

What is hate crime?

A hate crime is any crime motivated by ill-will or prejudice against:

- disability
- race
- religion or belief
- sexual orientation
- transgender

You don't have to be physically attacked or injured to be a victim of a hate crime. Hate crime can include:

- having insulting graffiti sprayed on your house or car
- having hurtful things said to you day after day
- being pushed, hit or hurt
- having something you own vandalised
- having something belonging to your community vandalised
- having your belongings stolen
- people threatening you, your friends or family
- people swearing at you or making abusive remarks
- people making you feel scared, intimidated or distressed

No hate crime is too minor to report to the police.

Reporting hate crime helps the police find those responsible for hate crime and prosecute them

It also helps the police get a better picture of what's happening in your community, highlight areas of concern, and monitor patterns of behaviour.

So even if you don't leave your own details, reporting hate crime will help others.

What does the law say about hate crime?

The Offences (Aggravation by Prejudice) (Scotland) Act 2009 was created to protect victims of crime who are targeted as a result of hatred of their actual or presumed sexual orientation, transgender identity or disability.

What does this mean?

Any crime committed because of prejudice against someone's actual or presumed sexual orientation or transgender identity is classed as an aggravated hate crime. You don't actually need to be lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) to be a victim of homophobic or transphobic hate crime.

If a crime is classed as aggravated, the courts will take it into account when deciding sentences.

And in most cases, if it's proven the main motivation was prejudice, sentencing will be more severe.



How can I report hate crime?

- In an emergency, phone **999**
- If it's not an emergency, phone **0131 311 3131**
- If you don't want to speak to the police yourself, use **Remote Reporting**
- Alternatively, you can pass on information anonymously to the independent charity Crimestoppers, by telephoning **0800 555 111** or using the online form at **crimestoppers-uk.org**

Remote Reporting

Remote Reporting is a way of reporting a crime or passing on information without contacting the police directly.

There are a number of different organisations throughout Lothian and the Borders where victims, witnesses, carers or others can speak privately to a member of staff, and they will pass your information onto the police.

You can:

- ask for your information to be investigated
- leave details, but ask for your information not to be investigated
- leave no details, and ask for your information not to be investigated (helps police monitor areas where hate crime may be rising)

To see a list of organisations offering remote reporting, visit **lbp.police.uk/takecontrol**

If you want to find out more about disability hate crime, there are a number of organisations that can help.

Citizens Advice Bureau
(contact through online form or local branch)
w. cas.org.uk

Equality and Human Rights Commission
t. 0845 604 5510
e. scotlandhelpline@equalityhumanrights.com
w. equalityhumanrights.com

Equality Network
t. 07020 933 952
e. en@equality-network.org
w. equality-network.org

Gay Men's Health
t. 0131 558 9444
e. mail@gmh.org.uk
w. gmh.org.uk

LGBT Centre for Health and Wellbeing
t. 0131 523 1100
e. admin@lgbthealth.org.uk
w. lgbthealth.org.uk

LGBT Youth Scotland
t. 0131 555 3940
e. info@lgbtyouth.org.uk
w. lgbtyouth.org.uk

This leaflet is available in other formats if required. Contact:

Lothian and Borders Police
Diversity Unit
Force Headquarters
Fettes Avenue
Edinburgh EH4 1RB

t. 0131 311 3131
w. lbp.police.uk/LGBT-hatecrime

Lothian LGBT Helpline
(Wednesdays 12.30-7.00pm)
t. 0131 556 4049

ROAM
t. 0131 537 8300
e. enquiries@roamoutreach.com
w. roam-outreach.com

Scottish Transgender Alliance
w. scottishtrans.org
t. 07020 933 952

Stonewall Scotland
t. 0131 557 3679
e. info@stonewallscotland.org.uk
w. stonewallscotland.org.uk

Victim Support
t. 0131 668 4486
e. info@victimssupportsco.org.uk
w. victimssupportsco.org.uk



**Lothian
and Borders
Police**

**VERBAL ABUSE.
SWEARING.
THREATS.
INTIMIDATION.
HARASSMENT.
BULLYING.
PHYSICAL ABUSE.
VANDALISM.
GRAFFITI.**

**You don't have to be hit
for it to be hate crime.**