



FAQs

Hate crime and hate incident

Please note a number of web links have been included in these FAQs to provide additional information and support.

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What is Stamp It Out

[Stamp-it-out](#) is a community led project bringing together different partners and organisations all committed to challenging, tackling and stamping out hate within Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

What are the aims of 'Stamp It Out?'

- Working with partners to provide a consistent approach to tackling hate within Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland
- Encouraging people to report hate incidents and hate crimes
- Encouraging people to challenge issues of hate safely
- Challenging assumptions and myths surrounding hate incidents and hate crimes
- Signposting support for victims and witnesses of hate incidents and crimes
- Raising awareness of hate incidents and crimes within the wider community
- Raising awareness of the consequences of committing hate motivated incidents and crimes



What is hate crime/incident?

Hate crime is any criminal offence where anyone believes the victim has been targeted because of their race/ethnicity, religion/belief, gender/gender identity, disability, age, sexual orientation or any other actual or perceived difference.

Hate incidents are incidents that do not constitute a criminal offence but cause alarm, distress or harassment where anyone believes the victim has been targeted because of their race/ethnicity, religion/belief, gender/gender identity, disability, age, sexual orientation or any other actual or perceived difference.

Hate crimes and incidents can also be directed at whole communities – for example desecration of graveyards, vandalism of places of worship, offensive graffiti in public places, or acts of terrorism.

Hate crime can include verbal abuse, threatening behaviour, offensive graffiti, harassment, malicious communications, damage to property and violence. This includes all of the following:

- **Disability incident** - any incident which is perceived by the victim or any other person on the grounds of their disability.
- **Racial incident** - any incident, which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person.
- **Religion/Belief** related incident - any incident, which is perceived to be religion/belief related by the victim or any other person.
- **Disability related** - any incident, which is perceived to be disability related by the victim or any other person.
- **Gender identity** related - any incident, which is perceived to be gender identity related by the victim or any other person.
- **Sexual orientation** related - any incident, which is perceived to be sexual orientation related by the victim or any other person.
- **Age** related incident - any incident, which is perceived to be age related by the victim or any other person.
- **Gypsies and travellers** – any incident which is perceived by the victim or any other person to be motivated on the grounds of their status.
- **Newcomers** – any incident which is perceived by the victim or any other person to be motivated on the grounds of their immigration status or nationality.

[Please click here for a victim's perspective.](#)

Why report a hate crime or incident?

Hate crimes, hate incidents are a violation of personal and civil rights. Effective action against hate incidents can only be taken if these crimes be reported, to the police, council and all other appropriate agencies.

However many incidents go unreported, sometimes out of fear that things will escalate if a victim or witness comes forward or not understanding what actions will be taken. Sometimes people are too embarrassed, or they simply don't realise that either they, or someone they know, is being a target.



Only by working together will we remove Hate Crime from our communities. Some additional reasons include;

- So that help and support is provided
- Agencies can gain information about number, type and range of hate incidents occurring within the county and City
- identify hotspot areas, patterns and trends and assist in identifying gaps in service delivery for victims
- To devise solutions that effectively seek to reduce hate incidents

How do I report a hate crime?

There are lots of ways you can report hate crime and hate incidents:

- By completing the on-line reporting form [Stamp-it-out](#)
- By calling the Hate Incident Monitoring Project on 0116 305 8263.
- By contacting your nearest reporting centre - a list is available [here](#).
- From the above web site address.
- If you think the incident is a criminal offence you should report it to the police by calling 0116 222 2222.

Who can report hate incidents?

Anybody can report a hate incident whether you are a victim, witness or third party who becomes aware of an incident.

What evidence is required?

Any kind of evidence can help the council or the police in the process of investigation. In particular, it can help an investigation if you are able to provide:

- A description of the perpetrator(s)
- Details of any witnesses to the incident
- A diary record of any ongoing incidents and previous incidents you have experienced
- Original copies of any hate mail that has been sent to you
- Evidence of damage to property, graffiti etc. It is advisable not to clear these up before

I can't provide any evidence, is it still worth reporting?

