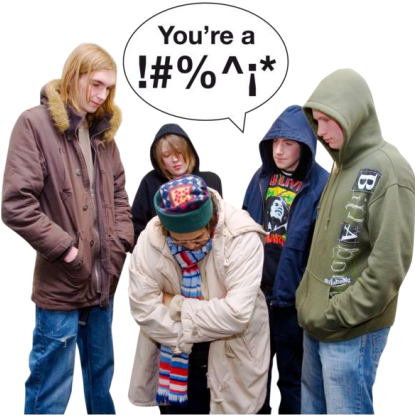


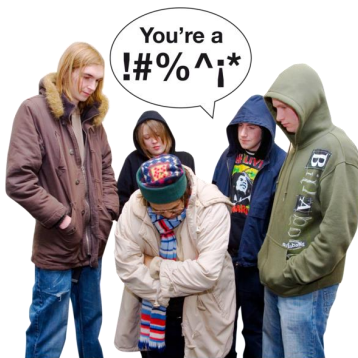
Hate crime strategy

July 2023

Hate crime strategy



What is a hate crime?



A **hate crime** is when someone does something to hurt you because of who you are or who they think you are.

The criminal thinks you are different from them and hates you because of that difference.



A **strategy** is a big plan.

This strategy sets out how we plan to work to stop hate and prejudice in Scotland.

Prejudice is a negative attitude or opinion about a person because you think they belong to a certain group – for example acting negatively towards someone because they are a disabled person.



In Scotland the law recognises hate crime based on **prejudice** towards these groups:

- disability
- **race** - how we describe our background or **ethnic group**



People from an **ethnic group** might have the same language, culture or religion.



- **religion**

A **religion** is a set of beliefs that some people have.

There are many different religions, each with a different set of beliefs.



- **sexual orientation** – this means what kinds of people you love or have sexual or romantic feelings about



- **transgender identity**

Transgender means you see yourself differently from what you were registered at birth (male or female).

In Scotland, hate crime law will be changing in 2024 to include age.



Hate crime can be spoken or written.



Hate crime can be physical.



Hate crime can take place anywhere – including online.

Reporting hate crime to the police



If you have experienced or seen a hate crime, report it to Police Scotland:

- by phoning 999 if it is an emergency
- 101 (non-emergency)
- text 999 (for registered users only)



- in person at any police station
- by completing an online [Hate Crime Reporting Form](#)



- at a [Third Party Reporting Centre](#)



- [Contact Scotland-BSL](#)



Victim Support Scotland and Police Scotland have made information that explains how to report a hate crime and what support is available after a hate crime has happened.

It is online at: victimsupport.scot

Our vision - what we want to achieve



Our vision is for a Scotland where everyone has a life without hate and prejudice.

To achieve our vision, we have **aims** - what we want to happen.



Our aims have been developed:

- with organisations that know a lot about dealing with hate crime
- with people who have experienced hate crime

To support these aims we have **14 commitments** - what we have agreed to do.

Aim 1



Victims of hate crime are treated with fairness, understanding and care and in a trauma-informed manner.

Their safety and recovery is the most important thing.

Trauma is the emotions you feel when something terrible has happened like a bad or frightening event.



Trauma informed means that they understand how trauma:

- can make victims feel
- can make victims behave



Experiencing a hate crime or seeing a hate crime happen can be a traumatic experience.

We want everyone to be treated in a way that is trauma-informed.



We want to make sure that people know how to report a hate crime and how to get the right support.



Commitment 1

We will continue to ask all our **communities** and stakeholders what they think to make sure that the Police Scotland response to hate crime is both consistent and effective.



When we use the word **communities** in this plan we mean both:

- people who live in the local area
- people who are part of a group like a religious group or different age groups



Commitment 2

We will regularly check our work to make sure it deals with what makes reporting hate crime difficult.



Commitment 3

We will check and change third-party reporting arrangements to make reporting hate crime easier.

Commitment 4

We will work to make sure support for victims of hate crime is **person-centred** and trauma-informed.



Person-centred means listening to what a person wants and needs and having them at the centre of decisions that are made about them.

Commitment 5

We will have guidance and training across Scotland for police, justice organisations and the courts to make sure staff know how to use the new Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021.



Aim 2



We will understand:

- **what hate crime is**
- **why it happens**
- **how often it happens in Scotland**

This will support us to do the right work.

Commitment 6



We will make sure that we continue to listen to people who have experienced hate crime as we work on these commitments.

Commitment 7



We will work to make sure that hate crime data tells us more information, facts and figures about victims' experiences of hate crime.

Aim 3



Communities are:

- **stronger and more confident to take control of their lives and claim their rights**
- **safe**
- **inclusive - everyone can take part and have the same choices and chances**





We want people to live in communities where:

- they feel they belong
- they are treated equally and their human rights are protected



To work well in stopping and dealing with hate crime, people need to understand what hate crime is and the effect it can have.



Commitment 8

We will support and fund organisations that work together to build more supportive and inclusive communities in Scotland.



Commitment 9

We will consider how education and youth work can support children and young people to recognise prejudice and hate crime and the effect it has on people and their communities.



Commitment 10

We will work to develop ways to prevent hate crime from happening, linking in with other commitments in this strategy.



Commitment 11

We will develop information for councils and their partner organisations to stop hate crime happening and support communities to live and work together.



Commitment 12

We will have regular activities that support the public to understand what hate crime is and how to report it.



Commitment 13

We will work to make sure people feel safe using public transport.

Commitment 14



We will make sure our work to deal with hate crime recognises the challenges of online hate crime.

What happens next?



We will work with partners to make a delivery plan which will set out:

- the work we will do
- who is responsible for making sure the work happens and when it will be finished by



Information from people who have experienced hate crime will continue to be at the centre of our work.



In 2028 we will check if work is going well:

- to make sure that the strategy is making a difference
- to check if there is other hate crime work that should be added to the strategy



© Crown copyright 2023

OGL

Copyright images © Photosymbols

This publication is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. To view this licence, visit nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3 or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

This publication is available at www.gov.scot

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at

The Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

ISBN: 978-1-83521-202-8 (web only)

Published by The Scottish Government, July 2023

Produced for The Scottish Government by APS Group Scotland, 21 Tennant Street, Edinburgh EH6 5NA
PPDAS1329502 (07/23)

W W W . g o v . s c o t