

# Hate Crime Newsletter

Issue no. 23  
November 2019



## Welcome to the hate crime newsletter



It's been a very busy few months since the last CPS hate crime newsletter. I feel like I say that quite regularly which can't be a bad thing! It's really important that we maintain our momentum on tackling hate crime.

The main focus over the past three months seems to be on visibility and transparency. We've contributed to National Hate Crime Awareness Week (NHCAW), have published our Hate Crime Annual Report and held three national scrutiny panels to hear important feedback

from our invaluable stakeholders. There are more detailed articles on all of these further down in this issue.

Looking to NHCAW, we created a number of short videos with a range of people who each have a role to play in relation to hate crime whether that's reviewing legislation, supporting victims and witnesses or eliminating prejudice. It was real honour to meet and talk to these dedicated and passionate individuals. It really brought home to me that tackling hate crime should be a priority for us all – none of us can do this in isolation. I'd like to thank all those who took part in our videos for their time and for the fantastic work they do.

You'll also notice a longer than usual section on successful cases. As the prosecution service for England and Wales, this really is our bread and butter so I'm pleased to see a mix of both high-profile cases and also prosecutions which represent the more day to day experiences of hate crime. We treat all hate crime seriously regardless of the scale of the offending – it's really important that those who have experienced hate crime come forward and report and I hope these case examples give you confidence to do so.

To shape the February edition of the newsletter, please send comments, contributions and examples of best practice to: [HateCrime.policy@cps.gov.uk](mailto:HateCrime.policy@cps.gov.uk)

**Chris Long, Hate Crime Champion and Chief Crown Prosecutor**

## CONTENTS

### [PAGE 1](#)

Introduction from  
Chris Long

### [PAGE 2-4](#)

Positive outcomes

### [PAGE 5](#)

National Hate Crime  
Awareness Week

### [PAGE 6](#)

CPS Hate Crime Report

### [PAGE 7](#)

National Scrutiny  
Panels

### [PAGE 8](#)

CPS at the Eisteddfod

### [PAGE 9](#)

No2H8 awards

### [PAGE 10](#)

Updates and info

## Positive Outcomes and Engagement from CPS Areas 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 Mersey-Cheshire successfully prosecuted a man who sent an offensive email to Labour's Shadow Minister of State for Women and Equalities.

The offender accused the MP of anti-Semitism and suggested she'd tried to silence the victims of the recent Rotherham child abuse scandal. He also made racist taunts and threats of violence to Ms Shah and her family.

His threats caused great distress to the MP. She contacted West Yorkshire Police who traced the emails to Mr Hanson's account. He was arrested at his home.

He pleaded guilty to one count of sending by public communication an offensive message and sentenced to 12 weeks in jail, after the Crown Prosecution Service reminded the court that it was possible to increase an 8-week jail term to take account of the religious hate element of the offending. Hanson must also pay £300 in compensation to the victim.

---

CPS Counter Terrorism Division successfully prosecuted a man who posted violent messages about Muslims alongside photos of himself posing topless with a fake gun.

The violent material was posted to 394 Instagram followers but screenshots were shared on a WhatsApp group the same day. A member of the group became concerned and called the police.

The offender was arrested a few days later and admitted to posting the messages after an evening out drinking. He said he had no racist views and did not intend to incite racial hatred. The photos were taken at a friend's house with an ornamental gun but he refused to name the friend.

The CPS told Cardiff Crown Court that although the offender regretted his actions now, at the time his intention was clearly to stir up hatred of Muslims. Being drunk was no excuse.

The court found the offender guilty of one count of stirring up religious hatred and two counts of stirring up racial hatred. His comments urged people to 'stand up' and contained phrases associated with Nazism and white supremacy with reference to his hatred of Muslims and Islam. He was sentenced to four years' imprisonment on each count, to run concurrently.

---

A man who wrote letters offering to donate £100 to charity for every member of a racial or religious minority that was murdered has been given a 12.5 year sentence. The court ruled

Each CPS Area has a dedicated 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](http://www.cps.gov.uk/cps-areas-and-cps-direct)

that the offender was suffering from a mental disorder and should be detained in hospital. If and when he is deemed to no longer require treatment he will be moved to prison.

