



Affected or worried about hate crime?

Following the EU referendum, you may be worried about reports of an increase in hate crime and hate talk, particularly towards ethnic minorities and migrant workers.

What is hate crime?

Hate crime is any incident, which is perceived by the victim or any other person as being motivated by prejudice or hate, due to the victim's race, religion, sexuality, gender identity, disability or age.

Hate crime is abuse such as name-calling, threats of violence or physical attacks. It might be directly to you, by phone and text messages or online (for example, on Facebook or Twitter). It might be done to you or to your home or other property. It could be malicious complaints, for example over parking, smells or noise.

Race hate incidents

There have been reports of an increase in racism and hate incidents. These are criminal offences. The National Police Chiefs' Council has said that:

'victims and those feeling vulnerable will receive support from the police and offenders can expect a strong response and enhanced sentencing.'¹

¹ Equality and Human Rights Commission (2016) *What to do if you're worried about racism: EU referendum factsheet*. Available from: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/what-to-do-if-youre-worried-about-racism-eu-referendum-factsheet.pdf>.



Reporting hate crime

Hate crime is under-reported. By reporting hate crime you are helping your local police to get a better picture of hate crime in your area.

Try to keep as many records as possible of the incident, such as photos and videos (as long as you can do it safely). They will be useful in making a strong case to police, or to lawyers if you decide to take legal action.

Ways to report hate crime

- Anyone who experiences a hate incident can report it by calling the **police on 101**. You can also visit your **local police station**.
- **In an emergency, always dial 999 or 112.**
- Report **online** – the official websites for online hate crime reporting are:
 - For England, Wales and Northern Ireland: www.report-it.org.uk
 - For Scotland: <https://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/hate-crime/>
- If you do not want to go the police directly, you can contact a **third party reporting centre**. They also provide advice and support. Lists of third-party reporting centres:
 - In England: http://www.report-it.org.uk/organisations_that_can_help
 - Certain areas in England: Stop Hate UK ☐ 0800 138 1625.
 - In Scotland: <http://www.scotland.police.uk/assets/pdf/205073/hate-crime-3rd-party-reporting-centres>

If you are an **EU national**, you can get information relevant to people from your country of origin from your embassy or consulate.

If you need help to find your embassy or consulate, please contact **Citizens Advice** ☎ www.citizensadvice.org.uk ☎ 03444 111 444.

Discrimination

- If you believe you have been discriminated against, contact the **Equality Advisory and Support Service** ☎ 0808 800 0082.
- You can also contact your **local Law Centre** for advice:
 - <http://www.lawcentres.org.uk/i-am-looking-for-advice>.



Victim support

If you or your friends or family have been affected by hate crime, you can contact Victim Support. They offer information and emotional and practical support.

● England and Wales: 0808 168 911; ● Scotland: 0345 603 9213.

Hate incidents at the workplace

Acas (Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service) provides impartial advice on tackling hate incidents in the workplace ● Helpline: 0300 123 1100.

Intervening when witnessing a racist assault

Racist insults and violence happen everywhere. Many people are afraid or do not know how to react when witnessing a racist incident. In such situations, civil courage is needed. Speaking up to support someone in need while others are silent is not easy. But civil courage is possible and can be trained.

UNITED for Intercultural Action provide an excellent leaflet with suggestions for courageous action and show that small steps can change a lot:

● <http://www.unitedagainstracism.org/archive/pages/info30.htm>

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