



Disability Hate Crime

**This book is for victims and witnesses
of Disability Hate Crime. It contains a form that
can be used to report Hate Crime**

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What is Disability Hate Crime?

Hate crimes and incidents are taken to mean any crime or incident where the perpetrator's hostility or prejudice against an identifiable group of people is a factor in determining who is victimised.

A **Disability Hate Crime** is any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim, or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person's disability or perceived disability.

A **Disability Hate Incident** is any non-crime incident which is perceived by the victim, or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person's disability or perceived disability.

This will include anyone who is targeted as a result of his or her physical disability, sensory impairment, learning disability or mental health needs. Hate crimes and incidents can be committed against a person or property.

Disability Hate Crime hurts. By reporting it you can help yourself and you may be able to prevent these incidents from happening to someone else.

Reporting makes a difference... to you, your friends, your community and your life.

Reporting an incident

How can I report an incident?

There are a number of ways you can report incidents:

- **Phone the police**
 - who you can speak to in confidence
- **Self-reporting**
 - use the form contained within this book to report an incident. You do not have to give your personal details
- **Non-police reporting centres**
 - local agencies such as Citizens Advice Bureau, Community Voluntary Services, Victim Support, Disability Rights and Advocacy Organisations and support groups can report the incident on your behalf and provide you with advice and support.

What can I report?

All Disability Hate Crimes and Incidents should be reported, whether you have been a victim, a witness or you are reporting on behalf of someone else.

These incidents may include verbal abuse, physical assault, domestic abuse, harassment and damage to property.

If a person is bullied as a result of their disability, this is also dealt with as a Disability Hate Crime or Incident. Bullying could include name-calling, being spat at or kicked, having your things taken or damaged.

Reporting an incident

A hate incident or crime is one that is targeted at a person because of hostility or prejudice towards:

- Disability
- Race
- Religion
- Sexual orientation
- Transgender

Self reporting – What is it about?

The self-reporting system allows you as the victim, witness, parent, carer or any concerned person to report any incident to the police. You can give us as little or as much personal information as you wish.

By filling out the form you will enable police, local councils, housing associations, health services etc to highlight areas of concern and provide us with a 'True Vision' of incidents within your community.

If you choose not to provide personal details the report will be used for monitoring purposes to get an indication of what is happening.

If you do choose to provide details about yourself, the incident can be investigated fully and you can get the service you deserve and the support you need.

Reporting an incident

How will the Police and CPS treat a Disability Hate Crime?

The Police and other criminal justice agencies consider Disability Hate Crime to be very serious.

When a case is prosecuted, the courts can impose a stronger sentence under powers from the Criminal Justice Act. This reflects the priority placed on these crimes.

The Police have performance targets and measures in place to ensure the service they offer is of the highest standard.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is the organisation that takes cases through the court system. They have produced guidance on Disability Hate Crime that is available at:

www.cps.gov.uk/publications/docs/disability_hate_crime_policy.pdf

Write to :-

C.P.S. Head Offices

London
50 Ludgate Hill
London
EC4M 7EX

Telephone: **020 7796 8000**

Domestic Abuse

A domestic abuse incident is:

Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults (aged 18 or over) who are or who have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.
(Association of Chief Police Officers 2005)

Being disabled, you have the right to be protected from domestic abuse in the same way as anyone else. Whether you live with a learning disability, mental health issue, physical disability, sensory impairment, a long-term health condition or multiple impairments, you have the right to be protected from domestic abuse in the same way as everyone else.

The term 'abuse' is used rather than 'violence' because Domestic Abuse can occur in many forms. If you are experiencing psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse, or are being threatened or intimidated by a current or a former intimate partner or family member, you are experiencing domestic abuse. It can happen anywhere, for example, at home, a pub or club or at work. However, if there is an additional element of prejudice or hatred regarding disability, then this becomes an aggravating factor, increasing the seriousness of the offence and sentencing.

There are pressures within every family. Even if people are from your family they shouldn't be allowed to hurt you in any way.

Domestic Abuse

Government guidance has been put in place to protect vulnerable people from abuse and neglect, whether in a domestic, community or care setting. National standards are in place across all agencies to ensure this protection.

Many instances of abuse will constitute a criminal offence. The abuse of vulnerable people is serious and is investigated thoroughly, when reported.