The offender expressed particular hatred for Muslims and in July 2016 began sending a series of hate-filled letters to mosques, individual Muslims and others. Some contained a suspicious white powder which was later found to be harmless.

In December 2016 he wrote to Dylann Roof, a white supremacist responsible for shooting dead nine black parishioners in South Carolina, to express his respect and outlined his own letter-writing terror campaign.

At a hearing at the Old Bailey in October 2018 the offender pleaded guilty to sending the letters intending to cause distress and carrying out hoaxes involving noxious substances. He also admitted soliciting murder in relation to letters that asked recipients to kill people from minority groups including Jews, Asians and Afro-Caribbean people. The letters included suggestions on how to kill and an offer to donate £100 to charity for each killing.

The offender also pleaded guilty to sending Muslims the “Punish A Muslim Day” series of letters last year. They encouraged people to commit acts of violence against Muslims and contained a “score sheet” in which a variety of acts were proposed ranging from verbal abuse to attacking the holy site in Mecca.

In February 2017, he sent drawings to mosques and Islamic centres around the country. One of the images was of a sword cutting off someone’s head. The sword featured a swastika and above it was written “you are going to be slaughtered very soon”. The letter was signed “Muslim slayer”.

In August 2017, a mosque in Sheffield received a letter saying; “I have left a little present for you. It will go off in a short period of time”. It was a hoax designed to make the recipients think there was a bomb nearby.

The offender refused to provide police with samples of his handwriting but examples recovered from his workplace provided matches with the letters. His fingerprints were also found on the letters. He used his bank card to buy almost 800 stamps at a cost of just under £1,000 over the period that several of the letters were sent.

---

CPS Cymru/Wales successfully prosecuted a man for racially abusing a shop worker. The offender used an offensive term about the victim’s ethnicity, amongst other derogatory terms.

The offender was charged with a racially aggravated offence. When faced with the evidence, he pleaded guilty at court, despite having denied using the language when interviewed by the police.

The court imposed a fine which was increased due to the prosecutor successfully applying for

Each CPS Area has a dedicated 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](http://www.cps.gov.uk/cps-areas-and-cps-direct)

a sentence uplift to reflect the seriousness of the racial abuse.

---

An unemployed white supremacist who owned shirts, jumpers and boxer shorts emblazoned with Nazi swastikas and emblems has been convicted of stirring up racial hatred. The offender's home address was full of Nazi propaganda and paraphernalia including, flags, stickers, and fridge magnets.

Stickers saying "Refugees Not Welcome", "Diversity Is White Genocide", "Multiculturalism Is Genocide", "White Power Combat 18 in the Area", and "White Pride Combat 18 in the Area" were displayed around Grimsby in 2017 and 2018. The same images were found in different formats in the offender's home.

When the offender was arrested he denied having done anything wrong.

The prosecution said the material was threatening, abusive or insulting and the offender's intention was to stir up racial hatred by distributing or displaying the stickers. The CPS said that he had also stirred up racial hatred by publishing, distributing and displaying the racist stickers on lamp posts, signs and notice boards.

The offender was prosecuted by the Counter Terrorism Division. They presented evidence at Grimsby Crown Court showing he had the means to produce and print stickers and labels. His internet search history included looking for "white supremacy fliers to download".

Designs for the stickers were found on his laptop and mobile phone. His fingerprints were found on two stickers displayed in Grimsby. Police also found 86 A5 size posters of one of the messages.

The offender was sentenced to two and a half years' imprisonment.

---

CPS Yorkshire and Humberside successfully prosecuted a case of disability hate crime where the offender repeatedly knocked on the victim's door and ran away, shouted offensive comments about the victim's disability and threatened to cause damage to the property.

The offender pleaded guilty at the first hearing to harassment without violence. He was sentenced to a six-month Youth Referral Order uplifted from three months with a 12-month Restraining Order. He was also ordered to pay £85 costs and a £20 victim surcharge.

