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

Attending Members

Mike Ainsworth - Chair
Nathan Hall
Ivy Manning
Mike Whine
Representative of Tell MAMA
Representative of GALOP
Representative of CST

Apologies

John Grieve
Iqbal Bhana
Jemma Tyson
Robina Shah
Yasmin Rehman
Mike Smith
John Azah
Sue Sanders

In attendance

Paul Giannasi - Secretariat
Eleanor Farrow - CPS

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 10th January, 2023 2pm

1. Introductions

The Chair, MA welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

2. Minutes of online meeting 10th October 2022

Suggested amendments to the minutes of the meeting were agreed and the agreed minutes will be posted on the True Vision website.

Matters Arising

MA informed the meeting that a youth workshop had been developed, to be delivered by IAG members during individual force audits. The aim of the audits is to understand the issues facing young people locally and their views on the performance of the police and other criminal justice agencies. These workshops will help us understand nationally how young people are experiencing Hate Crimes and Incidents. It is a stop-gap measure whilst we do not have funds to resurrect the National Youth IAG which collapsed after its secretariat was transferred to the Home Office. JT, currently on maternity leave, remains committed to supporting the reestablishment of a youth IAG.

From the advert for new members to the IAG we have had two applicants. Mark Healey the founder of Hate Crime Awareness Week and Dr Mark Brookes from Dimensions, a leading Learning Disability Charity. MA stated that as both individuals are well known to the group, each doing exceptional work and both committed to the reduction of all forms of Hate Crime, he wishes to propose that unless there were objections both should be welcomed to the group. MA also noted that we needed additional expertise on Race, Refugees and Transgender Communities. He proposed that we now target organisations working in these areas.

EF agreed to meet with Lionel Idan to discuss the IAG's relationship with the CPS

Funding is available for additional Hate Crime Audits to take place to understand in individual forces the reasons behind reduced prosecutions at a time of increased incidence and reporting of Hate Crime

Action

1. MA to write to IAG members asking if they object to either new applicant joining the IAG and seeking suggestions for organisations to approach to fill gaps on the IAG

2. MA/PG to meet and agree the organisations we will approach to target gaps

3. EF to meet with Lionel Idan to discuss IAG relationship with the IAG

3. Misogynistic Comments by [Redacted]

SS had written to the chair asking that the group publish a condemnation of the misogynistic comments made by [Redacted] in [Redacted] newspaper.

The group were unanimous in the condemnation of the comments that were made. The comments were both highly offensive and dangerous in their incitement of misogynistic violence.

The consensus was that we should not comment directly on the article. Time had passed since its publication, the group does not have the capacity to comment on all examples of Hate Speech and it does not relate directly to our role with the NPCC.

It was agreed that we should monitor the response of IPSO to the article. If they fail to respond effectively then inevitably they create an additional burden for policing.

Action

4. MA to review IPSO response to the [Redacted] article

4. Hate Crime Conference

PG said funding was available for a national two day Hate Crime conference in Northumbria in March. The focus was on police forces but they wanted IAG members and criminal justice partners to play an active role. Government departments would be invited.

There would be 4 sessions. The first session would be a reflection on current performance with input from the IAG, Mark Hamilton, Lionel Idan and Alison Lowe from the APCC. This would lead into a Q and A session followed by workshops.

The second session will look at Hate Crime and far right ideologies. Speakers already confirmed were from Hope Not Hate and Cardiff University Hate Lab. This session will also look at the Bratislava attack

The third session will look at underserved communities and include inputs from experts on Disability Hate in addition to organisations such as the Sophie Lancaster Foundation and representatives from the Sikh and Roma communities.

The fourth session will look at the legacy of Stephen Lawrence as we approach the 25th anniversary of the inquiry.

PG encouraged all members of the IAG to attend and contribute to the conference. While attendance fees were not available expenses for travel and accommodation would be covered.

MA asked members for headline issues they would wish to see included in his speech to the conference.

EF said the CPS would like a session to explore joint working between the police and the CPS

Members warmly endorsed the proposals for the conference.

5. Updates

Despite previous assurances to publish last October the Home Office are still to publish its guidance on Hate Incidents. MA noted that current Government thinking on this appeared to be extremely muddled with the Home Secretary stating that forces should not respond to Hate Speech and other cabinet members stating that it was imperative that they do.

MA stated that the benefits to communities in effective handling of Hate Incidents has been critical to communities. It is also a legacy from the deaths of Stephen Lawrence, Fiona Pilkington and her daughter. We need to ensure that any dilution of that progress is addressed promptly.

Action

5. PG to arrange an emergency IAG meeting once the guidance is published

PG has developed a Hate Crime “core script” setting out the key principles for the NPCC Hate Crime Portfolio. The script has been circulated and members are asked to review and contribute to the next draft

Action

6. IAG members to review Hate Crime core script and feed comments to PG

PG has developed a guide to police officers in handling Social Media. He again asked members to review the document and suggest amendments and additions.

MA said that given the outspoken views of the Home Secretary criticising forces for their handling of social media posts the document should be sent to the Home Office for comment

Action

7. IAG Members to review the Social Media guide and feed comments to PG

[Redacted]

6. Lord Mann's report

MA welcomed Lord Mann's report but questioned whether there should be dedicated teaching of anti Jewish Hate when there was a significant amount of Hate targeted at other communities. He said he was increasingly concerned that the Government was pursuing policies that sought to establish a hierarchy of Hate and this proposal was feeding into that agenda.

MW said the Jewish community absolutely supported work in schools that looked at all forms of Hate Crime although this recommendation did address a requirement for participants in the Swedish Government Malmo conference to directly address antisemitism.

IM supported the view that the recommendation appeared to establish a hierarchy of Hate especially in light of the author having published a booklet that caused deep offence to his local Traveller community.

Action

8. PG to feed the views of the group to the NPCC

Any other business

IM said she would welcome discussions at a subsequent meeting to look at how police complaints are handled and how best to respond if they were not being responded to appropriately

Action

9. MA/PG to include complaints on a subsequent meeting

IM asked when the Hate Crime Action plan would be published.

MA stated that, given the Government had failed to review its progress against the previous action plan, the cross Government Hate Crime Strategy Board had not met effectively for three years despite unprecedented rises in Hate Crime and a failure to respond to the Law Commission report it would be unlikely that an action plan will appear during the lifetime of this Government.

Date of next meeting to be agreed