

# Have you been affected by hate crime?

Safety and security and the right to live free from fear and harassment are your basic human rights. No one should be the target of hate crime.

## HATE CRIME

A 'hate crime' is any crime which is based on prejudice towards you because of your:

- Race or ethnicity (including Gypsies, Roma and Travellers)
- Religion or belief
- Sexual orientation
- Gender identity
- Disability.

A **hate crime** could include:

- Damage to property
- Violence or threats of violence
- Using threatening or abusive words with the intention of harassing you.

## HATE INCIDENTS

A 'hate incident' is something which may not be as serious as a hate crime in the eyes of the law. It is equally important to report a hate incident and have it recorded.

A **hate incident** could be:

- Being turned away from a pub because you are a Gypsy, Roma or Traveller (this may be unlawful discrimination; see TM's information guide on race discrimination by service providers)
- Offensive anti-Gypsy graffiti, posters or signs in a public place, such as 'Travellers not welcome'.

All hate crime and hate incidents should be reported to the police. Reporting hate crime and hate incidents to the police is the only way to tackle racism against your community and put a stop to it.



The police can only prosecute a hate crime if the law has been broken. If there has been a hate incident which doesn't amount to a crime, the police can work with GRT organisations to support the community to take the next steps.

You can contact your local police by phoning 101 or by visiting your local police station.

If you don't want to go directly to the police yourself, you can use the True Vision website or you can contact one of the following organisations which can help: <http://travellermovement.org.uk/index.php/hate-crime/third-party-reporting/>.

If you are unsure or have literacy problems, contact Traveller Movement which can assist you to make a complaint and support you. See the contact details below.

Traveller Movement has a campaign called #OperationReportHate

## SEE ALSO TM'S INFORMATION GUIDES:

- Challenging social media hate speech
- Challenging written hate speech
- Race discrimination by service providers



The information in this information guide refers to the law in England & Wales. It summarises the main points and is intended for guidance only. While every effort is made to ensure it is correct at time of publication it should not be used as a substitute for legal advice or for individual advice about your case. If you have any specific questions about any legal matter you should consult a solicitor.

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The Traveller Movement

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TM's Equality and Social Justice Unit, access to justice series, information guide

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