

Information sent on behalf of Dorset Alert

Have you been targeted for being you?

Nobody should have to live with the fear and anxiety that hate crimes and incidents cause. Not only is there a significant impact on victims, but it can also affect family, friends and others in the community.

We are supporting National Hate Crime Awareness Week which is from 13 – 20 October, in order to continue to raise awareness of hate crimes and incidents and how you can seek help and support.

What is hate crime?

A **hate crime** is any criminal offence targeted at a person because of prejudice towards their protected characteristic which includes;

Disability

Race or ethnicity

Religion or belief

Sexual orientation

Transgender identity

A **hate incident** is any non-criminal incident targeted at a person because of prejudice to their protected characteristic.

It can include verbal abuse, intimidation, threats, harassment, assault, bullying and damage to property.

Anyone could be a victim of hate crimes or incidents.....for example; you may have been targeted because of your association to a protected characteristic, such as you have a disabled sibling or because someone thinks you are gay, even if you are not.

Why should you report hate crimes and incidents?

We receive around 47 reports of hate crime a month and an additional 37 reports of hate incidents. But we know that hate crime is still often under-reported.

By reporting hate crimes and incidents, whether you are a victim, a witness, or if you are reporting on behalf of someone, you may prevent it happening to someone else.

We recognise that even if an incident may not constitute a criminal offence it can be just as damaging to victims as hate crimes, and we know that incidents can lead to the identification of crimes. We need to know it is happening so we can understand the extent and impact of prejudice and can better respond to it.

Are you or someone you know a victim of hate crimes or incidents? Report it now.

How to report:

Visit www.dorset.police.uk/reporthate or call 101. Always dial 999 in an emergency.

There are alternative reporting options available if you don't want to report directly to the police, find more information here:

www.dorset.police.uk/hatecrime

A diary is also available to help you record as much information as possible about what has happened to you or someone else, to assist with evidence gathering. Please download it here:

www.dorset.police.uk/hatecrime

An attack on one community is an attack on all our communities and we are working to prevent hate crime. For support and more information visit:

www.dorset.police.uk/hatecrime

Do you need this information in an easy read format? Visit:

www.dorset.police.uk/easyread

Message sent by

Communications Team (Dorset Police, CED, Dorset)

This message was sent to Steve Husher, please direct any feedback through Steve or register your own account on <https://www.dorsetalert.co.uk>.

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