

Hate Crime Newsletter



Issue no. 16
February 2018

Welcome to the hate crime newsletter



This is the first hate crime newsletter of 2018 so it's probably a good opportunity to take a look back at 2017. It was a busy year for the CPS in relation to hate crime; we published our revised public statements and legal guidance following a full public consultation, launched our [#hatecrimematters campaign](#) to raise awareness and increase public confidence; created a [hate crime landing page](#) on the CPS website and launched the final part of our training programme – a course on sexual orientation and transgender identity.

Looking to the year ahead, there's plenty on our hate crime agenda. We'll continue to contribute to the cross-

Government hate crime action plan, are looking to publish operational guidance on the use of community impact statements in hate crime cases, and will continue to work closely with the police and our valued corporate partners to support victims and witnesses and bring more perpetrators to justice. As I said in my very first introduction to the hate crime newsletter just over a year ago, I'm also very interested in hate crime in the online space and this is something we'll be looking into further in 2018.

One of the areas I'm really keen to develop is our community engagement. This has long been something that has driven and informed the hate crime portfolio and I'm looking to develop and formalise this work this year. We have been working on a review to finalise a new inclusion and community engagement strategy and there will inevitably be some lessons we can learn and take forward for our hate crime engagement.

This is something I'm personally very committed to and I recently visited a diverse number of community and Islamic faith organisations across West Yorkshire and Greater Manchester. This was facilitated by Forward Thinking who work to promote greater understanding and confidence between the diverse grassroots Muslim communities and wider society. These visits really brought home to me the need to be proactive in our engagement, to have meaningful, ongoing dialogue and the need to involve young people in these conversations. Forward Thinking will be publishing a full report on these visits which I'd encourage you to read.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to introduce Chris Long, Chief Crown Prosecutor for CPS South West, as the new hate crime champion. I'm delighted to have Chris as part of the hate crime team and he will bring a wealth of experience to the role.

To shape the May edition of the newsletter, please send comments, contributions and examples of best practice to: HateCrime.policy@cps.gsi.gov.uk

Baljit Ubhey, Director of Prosecution Policy and Inclusion

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Positive outcomes from CPS Area Hate Crime Coordinators

Prosecutors and Hate Crime Coordinators are working hard across the country to prosecute hate crimes. Here we celebrate some of our recent successes:

CPS North East successfully challenged a sentence handed down recently in relation to a disability hate crime case. The offender was subject to a non-molestation order preventing him from contacting his mother. On two occasions he breached this order and made contact with her. He shouted abuse at her relating to her disability, threatened her, spat in her face and hit her head off a headboard.

The offender was charged with two breaches of a non-molestation order and two counts of battery. The two counts of battery were prosecuted as a disability hate crime. The offender pleaded guilty and he was sentenced to twelve weeks custody for breach of the non-molestation order, four weeks custody for each assault - to run concurrently and £200 compensation. The court, however, refused to uplift the sentence as in their view the CPS had not proved the victim was disabled.

The CPS challenged this view and explained why this was not lawful. The sentencing was reopened under s.142 of the Magistrates' Court Act, as the court conceded that it had not properly complied with s.146 and applied a sentence uplift. The offender was resentenced with an announced uplift of an additional week in custody for each count of battery.

CPS Wessex successfully prosecuted a case of transphobically aggravated harassment and made effective use of special measures to support the victims. The offender was verbally abusive to two victims, a mother and son, on a number of occasions. On one such occasion he knocked on the victim's door and when she answered he screamed abuse in her face and pressed his forehead against hers whilst continuing to shout at her. On another occasion the two victims were walking their dog when the offender shouted further abuse at them including transphobic abuse.

Both victims were supported by an application for special measures and gave evidence via video link. The offender was found guilty after trial and was sentenced to 12 months community service with 180 hours unpaid work uplifted from 150 hours as well as £370 costs and £85 victim surcharge.

CPS London North successfully prosecuted a driver who shouted both racist and homophobic abuse at a parking warden who was giving him a ticket.

The offender was subsequently sentenced to a total of six weeks imprisonment, including sentence uplifts which reflected both the homophobic and racial abuse.

