



What is a Hate Incident?

A Hate incident is any incident (which may or may not be a crime) that the victim or any other person perceives to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on one of the following things:

- disability
- race
- religion
- transgender identity
- sexual orientation.

All police forces record hate incidents based on these five personal characteristics.

What type of incidents can be a hate incident?

Hate incidents can take many forms. Here are some examples of hate incidents:

- verbal abuse like name-calling and offensive jokes
- harassment
- bullying or intimidation by children, adults, neighbours or strangers
- physical attacks such as hitting, punching, pushing, spitting
- threats of violence
- hoax calls, abusive phone or text messages, hate mail
- online abuse for example on Facebook or Twitter
- displaying or circulating discriminatory literature or posters
- harm or damage to things such as your home, pet, vehicle
- graffiti
- arson
- throwing rubbish into a garden
- malicious complaints for example over parking, smells or noise.

When is a hate incident also a hate crime?

When hate incidents become criminal offences they are known as **hate crimes**. A criminal offence is something which breaks the law of the land. Any criminal offence can be a hate crime if it was carried out because of hostility or prejudice based on disability, race, religion, transgender identity or sexual orientation.



What can you do about a hate incident or crime?

If you've experienced or witnessed a hate incident or crime you can report it to the police.

When reporting the incident or crime you should say whether you think it was because of disability, race, religion, transgender identity, sexual orientation or a combination of these things. This is important because it makes sure the police record it as a hate incident or crime.

How to report a hate incident or crime

The Leeds Beckett Students' Union Advice Service is a Hate Incident Reporting Centre (HIRC). Hate Incident Reporting Centres (HIRCs) offer anyone who has experienced or witnessed a hate crime / incident the opportunity to report it to the police and/or local authority as an alternative to reporting it at a police station.

You may be unsure whether the incident is a criminal offence, or you may think it's not serious enough to be reported. However, if you are distressed and want something done about what has happened, it's always best to report it. Although, the police can only charge and prosecute someone when the law has been broken, there are other things the police can do to help you deal with incident.

It's also important to keep in mind that some hate crimes start as smaller incidents which may escalate into more serious and frequent attacks - so it's always best to act early.

You can come in to report a hate incident or crime during our opening hours which you can find here: <http://www.leedsbeckettsu.co.uk/advice>

If you want to make a report outside of these times then you can contact the Stop Hate Line on 0800 138 1625.

If you're being repeatedly harassed, should you report all the incidents?

If you've experienced hate crime, it may have been just one isolated incident. But sometimes, you may be repeatedly harassed by the same person or group of people.

It's best to report all the hate incidents you experience to help the police get the full picture. If you're in this situation, it may be a good idea to keep a record of the incidents to help you when you contact the police.



What happens once I have reported a Hate incident or crime?

In Leeds, all Hate incidents and Hate crimes are recorded on police or council systems. The report can be logged against the reporting person's name or made anonymously. The report can be submitted 'for information only' or 'for investigation and response' based on the permissions given by the victim or witness making the report.

The person making the report has the power to determine what they want to happen with the information. When making the report they will be asked whether they wish to share the information with the police, the council and other agencies that can offer them support.

- If the victim or witness requests an investigation, then the West Yorkshire Police Hate Crime Co-ordinator and LASBT (the Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour Team from the Council) will work in partnership to investigate the hate incident/crime support the victim/witness and take steps to prevent the problem escalating.
- If the victim or witness has requested a report is made for information only, the report forms part of a mapping process for hate incidents and will be discussed at local MARAC Meetings to target hate crime provision, publicity and strategic planning in the area. The victim/witness will not be contacted without consent.