



VICTIM SUPPORT



Ariennir gan
Lywodraeth Cymru
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Race Hate Crime Factsheet



What is a Hate Crime?

Hate Crime is a term that describes an incident or crime against someone based on an aspect of who they are, or who they are perceived to be; their Identity. Identity is divided into five Protected Characteristics in relation to Hate Crime. These are categories of identity that might be the target of prejudice, hostility or hate. These characteristics are:

- Race or Ethnicity
- Disability
- Religion of Belief
- Sexual Orientation
- Gender Identity

“ The feeling is that a lot of people believe they have the right to express their racist feelings or to show hatred ”

- Eryl Jones, Show Racism the Red Card

Race Related Hate Crime

Racially motivated Hate Crimes are the most common cases referred to the police, making up three quarters of all reported cases. This number has been rising consistently, although one of the main reasons for this increase is the improvements made in police recording and identification of Hate Crimes.

Date	Amount of cases	Race related cases
2017/18	94,121	78,991 (76% of overall figure)
2018/19	103,379	87,680 (Increase of 11% = 8,689)

However, concerning Race, there are unfortunately certain spikes that have clearly impacted figures. There was a spike surge of 41% after the result of the EU referendum was announced. (Home Office)

“After Brexit, it was more difficult for me to stay optimistic about universalism and societal acceptance.”

- Joselene, Stop Hate UK

Barriers for reporting Race Hate Crime

Although we have a better understanding of the prevalence and impact of Race Hate Crime, we recognise there are still barriers to reporting Hate Crime and accessing support.

Lack of Trust in Police and Criminal Justice Agencies

- Often minority groups feel a distrust in authorities such as the Police and wider criminal justice agencies. This can cause feelings of frustration and hopelessness when it comes to reporting hate crimes. Historically there has been many incidents spiking racial tensions and prejudice, and despite modern improvements in training and diversity, the Police are often not widely accepted in minority communities.

Language Barriers

- Some victims who come forward are unaware of the translation services available and fear that their side of the story might not be understood or recorded accurately.

Cultural Barriers

- Many refugees might avoid reporting Hate Crime because they feel anxious about their status in society and feel that their complaints make them a 'nuisance'. Refugees and Asylum Seekers might also be unaware of differences between police procedures in the UK when compared with their country of origin.

Lack of Information

- Many people are unaware of what a Hate Crime is, and how the abuse, bullying, hostility or prejudice they have endured could be classed as a criminal offence.

Normalising Incidents

- If the hate incidences happen often, people may 'normalise' it and attribute it to an expected everyday experience.

"I was psychologically traumatised and my outlook on life has changed not only because of the crime that was committed against me but also by the way the police handled the case ... I still get anxiety and panic attacks."

How to report a Hate Crime

If a Hate Crime has taken place, we advise that you contact the police by one of the following methods:

- If it is an emergency and the crime is still taking place, call **999**.
- If it is not an immediate emergency, call **101**.
- If you prefer, you can go to your **local police station** and report the crime there.
- Victim Support can report to the Police **on your behalf** and you can choose to remain **anonymous** if you wish
- Witnesses of Hate Crime can also contact **Victim Support** to report an incident

However, we understand some people might be concerned about involving the police for a variety of reasons. Victim Support will provide you with help and support whether you decide to involve the police or not. To talk to us, please contact us through any of the following options:

- To contact our Hate Crime Services at Victim Support contact us on **0300 30 31 982**
- Visit our website at **<https://www.reporthate.victimsupport.org.uk/>**
- **Twitter@ VictimSupportHC**
- **Facebook: VictimSupportHC**
- **Instagram: vswaleshatecrime**
- If you wish to make a self-referral email: **hate.crimewales@victimsupport.org.uk**

Regardless of whether you report the crime to the police or contact us directly, we advise keeping a note of all incidents related to Hate Crime. Ideally this would include times, dates and details of what happened. This is valuable if you decide to change your mind reporting it at a later date, or if the abuse is consistent or ongoing.

The support we offer covers helping with simple tasks like filling out forms, offering personal and home security, but we can also assist with bigger problems. These include ongoing emotional support, housing and police advocacy or support with understanding the criminal justice system over the course of your trial. We'll give you the information you need to understand your options and next steps.