Each CPS Area has a dedicated 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](http://www.cps.gov.uk/cps-areas-and-cps-direct)

## National Hate Crime Awareness Week

Kate Gibson, CPS Senior Strategic Communications Advisor

National Hate Crime Awareness Week (NHCAW) brings people together to stand with and support those affected by hate crime and it is arguably the most important time in the year for increasing understanding about this type of crime. Historically the CPS has supported NHCAW by working with stakeholders to highlight our successes, increase visibility of our Area hate crime co-ordinators and promote data from our annual hate crime report.

This year NHCAW, which ran from 12-19 October, saw CCP hate crime lead Chris Long take part in a series of videos called 'Conversations with Chris – how the CPS is talking about hate crime'. We had a varied programme – Chris spoke to Professor David Ormerod from the Law Commission about the Commission's ongoing review of hate crime legislation, and to Ketan Davè, Inclusion and Community Engagement Manager and organiser of CPS East of England's hate crime scrutiny panel. They discussed the importance of external scrutiny and public understanding.

Chris also chatted with one of our newest hate crime co-ordinators, Lisa Mayne, on the importance of this role, and he met with Osei Sankofa, a former Premier League footballer and currently Education Officer with football's equality and inclusion organisation Kick It Out. They talked about the need to educate football fans to eliminate racist abuse at matches. If you'd like to see a lawyer in a suit and trainers trying to play football with a former professional, please do check out the videos on [Twitter](#).

We were delighted to have an endorsement from TellMAMA founder and co-chair of our Community Accountability Forum, Fiyaz Mugal. Fiyaz used a blog to outline how the CPS is improving the ways it prosecutes hate crime cases, with the real-life examples of Jack Renshaw, David Parnham and Jay Davison – which you can also read on the [CPS website](#).

Colleagues across the CPS also organised and took part in dozens of events – from hosting surgeries to help with hate crime casework and speaking at community events, to learning how we can better support victims and witnesses who may be at risk of disengaging with the prosecution.



#NationalHCAW #NoPlaceForHate  
#HateCrimeMatters

“ By working with the CPS, we get 'inside' information about how the CPS prosecutes hate crime. This is incredibly useful to us, as we can use it to hold a mirror up to people to show them the implications and the impact of their behaviour. ”

Osei Sankofa, Kick it Out's Education Officer and former Premier League footballer

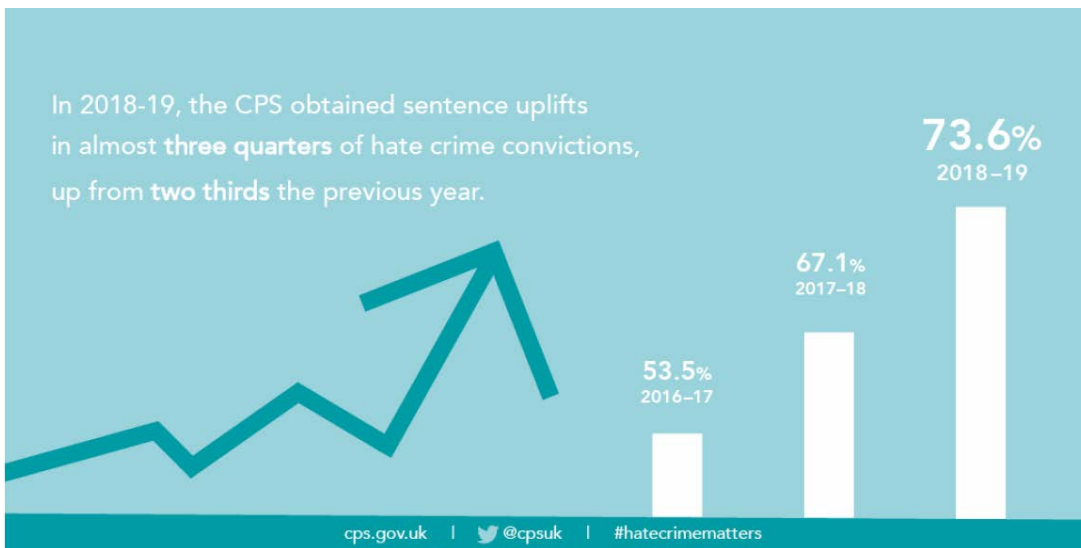


## Hate Crime Report

Jonathan Bushell, CPS Senior Policy Advisor, Strategy and Policy Directorate

The CPS Annual Hate Crime Report was published on 25 October. The full report can be viewed on the CPS website but the main headlines are:

