

What's a Hate Incident Reporting Centre?

These are local organisations and agencies, independent of the police, who have agreed to support people reporting incidents. Some people may be concerned about going direct to the police themselves, or lack the confidence to do so. A member of staff at the reporting centre will complete the necessary paperwork with the victim and forward it to the local police division for allocation.

Hate Incident Reporting Centres also have a role in promoting the reporting of hate incidents and can offer some support to people, such as providing an opportunity for them to talk in a safe space about what has happened.

There is a full list on the Council's website: www.dudleysafeandsound.org/hate-crime



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Registered Charity No 114821
Registered Company No 5745005

How do you report?

1. Call the Police. In an emergency call 999. Ask for an officer to attend your home. In a non-emergency victims should call 101
2. Call into any Police Station speak to the member of staff on duty who will take the details.
3. Report via the Internet <http://report-it.org.uk/home>
4. Report via a Hate Incident Reporting Centre.
5. Call Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111
The call is free and you will not be asked for your name.

If you do not feel comfortable reporting a hate crime directly to the police, please phone our office or come in between the hours of 9:30 and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Our staff are trained to help you with the sensitivity, empathy and professionalism required



Hate Incident & Hate Crimes

HATE CRIMES AND INCIDENTS ARE ANY CRIME OR INCIDENT WHICH IS TARGETED AT A VICTIM BECAUSE OF THE OFFENDER'S HOSTILITY OR PREJUDICE AGAINST AN IDENTIFIABLE GROUP OF PEOPLE.



A hate incident is

“Any incident, which may or may not constitute a criminal offence, which is perceived by the victim or any other person, as being motivated by prejudice or hate.”

Examples:

- A wheelchair user is refused entry into a night club
- A laundrette refuses to let a member of the gypsy travelling community use their facilities
- Muslim women wearing a veil asked to remove her veil when entering a shop.

These are not criminal offences as it stands so no crime has been committed. However these were still perceived to be Hate Incidents

A hate crime is

“Any hate incident, which constitutes a criminal offence, perceived by the victim or any other person, as being motivated by prejudice or hate.”

This may include:

Harassment; graffiti; damage to property; assault; verbal abuse; bullying; threats; offensive mail, literature or phone calls; nuisance and disturbances.

Examples:

- A man leaving a bar gets assaulted by a group of males causing cuts and bruises. The man feels he was targeted for being gay and for being in this specific area. (Whether the man is gay or not is irrelevant).
- An Asian family living on an estate have their house burgled and the words ‘Go back to your own country’ sprayed on the walls. They make a complaint to housing.

Who can be the victim of a hate incident or hate crime?

ANYONE

There are six hatred motivations:

- ◆ Disability
- ◆ Race or ethnicity
- ◆ Religion or belief
- ◆ Sexual orientation
- ◆ Transgender identity
- ◆ Alternative Subcultures

How big of a problem is it?

- In Dudley every year we have over 100 hate incidents/crimes reported to the police. About 90% of these are racially motivated.
- It is known that hate crimes and incidents are seriously under-reported.

All hate crimes and incidents should be reported. By reporting incidents, you will enable the police, local councils, housing associations etc. to build up patterns of behaviour locally, and highlight areas of concern within your community.

But more importantly, you can get the support you may need and help ensure that offenders are brought to justice and cannot do the same to other people.