

Reporting Hate Crime Information

The Metropolitan Police Service take hate crime very seriously and encourage members of all communities to report incidents to the police. Even if the incident does not amount to a crime the police will still record and investigate it.

A hate crime is where you become a victim of any crime or prejudice because of your race, faith, age, sexual orientation, gender or because you have a disability. You do not have to prove that the incident or crime was motivated by prejudice, if you or any other person believes that it was then it will be dealt with as a hate crime.

Because of the nature of hate crime, victims often find it difficult to report it to the police and in many cases criminals take advantage of this fact thinking that they commit crime and it won't be reported. Consequently we have developed a number of options that we hope will make it easier for you to report hate crime to the police.

It is also important to remember that some of the options allow you to report to the police anonymously and we would encourage you to do that in any event. The more information we have about hate crime, the greater the opportunities we have to tackle it most effectively.

The following are ways that you can report hate crime to the police:

Requesting police attendance

You can find details of your local police station in your local telephone directory. You can ring and ask for a police officer to attend and take a report of your hate crime incident or crime. However there is an enormous demand for policing services and all calls are graded and prioritised according to their seriousness. The police will tell you when you can expect the police to arrive but this may not be immediately or even on the same day, it may be referred to a local police officer to contact you and make an appointment to see you at a mutually convenient time.

Go to your local police station

You can find details of your local police station in your local telephone directory, at your local library or on the Metropolitan Police Service website at www.met.police.uk

Please note that not all our police stations are open 24 hours, please check the opening hours before going to the police station. These are available from the website.

You can report a hate crime incident or crime to any police station at any time. Please ensure that you take any relevant documentation with you [for example hate mail if you have received it] as we may need to retain it as evidence.

Our police stations can be busy so you may have to wait your turn to be seen by a member of police staff and please allow at least half an hour to make the report.

If you live outside London you can still report to your local police station wherever you live. The importance of hate crime is recognised by all police forces and they will take your details and forward them to us, the Metropolitan Police Service in London.

Reporting over the telephone

Depending on the seriousness of the incident you may be able to report your hate crime incident or crime to the police over the telephone. The number of your local police station can be found in your local telephone directory.

When you ring explain that you wish to report a crime over the telephone and you will be put through to the relevant department. The police may decide that the offence is too serious to be reported over the telephone and will arrange for a police officer to attend your address to speak to you and take the report.

Reporting to a police officer in the street

You can also report any hate crime incident to a police officer in the street. However please be aware that the officer may be assigned to a specific duty or dealing with another call that might prevent them from taking a report, they may therefore refer you to your local police station.

Reporting hate crime online

You can now report hate crime online via:

http://www.met.police.uk/reporting_crime/index.htm

Please note you cannot report anonymously with this method, the online form requires you to provide a name and address.

Self Reporting

The Metropolitan Police Service have recently joined the True Vision Self Reporting scheme. This is a scheme used by 36 police services in the United Kingdom which allows victims of hate crime to fill in a self reporting form and return it to police in a pre-paid envelope.

There are two types of True Vision pack one for reporting Faith and Race Crime and one for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community for reporting homophobic hate crime.

Each pack contains information on self reporting and details of organisations that can provide additional support and advice. However, it does not matter which pack you pick up as the self reporting form is common to each.

The Association of Chief Police Officers National Community Tensions Team have also produced a self reporting form specifically for Islamophobic hate crime which contains similar advice and a self reporting form.

True Vision and Islamophobic reporting packs are available at public venues across London such as doctors surgeries, libraries, voluntary organisations. Your local police station will be able to advise you where to pick up a self reporting pack.

Assisted Reporting

Victim Support

Advice and support for victims of hate crime is available through Victim Support, an organisation independent of the police. They will also be able to provide advice on how to report hate crime to the police and take reports on your behalf and forward them to the police on your behalf.

You can contact Victim Support direct through their support line on 0845 30 30 900

You can report anonymously via this method.

GALOP

For victims of hate crime within the LGBT community, you can report hate crime incidents to one of our partner organisations GALOP.

GALOP are an LGBT voluntary organisation independent of the police who provide support and advice to victims of homophobic and transphobic hate crime. They will take details of the incident and forward it onto the police for investigation on your behalf.

GALOP can be contacted direct via their Shoutline on 020 7704 2040.

You can report anonymously by this method.

Crimestoppers

Crimestoppers are a national organisation that allow victims or any one with any information about any crime to provide report crime or provide information to the police. The Crimestoppers number is free, you can report anonymously and you may receive a reward for information you provide. Calls to Crimestoppers are answered by trained police officers.

You can contact Crimestoppers by ringing 0800 555 111

THE ABOVE METHODS OF REPORTING HATE CRIME WILL NOT PROVIDE AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

IF IT IS AN EMERGENCY AND POLICE ATTENDANCE IS IMMEDIATELY REQUIRED TO PREVENT INJURY TO ANY PERSON OR TO APPREHEND OFFENDERS FOR A SERIOUS OFFENCE THEN DIAL

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[Information in relation to offences or information relating to terrorism.](#)

Anti-Terrorist Hotline
0800 789 321