- The proportion of cases resulting in a conviction with a sentence uplift was 73.6% in 2018-19, an increase of 6.5 percentage points from the previous year.
- The proportion of cases involving a guilty plea increased slightly from 75.4% in 2017-18 to 76.1%.
- The conviction rate remained steady at 84.3%.
- The number of cases sent to the CPS by the police fell by 16.7% from 12,901 in 2017-18 to 10,749.
- The gap between the number of hate crimes reported to the police and the number of cases being sent by the police to the CPS for prosecution is growing; the CPS is working closely with police colleagues, both nationally and locally, to understand the reasons for this fall in the number of cases sent by the police.
- The number of pre-charge decisions also decreased from 13,518 in 2017-18 to 11,826.
- Prosecutions completed also decreased by 9.3%, from 14,151 to 12,828.



This will be the last Hate Crime Report of this type. In 2019-20 CPS will move to reporting data on a quarterly basis, thereby providing the most up-to-date management data more speedily. A brief annual report will also be provided at the end of the financial year.

To view the hate crime report, including the underlying data, please visit the CPS website: [www.cps.gov.uk/publication/hate-crime-reports](http://www.cps.gov.uk/publication/hate-crime-reports)

## National Scrutiny Panels

Mick Conboy, CPS Senior Policy Advisor, Strategy and Policy Directorate

During October and November, we held three National Scrutiny Panels (NSPs) on hate crime targeting particular communities; black communities, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities and asylum seekers, refugees and migrants.

A national scrutiny panel is a group of experts on a particular subject that come together to advise and support the CPS. These are usually ad hoc meetings that take place when an issue or concern is identified.

The aims of these panels were to:

- explore the experience of hate crime directed towards these communities via available data and research;
- identify current approaches to awareness raising and supporting the victims of hate crime from these communities: and
- draw lessons arising and set out any issues for future consideration in response.

The NSP on Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities has met previously in 2016 when an action plan was agreed. At that NSP we reviewed progress made since the last meeting and discussed where to take the action plan next. This was the first time the other two panels had convened.

At the panels we discussed relevant research highlighting the prevalence of hate crimes targeting these particular communities and well as specific barriers to reporting for example many asylum seekers, refugees and migrants fear authorities based on their experiences in their home country. Language barriers can also be an issue as well as lack of understanding and awareness of what hate crime is and what to do about it.

Research from the University of Leicester – The Leicester Hate Crime Project in 2014 - surveyed or interviewed 470 victims of racist crime and also found reluctance to report. The research stated that only 21% of survey respondents who had been targeted because of their ethnicity had reported their experiences to the police. Within this subset of victims, Black British respondents were least likely to have reported their experiences (14%).

All three NSPs were incredibly valuable in informing the CPS where and how we can improve as well as the need to be open and transparent about our work in order to encourage people to report.

A short summary of issues that will be considered following each NSP has now been circulated to panel members for comment. Once feedback has been received on the issues identified and any which are missing, the CPS will draw up a draft action plan for consideration by members before finalisation and implementation.

To find out more about how the CPS prosecutes hate crime, visit the CPS website: [www.cps.gov.uk/hate-crime](http://www.cps.gov.uk/hate-crime)



## CPS at the Eisteddfod

**Matthew Ellis, Inclusion and Community Engagement Manager, CPS Cymru Wales**

CPS Cymru-Wales spent a week at the National Eisteddfod of Wales in Llanwrst, Conwy, raising the profile of the service within the community we serve. Focussing on our Welsh language provision, we ran events throughout the week on Hate Crime and Modern Slavery.