If you depend on someone who becomes abusive or threatening, it can be a frightening and lonely experience. It is important to report this to someone you trust, for example a doctor, a family member, a police officer or social worker.

You may be feeling frightened, isolated, ashamed or confused but you are not alone and above all, you do not have to suffer in silence. Help is available.

How can the police help?

If you are suffering a domestic abuse incident, you can contact us by ringing your local police station or by dialling **999** in an emergency.

All police services treat domestic abuse incidents as priority crimes. You will be listened to and your complaint will be taken seriously.

- Our first priority is to ensure your safety
- You will be dealt with sympathetically, professionally and will be spoken to separately from the person responsible for the abuse
- To protect you, we will take firm and positive action against your abuser and hold them accountable for what they have done.

Keep Safe – Be Streetwise

Personal safety tips:

Stay alert, awareness is your best defence

Leave venues with friends wherever possible

Be confident - even if you don't feel it

Travel as if you know where you are going

Trust your instincts: if you think something is wrong then act on it

Have your keys available when you reach your home or car

Keep money for taxis, the expense is worth it

Carry a personal alarm and use it.

If you are a victim:

Make as much noise as you can. Keep saying the same thing – ‘go away’

As soon as you can, go somewhere you know is safe

Get help immediately

In an emergency dial **999**

If you have the confidence, tell the police why you think you were attacked

If you have been attacked, don't shower or change your clothes, it may destroy evidence

If you have had your keys taken, change the locks

Don't drink alcohol, you need to give a clear account of what happened

Use the reporting systems to report the incident, if you don't have the confidence to tell the police

Use a non-police reporting centre or use the self-reporting form on page 21, or on our website **www.report-it.org.uk**

Keep Safe – Be Streetwise

If you are a witness:

In an emergency dial **999**

Stay alert and safe

Don't physically intervene, you could get hurt

As soon as you can, note down everything that you can remember about the incident

Report the incident either to a local support agency or the police directly.

Internet safety tips:

The internet provides endless opportunities to meet people from all over the world. You must, however, remember to use common sense.

Don't give out personal details, photographs or any other information that could be used to identify you, your family or where you live

Don't take other people at face value - they may not be what they seem

Never arrange to meet someone you've only ever previously met on the internet, without telling a friend and giving them as much detail as possible about the person that you're meeting and where

Don't open an attachment or downloaded files unless you know and trust the person who has sent it

Never respond directly to anything you find disturbing - log off and report it.

More information is available at:

www.getsafeonline.org

Organisations That Can Help

Ann Craft Trust

The Ann Craft Trust is a UK based organisation working with staff in the statutory, independent and voluntary sectors to protect people with learning disabilities who may be at risk from abuse. Advice and information is also provided to parents and carers who may have concerns about someone that they are supporting.

Telephone: **0115 951 5400**

Website: **www.anncrafttrust.org**

Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus

ASBAH is the leading UK registered charity providing information and advice about spina bifida and hydrocephalus to individuals, families and carers.

Telephone: **020 8441 9967**

Email: **sero@asbah.org**

Website: **www.asbah.org**

Organisations That Can Help

Disability Alliance

Disability Alliance is committed to breaking the link between poverty and disability by providing information to disabled people about their entitlements and campaigning for improvements to the social security system and for increases in disability benefits so that they better reflect the real costs of disability.

Telephone: **020 7247 8776** (10am - 4pm)

Email: office.da@dial.pipex.com

Website: www.disabilityalliance.org

Disability Law Service

This service is able to advise and help people with a disability, their family, carers, and advocates on a wide range of law related subjects.

Telephone: **020 7791 9800** - helpline

Email: advice@dls.org.uk

Website: www.dls.org.uk

Organisations That Can Help

Equality and Human Rights Commission

The Equality and Human Rights Commission combines the responsibilities and powers of the three previous equality commissions (Commission for Racial Equality, Equal Opportunities Commission and Disability Rights Commission). Its aims are to eliminate discrimination, reduce inequality, protect human rights and to build good relations, ensuring that everyone has a fair chance to participate in society

Telephone: **0845 604 6610** - helpline

Email: info@equalityhumanrights.com

Website: www.equalityhumanrights.com

Guide Dogs for the Blind

GDBA aim to provide guide dogs, mobility and other rehabilitation services that meet the needs of blind and partially-sighted people.

Telephone: **0118 983 5555**

Website: www.gdba.org.uk

MENCAP

Mencap is the UK's leading learning disability charity working with people with a learning disability and their families and carers.

