

Hate crime



What it is and what we're doing about it



What is hate crime?

The law recognises five types of hate crime on the basis of:

- Race
- Religion
- Disability
- Sexual orientation
- Transgender identity

Any crime can be prosecuted as a hate crime if the offender has either:

- demonstrated hostility based on race, religion, disability, sexual orientation and/or transgender identity

Or

- been motivated by hostility based on race, religion, disability, sexual orientation and/or transgender identity

Someone can be a victim of more than one type of hate crime.

Demonstrating hostility

An offender yells an abusive, homophobic name at a victim.

Sexual orientation is one of the types of hate crime recognised in law. The offender has demonstrated hostility by using homophobic language because they know or think the victim is gay.

This offence could be prosecuted as a hate crime regardless of whether or not the victim identifies as gay.

Motivated by hostility

An offender punches an orthodox Jew, they don't use abusive language or make any reference to the victim's appearance.

A police search of the offender's home reveals a collection of Nazi memorabilia and a history of antisemitic Facebook posts.

Religion is one of the types of hate crime recognised in law. The Nazi memorabilia and the antisemitic social media posts allow us to make a case that the offender was motivated by hostility towards Jews.

Why do we distinguish hate crime from other types of crimes?

Hate crime targets people for who they are.

It's a very personal crime which can send a clear message: "You're not welcome".

Hate crime also reinforces long-established patterns of discrimination and prejudice against certain communities and groups of people.

For these reasons, Parliament introduced laws which mean that offenders can receive longer sentences if they are convicted of a hate crime.

What's the role of the CPS in prosecuting hate crime?

The police investigate and obtain evidence to show a crime has been committed.

In hate crime cases this includes gathering evidence that the victim has been targeted because of their race, religion, disability, sexual orientation and/or transgender identity or because of what the offender believes to be their race, religion, disability, sexual orientation and/or transgender identity.

The CPS is responsible for deciding which cases go to court. This includes taking a decision on whether there is enough evidence to prosecute a crime as a hate crime.

If an offender pleads not guilty the CPS are responsible for preparing and presenting the case against them at court.

In hate crime cases the CPS is also responsible for asking the courts to increase the sentence that an offender receives – to reflect the fact that the crime they committed was a hate crime.

How are we tackling hate crime and what impact are we having?

At the CPS we recognise how important it is to effectively prosecute hate crimes. Here are some of the things we're doing to achieve this:

- **We train all our prosecutors on hate crime.** We designed the training with the support of our community partners to make sure it accurately reflects the cases our lawyers are likely to be dealing with.
- **We quality check our cases regularly.** CPS lawyers review each other's work and provide feedback on both open and closed cases – helping us to learn from each other and deliver the best quality service.
- **We hold regular feedback groups locally and nationally.** These groups give us the opportunity to review cases with members of the community to understand where we've done well and discuss how we could improve. These are particularly important for helping us to improve our communication with victims, witnesses and families.
- **We've published public policy statements to explain how we prosecute hate crime.** These explain the process that we go through when prosecuting a hate crime and let victims and witnesses know what they can expect from us.
- **We work closely with partners across the criminal justice sector and beyond to help the public understand hate crime and what we can do to tackle it.**



Our work is starting to pay off

Last year we prosecuted more than 10,000 cases of hate crime.

In 86% of cases the defendants were found guilty of one or more crimes.

In 79% of those cases the judge increased the offender's sentence because they agreed that the crime was a hate crime.



Information and support on reporting and dealing with hate crime

If you or someone else is in immediate danger, call 999.

If it isn't an emergency, you can report hate crime by calling the police on 101 or by filling in an online form at report-it.org.uk

Some charities can also support you to report and deal with hate crime:

- Stop Hate UK stophateuk.org
- Tell MAMA (anti-Muslim hate crime) tellmamauk.org
- Community Security Trust (antisemitic hate crime) cst.org.uk
- Galop (anti-LGBTQ+ hate crime) galop.org.uk

You can find more information about how CPS deals with hate crime on our website:

cps.gov.uk/hate-crime