Hate Crime





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| **What is hate crime and how can I report it?** | |
| a man shouting at a woman who has her hands covering her ears | Hate crime is when someone is bullied or **harassed** because they have a **protected characteristic** or someone thinks they have a protected characteristic.  Being **harassed** means being picked on. |
| a man with his hand raised and the other hand pointing at himself | Characteristics describe us as people.  A characteristic is how you see yourself or a group that you feel part of.  A **protected characteristic** is one that is covered by the law. |
| A Police Man and a Legal document  A group of people, one is in a wheelchair and another is using a crutch  a group of people from different ethnic backgrounds | You are covered by hate crime law if you are targeted because of your:   * disability * race - this means how we describe our background   People from an ethnic group might have the same language, culture or religion. |

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| religious symbols  Two couples showing affection, one couple are both men, the other couple are a man and a woman  Male and  female symbols | * religion * sexual orientation   Sexual orientation means what kinds of people you love or have sexual or romantic feelings about.   * or transgender identity   This means you do not identify as the sex on your birth certificate. |
| 2 people looking at a man who is threatening a man and woman | We want you to report hate crime:   * if it happens to you * or if you see or hear it happening to someone else |
|  | Hate crimes can include:   * hitting you * calling you names |

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| A group of people in front of a vandalised walla man pointing his finger and looking threatening at a woman who looks scared  A person stealing something from another person's bag  A girl looking at a computer, looking worried | * damaging your home or your things * threatening you * robbery * online abuse |
| **Police Scotland and hate crime** | |
| a person having handcuffs put on them by a police officer | Police Scotland takes hate crime very seriously.  We will work to do everything we can to arrest the person or people who have broken the law. |

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| a group of people surrounded by a circular black line  a woman comforting a sad woman by putting a hand on her shoulder | Everyone in Scotland is protected by law from hate crime.  This includes:   * people who live in Scotland including **asylum seekers** or **refugees** * people who are here to work * people who are visiting Scotland   An **asylum seeker** or a **refugee** is a person who has fled their home country because of war or other things harming them or their family.  They come to another country for protection. |
| a woman and an interpreter  3 people signing 'BSL' using British Sign Language | If English is not your first language, we will get assistance for you from an interpreter which includes a British Sign Language interpreter.  This is to help you give us your report in your first language. |

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| a woman and a support worker meeting across a table with a police officer in a police station | We want you to feel safe and comfortable when speaking to us.  If we can, we will arrange to speak with you at a place you feel comfortable.  You can also have a support person present. |
| **Reporting a hate crime** | |
| a police officer listening | When you report a hate crime:   * we will listen to you, give you support and your report will be investigated |
| a police officer on the phone in front of a computer screen | * you will be contacted by a police officer either:   + by phone   + in person   + or in the way you want them to get in touch |
| a police officer talking to a man at his front door | * Police Scotland will work to find out more about what has happened   They will let you know what is happening. |

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| a man talking across a table to a police officer in a police station  a police officer in court, talking to a judge | * if Police Scotland has enough **evidence**, the person responsible will be charged with the **offence** and reported to **The Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service**   **The Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service** gets reports about crimes from the police and other reporting organisations.  It then decides what action to take, including whether to **prosecute** someone.  **Prosecute** means to officially accuse someone of committing a crime in a law court. |
| a police officer putting handcuffs on a young man | **Evidence** means information that could be provided to a court to see if someone is guilty or not guilty of a crime.  An **offence** is when a person commits a crime.  This means they do something that is against the law. |

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| 2 police officers talking to a group of 3 people outside | * If there is not enough evidence we will still record your report as a hate incident and offer you support   It is important to still report hate incidents that are not a crime.  This helps us to know what is happening in Scotland. |
| a police officer talking to a man at his front door | * when your case is with the Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal service we will keep you up to date with what is happening |
| a mobile phone dialling 999 and a police siren  a person using a mobile phone  A police woman who is smiling  a lady holding a paper form | You can contact Police Scotland and report hate crime in these ways:   * by phoning **999** if it is an emergency or if you are in danger * by phoning **101** if it is not an emergency * in person at any police station * [by completing a hate crime reporting](https://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/c3/) [form](https://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/c3/) |

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| a man and woman talkinga picture showing a mobile phone dialling 999 and a police siren  A person holding a mobile phone showing text messages  Contact Scotland in turquoise text next to a blue and white cross  Keep Safe logo in a blue circle with 2 symbols of people inside the circle | * at a [Third Party Reporting Centre](https://www.scotland.police.uk/contact-us/reporting-hate-crime/third-party-reporting-centres/)   Staff at a Third Party Reporting Centre will contact the Police for you.   * by texting 999   You must register for this service. Text the word 'register' to 999.  You will get a reply and you should then follow the instructions you are sent.   * using [Contact Scotland-BSL](https://contactscotland-bsl.org/) * using the [Keep Safe Scotland App](https://iammescotland.co.uk/about-keep-safe) |
| 3 people signing 'BSL' using British Sign Language | There is a British Sign Language video about Hate Crime [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cea-j86P_5Y&t=3s). |

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| **Getting support when reporting hate crime** | |
| a man and woman talking | Sometimes victims and witnesses of hate crime do not feel comfortable reporting it to the police.  They may feel more comfortable reporting it to someone they know well.  They may want support when they report. |
| a woman writing with support from a man | Police Scotland works with different organisations to make sure everyone can report hate crime.  Some organisations are [Third Party](https://www.scotland.police.uk/contact-us/reporting-hate-crime/third-party-reporting-centres/) [Reporting Centres](https://www.scotland.police.uk/contact-us/reporting-hate-crime/third-party-reporting-centres/).  Staff in these centres have been trained to support people who want to report hate crime to the police.  They can make the report for you. |

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