Telephone: **0808 808 1111** - Freephone helpline

Website: www.mencap.org.uk

Organisations That Can Help

MIND

Mind is the leading mental health charity in England and Wales working to create a better life for everyone with experience of mental distress.

Telephone: **0845 766 0163**

Website: **www.mind.org.uk**

MS Action

Wide range of services for people with Multiple Sclerosis and other disabilities and children with cerebral palsy. They offer information, advice, counselling, and physical and complimentary therapies.

Telephone: **020 8531 9216**

Email: **msaction@fsmail.net**

Website: **www.msaction.org.uk**

National Autistic Society

The NAS champions the rights and interests of all people with autism. They work with local and central government bodies, as well as raise public awareness of autism and the issues facing those affected.

Telephone: **0845 070 4004** - Freephone helpline

Website: **www.nas.org.uk**

Organisations That Can Help

NSPCC - Child Protection Helpline

24-hour helpline for anyone concerned about a child at risk of abuse, including children themselves.

Support offered through counselling, information and advice. If appropriate, referrals can be made to social services, the police or local NSPCC teams. Advice and information is also available via email and the website. Staffed by child protection officers.

Telephone: **0808 800 5000** - Freephone

Email: help@nspcc.org.uk

Website: www.nspcc.org.uk

Respond

A national helpline and support service for people with learning difficulties who are either victims or perpetrators of sexual abuse and other trauma, and for their carers. Issues covered include bereavement, abuse, bullying, relationship and sexuality issues.

Telephone: **0808 808 0700** - Freephone helpline

Email: helpline@respond.co.uk

Website: www.respond.org.uk

Organisations That Can Help

Royal National Institute for Deaf People

The RNID help people identify whether they have hearing loss, campaign for change, provide services and training, and actively support scientific and technological research.

Telephone: **0808 808 0123** - Freephone

Email: informationline@rnid.org.uk

Website: www.rnid.org.uk

Royal London Society for the Blind

The Royal London Society for the Blind's mission is to remove barriers to personal fulfilment and social inclusion by providing a range of education, training and employment services that meet the needs of blind and partially sighted people in contemporary society.

Telephone: **01732 592500**

Email: enquiries@rlsb.org.uk

Website: www.rlsb.org.uk

Organisations That Can Help

SCOPE

A disability organisation in England and Wales whose focus is people with cerebral palsy. Their aim is that disabled people achieve equality: a society in which they are as valued and have the same human and civil rights as everyone else.

Telephone: **0808 800 3333** - Freephone

Website: **www.scope.org.uk**

Sense - UK Deafblind Charity

SENSE supports and campaigns for children and adults who are deaf blind and provides specialist information, advice and services to deaf blind people, their families, carers and the professionals who work with them.

Telephone: **0845 127 0060**

Email: **info@sense.org.uk**

Website: **www.sense.org.uk**

Victim Support

If you are a victim of crime, local Victim Support branches can give you and your family and friends information and support. If you are going to court, Witness Service can help before, during and after the trial.

Telephone: **0845 30 30 900** - Freephone helpline

Website: **www.victimsupport.org.uk**

Organisations That Can Help

Voice UK

A national charity supporting people with learning disabilities and other vulnerable people who have experienced crime or abuse. Support is also offered to families, carers and professional workers.

Helpline open from 10am to 4pm Monday to Friday.

Telephone: **0845 122 8695** - Freephone helpline

Website: **www.voiceuk.org.uk**

Witness

Witness is dedicated to helping people who have been abused by health and social care workers and working to prevent abuse. Witness provide a helpline and professional support and advocacy services for the victims and survivors of abuse.

They campaign for improvements in policy law and practice, conduct research and provide education and training.

Telephone: **08454 500 300** - national helpline

Website: **www.popan.org.uk**

Using the Self Reporting Form

How do I use the form?

This form has been designed for you to report any form of hate incident or crime that you may have been the victim of, witnessed or are reporting on behalf of someone else. You can report all types of crime, including damage, assault, verbal abuse and harassment.

Remember, you can be a victim of hate crime because of your disability, race, religion, sexual orientation or transgender.

Sometimes you may feel that the incident is too minor to bother the police with. However, it is still important to tell us what's happened. We need to know!

For serious crime we encourage you to contact your local police station.

Why report Hate Crime?