Each CPS Area has a dedicate webpage on the CPS website. To find out more about the work of the CPS in your area, please visit our website: www.cps.gov.uk/cps-areas-and-cps-direct

CPS West Midlands successfully prosecuted a case of disability hate crime. A tree planting ceremony was taking place at a Special Educational Needs school where the offender began shouting disablist abuse at the children. The victims felt distressed and alarmed by the level of abuse. He was convicted after trial and fined £300, with costs of £640, ordered to pay compensation of £100 and a victim surcharge of £30. The court announced that the fine was uplifted from £200 to £300 because of the disability hostility demonstrated by the offender. The court also made him the subject of a Restraining Order for a period of five years preventing him from entering the grounds of the school or causing any harassment to any person entering, occupying or leaving that school.

The CPS continues to work to ensure perpetrators of criminality online are prosecuted. CPS Yorkshire and Humberside successfully prosecuted a man who sent Islamophobic messages to the victim via social media. The offender was charged with sending by a public communication network an offensive, indecent, obscene or menacing message. He pleaded guilty at the first hearing and was sentenced to a 12 month community order and 60 hours' unpaid work. This was uplift from a fine to reflect the Islamophobic hostility demonstrated by the offender.

The CPS Special Crime and Counter Terrorism Division successfully prosecuted a man for stirring up racial hatred. The offender made one of the speeches on the Blackpool promenade in March 2016 at a far right demonstration, during which he stated that Adolf Hitler got it wrong by showing mercy to Jewish people.

In another speech at a gathering of far right groups in North Yorkshire, he said that Jewish people did not deserve to be shown any mercy and needed to be eradicated. He went on to explain his support for the neo-Nazi group National Action and was in effect recruiting new members for them. The group was later banned in the UK and is now classified as a terrorist organisation.

After the speech, he answered questions from the audience and repeated his inflammatory statements. The CPS argued that it was clear the purpose of the speech was to get the audience to agree with his point of view and therefore he was stirring up racial hatred.

He accepted making both speeches and acknowledged that he was a Nazi who hated Jewish people but denied inciting hatred at Preston Crown Court. He will be sentenced at a later date.

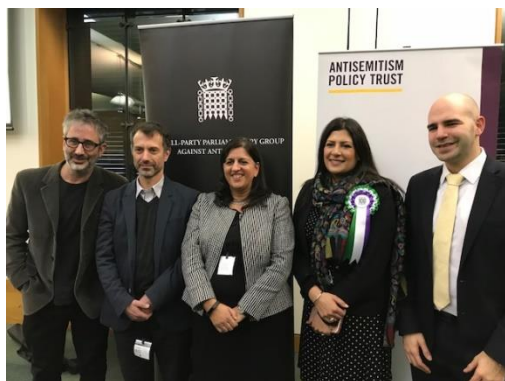
Sue Hemming from the CPS said: "When making those speeches this man intended to stir up hatred and he wanted others to hate Jewish people like he does. The CPS explained in court that his remarks went beyond protected free speech and crossed the line into vilifying a group using threatening and abusive language at public meetings. Clearly the jury agreed."

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APPG event - 'Blurring the (on)line: Hate Speech and Free Speech in the Digital Age'

Alison Plant, CPS Senior Policy Advisor, Prosecution Policy and Inclusion unit

On 6 February 2017, the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) Against Antisemitism, in association with the Antisemitism Policy Trust, held an event in Parliament to explore the line between illegal hate speech and free expression.



Baljit Ubhey, CPS Director of Prosecution Policy and Inclusion, was invited to speak on the panel alongside Preet Gill MP (Shadow Minister for International Development, Chair, APPG for British Sikhs), David Baddiel (Comedian/Journalist/Author), Karim Palant (UK Public Policy Manager, Facebook) and Dr Dave Rich (Head of Policy & Deputy Director of Communications, CST).

Baljit was asked to cover the legal position in relation to the prosecution of offences committed via social media.

Communications which are grossly offensive, indecent, obscene or false will usually fall to be considered either under section 1 of the Malicious Communications Act 1988 or under section 127 of the Communications Act 2003. The number of prosecutions commenced for offences under section 127 of the Communications Act and section 1 of the Malicious Communications Act has increased by 68% in the last 3 years.

In October 2016, the CPS published revised [Guidelines on Prosecuting cases involving communications sent via social media](#), following a 10 week public consultation. The guidelines separate offences into four categories, but the category discussed at the event was category 4 offences: communications which are Grossly Offensive, Indecent, Obscene or False.

