

Some practical ideas

If you're a victim of hate crime, it's not your fault. Remember that nobody deserves to suffer just because of who they are and help is available.

There are things you can do that may help to reduce the risk of it happening again and they may help you feel you are getting your life back under control:

- improve your basic home security – for example by adding locks and bolts to doors and windows
- keep a note of all incidents including times, dates and details of what happened
- get someone to go with you if you decide to report the crime to the police
- if you come into contact with the person responsible, try to get away safely or go to a more public place
- call 101 or 999 for police support
- remove number and profile from any public lists
- change/block email address, block offender from your social media profiles.

Diversity matters and we value it

Victim Support is committed to support the diverse needs of the communities we serve. Our volunteers and staff are committed to helping everyone without discrimination.

If you would like this leaflet in another format please let us know.

Our Victim Supportline **08 08 16 89 111** gives information and support for anyone affected by crime.

You can contact us using Text Relay by adding 18001 before any of our phone numbers.

In an emergency please call 999

Contact your local Victim Support office:



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Hate crime

find the strength

What is hate crime?

A hate crime is an offence where the offender has chosen a victim specifically because of the type of person they think they are, or are seen to be.

This could be because of:

- Race
- Faith
- Disability
- Gender identity
- Sexual orientation.

However, any hate crime (or incident) that is motivated by bias or prejudice against a person's identity can be considered a hate crime such as targeting of alternative subcultures.

Hate crime could include:

- Damage to your property
- Writing graffiti about you
- Threats
- Assault
- Verbal abuse
- Online abuse
- Harassment.

It can be a single incident or a series of incidents.

How we can help?

Our specially trained volunteers can help you to cope with the emotional effects of being a victim of hate crime.

The type of support we provide includes:

- someone to talk to in confidence about what has happened (we can arrange interpreters if necessary)
- help with any questions you have in relation to the incident or what your options are
- giving you information about the police and court procedures
- support you and other members of your family
- helping you get in touch with other organisations that can help if there are problems we can't deal with
- giving you advice on safety and home security
- support at court if you are called as a witness*
- helping parents to support children effectively if they are affected by the incident.

*Note: From April 1, 2015, this service will be provided by the charity Citizens Advice.

Reporting a crime

We will support you whether you have reported the crime or not. We understand that some people may not want to report hate crime to the police and that's fine. However, if you did want to report you can do so in the following ways:

- Direct reporting to the police
- Using of third party reporting centres – reporting to a third party organisation who will communicate with the police and other agencies on your behalf
- Anonymous reporting on the internet or through the post (www.report-it.org.uk).

If you do report the crime and the offender is tried and convicted, courts can take their hate motivation into account during sentencing. This means a stronger sentence could be imposed.

Victim Support teams can provide you with further information regarding reporting if you would like to do this.

Help at court*

If you report a hate crime to the police, the offender may have to go to court. That means you could be asked to appear as a witness. If you do, our Witness Service will be there to help before, during and after the trial.

We'll give you emotional support and information to help you through the experience of being a witness, and afterwards if you need that.