Held annually during the first full week of August, the National Eisteddfod, or “cultural festival”, is an event held through the medium of Welsh. Comprising of numerous cultural competitions ranging from poetry reading to the great Welsh Male Voice Choirs, as well as talks and presentations to the public on topical issues, the event is an important gathering. Over 150,000 people regularly attend the Eisteddfod, which is held in a different location each year, making it one of the largest cultural events in the United Kingdom.

The week saw us take part in a Justice Sector stand, alongside colleagues from HMCTS, HMPPS, The Bar Council for Wales and the Ombudsman Service. We all

contributed talks and events throughout the week, the main focus for our activities being on Hate Crime and Modern Slavery, especially hate crime against Welsh speakers. DCCP Gerallt Evans gave a presentation on the law and sentencing practices on hate crime and, later in the week, Head of the Complex Crime Unit Iwan Jenkins talked to a packed stand about modern slavery and how we prosecute such cases.

A key part of our work during the week was championing our performance. A vital aspect of our work to increase public confidence has to be trumpeting our performance as loudly as we can. To have been able to reach as many people as we did at the Eisteddfod and to be able to tell them just how well we work for them in some of the most sensitive crimes we deal with is priceless.



Plans are already in action to attend at the 2020 National Eisteddfod in Tregaron, Ceredigion between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> August and we would urge you to attend the event, whether you siarad Cymraeg (speak Welsh), are dysgu Cymraeg (learning Welsh) or are a siaradwr di-Gymraeg (non-Welsh speaker)!

To find out more about CPS Cymru/Wales, please visit the relevant page on the CPS website: [www.cps.gov.uk/cymru-wales](http://www.cps.gov.uk/cymru-wales)



## No2H8 Awards

**Mick Conboy, CPS Senior Policy Advisor, Strategy and Policy Directorate**

This year's No2H8 awards were held in London on 7 November and honoured those who stand against hatred, prejudice and intolerance. The No2H8 Crime Awards highlight the values and the work of individuals and organisations countering hate, as a way of reinforcing and inspiring others in defending the values of respect for pluralism and diversity, and in protecting the social space so that people need not fear being who they are in our society.

The awards were compered by Sanjeev Bhaskar and there were also keynote speeches by Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, Assistant Commissioner Helen Ball of the Metropolitan Police Service, Tessa Sanderson CBE, Patron of the No2H8 Awards, and Shahid Malik, Chair of Tell Mama.

The CPS Upstander Award acknowledged the hard work and dedication of those in the CPS in tackling hatred and was awarded to Gareth Morgan, Hate Crime Coordinator for CPS South East. Gareth goes above and beyond in his role to ensure that all staff have a deep understanding of hate crime. Gareth is also committed to engaging with local communities affected by hate crime in order to learn from their experiences.



Sonia Chakrabarti and Gemma Rice were also nominated for the CPS award for their work to improve performance and engagement within the CPS.

Mark Healey, organiser of Hate Crime Awareness Week, and so much more, was awarded the Lifetime Upstander Award for 2019.

The full list of the inspiring nominees and winners can be found here: [No2H8 nominees and winners](#)

Thank you to the organisers of the event for such a positive and inspiring evening.

For more information on the No2H8 awards, please visit their website: [no2h8crimeawards.org/](https://no2h8crimeawards.org/)

## Useful updates and info

**Alison Plant, CPS Senior Policy Advisor, Prosecution Policy and Inclusion Unit**

The Equality and Human Rights Commission published the report: [Tackling Racial Harassment: Universities Challenged](#) (October 2019)

The Law Commission will be moving to its next phase of the review of [hate crime legislative framework](#) with focus groups before the public consultation on its proposals in early 2020.

The CPS operational guidance on anti-Muslim hostility providing advice to charging and reviewing lawyers has been updated with support from Tell Mama. The operational guidance is not published on the CPS external website as it provides examples of language and references used in actual cases to assist in maintaining an up to date knowledge of abusive terminology being used. This follows the recent update to the operational guidance on antisemitism.

The CPS has produced a short introduction on its approach to hate crime called Hate Crime: Commitment and Community involvement. The paper provides a brief overview of our approach and has been shared with CPS Areas for circulation to community stakeholders.

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.gov.uk](mailto:HateCrime.Policy@cps.gov.uk)