

See it,
Hear it,
Report it.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Hate Crime – Carers: What you need to Know

What is Hate Crime?

Hate Crimes can have a devastating impact on people across Wales. They can leave people feeling isolated, withdrawn, depressed, scared and in some cases there have been tragic consequences.

A hate crime is an offence where the offender has chosen a victim specifically because of the type of person they think they are, or are seen to be.

This could be because of the person's:

- Disability
- Race
- Faith
- Gender identity
- Sexual orientation

Hate crime could include property damage, threats, theft, verbal abuse, assault, harassment and online abuse. Offenders prosecuted under hate crime laws across England and Wales can receive a longer sentence.

If what has happened isn't a criminal offence but is still motivated by any of the characteristics above, we call this a hate incident. Hate incidents can still be reported to the Police who will investigate and try to help stop it happening again.

Some people have reported that the 'drip-drip' impact of hate has a negative impact. This can include daily name calling, which leaves victims feeling unsafe in their own homes and communities. If left unchallenged, then patterns of behaviour from perpetrators can get worse.

What We Know

Hate Crime reporting across Wales has increased by 20% in recent years. We are viewing an increase in hate crimes as a positive in the short term, because we are working across Wales to increase the confidence of victims to come forward. However, we still think up to **50% of hate crimes still go unreported**. We want this to change

What We are Doing

The Welsh Government has set out its commitment to tackling hate crime in the **Hate Crime Framework for Action** <http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/equality-diversity/rightsequality/hate-crime/?skip=1&lang=en>. We are working with Police Forces and Charities across Wales to ensure we have the most comprehensive and best victim support services in place to assist people when they report to us.

- All Welsh Police Forces now have dedicated Hate Crime Officers who can provide specialist help and support

to hate crime victims. Dyfed-Powys and South Wales Police have dedicated reporting schemes for anyone with a disability or communication difficulty through **Pegasus** and **Keep Safe Cymru**.

- Welsh Government funds the **National Hate Crime Report and Support Centre**, where you can receive free and independent support from an organisation called Victim Support Cymru.
- If you don't want to go to the Police, many charities across Wales provide places where people can report in safe places, such as Regional Equality Councils, People First Organisations, MENCAP Cymru and many others.

What Can You Do?

If you feel **you, or someone you care for**, have experienced a hate crime or incident, report it.

In an emergency call **999**

At other times you can contact your local police by dialling **101**

You can report hate crime anonymously through the police website **True Vision**

Contact the **National Hate Crime Report and Support Centre** by calling 0300 30 31 982 (free 24/7) or reporting online

Report to a trusted **Third Party organisation**, who can offer advice and support such as:

Carers Wales on 029 2081 1370 or info@carerswales.org

Carers Trust on 029 2009 0087 or wales@carers.org

Hafal on 01792 816600 or hafal@hafal.org

All Wales Forum on 029 2081 1120

Why should You Report?

Sometimes it seems like the best way to deal with hate crime is to ignore it. However, the police and other organisations can only do something if they know about it, to prevent things getting worse and make sure people have the right practical and emotional support. By reporting a crime or an incident you could also be protecting someone else from harm.

If the person who has been targeted doesn't understand that they have been a victim of hate crime, or isn't able to report themselves, you can also report a hate crime or incident that has been directed to you as a carer if it relates to someone else's disability.

Mate Crime

There is no statutory definition of mate crime in UK law. But the term is generally understood to refer to the befriending of people, who are perceived by perpetrators to be vulnerable, for the purposes of taking advantage of, exploiting and/or abusing them. This can strongly, but not exclusively, associated with people with learning disabilities or mental health conditions. You can find out more information at <http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/equality-diversity/rightsequality/hate-crime/?lang=en>.

We are seeing more mate crimes being reported in Wales as people become more aware of this type of crime and agencies like the Police become better at identifying them. Mate crimes can often be difficult for the victim to report themselves as they may view the perpetrators as friends and may not wish to lose those relationships. If you are aware of unhealthy friendships or relationships that the person you care for has, speak to them about this and report to an organisation that can help, like the Police.

More Information

You can find more information, including case studies and victim stories on the Welsh Government website:

<http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/equality-diversity/rightsequality/hate-crime/?lang=en>

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