VICTIM SUPPORT

HATE CRIME

How we can help you after a crime

victimsupport.org.uk

Hate crime is motivated by prejudice against parts of a person's identity such as race, religion, disability, sexual orientation and gender identity.

Hate crime could include property damage, threats, theft, verbal abuse, assault, harassment and online abuse.

Anyone can be affected by hate crime, and it can be a very frightening and traumatic experience. It can feel particularly personal as someone has targeted you because of who they think you are.

We're here to help you in this difficult time. We support hundreds of people every day to cope with the impact and effects of crime.

What you can do

The attacker(s) made the choice to commit a hate crime so it is their fault, not yours, that it happened. However, there are some things you can do that may make you feel safer and be safer.

- improve your basic home security – for example by adding locks and bolts to doors and windows
- keep a note of all incidents times, dates and details of what happened
- get someone to go with you if you decide to report the crime to the police
- if you come into contact with the person responsible, try to get away safely or go to a more public place

- remove number and profile from any public lists
- change/block email address,
- block offender from your social media profiles.

How we can help

We are an independent charity offering free, confidential support to people affected by crime and traumatic incidents.

You do not have to report a crime to receive support from us. We can help in the following ways:

- Personal support with a specially trained person, in a way that works for you. Speak in confidence, ask questions and get advice and emotional support.
- Putting you in touch with other specialist help, services or support.
- Advice and support in applying for compensation or financial assistance if you are eligible. (You will need to report the crime to the police in order to apply.)
- Practical information and help to make you feel safer and be safer. In some areas, this can be help to secure your home.
- Information about reporting to the police, the criminal justice system and courts procedures. If you choose to report a crime, we can accompany and support you to do that.

- We know that crime affects the whole family. We offer support to everyone directly affected, and we help parents and carers to support children coping with the impact of crime.

Reporting hate crime

We will support you whether you have reported the crime or not. We understand that some people may not want to report hate crime to the police and that's fine.

However, if you did want to report you can do so in the following ways:

- direct reporting to the police (101 or 999)
- using of third party reporting centres – reporting to a third party organisation who will communicate with the police and other agencies on your behalf
- anonymous reporting on the internet **www.report-it.org.uk**

If you do report the crime and the offender is tried and convicted, courts can take their hate motivation into account during sentencing. This means a stronger sentence could be imposed. VS teams can provide you with further information regarding reporting if you would like to do this.

Diversity matters and we value it

We are committed to supporting the needs of the diverse communities we serve. We can provide interpreters and information in alternative formats. If you have additional needs please let us know so we can put the right support in place.

How to get in touch

Our contact details are on the back cover of this leaflet. You can call us weeks, months or even years after a crime We are always here to listen and help.

Visit **victimsupport.org.uk** for more information and to find services near you.

Where to go for support:

We are an independent charity offering free, confidential support to people affected by crime and traumatic incidents.

For information and support, contact us by:

- calling: Supportline **08 08 16 89 111**
- using Next Generation Text (add **18001** before any of our phone numbers)
- Online: **victimsupport.org.uk**

To find out how you can help us, visit **victimsupport.org.uk/get-involved**

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