

## **Diane Abbott - Hate Crime Reporting**

### **2024 03 19**

#### **Hate crime**

Hate crime comes in many different forms and strikes at the heart of communities. With your help, we can tackle those responsible for hate crime and keep our communities safe. We're here and ready to help anyone who has been affected by someone else's **prejudice, ignorance or violence**. Find out below how to spot a hate crime, report it, or get help, support and advice – both online and in your community.

#### **What is hate crime?**

##### **Hate crimes and hate incidents**

In most crimes it is something the victim has in their possession or control that motivates the offender to commit the crime. With hate crime it is 'who' the victim is, or 'what' the victim appears to be that motivates the offender to commit the crime.

A hate crime is defined as '**Any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person's race or perceived race; religion or perceived religion; sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation; disability or perceived disability and any crime motivated by hostility or prejudice against a person who is transgender or perceived to be transgender.**'

A hate incident is any incident which the victim, or anyone else, thinks is based on someone's prejudice towards them because of their race, religion, sexual orientation, disability or because they are transgender.

Evidence of the hate element is not a requirement. You do not need to personally perceive the incident to be hate related. ***It would be enough if another person, a witness or even a police officer thought that the incident was hate related.***

##### **Types of hate crime**

Hate crime can fall into one of three main types: physical assault, ***verbal abuse and incitement to hatred.***

## Physical assault

Physical assault of any kind is an offence. If you've been a victim of physical assault you should report it. Depending on the level of the violence used, a perpetrator may be charged with common assault, actual bodily harm or grievous bodily harm.

## Verbal abuse

Verbal abuse, threats or name-calling can be a common and extremely unpleasant experience for minority groups.

Victims of verbal abuse are often unclear whether an offence has been committed or believe there is little they can do. However, there are laws in place to protect you from verbal abuse.

If you've been the victim of verbal abuse, talk to the police or one of our partner organisations about what has happened. You'll find a list of them on our [How to report hate crime](#) page.

Even if you don't know who verbally abused you, the information could still help us to improve how we police the area where the abuse took place.

## Incitement to hatred

***The offence of incitement to hatred occurs when someone acts in a way that is threatening and intended to stir up hatred.*** That could be in words, pictures, videos, music, and includes information posted on websites.

### Hate content may include:

- ◇ messages calling for violence against a specific person or group
- ◇ web pages that show pictures, videos or descriptions of violence against anyone due to their perceived differences
- ◇ chat forums where people ask other people to commit hate crimes against a specific person or group.

### How to report hate crime

By reporting [hate crime](#), you may be able to prevent it from happening again.

## **Is it an emergency?**

Does it feel like the situation could get heated or violent very soon? Is someone in immediate danger? Do you need support right away? If so, please **call [999](#) now**.

If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone service 18000 or text us on 999 if you've pre-registered with the [emergencySMS service](#).

## **Report it online**

### **True Vision**

True Vision is a national police scheme to help victims report hate crime online.

**Average completion time: 15 minutes**

[Start](#)

## **Report by phone**

**Call [101](#)**

Our national, non-emergency telephone number is staffed 24/7. Ask to speak to your Community Safety Unit. You can report a hate crime directly to them or simply ask them for support or advice.

## **Visit a police station**

If you'd prefer to speak to an officer in person, we can provide a safe and comfortable environment at any of our police stations.

## **Report hate material you've seen online**

If you've seen something on a website or social media that promotes hatred or violence against a particular group, use our online form to report it.

**Average completion time: 15 minutes**

## [Start](#)

### **Other help**

We understand that you may not be ready to talk to us about what has happened. The charities, groups and organisations below can offer support, advice and ways to report the incident without having to talk directly to the police.

#### [Crimestoppers](#)

A national charity with a free helpline for reporting crime anonymously.

#### [Tell MAMA](#)

A national project supporting victims of anti-Muslim hate and monitoring anti-Muslim incidents.

#### [Community Security Trust \(CST\)](#)

A charity protecting British Jews from antisemitism and related threats.

#### [Galop](#)

A national charity providing advice and support to members of the LGBT community.

#### [True Vision](#)

A scheme owned by the National Police Chiefs' Council providing hate crime advice and online reporting.

#### [Inclusion London](#)

A charity promoting equality for London's Deaf and Disabled people.