



Hate hurts

South Yorkshire POLICE

Anyone can be a victim of a hate crime or non-crime hate incident.

What is a hate crime?

A hate crime is any criminal offence, motivated by prejudice or hostility (or perceived to be so) against a person's:

- Disability – physical, hearing and visual impairments, mental ill health and learning disabilities
- Race – nationality, ethnicity, skin colour and heritage
- Faith – religion, belief, non-religious belief
- Sexual orientation – people who identify as lesbian, gay, bi-sexual or heterosexual
- Gender identity – people who identify as 'trans' including transgender or transsexual people

Examples include:

- Physical attacks, such as physical assault, damage to property, offensive graffiti and arson
- Threat of attack, such as inciting hatred by words, pictures or videos, offensive letters, abusive or obscene telephone calls, groups hanging around to intimidate, and unfounded malicious complaints

What is a hate incident?

These incidents may not be criminal offences but can often feel like a crime to those affected, and can sometimes escalate to crimes.

Examples include:

- Verbal or online abuse, insults or harassment, such as taunting, offensive leaflets and posters, abusive gestures, dumping of rubbish outside homes or through letterboxes, and bullying at school or in the workplace

Reporting

- All victims of hate should be given reassurance that their report is being taken seriously. Reports may be made by a number of means including the following:
 - Direct reporting to Call Handling or to a member of South Yorkshire Police
 - By a witness or victim's representative
 - [Online via our website](#)
 - [Online through True Vision website](#)
 - Through third party reporting centres
 - [Barnsley](#)
 - [Doncaster](#)
 - [Rotherham](#)
 - [Sheffield](#)