

THE SOMALI EXPERIENCE  
**HATE CRIME**



**Together**  
Against Hate 2020



**A HATE CRIME IS WHEN  
SOMEONE COMMITS A CRIME  
AGAINST YOU BECAUSE  
OF YOUR RACE, RELIGION,  
DISABILITY, GENDER IDENTITY,  
SEXUAL ORIENTATION, OR  
ANY OTHER PERCEIVED  
DIFFERENCE.**



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There are approximately 300,000 Somalis in the UK, and of those **65,000 live in London.**

Unfortunately, Somalis are a frequent target of hate crime, suffering incidents from verbal abuse to GBH and arson.

For example, the **Somali Bravanese community centre was the victim of arson.**

However, most hate crime against Somalis goes unreported, according to the Council of Somali Organisations (CSO).



Photograph: Stefan Rousseau/Getty Images



**THE ATROCIOUS FIRE TO OUR CENTRE IN 2013 WAS HORRENDOUS- I REMEMBER TILL THIS DAY HOW I FOUND OUT ABOUT THE NEWS. IT WAS THE CENTRE I GREW UP IN.**

**WE LOST LIFE MEMORIES BECAUSE OF THE ARSON ATTACK. AS SOMEONE OF A BAME BACKGROUND AND MUSLIM, I HAVE FIRST HAND EXPERIENCE IN HATE RELATED CRIMES HOWEVER THE CENTRE BURNING WAS THE BIGGEST EVENT OF ALL.**

**Bravness Somali Centre**



Photograph: Stefan Rousseau/Getty Images



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The “Is racism the new normal?” report on hate crime by the CSO states that most **“Somalis are resigned to racism as a normal”** part of being a minority in the UK.

It also states that the extent of hate crime experienced by the Somali community is difficult to gauge because **Somalis often disappear into the broader ‘Black/Black-African’ designation,** and therefore the percentage of victims identifying as being of Somali heritage is not discoverable.



Other examples of hate crimes targeting the Somali community are:

### Islamophobia

The media contribute hugely to increasing Islamophobia in our society, and Somali Muslims are vulnerable to 'revenge' hate crime as a result of the reporting of international events.

Somali women are targeted far more than men, both because the headscarf has become so identifiable as a cultural marker, and because the bullies are more afraid of men.



## Refugee Status

The Somali community has a long history of being in the UK beginning as early as the 1800s, when many came here as seafarers and sailors.

However, many Somali-born people have come to the UK as refugees due to the civil war in Somalia. Owing to their refugee status or perceived refugee status they may experience hate crime because of xenophobia or anti-immigrant sentiments that are specific to the identity of refugee.

Though many of the first generation are Somali-born, their British-born children can also experience hate crime based on assumptions about refugee status.



Hate crimes can happen  
**within our community** too.

Examples of hate crimes include:

- Physical assault/harassment
- Criminal damage
- Murder
- Sexual assault
- Theft/fraud
- Sending hate mail





## What are 'hate incidents' ?

Unlike hate crime, a hate incident is not a criminal offence but rather behaviour which is perceived to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on the protected characteristics.

Examples of hate incidents include:

- Bullying or intimidation
- Threats of violence/harassment
- Name-calling and offensive jokes
- Displaying or circulating discriminatory literature or posters
- Malicious complaints - for example over parking, smells or noise.



According to the report, "Somalis aren't confident they can correctly identify hate crime."

Fadumo Farah, Trustee of the Somali Welfare Trust, said the Somalis she serves "would really benefit from **hate crime training**".

The police can work with local communities on hate crime so that the communities have a better understanding of hate crime and how it can be reported. But of course it's the community that must take the lead.

To quote activist poet Audre Lorde, *"It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences."*



## NUMBI ARTS AND TACKLING HATE CRIME

Numbi Arts hosts and facilitates many activities that work towards community cohesion and integration.

We believe that by having different groups of people within our local communities coming together and participating in creative works such as facilitated cultural workshops, heritage walks and the arts, we enable better understanding and appreciation of our shared cultural heritage.

Let's [#StandUpToHate](#)



JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Let's

**#StandUpToHate**

**#TogetherAgainstHate2020**

**#RefuseHate**



**Together**  
Against Hate 2020

## HOW TO REPORT A HATE CRIME

You can report a hate crime online or call 101 to speak to the police. You can also report a hate incident or crime even if it wasn't directed at you.

Call 999 if someone is in immediate danger or if you're reporting a crime that's in progress. When reporting the incident or crime you should state which of the six protected characteristics or a combination of these things is being used to discriminate. This makes sure the police record it as a hate incident or crime.

### SUPPORT SERVICES

THE POLICE | COUNCIL | THIRD PARTY ORGANISATIONS

- Tell MAMA UK
- Stop Hate UK
- Mencap
- Galop
- DeafPLUS
- CST
- Changing Faces

[www.nationalhcaw.uk](http://www.nationalhcaw.uk) [www.report-it.org.uk](http://www.report-it.org.uk)

