



What is hate crime?

Hate crimes are acts of violence or hostility are any crimes directed at someone because of who they are – or who someone thinks they are.

You may be a victim of a hate crime if you believe you have been targeted because of:

- **race or skin colour**
- **religion or beliefs**
- **sexual orientation**
- **gender identity**
- **disability or learning difficulty**
- **any other perceived difference**

These aspects of a person's identity are known as protected characteristics, www.gov.uk/discrimination-your-rights

Hate crimes can include:

- **verbal abuse**
- **intimidation**
- **threats**
- **harassment**
- **bullying**
- **assault**
- **damage to property**

The person committing the hate crime may be someone you don't know – but it could also be a friend, relative or carer, or an acquaintance who is looking to exploit their relationship with you for financial or criminal gain.



What is a hate incident?

If you believe you have been targeted because of a protected characteristic, but a crime has not been committed (or cannot be proven), this is a **hate incident**.

Should you report hate crime?

We can offer:

- Help
- Support
- Advice

Why should I report hate crimes and incidents?

Being a victim or witness of any crime can leave you feeling frightened, upset and confused about what has happened. You may also feel worried or reluctant to report the crime or incident – but it is **really important** that you do.

You will be offered help and support – or safeguarding if needed.

We will support you every step of the way

Our skilled officers and staff are supported by specialist Community Liaison Officers, who provide tactical advice and understand the challenges, fears and effects that victims of hate crime face.

There are specialist reporting hubs across Kent and Medway where trained volunteers will listen to your concerns and help you to report incidents to the police.

When you report an issue to us, we will explain what happens next and make sure you have all the help and support you need.