



How Does Hate Crime Affect LGBTI Asylum Seekers and Refugees?

Micro Rainbow is an organisation that supports lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) asylum seekers and refugees in the UK. This factsheet will answer questions for LGBTI asylum seekers and refugees about what hate crime is and what you can do if you experience a hate crime.

What is hate crime?

Hate crime is abusive behaviour committed towards or against someone because of their **identity**.

It is a criminal offence, which is understood by the victim or someone else, to be driven by the offender's hostility and prejudice towards someone based on their:

- Sexual orientation or gender identity
- Race
- Religion/faith
- Disability

If you are threatened, harassed, or attacked because of your sexual orientation, gender identity, race, religion and/or disability, you have experienced a hate crime. You have

the right to report this abuse to the police and to other organisations who can support you.

Types of hate crime

Hate crime can come in many shapes and forms. It is abusive behaviour which expresses the offender's prejudice against someone because of who they are.

It can include:

- Physical abuse, such as punching, kicking, slapping.
- Verbal abuse, such as name-calling and using insulting racial, homophobic, transphobic or ableist slurs.
- Sexual abuse, such as sexual harassment and assault.

- Threatening behaviour, such as abusive messages, offensive letters.
- Damaging or stealing property
- Blackmail and exploitation, demanding money or other forms of payment in return for something
- Online abuse

How does hate crime affect LGBTI asylum seekers and refugees?

LGBTI asylum seekers and refugees may experience hate crime because of their sexual orientation, gender identity, race, religion/faith and or disability.

LGBTI asylum seekers and refugees may experience specific types of hate crime because of who they are:

SOMEONE THREATENING TO 'OUT' YOU AS LGBTI TO YOUR FAMILY OR COMMUNITY IF YOU DO NOT DO AS THEY SAY. THIS COULD INCLUDE ASKING FOR MONEY OR ASKING YOU TO WORK FOR FREE IN EXCHANGE FOR NOT 'OUTING' YOU.

SOMEONE USING YOUR IMMIGRATION STATUS AGAINST YOU AND THREATENING TO TELL THE AUTHORITIES ABOUT YOU. AGAIN, THIS COULD INCLUDE ASKING FOR MONEY OR TO WORK FOR FREE IN EXCHANGE FOR NOT REPORTING YOU.

SOMEONE EXPLOITING YOUR UNSTABLE LIVING SITUATION BY OFFERING TO GIVE YOU ACCOMMODATION AND IN RETURN FORCING YOU INTO A SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP.

IF YOU ARE IN SHARED ACCOMMODATION, THOSE YOU LIVE WITH SAYING HOMOPHOBIC OR TRANSPHOBIC THINGS AND MAKING YOU FEEL UNSAFE.

The first thing to know is that **this is not acceptable** and that **you have a right to be who you are, be respected and express yourself without experiencing abuse.**

This sort of abuse can be difficult to heal from and can cut deeper than other types. This is because it is intended to make you feel you are not safe to be yourself which can be incredibly harmful to your own identity.

This is why there are a number of organisations, including Micro Rainbow, that help support you through difficult times and are committed to fighting hate crime together.

Getting advice and support if you experience a hate crime

If you ever feel in immediate danger, call 999 and report it to the police.

You can also report to the police by calling 101. If you decide to do this, it is their duty to find out what happened and to record it.

It is your decision on whether to tell someone about what has happened to you. You can talk to organisations, such as Micro Rainbow, confidentially for advice and support.

Contact Micro Rainbow

Email: info@microrainbow.org

Telephone: 020 3559 6490

Website: <https://microrainbow.org/>

Other organisations

- [Galop](#)- Anti LGBT+ Hate Crime
- [Tell Mamma](#)- Anti Muslim Hate Crime
- [CST](#)- Anti-Semitic Hate Crime
- [Monitoring Group](#)- Anti Race Hate Crime
- [Stay Safe East](#)- Anti Disability Hate Crime
- [CATCH](#)- Communities Against Hate