The definition of grossly offensive is set out in case law but the definition is not always easy to interpret or apply. This is due to the complexity of the issues and the need to consider the changing context in which relevant incidents take place. In particular, we need to strike a balance between the right to free speech and the need to protect victims and the public. There is a high evidential threshold, therefore, which must be met before a prosecution can be commenced on the basis a communication is grossly offensive. Comments made must "go beyond what could conceivably be tolerable or acceptable in an open and diverse society which upholds and respects freedom of expression."

To ensure consistency across the country, all category four cases are referred to the Director's Legal Advisor for him and his team to authorise a charge.

"We are living through a digital revolution which tests our laws and freedoms. For the Antisemitism Policy Trust, we want to ensure appropriate protections are in place for Jewish and other minority communities targeted by hate but that this doesn't impede hard-won freedoms. This event was part of our effort to understand how best we can address these complex challenges and the discussion will inform our future efforts.

We benefited greatly from Baljit Ubhey's authoritative overview of the law in this area and are grateful to the CPS for its engagement and advice."

**Danny Stone MBE,
Director, Antisemitism
Policy Trust**

The guidelines include a section on hate crime which states that, the high threshold still applies at the evidential stage but it is more likely that a prosecution is required if the offence is one of hate crime, including antisemitic hate crime.

Disability Health & Wellbeing Partnership Event

Grace Moronfolu, Inclusion and Community Engagement Manager, CPS East Midlands

UK Disability History Month (UKDHM) runs from 22 November to 22 December and aims to:

- Celebrate the lives of disabled people;
- Challenge disablism; and
- Achieve equality



To take part in UKDHM, the CPS East Midlands attended an event in Nottinghamshire. The event was sponsored by the Nottinghamshire Police, Nottingham City Council, Nottingham Homes, and Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue.

The event was opened by Councillor Toby Neal, Portfolio Holder for Community and Customer Services, and Nottingham City Council and Lord Mayor of Nottingham, Councillor Michael Edwards.

The event hosted a broad range of presentations including several songs from Firbeck Academy 'Signing' Choir, Haseeb Ahmad: Equality & Diversity Lead, University Hospitals Leicester and World Aids Day, Autism, Mindfulness, and Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia.

The CPS East Midlands staffed a stall which shared information and leaflets on the work of the CPS. We focussed on hate crime in general, recognising that people can be targeted for more than one personal characteristic, and on disability hate crime in particular.

The event was really well attended as the photo below shows. It was an excellent



opportunity to celebrate diversity and speak up for equality. Disability hate crime often goes unreported and by participating in events like this, the CPS can help to raise awareness and reporting. Prosecuting disability hate crime is a priority for the CPS and it's really important for us to get out there and make sure disabled victims and witnesses know we take this seriously and

that we'll support them throughout the process of supporting a prosecution.

Each CPS Area has a dedicate webpage on the CPS website. To find out more about the work of the CPS East Midlands, please visit their website: www.cps.gov.uk/east-midlands

To find out more about UKDHM, you can visit their website: <http://ukdhm.org/>

Access to Justice Programme in the Balkan Region Gerallt Evans, Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor, Wales/Cymru

In December 2017, Chris Hartley Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor for Yorkshire and Humberside Area, and I visited Pristina in Kosovo and Skopje in Macedonia as part of Stonewall's Access to Justice (A2J) Programme in the Balkan region. I had also visited Montenegro earlier in the year as part of the same programme.

Stonewall is the largest LGBT rights organisation in Europe. The A2J programme involved Stonewall working with non-governmental organisations and campaign groups in the Balkans to support human rights for LGBT communities in those countries. The work funded by the UK Government Foreign and Commonwealth Office was focussed on providing police officers, public prosecutors and judges with perspectives related to social context surrounding sexual orientation and gender identity and adequate prosecution of hate crimes and other SO&GI hate based incidents. The Balkan states are still recovering from years of civil war and



conflict and it is fair to say their approach to human rights and LGBT rights in particular is still developing. Nevertheless the governments in those states are anxious to demonstrate their commitment to improving the position, not least because of their ambitions to be accepted as EU and NATO members.

CPS involvement was seen as crucial for two reasons. First, Stonewall were anxious that we should explain the good practice in the UK on dealing with SO&GI hate crime and wider LGBT rights. Second, our willingness to stand with Stonewall in delivering the training was also seen as inspiring prosecution agencies and rights groups in the Balkans to form relationships and engage with each other.

