someone else. It will also help the police to understand how much hate crime there is in your area. This will help them to deal with it better in future.

Paragraph 4

There are several ways you can report hate crime. You can report it if you are a victim (it happened to you), if you are a witness (you saw it happen to someone else), or you can report it for someone else (for example for a family member who doesn't speak English).

- **In an emergency:** call 999 or 112.
- **Contact your local police:** you can phone or go to the police station. You can speak to them in confidence (they will not tell anyone what you said if you don't want them to). However, you will have to give your name and address if you want the police to investigate the crime (to try to find the people who did it).
- **Report online:** You can use this link to report online: http://report-it.org.uk/your_police_force
- **Citizen's advice bureau:** You can go to your local Citizen's Advice Bureau. They will be able to help you and give you advice, and they help you to report the crime.
- **Crimestoppers:** If you don't want to talk to the police you can phone Crimestoppers on **0800 555111** or you can use their website: www.crimestoppers-uk.org. You don't have to give your name and what you say is confidential (they will not tell anyone else). It is free to call them.

