

# Bitesize Briefing: Hate Crime

Race or Ethnicity

Disability

Religion or Belief

Gender Identity

Sexual Orientation



## 1 What is Hate Crime?

Hate crimes directly threaten someone's safety, wellbeing, and human rights. They are motivated by prejudice against protected characteristics. People who belong to these groups may already experience social exclusion or discrimination, and hate crimes can increase their vulnerability.

*Hate crimes can affect both adults and children; they can cause emotional and physical harm, and can lead to long-term trauma, fear, and isolation. Hate crimes may affect someone directly or indirectly, through family or community experiences.*

## 2 Types of Hate Crime

Hate crimes can take many forms, including:



### **Verbal Abuse**

Name-calling, threats or offensive language targeting someone's identity.



### **Physical Abuse**

Hitting, kicking, or any other physical attacks which are motivated by prejudice.



### **Damage to Property**

Vandalism of homes, vehicles, religious buildings or personal belongings.



### **Online Abuse**

Cyberbullying, hate speech or threats made via social media/messaging platforms.



### **Harassment and Intimidation**

Repeated, targeted behaviour that causes fear or distress.



### **Mate Crime**

When someone pretends to be a trusted friend but exploits or harms the other person, often due to their vulnerabilities.

## 3 Signs that Someone May Have Experienced Hate Crime

### Adults

- Sudden withdrawal or isolation;
- Fear of going out or using public services;
- Unexplained injuries or damage to their property;
- Changes in their mood, behaviour, or mental health;
- Reluctance to talk about certain people and/or places;
- Avoidance of social media or technology.

### Children

- Anxiety or fear about attending school or going to certain places and spaces;
- Changes in friendships or social groups;
- Unexplained injuries or damaged belongings;
- Becoming withdrawn or isolated;
- Sudden drop in academic performance;
- Talking about being bullied or targeted;
- Avoidance of social media or technology.



Hate crime should always be treated as a type of **abuse**.

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## 4 Hate Crime and the Prevent Duty

The Prevent Duty and hate crime are closely linked - there is a shared focus on safeguarding individuals and communities from radicalisation, extremism and harm.



Hate crimes increase fear and division, which can be exploited by extremist groups to recruit and radicalise individuals.

Under Prevent, practitioners are trained to spot signs of radicalisation. Hate crimes may be an indicator that someone is at risk and needs support or intervention.

Hate crimes can be both a cause and effect of radicalisation. Individuals who commit hate crimes may be influenced by extremist ideologies, and victims of hate crimes may be vulnerable to radicalisation as a response to trauma or injustice.

## 5 Responding to Hate Crime

- ✓ Listen to the victim and take their concerns seriously. Ensure that all incidents are recorded and reported appropriately, and that victims feel heard.
- ✓ Build cultural competence and awareness of community dynamics. Consider using advocacy, translation or interpretation services, or community-based services as appropriate to provide support.
- ✓ Work collaboratively with other agencies to ensure safety and support. [Northumbria Police: Report Hate Crime Online](#)  
*If you or someone else is in immediate danger, dial 999.*



## 6 Further Learning and Resources



### Me Learning

Complete our **free** Hate Crime e-learning module. You will:

- Gain an understanding of hate crimes and incidents, including how prevalent they are;
- Develop your awareness of who victims and perpetrators can be;
- Explore the impact of hate crime;
- Identify current challenges.

CLICK HERE

[Gateshead Council: Hate Crime](#)

[Educate Against Hate: Training and Advice](#)

[HM Government: Prevent Duty Training](#)