During the three day period, Chris and I spoke to nearly a hundred prosecutors and police officers. The first day involved participating in a training workshop for Kosovan public prosecutors and police officers in the capital Pristina. The aim was to inspire and equip the delegates to become allies for LGBT equality and also build empathy for LGBT communities. I spoke about our hate crime legislation and the CPS approach to tackling SO&GI hate crime. Chris then explained how the work of the CPS LGBTi Staff Network supported our staff and helped to inspire confidence in the CPS as a supportive organisation for LGBT rights amongst the community.



The other part of the visit was to Skopje in Macedonia. Chris and I spoke to senior local prosecutors at the Macedonia Academy for Judges and Prosecutors followed by a session delivering training to trainee prosecutors. The final day saw us taking part in the International Conference on LGBT Access to Justice. The Conference was organised by Stonewall in collaboration with their partners in Macedonia and the Western Balkans and Turkey region: and supported by the British Embassy in Skopje (Paul Edwards, Deputy Head of Mission, British Embassy Skopje was also one of the speakers). The event was attended by prosecutors, police officers, judges and community members from across the region.

Chris gave a presentation on the UK perspective as part of a session discussing how to create inclusive public prosecution and judicial services. Chris shared the platform for the session with Aneta Arnaudovska (Director of the Academy for Judges and Prosecutors, Macedonia), Jasna Arangelovikj Orovchanec (Macedonian Young Lawyers Association), and Sylejman Sopa (State Prosecutor, Kosovo).

I then joined a panel with Gjulten Mustafafova from the Macedonian Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, and community campaigners Jelena Colakovic from Montenegro and Goran Miletic from Serbia. This session discussed “Coordinated Responses from Government” looking at how such responses by state institutions help improve the reach and impact of interventions and enable clear communication with communities and the broader public. I spoke about the UK Cross Government Hate Crime Programme and Action Plan and how the CPS worked with partners in the criminal justice system and wider to tackle SO&GI hate crime. He also spoke about the important role of our scrutiny panels and Community Accountability Forum.

The visit also included a reception hosted by the British Ambassador to Macedonia and hosted at his residence. Chris and I met local LGBT community members and heard shocking accounts of how their offices had been repeatedly targeted by homophobic mobs. The Ambassador confirmed that the diplomatic community was very concerned that no one had been brought to justice as yet despite graphic CCTV evidence of the attacks.

Chris and I received a warm welcome in both countries and there was much interest from the fellow professionals that they met in the good practice examples that were shared. Local community groups were also very appreciative of the symbolism of the CPS being willing to be seen supporting Stonewall’s work. One LGBT rights campaigner said the description of the strong relationship between the CPS and Stonewall and other community groups in the UK was inspiring but seemed like science fiction as it was so far removed from the current position in her country.

The sessions also gave Chris and I an opportunity to reflect on our own approach to SO&GI hate crime and supporting LGBTi people including those working for the service. Although we have good practice to be proud of and that we can share with other jurisdictions, both Chris and I agreed there was still no room for complacency and more work to be done.”



Tackling Online Hate Crime

Robert Buckland QC MP



Hate crime has absolutely no place in our society and tackling it has long been a priority for me. While it is clear that progress has been made, it's also important to look at how the landscape is changing around us.

It is no secret that social media is becoming more prevalent in our everyday lives. Such platforms encourage interaction, collaboration and the sharing of ideas. However, these same platforms are also being used to spread hate, abuse and extremism.

Online hate crime is unfortunately not an issue that will be eradicated overnight. But the Government is committed to working with businesses and providers to look at solutions to challenge these incidents when they happen.

I'm pleased to see that the CPS is leading the way in tackling online hate. The recent guidance on prosecuting cases involving communications sent via social media, as well as the hate crime public statements have been well received, and are respected across Government.

Those who commit these cowardly hate crimes online should be met with the full force of the law. Victims of abusive comments and threats should be afforded the same protections as if it were someone abusing them in the street. Hate is hate no matter how it is communicated, and it needs to be treated with the utmost seriousness.