If you are not able to provide any of the above, do not let this deter you from reporting the incident. Even if we are not able to identify the perpetrators on this occasion, the information you provide may help us build up a picture of a problem in a particular area, and we may be able to take proactive action to try to tackle the problem.



Can I make an anonymous report?

Yes, it is possible to make an anonymous report. The information you provide will help us to be aware of problems in particular areas, but it will not be possible to offer you individual support following an anonymous report. Visit [Stamp-it-out](#).

I am in danger now, what can I do?

- Call the Police immediately on 999
- Stay calm, keep yourself and your family safe, don't retaliate and wait for the police to arrive.

How long does it take to investigate an incident?

The length of the investigation is dependent upon each individual case. The more complex cases will take longer to investigate. Your investigation officer will keep you informed about the progress of your case. As a general rule a case investigation can last from three to six months.

What can the police do?

The police can investigate the incident. If a crime has been committed the police can arrest the perpetrator, and if there is enough evidence to support a prosecution they can be charged with a criminal offence.

The case will then be taken to Magistrates or Crown Court for a trial. You may be asked to appear as a witness in court. If the perpetrator is found guilty they could face imprisonment or other forms of sentence (such as a probation order).

My child has been a victim of hate crime at the school, what can I do?

Leicester City and [Leicestershire County Council](#) Education Service have a zero tolerance policy of combating race and hate crime in schools, colleges and educational establishments, if your child has been a victim, at first point report the incident to the school and inform his/her teacher. If the matter has not been resolved speak to the head teacher.

Alternatively you can report the incident to [Stamp-it-out](#) or to the local police.

I am being harassed but I don't know if the motive is hate crime. What should I do?

If you are being harassed but don't know if the motive is racial, homophobic or because of gender / gender identity or a disability, you should still report it. [Stamp-it-out](#)

We all want to stop all forms of harassment, so let us know what is happening and we will investigate it. The police deal with all kinds of neighbour problems and anti-social behaviour, whatever the motive.

What will happen if the officer I report to doesn't think I am experiencing hate crime?

The starting point for any investigation is what you believe is the motive for any harassment and abuse that you are experiencing.



The police will listen to what you tell them and, depending on the evidence available, will try to take the right action.

In some cases the police may not be able to find any evidence of a hate crime, but can still take action to prevent problems.

For example, you may believe that a neighbour is harassing you by dumping rubbish in your garden. If there is no evidence of hate crime, action can still be taken to prevent them from dumping the rubbish.

Please click here to read some prose from a victim of hate crime

Where can I get more information from?

Blaby District Council (<http://www.blaby.gov.uk/>)

Creative Support (<http://www.creativesupport.co.uk/>)

Crown Prosecution Service (<http://www.cps.gov.uk/leicestershire/>)

Diocese of Leicester (<http://www.leicester.anglican.org/>)

Diversity Hub (<http://www.diversityhub.org.uk/>)

Highcross Leicester (<http://www.highcrossleicester.com/website/>)

Human Rights and Equalities Charnwood (<http://humanrightsandequalitiescharnwood.aj-services.com/index.php>)

Leicester City Council (<http://www.leicester.gov.uk/index2006.asp>)

Leicestershire Constabulary (www.leics.police.uk)

Leicestershire County Council (<http://www.leics.gov.uk/>)

Leicestershire County Cricket (<http://www.leicestershireccc.co.uk/>)

Leicester Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Centre (<http://www.llgbc.com/>)

Leicester Riders (<http://www.leicesterriders.co.uk/>)

Leicester Tigers (<http://www.leicestertigers.com/>)

Leicestershire Police Authority (www.leics-pa.police.uk)

Mosaic 1898 (www.mosaic1898.co.uk/)

NHS Leicester City (<http://www.leicestercity.nhs.uk/>)

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council (<http://www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk/>)

Prism (<http://www.llgbc.com/category.php?id=5>)

Safer Leicester Partnership (<http://www.saferleicester.org/>)



Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland
Integrated Equality Service

Trade Sexual Health (<http://www.tradesexualhealth.com/>)

University of Leicester (<http://www2.le.ac.uk/>)

Victim Support (<http://www.victimsupport.org.uk/>)

[Victim Support booklet research outcomes on hate crime](#)