



Transgender 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

“From a personal point I have witnessed the action of a trans exclusionary demonstration whilst partaking in the Swansea Pride festivities in 2019. It was shocking to witness the level of hate and vitriol being spewed against Trans members of the community enjoying the day. South Wales Police managed to control the situation quickly however, which was great to see.” ”

- Alex, Carmarthenshire LGBTQ+ Project Coordinator

Transgender related Hate Crime

The 2018/2019 Hate Crime Statistics for England and Wales show a 17% increase in recorded hate crimes across Wales compared to 2017/2018.

Transgender identity motivated Hate Crimes are the least common cases referred to the police, they make up 3% of all hate crimes recorded by the four Welsh Police Force Areas. However, they show a huge increase of 87.5% from the previous year.

Date	Amount of cases (Wales)	Transgender related cases (Wales)
2017/18	3,370	64
2018/19	3,932	120

It is thought that increases are due to the improvements made by the police in their identification and recording of these hate crime offences and more people coming forward to report these crimes rather than a genuine increase. However, genuine increases cannot be ruled out. Due to the barriers to reporting, it is also thought that hate crimes are still being under reported.

“People are afraid to sit next to me on trains. They will stare at my face, chest and genitals to 'work out my gender'. I get shouted at every single time I leave my house and threatened at least once a week.”

- Rory, 21, LGBT In Wales Hate Crime and Discrimination, Stonewall Cymru

Barriers for Reporting Transgender Hate Crimes

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

Fear

- Trans people may be concerned about being 'outed' by the police if they report transphobic hate crime. Even if they are 'out' to family and friends, they may fear their identity being revealed to the wider community.
- Some people may be fearful about the situation becoming worse if they decide to report

Concern about a lack of awareness within reporting agencies:

- Trans people may be worried about having to explain their gender identity to professionals. They may be worried about their documents e.g. driving licence not matching their name and gender identity, worried about being misgendered, worried about being 'deadnamed' and professionals not using their correct pronouns. People with non-binary or gender fluid identities may be uncomfortable about being asked about their details especially if the organisation does not have adequate options for recording gender.

Lack of Trust in the 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. As there is a history of tensions and prejudice, despite modern improvements in training and diversity, Victims may fear that they will not be taken seriously or will be seen as wasting police time.

Lack of Information

- Some victims do not know about third party reporting centres like Victim Support so if they are not comfortable reporting to the police they will not report at all.

Normalising Incidents

- Some victims may experience incidents so often that they see them as part of life and only equate violent incidents with hate crime

“I was walking down the street, got abuse “freak, pervert etc.” It was near to a taxi rank, and the taxi drivers joined in, I challenged the taxi driver and the taxi driver drove his car into me, knocking me on to the bonnet. I immediately reported it. It was scary, no-one helped, everyone was laughing.”

- Victim of Trans Hate Crime, Transphobic Hate Crime, A study in the under-reporting of transphobic hate crime, and police interactions with the trans community 2013-2015, by Lee Broadstock



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.