As you may be aware, in October last year, the Government announced the creation of a new national online hate crime hub. The expert unit is run by police officers for the National Police Chiefs Council and channels all reports of online hate crime to reduce the burden on frontline officers. This helps ensure that all online cases are properly investigated, that there is better support for victims of online hate crime and it will help to drive up the number of prosecutions.

Further, the Home Office is now in its second year of funding for community-led projects tackling all strands of hate crime. Seven projects were announced in October last year, and I hope to visit one of these projects during the course of this year.

The Government will continue to work alongside the CPS to tackle hate crime, particularly as we look to refresh the Hate Crime Action Plan later this year. I very much look forward to continue working to tackle this important issue.

To find out more about the Solicitor General and the Attorney General, you can access the Government's website here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/attorney-generals-office>

LGBT in Britain: Trans Report

Tom Morrison, Policy Officer, Stonewall

Last month, Stonewall released its latest report in our state of the nation research series, **LGBT in Britain: Trans Report**. The findings reveal the shocking levels of discrimination, abuse and violence that trans and non-binary people face in Britain today.

We know that hate crimes and incidents against lesbian, bi and gay people are on the rise, but for trans and non-binary people, the situation is even worse. The figures in *LGBT in Britain: Trans Report* are stark. **Two in five** trans people and **three in ten** non-binary people have experienced a hate crime or incident because of their gender identity in the last 12 months.

Alarming, the research also found that levels of reporting to police are low. Of the trans and non-binary people who have experienced a hate crime or incident, **four in five** didn't report it. Some of the trans people we surveyed who have reported a hate crime or incident didn't feel supported by the police. In some cases, they experienced even further discrimination. It's clear that a lot more work is needed to improve confidence in the trans community, so victims feel confident in coming forward to report. Police forces and agencies from across the criminal justice system need to take visible actions to show victims that they can expect to be treated with sensitivity, respect, and with reassurance their case will be taken seriously. Many leading organisations working across the criminal justice system are already making positive changes.

Through our Diversity Champions programme, Stonewall has seen this happened through our work with the police and government agencies. We've seen first-hand how creating inclusive environments and encouraging visibility of LGBT staff can improve confidence within their communities they serve, and improve services for LGBT victims of hate crime.

We also work closely with agencies from across the criminal justice system, and Government, to support on projects such as guidance-updates or public facing campaigns – all of which help to improve the lives of LGBT victims of hate crime. Only recently, we worked alongside the Crown Prosecution Service to update their public policy statements on prosecuting anti-LGBT hate crime – a vital document which, for the first time, addressed biphobic hate crime and included people with non-binary identities.

Still, we can't be complacent. Now, more than ever, the trans community need our support. Stonewall is calling for everyone to **Come Out For Trans Equality** and take a visible stand as trans allies, standing up against anti-trans discrimination. Being a trans ally is about being active and there to support. When you hear hurtful or abusive language towards trans people, and it is safe for you to do so, challenge it. Confront your own assumptions, prejudices and biases by educating and empowering yourself through research. Listen to trans people about their lives and experiences, remembering that everyone's stories differ.

For more information, visit the Stonewall website which can be found here: <http://www.stonewall.org.uk/>

The full report, LGBT in Britain: Trans Report, can be found here: <http://www.stonewall.org.uk/comeoutforLGBT/lgbt-britain-trans-report>

The launch of the key findings from the Sussex Hate Crime Project: “The indirect effects of hate crime: Consequences for communities, policies, and practices”

Dr Jenny Paterson, Senior Lecturer in Psychology, Teeside University

During a 5 year research programme, the Sussex Hate Crime Project (SHCP) extensively examined the indirect effects of hate crime on the Muslim and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans (LGBT) communities. In association with the Equality and Diversity Forum, the SHCP launched its key findings on 12th January at an event that was well attended by representatives from the CPS, the Police, the Home Office, Galop, Stonewall, and Tell MAMA amongst notable others.

Presenting data from a range of studies including surveys, experiments and interviews with members of the communities, the SHCP researchers provided comprehensive empirical evidence showing the community-wide impacts of hate crime. Crucially, they found ample support to suggest that simply knowing someone who had been a victim of a hate crime was sufficient to cause individuals to feel more threatened, more anxious and more angry – even if they, themselves, had not been specifically targeted. These emotions, in turn, provoked specific behaviours: anxiety led to more avoidance, while anger led to more ‘pro-active’ behaviours, such as joining community support groups.

