



## FROM YOUR LOCAL HATE CRIME SERVICES

Responding to hate crime swiftly and firmly will ensure that we stop it sooner and keep our communities safer. Below are a few practical tips from SARI (Stand Against Racism & Inequality) and Bristol Hate Crime Services (BHCS). Please share with your friends, family, colleagues and service users.

### 1. Recognize it

Hate crimes or incidents are any crimes or incidents that are targeted at a person or their property because of hostility or prejudice towards that person's actual or perceived:

- Disability
- Gender
- Race or ethnicity
- Religion or belief
- Sexual orientation
- Transgender identity

So a victim does not have to be a member of the group at which the hostility is directed – anyone could be a victim of a hate crime.

This can be committed against a person or property.

If someone perceives a crime or incident to be hate motivated, then it should be accepted as such and reported, recorded and investigated.

### 2. Always take it seriously

No matter how low level it may seem to be, the impact of hate motivated abuse at all levels can be extreme and long lasting. If we don't deal with lower level incidents or people get away with such offences the situation can escalate and get more serious. If you're a victim and you don't get a good response when you first report – you may not feel like reporting ever again. Action should be taken regardless of whether the offender is under the influence of drugs or alcohol, is young or old; has mental health issues or a disability. There is no excuse for hate related abuse! If the offender is vulnerable or has any mitigating factors, this can be taken into account when the case is investigated.

### **3. Be safe**

The action you take must not put you or others in more danger. So only speak out, take action and intervene if you will be safe. If you can't take such actions for fear of further risk then record all that you can as described below and report the incident as soon as you safely can. Call the police as soon as you practically can too. Involve other supportive people or witnesses if this will help.

### **4. Say something**

Usually, challenging firmly and politely can stop people from further offending. Try to ensure you have other people around you or with you when you do this.

### **5. Record anything you see**

Record everything that will help with the investigation afterwards. This should include: the date; time; age; appearance; dress and distinguishing features of any offenders; car registration (if appropriate); place where it occurred; no. and driver details if it happens on a bus; details for any witnesses.

### **6. Film it**

Filming incidents e.g. on your mobile, can mean you capture important evidence that can be used for the police, CPS or other relevant agencies to take action. Only do this if it is safe to do so.

### **7. Report it**

It is important to report hate crime even if you don't want to take action. This helps us know where hate crime is happening, who to and the forms it is taking. Such information can help us prevent hate crime happening to others. Report to the police and to SARI or to the relevant overseeing body e.g. employer; school; landlord; local authority so they can offer the right support to the victim(s) and investigate the case.

### **8. Do you feel able to give evidence and go to court?**

Support will be available to you if you do feel able to go through this process. But don't worry if you don't feel able to – we understand and can still support you.

**In an emergency – always call the Police on 999.**

**Or call the Police on 101 for non-emergency.**

**Contacting BHCS: Freephone: 0800 171 2272**

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