



HATE CRIME:

A GUIDE for Eastern Europeans in London

Our aim is to give voice and resources to Eastern Europeans migrants who experience poverty, exploitation and social exclusion in order to help them to make choices about their lives and realize their potential as equal members of communities.

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1. What is hate crime

The Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) - which has done much work on combating hate crime while working with governments, police forces and civil society organisations across a wider Europe than the EU - define hate crime as

“A criminal act motivated by a bias against a certain group”.

To qualify as a hate crime it has to meet two criteria: **that it is a criminal offence, and it is committed with a bias motive.** Firstly there had to have been an action that constituted an offence under the criminal law of the country. Secondly, that the criminal act was committed with a particular motive. This means that the perpetrator intentionally chose the target of the crime (one or more people) because of some protected characteristic shared by a group of people, such as race, religion, ethnicity, nationality, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation or other similar common factor.

The OSCE focuses on the motivation of the perpetrator of a hate crime. That he or she is motivated by prejudice (preconceived opinion or dislike that is not based on reason or actual experience), hostility (hostile behaviour, unfriendliness or opposition) or intolerance (unwillingness to accept views, beliefs or behaviour that differ from one's own) against an individual.

2. The effects of hate crime in Eastern European community

Overall numbers of Eastern Europeans increased rapidly across all London boroughs and across the UK in general, this phenomenon was met with backlash from the popular media. Eastern Europeans were, and still are, portrayed as **'invaders' from poor countries, often lacking skills and education but overall decent workers**. This also created **social tensions in local communities**.

After months of anti-immigrant rhetoric in the run up to EU referendum in the UK in June 2016, the number of racially aggravated offences recorded by the police in the same month was 41% higher than in July 2015 (Home Office 2016).

Little consideration has been paid to Eastern Europeans as victims of hate crime before 2016. But with the referendum, Eastern Europeans have become **the racial other**, the sometimes go to scapegoat for Brexit, in the populist media, of course along with other minorities.

3. Types of hate crime

Types of hate crime including:

- verbal abuse
- harassment
- bullying
- online hate
- damage to property
- violent crime
- sexual assault or rape.

4. Case study

A group of Polish builders working as sub-contractors were asked to complete an important task on a building site. However, the contractor gave them wrong instructions. After the works were completed, the contractor realised that his directions were incorrect and the whole construction needs to be redone, and the cost would be doubled as it involved a structural work. He asked Polish subcontractors not to mention his mistake to the building owner, which they agreed to. The builders completed all necessary works in order to fix the problem. However, when they asked for their payment they were told that it was their fault so they won't be paid and if they are not happy they can **'go back to Poland'**!

5. East European Resource Centre against hate crime

Problem we want to address is loss of confidence, emotional resilience and growing sense of victimisation, which in turn results in isolation, declining mental health and negative outcomes for social integration among Eastern European (EE) communities that all stem from lack of culturally and linguistically appropriate emotional support services for EE victims of hate incidents.

The longer the route to integration, the less confident and more anxious our communities become. This aggravates the sense of hostility and not being wanted. We raise awareness on hate crime, we organise emotional self defence workshops to better prepare our comm for hostilities against them, and we help victims of hate crime by providing them with advocacy and free psychotherapy sessions.

6. How to report

It is important to report the crime. Firstly because if all such crimes are reported, the Police and other relevant authorities will know the true scale of hate crimes against Eastern Europeans and will be more inclined to act. Moreover, the Police can properly help you deal with the crime and take the right steps towards a solution, if the crime happens to you repeatedly in your neighbourhood or at work. Lastly, reporting and talking to someone about what happened to you, will eventually help you move on with your life.

Don't forget: **you are entitled to be provided with a translator** when you talk to the Police or other authorities, ask for one!

If you need help to engage with the Police, please contact an organisation such as ours and we will help you and advocate on your behalf.

REPORTING TO THE POLICE

In an emergency: **Dial 999**

In a non-emergency: **Dial 101**

Online: **www.report-it.org.uk**

On Public Transport: **0800 40 50 40** or text **61016**

GET THE EAST EUROPEAN RESOURCE CENTRE HELP:

English and Polish helpline: **07521 857415**

English and Romanian helpline: **07730021986**

Online: **info@eerc.org.uk**

7. Useful contacts

Galop

Galop is the LGBT+ anti-violence charity, offering advice and support to people facing hate crime, domestic abuse or sexual violence.

www.galop.org.uk

T: 020 7704 2040

E: advice@galop.org.uk

Community Security Trust

The Community Security Trust is a charity working with victims of antisemitic hate crime.

www.cst.org.uk/report-incident

T: 020 8457 9999

E: incidents@cst.org.uk

The Monitoring Group

The Monitoring Group work with victims of racial and religious hate crime

www.tmg-uk.org

T: 020 7582 7438

E: office@tmg-uk.org

Samaritans

The Samaritans are open 24/7, 365 days a year, and offer a safe place for you to talk any time you like, in your own way – about whatever's getting to you.

www.samaritans.org

T: 116 123

E: jo@samaritans.org