

Hate Crime

**Guidance for
Residents and
Visitors to
Wandsworth**



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

Working together for a safer London



Hate crime & hate crime incidents. The definitions:

“A **hate crime** is defined as any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by a hostility or prejudice based on a personal characteristic; specifically actual or perceived race, religion, sexual orientation, disability and transgender identity”

“A **hate crime incident** is defined as any non-crime incident which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by a hostility or prejudice based on a personal characteristic; specifically actual or perceived race, religion, sexual orientation, disability and transgender identity”

- HM Government, 2012

**Hate crime must be stopped before it spreads
If you've witnessed a hate crime, report it!**

Who can be a victim of hate crime?

Anybody can be a victim of hate crime. A hate crime or hate incident occurs when somebody is harassed or attacked because of who they are. The Metropolitan police will investigate a crime as motivated by hate if a victim is targeted because of:

- Their race (skin colour, or where they are from)
- Their sexuality (lesbian, gay or bisexual)
- Their disability (physical, mental or learning difficulties)
- Their religion (including having no religious belief)
- Their gender identity (Transgender)

Someone could also be targeted because of their age or gender, or because they are perceived as being “different”, for example:

- Popular culture - e.g: gothic, punk, ‘emo’ or other
- Their dress and appearance
- They are homeless
- They are an asylum seeker or refugee
- They have a different political view or belief

While the above won't be recorded as a ‘hate crime’, all crimes and incidents are taken very seriously and if you feel that you have been victim to or witnessed a crime take place motivated by prejudice or hostility, it's very important that the police know about it.

Types of hate crime

There are a range of things that can be considered a hate crime. You can be victim to:

- Physical or sexual assault
- Threats against you, your friends or your family
- Blackmail, stalking, burglary or theft
- Offensive or insulting graffiti on your car or home
- Criminal damage or vandalism to something you own

Types of hate crime incidents

There are a range of things that can be considered a hate crime incident, you can be victim to:

- Someone belittling or humiliating you
- Making you feel upset, distressed or degraded
- Any other incident that isn't necessarily a crime but still causes you alarm or distress

Hate crime can...

- Leave a victim feeling afraid, angry, hurt, scared, alone, upset or feel unwelcome
- Make someone feel depressed, lose trust in others or even feel suicidal
- Create more hate crime and make others think it's acceptable behaviour

Hate crime, bullying and the law

“Bullying is the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power.

Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological. It can happen face-to-face or through cyberspace.”

- *Anti-bullying Alliance*

Although bullying isn't technically against the law, some types of bullying are illegal and should be reported to the police. This includes bullying that involves:

- Violence
- Theft
- Harassment and intimidation over a period of time - calling someone names or threatening them, making abusive phone calls, sending abusive emails or text messages
- Hate crimes

Prejudice-based bullying can be regarded as a hate crime when an incident, is perceived by the victim, or any other person to be:

- Racist
- Homophobic
- Transphobic - discrimination against transsexual or transgender people

Or due to a person's:

- Religion
- Beliefs
- Gender identity
- Disability

- *Adapted from the Metropolitan Police Service*

Reporting it is the only way to stop it

Hate crime is never right, should never be accepted and it needs to be stopped.

You can help, but you may be thinking...

“What’s the point? It’s only a small comment”

What starts as a small comment can turn into something more serious. If those that commit hate crimes think they can get away with it, they won’t think they need to stop. Bringing those who commit hate crimes to justice spreads a message to other criminals: It won’t be tolerated!

“The police won’t do anything!”

You may not be the only victim of hate crime; others may be victim to the same criminal. Your report could be the crucial piece of evidence to charge the offender. The Metropolitan Police and Wandsworth Council take all reports of hate crime very seriously and need information on hate crime to make sure that areas or communities that need help are getting the right kinds of support and intervention.

“I don’t feel comfortable with sharing my details”

Hate crime can be reported anonymously to Crime Stoppers or to the police by dialling 101. You can also report hate crime online through True Vision (www.report-it.org.uk)

How to report hate crime

The Police

In an emergency dial **999**
or call **101** (for non- emergency services)

From a textphone: **18001 101**
(or **18000** in an emergency)

Online: www.online.met.police.uk

If you’re a council tenant

You can report hate crimes, anonymously if you wish, to the housing department’s hate incidents reporting line as an alternative to the police on **(020) 8871 6829**

Crime Stoppers

Phone: **0800 555 111**

More Information About Hate Crime

Find out more about hate crime and make an online report by visiting True Vision: www.report-it.org.uk

Even if you think it’s something small. Report it!

Hate Crime

Targeted because of your:

- Race, ethnicity or national origin?
- Religious beliefs or practices?
- Disability?
- Sexual orientation?
- Gender identity?

**Don't accept it
Report it!**

Visit: www.wandsworth.gov.uk/hatecrime

Community Safety Division
Wandsworth Council (020) 8871 6000

