

Hate Crime Information

Everyone is welcome

The Metropolitan Borough of Bury consists of six towns: Bury, Prestwich, Radcliffe, Ramsbottom, Tottington and Whitefield. It covers an area of 99 square kilometres (38 square miles).

Approximately 195 000 people live in the Borough of Bury. We welcome people from around the world who make their home here. However, sometimes people can act in ways that do not make people feel welcome. If this happens to you, this information will help you decide what to do.

What is hate crime?

If someone attacks you, your family, your property or possessions because of your race or religion or because you are a refugee or asylum-seeker, this is against the law. It is a hate crime. It is also a hate crime if they attack you because of your sexual orientation, if you are transgender or disabled.

If someone attacks you because they **think** you are a refugee or asylum-seeker or a particular race, religion, sexual orientation, disabled or transgender, this is a hate crime too.

“With hate crime it is ‘who’ the victim is, or ‘what’ the victim appears to be that motivates the offender to commit the crime.”

The police must record any hate complaint based on one or more of 5 reasons. These are called monitored strands*. A hate crime can be recorded under more than one strand. Currently the 5 monitored strands are:

*also known as protected characteristics

- Race or ethnicity

Race is a group of people defined by their colour, nationality (including citizenship), ethnicity or national origins.

Ethnicity refers to a large group of people who share common cultural backgrounds, language, history, traditions, or other things that distinguish them from other groups.

Hate crime targeting refugees and asylum seekers is recorded under the ‘Race’ strand.

A person’s race or any racial group or ethnic background includes countries within the UK and Gypsy and Traveller groups.

- Religion or belief (including non-belief)

Religion refers to any religion, including a lack of religion.

Belief refers to any religious or philosophical belief and includes a lack of belief. Generally, a belief should affect your life choices or the way you live for it to be included in the definition.

- Sexual orientation

This is a person's sexual attraction. A person may be attracted towards their own sex (homosexual), the opposite sex (heterosexual) or to both sexes (bisexual).

- Disability

A person has a disability if they have a physical, learning or mental impairment. The disability must be long-term and make doing normal day-to-day activities very difficult.

- Transgender identity

Where a person is transitioning (changing from male to female or female to male) or intending to transition from their gender assigned at birth, they may have a transgender identity. This includes people who are transsexual, transgender, cross-dressers (wearing clothing typical of the opposite sex) and those who hold a Gender Recognition Certificate.

The police can record a hate crime without evidence but they can only prosecute if you provide evidence of the crime.

Definitions of strands adapted from

<https://d.docs.live.net/88fb254ef9622f4a/Documents/Fair%20Futures/Grants%20and%20procurement/Applications%20successful/Standing%20together/Hate%20Crime%20Awareness/For%20website/Hate%20crime%20information%20English.docx>

Understanding Hate Crime

Hate crime can happen in many different ways. Here are some examples:

What they do	Examples
damage to property	offensive graffiti desecration (damaging) of graves damaging cars smashing windows setting fire to things
financial exploitation	using your bank card taking money off you forcing you to pay them money taking something off you that is worth a lot of money
harassment	repeatedly complaining about you doing something that you did not do frequently calling you bad names and swearing at you threatening or intimidating you dumping rubbish outside your home putting rubbish through your letterbox following you calling you on the phone all the time

	sending you nasty emails, letters or texts.
humiliation and degradation	putting excrement (shit) through your letterbox spitting at you calling you names making rude or abusive gestures to you telling everyone bad things about you
isolation	not looking or talking to you on purpose not replying to you when you say hello telling other people bad things about you so they will not like you or will be afraid of you
malicious communications	they make obscene telephone calls to you they send you upsetting texts they give other people offensive leaflets and posters about you or the group you belong to they send you threatening letters and emails
sexual violence	rape sexual assault sexual intimidation (they threaten to rape or sexually assault you)
threats	verbal threats- they speak or shout at you they send you offensive letters, or messages they post nasty things about you on sites such as Facebook or X
verbal abuse	insults and name calling
violence	hitting, punching, pushing, slapping, kicking, beating or any other way of assaulting you

What can you do about it?

You can report a “**hate incident**” if you think that what has happened to you is based on someone’s prejudice towards you because of your race, religion, sexual orientation, disability or because you are transgender.

You can report a “hate incident” if you think that what has happened to you is based on what someone **thinks** is your race, religion, sexual orientation, disability or because they **think** you are transgender.

If another person, for example an advocate, family or friend, or a witness thought that the incident was hate-related but you didn’t, you can still report it.

Whole communities can also be victims of hate crimes. For example desecration of graveyards, vandalism of community buildings, offensive graffiti in public places. It is important to report these too.

How to report a hate crime

You can report a hate crime if you have been a victim, a witness, or you are reporting on behalf of someone else.

Contact the police:

999 if it is an emergency

101 for non-emergency

If you're deaf or cannot hear well, use the textphone service **18000** (text **999** if you've pre-registered with the [emergencySMS](#) service).

Self-reporting via **True Vision**:

Report online through your local police website.

[www.report-it.org.uk/your police force](http://www.report-it.org.uk/your_police_force).

The completed form will be sent to your local police area.

The person reporting can be anonymous.

Self-reporting forms are available in a variety of languages. You need to download the form.

On the website go to: Resources- Downloads- True Vision information and reporting packs- Hate Crime Reporting Form.

When you have completed the form, either hand it in at your local police station or post it to your local police force.

You can visit a local police station and make a complaint in person. Details on how to contact your local police force can be found at www.police.uk.

Report through another organisation:

Local agencies like Citizens' Advice Bureau (CAB) can also report the incident on your behalf. Click here www.bury.gov.uk/my-neighbourhood/safety-in-the-community/hate-crime/report-a-hate-crime for details of hate crime ambassadors in Bury.

If you want to ask any questions about this information or need help reporting a hate crime, please contact Fair Futures CIC. You can also make an appointment to come and speak with us at 17 Broad Street, Bury BL9 0DA.