Concluding that hate crimes, whether online or in person, do indeed significantly affect the thoughts, emotions and behaviours of fellow community members, above and beyond non-hate motivated offences, the SHCP team then facilitated a dynamic discussion into how best to tackle such insidious crimes. In the ensuing conversations, delegates considered a range of possibilities, along with likely obstacles including the difficulties in policing and prosecuting online hate. The necessity for community impact statements to fully appreciate the effects of hate crimes was also well supported, as was the use of restorative justice to potentially improve the victim journey and reduce reoffending.

On the same day of the event, [the SHCP Final Report](#) made the front page of the BBC Home and News [websites](#) and was read by over 185,000 people. Such an interest illustrates that hate crimes remain a critical issue for communities and that everyone, including academics, policy makers and practitioners must work together to combat them. To this end, if you have any suggestions for how research can help the CPS to tackle hate crime, please do get in touch with me (j.paterson@tees.ac.uk) as I am keen to make research as useful and practical as possible.

The Sussex Hate Crime Project was based at the University of Sussex and was conducted by Prof. Rupert Brown, Prof. Mark Walters, Dr Jenny Paterson and Dr Harriet Fearn.

To find out more about the research, you can access the final report here: <https://www.sussex.ac.uk/webteam/gateway/file.php?name=sussex-hate-crime-project-report.pdf&site=430>

Crimes Against Older People National Scrutiny Panels

Alison Plant, CPS Senior Policy Advisor, Prosecution Policy and Inclusion unit

In November 2017, the CPS held two National Scrutiny Panels on crimes against older people (CAOP); one in London and one in Cardiff. The purpose of the panels was to support the CPS in refreshing its legal guidance and public statement on CAOP to ensure they are up to date and reflect the context, nature and impact of these crimes. The refreshed documents will need to cover all the relevant issues to assist prosecutors in dealing with these cases and effectively support victims and witnesses.

Attendees included Police, Age UK, Age Cymru, Action on Elder Abuse, the Office of the Public Guardian, Trading Standards and the office of the Older Peoples Commissioner for Wales.

The public policy statement is an outward facing document which outlines the CPS commitment to prosecuting CAOP, details how we approach these prosecutions and how we will support victims and witnesses. The CPS legal guidance is aimed at prosecutors, but is available externally. It should provide them with everything they need to apply the law and prosecute CAOP effectively.

The panels discussed the current guidance and public policy statements and looked specifically at:

- the current flagging definition of CAOP and whether it is still fit for purpose;
- whether the legal guidance should cover older people as suspects and defendants;
- whether there is anything missing from either the legal guidance or public statement; and
- whether the documents accurately reflect the diverse support needs of older people including issues around capacity and fluctuating capacity.

The panels provided invaluable insight and highlighted a number of issues to consider when refreshing the guidance. The panel experts highlighted issues around domestic abuse of older people by family members, barriers to reporting such as isolation, embarrassment and a dependence on their abuser and a need to work collaboratively with police but also the social care system.

The next step is to review the feedback and redraft the documents accordingly. Once the policy and legal guidance have been redrafted, we will hold a full public consultation to ensure the policy and guidance reflects a wide range of views. Once launched, the consultation will be available on the CPS website: www.cps.gov.uk/

The current CPS legal guidance on crimes against older people can be found here: www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/prosecuting-crimes-against-older-people

Traveller Movement Conference

Geraldine Scullion, Traveller Movement consultant, Equality and Social Justice Unit

The Traveller Movement's November 2017 conference raised particular social justice issues such as LGBT rights and the overrepresentation of Gypsies, Roma and Travellers individuals in the criminal justice system.

The Lammy Review

When David Lammy, Labour MP for Tottenham, spoke, the conference audience of Gypsies, Travellers, campaigners and supporters listened intently, acutely aware of their communities' inequitable overrepresentation in the criminal justice system. They welcomed David's recognition of the issues and the insights he offered.

In his September 2017 'Independent review into the treatment of, and outcomes for, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic individuals in the Criminal Justice System' David highlighted that Gypsies, Roma and Travellers (GRT) are an overlooked minority who do not feature in the official monitoring systems across the CJS. The absence of GRT individuals from official monitoring has meant that it is impossible to analyse whether charging rates, sentencing decisions or reoffending rates are proportionate.

