

Let's spell  
it out

THIS.

IS. HATE.

## 1. WHAT IS A HATE CRIME

### A hate crime is defined as:

Any criminal offence, perceived by the victim or any other person, as being motivated by prejudice or hostility towards a person's:

- Race or ethnicity
- Religion of belief
- Disability
- Sexual Orientation
- Gender Identity
- Alternative Subculture (recorded in Lancashire)

A victim does not have to be a member of the group at which the hostility is targeted. In fact, anyone could be a victim of a hate crime.

Hate crimes/incidents can take place anywhere but very often they are committed in busy places such as town centres, supermarkets, on public transport and also on the internet or via mobile phones.

## 2 – HATE INCIDENTS

Hate incidents are the same as hate crimes, other than they do not constitute a criminal offence. Hate incidents can feel like crimes to those who suffer them and often escalate to crimes or tension in a community. For this reason, the police are concerned about incidents and do record them. The police can only prosecute when the law is broken but can work with partners to try and prevent any escalation in seriousness and help victims get the right support.

## 3 – DID YOU KNOW?

- Over 1.5 million people live in Lancashire.
- Recorded hate crime figures often peak after national incidents, such as terror attacks or political events, such as election campaigns.
- Hate crimes tend to increase in the summer months when more people venture outside.
- Hate crimes are estimated to be under reported by between 60 and 80%.
- Courts in England and Wales have the power to increase a sentence if the evidence proves that the offence was motivated by hostility towards race, religion, sexuality, transgender identity or disability. This is called a 'sentence uplift' and means that harsher sentences can be imposed.



 **LANCASHIRE  
VICTIM  
SERVICES**



## 4 – VICTIM IMPACT

Hate crimes are more likely to be directed against the person than non-hate crimes, and they tend to be experienced repeatedly. Victims often feel very vulnerable and due to being targeted simply because of who they are, they often fear further attack. They can have a greater emotional impact on the victim than comparable non-hate crimes, and can cause increased levels of fear and anxiety that can also permeate through communities. Victims often report higher levels of stress and anxiety, more time off work and feeling the effects of the incident for longer.

## 5 – WAYS TO REPORT

- In an emergency always call 999 (Use emergencySMS service if deaf or HoH)

For non-emergencies:

- Lancashire Constabulary website [www.lancashire.police.uk](http://www.lancashire.police.uk)
- True Vision [www.report-it.org.uk](http://www.report-it.org.uk)
- Lancashire Victim Services 0300 323 0085 [www.lancashirevictimservices.org](http://www.lancashirevictimservices.org)
- Third Party Reporting Centre (TPRC), a list of which can be found on Lancashire Constabulary website

## 6 – WHAT YOU CAN DO

### What do I do if I witness a Hate Crime?

Witnessing Hate Crime can be an extremely distressing event, especially if you know the person being victimised. It can be difficult to respond in the immediate moment, and at times, it might be dangerous to do so. We recommend the following:

- Be aware of your surroundings

Assess the situation. Assess if you are putting yourself or others in danger. If it appears that there is a clear danger, call the police or, if you are in a public building, tell a member of staff about the crime, for example the conductor of a train or a security guard.

- Attain evidence

If possible, attempt to film the event on your phone so that it may be used as evidence. Scan the area for CCTV cameras in order to attain another angle of the event. If the crime occurs from a car, attempt to take down the registration.

- Support the Victim

If you judge that it is safe to do so, speak to the victim, or sit beside them, ignoring the abuser. Remain calm and let the victim know that they are not alone. This can make them feel safer.



- Be an **‘Upstander and not a Bystander’** – Show the victim that you don’t tolerate hate crime by supporting them. Hate crime is everyone’s responsibility, don’t assume it is someone else’s problem.
- Help to create an inclusive culture in your workplace and personal life by educating others about inclusion and challenging any non-inclusive practices.
- Point Victims towards the support available through Lancashire Victim Services.
- Report – It doesn’t have to be the victim who reports. If the victim tells you, or you are a witness then you can report it too.

## 7 – LOCAL SUPPORT—LANCASHIRE VICTIM SERVICES

- Any experience of hate crime can leave those affected feeling angry, alone, stressed, depressed or frightened. Lancashire Victim Services provide free and confidential support to anyone in Lancashire affected by hate.
- It doesn’t matter if you aren’t sure whether an incident amounts to a crime or if it hasn’t been reported to the police.
- Lancashire Victim Services’ specialist hate crime advocates can provide emotional support and expert advice to help you move forward.
- You can call 0300 323 0085, chat online at [www.lancashirevictimservices.org](http://www.lancashirevictimservices.org) or email [info@lancashirevictimservices.org](mailto:info@lancashirevictimservices.org) for further information.




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