Recording Hate Crime

By completing this form you will enable the police to build up patterns of behaviour, areas of concern and provide us with a 'True Vision' of hate crime within your community.

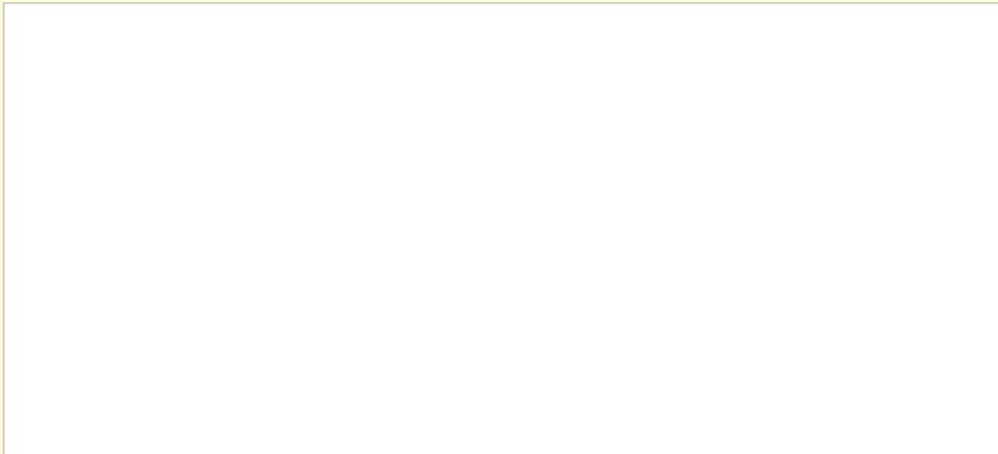
Reporting Hate Crime

By providing us with your details, it will enable us to investigate the incident. Your information may also contribute to the arrest and/or prosecution of the offender/s.

Using the Self Reporting Form

What should I do with the form once I have completed it?

You can **return this form to...**



Or, you can **hand the form in at your local police station.**

Or, you can **complete a form online**

at: www.report-it.org.uk



If you do not want to fill in the form or talk to the police you can still report it, by calling:

Crimestoppers
Telephone: 0800 555 111



You do not have to give your name, and what you say is confidential. It is free to call.

Self Reporting Form

TRUE
VISION

About the incident or crime

Are you the victim or a witness?

Victim Witness Third party

Do you think the incident or crime was motivated by hostility or prejudice towards:

Disability Race Religion
 Sexual Orientation Transgender
 Domestic abuse

Tell us about the incident in your own words, in as much detail as possible
(please use a separate sheet if necessary)

When did the incident take place?

Time Day Date

Where did it happen?

Street name / location

Town / City

Were there any injuries?

Yes No

Please give details...

Did any loss or damage to property result from the incident?

Yes No

Please give details...

About the Victim

Age Gender Date of birth

First language

What disability was subject to hostility or prejudice?

To help us to deal with hate crime correctly, please tick how you would describe the victim (this may be you).

Religion

Buddhist Rastafarian
 Christian Sikh
 Hindu Other
 Jewish No religion
 Muslim Prefer not to say

Sexual Orientation

Heterosexual
 Bisexual
 Gay/Lesbian
 Prefer not to say

(continued over)

About the Victim (continued)

Please tick how you would describe the victim (this may be you).

Ethnicity

- White British
- White Irish
- Any other white background
- White & Black Caribbean
- White & Black African
- White & Asian
- Any other mixed background
- Indian
- Pakistani
- Bangladeshi
- Black Caribbean
- Black African
- Any other black background
- Chinese
- Gypsy or Traveller
- Any other ethnic group
- Prefer not to say

About the offender(s)

How many were there?

Do you know them?

- Yes No

Please give names and addresses if possible...

Can you describe them?

Consider age, gender, height, ethnicity, build and clothing...

Please describe any distinguishing marks or features about the offender/s

Was a vehicle used?

Please describe the vehicle e.g. colour, make, model...

Your Personal Details

The details you have provided to us so far will be recorded for monitoring purposes. If you wish this incident to be investigated please include how you would prefer to be contacted.

Your name

Your address

Postcode

Telephone number

E-mail

How you would prefer to be contacted e.g. only at a certain time or location.

Agency contact for help and support

Do you agree to this information being passed to your local agency partnership?

- Incident details only Yes No
My personal details Yes No



www.report-it.org.uk