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

Minutes

4pm Tuesday 15th April, 2025
Online meeting

Attending Members

Mike Ainsworth - Chair
Alex Raikes
John Grieve
John Azah
Dr Mark Brookes MBE
A representative of the charity,
Community Security Trust
Mark Healey
Ivy Manning
Sue Sanders
Julie Miller
Nathan Hall
A representative of the
unincorporated Charity, CARG
A representative of the charity, Tell
MAMA

A representative of the charity,
Stonewall
A representative of the charity, Tell
MAMA

In attendance

Paul Giannasi (Secretariat)
Eleanor Farrow
Maya Flax

1. Welcome and introductions

MA welcomes new members [Redacted] from Stonewall and also Dr Maya Flax. They review the minutes of the previous meeting.

2. Hate Crime Audits Progress Update

PG provides an update on the progress of hate crime audits for different communities. He mentions having preliminary meetings with the Sikh community and plans for a community event. The work on other communities, including disabled groups and the Gypsy Traveler community, is still in early stages. MB

offers to help with the disabled groups. PG acknowledges that the review on non-crime hate incidents has impacted the progress of these audits, but they are still being advanced.

3. Disability Hate Crime

PG and MB discussed the 18% decrease in recorded disability hate crime and the need to investigate if it's due to a lack of services or a decrease in actual crime. The latter is unlikely but will not become clear until Crime Survey data is released in October 2025.

NPCC still plans to conduct thematic audits to address these issues but probably not until the NCHI review is completed due to resource challenges.

The group also discussed the progress of the Sophie Lancaster Foundation's new products and the funding for a resource for primary schools.

[Redacted] shared the results of their survey on racial incidents in football, which showed an overwhelming response from the Korean community.

4. Dr Maya Flax application to join IAG

MA welcomed MF, a senior lecturer in the University of West London, to the meeting. MF shared her journey into hate crime research, which started with her PhD focused on antisemitism in the Orthodox Jewish community. She has since published numerous articles on the topic, including a study on religious hate crime victimisation and a research on intersectionality of hate crime victims. The group discussed the importance of academic principles in their work and MF recent research on bystanders of hate crime. MA then asked for approval for MF to join the group by email ballot.

Update - The group unanimously agreed to offer MF membership of the group and MA formally welcomed her following the meeting

5. IAG Preparation for Meeting with Policing Minister

The Independent Advisory Group (IAG) is preparing for a meeting with the policing minister. MA will send a brief overview of the IAG and its recent work to the minister, along with a list of attendees. The group discusses the importance of the meeting. MA emphasises the need for a strategic approach, to achieve some movement in the limited time available. The meeting will be half an hour long, with some members attending in person and others online. PG has agreed to cover travel expenses for those attending in person.

Mike emphasised the need for

- a new hate crime action plan across government strategies,
- a response to the Law Commission's report on levelling up hate crime legislation
- the immediate rescinding of the current non-crime hate incident guidance.
- He also highlighted the importance of understanding the behaviours and cultural traditions of different communities to effectively address hate crimes.

JM cited the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry findings and added that the police's lack of understanding of Transgender people's behaviours and cultural traditions contributes to the underreporting of hate crimes.

[Redacted] suggested including local government commitment in the plan, while MH proposed a longer-term funding strategy for the hate crime sector.

The group discusses preparations for an upcoming meeting and agree to have a pre-meeting at 2 PM at the NPCC offices before the 4 PM minister meeting.

MA will rehearse what he plans to say, and the group needs to be concise in their 30-minute slot with the minister. They debate whether to send their requests in advance. The group also discusses involving Dr. Lawrence strategically and highlighting principles from the Lawrence inquiry that are still relevant.

PG provides an update on an independent review they conducted [Redacted]

6. Hate Crime Audit Progress and Guidance

Paul discussed the progress of the non-crime hate incidents review, which is expected to be completed by the end of September. The review will involve data collection from forces, interviews with interested parties including detractors of the historical approach, and analysis of the operational policing response. The audit will also include a focus on the five hate crime strands, with the aim of understanding how they are being dealt with differently.

Mark suggested inviting someone to talk about the survey to the London crime stake or reference group, which Paul agreed would be helpful.

Mike expressed concern about the current guidance on NCHI'S, stating that it could lead to unnecessary fatalities and that the delay in developing new guidance was unacceptable which will be conveyed to the Minister when we meet.

7. Hate Crime Conditional Cautions Discussion

MA expressed his pride in the group's work, particularly in the Gold Group responding to the horrors of October 7th and the subsequent conflict.

EF discussed the extension of police-authorised conditional cautions for hate crimes, aiming to gather more evidence on their effectiveness in preventing reoffending. She mentioned the need for appropriate safeguards and the importance of limiting these cautions to low-level offences. MA suggested that the IAG could do some of the evaluation work and monitor it.

MH raised questions about the availability of hate crime courses and the content of these courses, to which MA and PG responded. PG mentioned the ongoing progress in extending the pilot and the potential for a tailored version for disability hate crimes. EF emphasised the need for a rigorous academic evaluation.

8. Hate Crime Progress and Challenges

MA emphasised the group's unique role in advising policing and its potential to contribute to cross-government initiatives. MH shared updates on his London group's meetings with the Home Office.

The group also discussed the new offence of child criminal exploitation and cuckooing, with EF providing details. The conversation ended with MA expressing gratitude for the group's contributions and the importance of promoting their work.

6. Agreed Actions

1	Paul to arrange a pre-meeting at 2 PM at the NPCC before the minister meeting on June 2nd.
2	Mike to circulate speaking notes and list of attendees for the meeting with the minister within 7 days.
3	Mike to follow up with Alison from the Sophie Lancaster Foundation to share more detailed statistics and the full report.
4	Paul to continue work on hate crime audits for gypsy, traveler, and disabled communities.
5	[Redacted] to provide an update at the next meeting on the European perspective regarding Meta's recent announcements and Digital Services Act.
6	Eleanor to provide details of the new cuckooing offence for the meeting minutes. UPDATE - Circulated in meeting
7	Mike to share Mark's report on the London meeting with the Home Office team with the rest of the group.
8	Group members to consider attending the London Hate Crime Stakeholder Reference Group meeting on June 10th focusing on disability hate crime.
9	IAG members to contact Paul with specific issues they want to be included in the NPCC Hate Crime Conference.