Although Gypsies, Roma and Irish Travellers represent just 0.1% of the population in England and Wales, 5% of male prisoners identified themselves as either Gypsy, Roma or Traveller in 2017. Traveller Movement's evidence suggests that GRT children make up 12% of children in Secure Training Centres. David told the audience that this overrepresentation of Gypsies and Travellers in prison was 'outrageous' and that the roots of this overrepresentation 'go back hundreds of years.'

Another issue the Lammy Review refers to is the above-average numbers of Gypsies and Travellers suffering from poor mental health which is reflected in turn in the prison population. The high numbers of Traveller suicides in prison was flagged up in 2015 by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman for England and Wales. David spoke about how Travellers he met in prison told him that prison staff often split up them into different wings, whilst other black and ethnic minority people were allowed to socialise together. This, the Travellers told him, meant that they couldn't support each other and this isolation, coupled with racism from staff and other prisoners, contributes to mental ill health and suicide. TM's recommendation that GRT prisoners need a more tailored approach both in prison and when leaving prison was acknowledged by the Lammy Review, and would go a long way in addressing some of the poor mental health prisoners experience.

The MP spoke of how the discrimination that Gypsies and Travellers face in the UK reminded him of how Aborigines – indigenous Australians - were treated in Australia. Aborigines are only 3% of the population, yet they are 70% of the total prison population and 65% of children taken into care are Aborigine children. He pointed out that some solutions for historical oppression could be found in Canada and New Zealand, where special rights and recognition exist for native indigenous people, like Canada's Métis or New Zealand's Maori.

David told the conference that Gypsy and Traveller people are the 'missing people' in the UK and the oppression and discrimination they face is often ignored. Because of this, he promised to push government to implement his review's recommendations. He told the conference: 'I am standing by you - I am supporting you – I am not going to leave the stage.'

Beginning a dialogue on LGBT inclusion within the GRT community

The conference workshop on LGBT inclusion within the GRT community launched the TM videos 'LGBT Gypsies and Travellers: Our Stories' and 'On the road to being you: being LGBT in Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities'.

These videos have created an opportunity for discussion and sharing of experiences which hasn't existed until now. Particular aspects of GRT traditions and family relationships which set the context for LGBT children were discussed. These include the paramount importance of family in GRT communities and the strength of family loyalty and connections. Also included are the relationships of sons, and daughters, with their father; the important role of the father as the model for sons; the impact of 'shaming' and fear of what other GRT families will think if a child/individual is gay; the strength of and respect for religion within the GRT communities, which has maintained a homophobic environment for generations. Women face many challenges, possibly more so than men, when they 'come out'.

The impact of shaming and fear of coming out creates mental and physical stress and ill health and can, and has, led LGBT/GRT individuals to consider suicide.

Individuals in the workshop spoke of the impact of silence within their families and the inability of parents to ask questions or engage with them on gay relationships or emotional development after they had come out.

It was noted that reactions to the videos among the 33,000 viewers to date have been overwhelmingly positive. The workshop recommended that GRT, and other, service providers must acknowledge the existence of LGBT individuals in the GRT communities and adapt their services to their specific needs.

To find out more about The Traveller Movement, you can visit their website here:

travellermovement.org.uk/lgbt-support/

To access the videos, 'LGBT Gypsies and Travellers: Our Stories' and 'On the road to being you: being LGBT in Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities' please use the below links:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-9QW8wBi2c&feature=youtu.be

youtu.be/lhllcnol26A

Useful updates and info

Alison Plant, CPS Senior Policy Advisor, Prosecution Policy and Inclusion unit

Intimidation in public life

On 13 December 2017, the independent Committee on Standards in Public published its report on intimidation in public life. The Committee makes a package of recommendations for action to government, social media companies, political parties, the police, broadcast and print media, and MPs and Parliamentary candidates themselves. While this is wider than hate crime, some of the behaviour covered in the report relates to hate crime online. [The report can be found on the Government website.](#)

Home Affairs Select Committee

The Home Affairs Select Committee is continuing its inquiry from the previous Parliament on hate crime and its violent consequences. More information about the inquiry can be found on [the committee website.](#)

We welcome your input so if you would like to contribute to the Hate Crime Newsletter or have comments on this or any other issue, please email: HateCrime.Policy@cps.gsi.gov.uk