

## Hate crime officers

Each area within West Mercia has a Hate Crime Officer who will contact you to offer additional support and signpost you to external support services and charities if you so wish.

Your Hate Crime Officer will also support you throughout the investigation process and will be available should you have any questions or concerns.

## Find out more

### True Vision

True Vision is national police campaign aimed at raising the awareness of hate crime. Their website provides a variety of useful resources to help victims through the criminal justice process:

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

### Just need someone to talk to?

The Victim Advice line (VAL) is a free and confidential victim support service for victims or witnesses of crime, whether they choose to report it to the police or not.

They can be contacted on 0800 952 3000 or by email [info@victimadvice.org.uk](mailto:info@victimadvice.org.uk)  
OR use your phone to Scan our QR code:



## How to report a hate crime

**Is it an emergency?** Does it feel like the situation could get heated or violent very soon? Is someone in immediate danger? Do you need support right away? If so, please call 999 now.

**Report online:** If it is more convenient and you are not in danger, you can make a report by visiting our website [www.westmercia.police.uk/report/](http://www.westmercia.police.uk/report/)

### Our website:

[www.westmercia.police.uk/hatecrime](http://www.westmercia.police.uk/hatecrime) also contains more information about hate crime.

Use your camera on your phone to use our QR code:



**Call 101:** Our national, non-emergency telephone number is staffed 24/7 to give you support and advice.

**If you have a hearing or speech impairment:** Use our textphone service 18000 or text us on 999 if you've pre-registered with the emergency SMS service.

**Visit a police station:** If you would prefer to speak to an officer in person, we can provide a safe and comfortable environment at any of our police stations.



# STOP HATE CRIME

**DISABILITY | RACE | RELIGION  
SEXUAL ORIENTATION | TRANSGENDER**

## Don't tolerate abuse for who you are.



## What is hate crime?

**Hate crime comes in many different forms and strikes at the heart of communities. With your help, we can tackle those responsible for hate crime and keep our communities safe. We are here and ready to help anyone who has been affected by someone else's prejudice, ignorance or violence.**

Find out below how to spot a hate crime, report it, or get help, support and advice – both online and in your community.

### **A hate crime is defined as:**

Any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person's:

- Race or perceived race.
- Religion or perceived religion.
- Sexual Orientation or perceived sexual orientation.
- Transgender or perceived transgender.
- Disability or perceived disability.

In some circumstances, when a crime has not been committed, the police may still record what has happened as a Non-Crime Hate Incident (NCHI) if the situation could escalate into something more serious or create fear in the community.

## Different forms of hate crime

### **Physical assault**

Physical assault of any kind is an offence. If you have been a victim of physical assault, you should report it. Depending on the level of the violence used, a perpetrator may be charged with common assault, actual bodily harm or grievous bodily harm.

### **Verbal abuse**

Verbal abuse, threats or targeted name-calling can be an extremely unpleasant experience. Victims of verbal abuse are often unclear whether an offence has been committed or believe there is little that can be done. However, there are laws in place to protect you from verbal abuse. If you have been the victim of verbal abuse, talk to the police or one of our partner organisations about what has happened.

Even if you do not know who verbally abused you, the information could still help us to improve how we police the area where the abuse took place.

### **Criminal damage**

Damage caused to your property can be both costly and intimidating. Initially it might not be obvious why someone would cause damage, but you may feel you are being targeted and hate maybe the motivation. Graffiti can be just as hurtful, whether it has been caused to your property or you see it in the street.

### **Harassment**

Stalking and harassment can occur when someone repeatedly behaves in a way that makes you feel scared, distressed or threatened. There are different types of stalking and harassment, the police are experienced in protecting and supporting you to stop this from happening.

### **Incitement to cause hatred**

The offence of incitement to cause hatred occurs when someone acts in a way that is threatening and intended to stir up hatred. That could be in words, pictures, videos, music, and includes information posted on websites.

