

# What is hate crime?

A hate crime can take many forms - possibly involving

- Physical attack to a person or their property
- Threat of attack including physical intimidation, text messages, phone calls, emails, letters and malicious complaints or reports
- Abuse or insults; verbal, written or gestured, including bullying

where it is thought by the victim or any other person to be motivated by a hostility or prejudice towards a personal characteristic, such as race, religion or faith, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity

**You do not have to be the victim to report a hate crime - if you see it, report it!**

Our country today is more diverse than ever before, and the vast majority of us embrace this rich mix of different races, cultures, beliefs, attitudes and lifestyles

However, while society has come a long way, intolerance and discrimination still exist, hate crime does happen - and we need to work together to stop it!



# Hate Crime

Challenge it, Stop it, Report it



Cheshire West & Chester  
**Community  
Safety  
Partnership**

# Why and how should I report?

**If I ignore it, it might go away - and if I report it, it might make matters worse**

**Everyone** should be free to live their lives without fear of abuse or attack on the basis of who they are, what they believe or how they look. Hate crime inflicts a greater stress on the victim than other crimes that aren't motivated by prejudice - and victims can suffer severe post-traumatic stress symptoms such as depression or anxiety. **Those who inflict it need to be challenged.** By reporting, you may be able to protect other vulnerable people from experiencing the same problems - and will, in the longer term, bring our communities closer together

## Tackling Hate Crime matters!

We have a number of services available to those who suffer from or witness hate crime, so please contact us

### Visit a reporting centre

[www.cheshire.police.uk/advice-and-support/hate-crime/3rd-party-reporting-centres/](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/advice-and-support/hate-crime/3rd-party-reporting-centres/)

### Telephone

Police 101/999

### Report online

[www.report-it.org.uk](http://www.report-it.org.uk)

# What will happen if I do?

## If a hate crime report is made

- The incident will be passed to a local officer for investigation
- The investigating officer is likely to request a meeting or a call to speak to you in more detail, and possibly take a statement. This can be done confidentially
- If a crime has occurred, it will be recorded and you will be given a crime reference number
- A supervising officer specialising in hate crime will monitor the progress of your investigation
- The police will offer you support and advice - including counselling if you need it - and may also refer you to relevant agencies in your area
- If there is enough evidence to take the offender (or offenders) to court, the police will take it to court on your behalf. You do not need to appear in court
- Hate crime can carry a heavier sentence as courts recognise the impact that they can and do have on victims

