
NATIONAL INDEPENDENT ADVISORY GROUP ON HATE CRIME FOR POLICING AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Wednesday 10th January, 2024
Online meeting

Attending Members

Mike Ainsworth - Chair
Sue Sanders
John Grieve
John Azah
Dr Mark Brookes MBE
Julie Miller
A representative of the charity
Stonewall
Mark Healey
A representative of the charity
CARG
Mike Whine

In attendance

Paul Giannasi (Secretariat)
Eleanor Farrow (CPS)

1. Welcome and introductions

MA welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed and approved the earlier minutes.

MA also shared the sad news of Dr. Yeow Poon's passing and the group shared their condolences, particularly with [Redacted] who had worked with him closely to establish CARG.

The group discussed their proposed list of measures they would ask all parties to consider in their manifestos. It was incomplete and would be shared aiming to have it ready for mid-January. The handling of hate incidents and the importance of spreading information about them was also discussed. MH mentioned an upcoming meeting of the London hate crime stakeholder group in March and committed to sharing their document with them.

MA discussed the suggestion of pushing for a hate crime commissioner, expressing their preference for first building other strategic blocks before proposing such a commission. MA also highlighted the need for clear definitions of various forms of hate. [Redacted] supported

this idea, suggesting that if they were to propose a definition for one, they should consider proposing all at the same time. [Redacted] questioned the need for these definitions, arguing that the focus should be on the actions rather than the labels.

The group discussed the implications of a court's decision based on a person's protected characteristic. They emphasised the importance of the evolving any 'definitions' in the context of universal principles and perception-based recording. PG outlined the considerations when transgender was added to hate crime legislation in 2012 and the view taken by the government then to have broad and inclusive definitions as the law requires evidence of the offenders motive rather than the victims personal characteristic, he gave an example that enhanced sentencing could be applied where the victim does not have the protected characteristic. e.g. the child of a gay parent being assaulted and taunted about her parents sexual orientation.

JM stressed the need for a clear definition of transphobia in the criminal justice system, comparing it to the definition of racism. She highlighted the lack of understanding of transphobic slogans and phrases, which often leads to the rejection of hate crime reports. MA discussed the need for guidance on prejudice for police forces and others, and suggested that further work on this complex issue would be beneficial.

MA discussed the issue of underreported hate crimes against NHS staff, particularly those working in mental health facilities. He mentioned that they had put together a proposal to address this issue, which included ensuring that the NHS measures the number of hate crimes committed against their staff and makes them aware of reporting pathways.

The group discussed the growing issue of hate incidents in schools and the need for involvement from other unions and teachers. PG elaborated on specific issues, providing an example of a conflict in a predominantly Jewish school. He also also discussed that NPCC had written to the Home Secretary and the Communities Secretary regarding a perceived need for a government recovery programme to address societal fractures emerging after the Israel/Hamas conflict. MA and PG praised the contribution of IAG members to the Gold Group meeting which was overseeing the national tension challenges from the conflict and particularly the invaluable contribution of [Redacted].

PG also highlighted concerns the group had discussed from other conflict such as an issue involving faith based fatal violence in Northern Nigeria and its potential impact on Nigerian heritage citizens in the UK. MA acknowledged the seriousness of the situation but emphasised the effectiveness of the current structures in place to address such issues.

PG informed the team that [Redacted] had been away from work after a medical operation but had returned to work yesterday and [Redacted]

PG highlighted he is planning to hold a hate crime conference for later in 2024. Dr. Lawrence has confirmed their attendance and the team is awaiting confirmation of dates, with early May being a potential timeframe. MA highlighted the significance of their events, particularly those involving police officers, and their potential to influence individual forces.

The meeting discussed the release of non-statutory guidance on trans issues. MA and JM emphasised the need for transparency and respect in dealing with the guidance, acknowledging that it might cause pain and difficulties. MA pointed out that the guidance, though non-mandatory and not legally binding, could influence schools. JM added that the guidance was written by a leading discrimination lawyer and is open for comments, with potential benefits for trans individuals in a court case due to its flaws. MA highlighted the importance of reading the guidance on hate incidents in schools, and JM brought up the community perception of there being a bias of the government against some minority

communities, which could affect everyone. MA agreed to re-examine the guidance and requested others to do the same.

MA discussed the potential offer of honorary membership to Dame Prof Robina Shah, given her long-term value to our work.

The Group discussed the need for further training and awareness around learning disability hate crime. MB suggested having a discussion about this issue and how they can influence universities and police training. They also discussed the upcoming 25th anniversary of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report as a significant event.

Actions

- MA would share a draft list of potential Manifesto requests with the group to provide speaking points for any interactions in consultation with any political party ahead of a
- PG will circulate potential dates for the conference and conduct a poll for attendees to express their preferences.
- All members are encouraged to read the non-statutory guidance on trans issues and provide feedback during the consultation period.

Date of Next Meeting

4pm Thursday, 11th April 2024 - Online meeting