



華人資料及諮詢中心

Chinese Information and Advice Centre

Registered Charity 800646 Social Enterprise



Understanding Hate Crime – For the Community

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.' – Met Police

It is 'who' the victim is, or 'what' the victim appears to be that motivates the offender to commit the crime. Not all hate incidents will amount to criminal offences, but it is equally important that these are reported and recorded by the police.

Types of hate crime

Physical assault of any kind is an offence. REPORT IT if you have been a victim of physical assault.

Verbal abuse, threats or name-calling can be a common and extremely unpleasant experience. Victims of verbal abuse are often unclear whether an offence has been committed. However, there are laws in place to protect you from verbal abuse. Any information could alert the police and improve how they police the area where the abuse took place.

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 social media platforms.

Record and report

Purpose - If the issue is ongoing, it is easy to forget things that happened months before. An effective record gives you a better chance to take action against a perpetrator.

What to Include

What did they say? - Try to write the exact words used in any verbal abuse. An accurate record is more effective than just saying they used homophobic, transphobic or abusive language.

Where? - Whether is online, or in an office. It would be useful to include street names if the incident happened outdoor.

Witnesses? - Record their names and their contacts.

Who did it? - If you don't know the name or address of someone abusing you, its important to describe what they look like. Try to describe anything you remember including:

Clothing ● Rough age and gender ● Rough height and build ● Hair, skin and eye colour ● Accent ● Any glasses, jewellery or facial hair ● Tattoos, piercings or scars

How It Affected You - This can help in deciding what options you have and a court might use it to decide what action to take against the perpetrator. The information could be about practical or emotional impacts.

Reporting it - To the [police](#) : remember to get a reference number.

To other supporting agency – record the date the report was made and to whom.

For more information please contact Chinese Information and Advice Centre 03002011868 or info@ciac.co.uk