

# Say No to Disability Hate Crime

Disability hate crime in the  
UK – and how we can  
work together to mitigate  
its impact



# Foreword

**Tim Cooper, Chief Executive,  
United Response**



Everyone has the right to feel secure in their own community and no one should have to worry about their safety as they live out their daily lives because of who they are. We've made considerable progress safeguarding equality and keeping

those with protected characteristics safe from harm over the last fifty years. But not all our differences are visible and not all our citizens enjoy equal legal protections against victimisation.

Disabled people across the country are facing increasing personal attacks because of who they are – at work, online, when using public services, and most worryingly of all, in their own homes. Our research has found disability-motivated hate crimes have risen by nearly 10% over the past two years, yet access to justice remains out of reach for so many victims. United Response and Leonard Cheshire have been campaigning together to keep this issue on the political agenda. Through our work with police services and Crown Prosecution Service professionals, we've raised awareness of the issues facing disabled victims and offered training, advice and guidance on how to better support disabled interviewees. Our work is helping to deliver better reporting experiences for victims at a local level, but we need to translate this to a national one. Our report follows intensive research, data-gathering, and interviews with members of our community. We have outlined how gaps in professionals' working knowledge on disability, non-standardised reporting frameworks, unequal legal protections, and the absence of an updated hate crime action plan are negatively impacting disabled people.

It's been nearly two years since Action Against Hate, the Government's last hate crime plan, expired. With a new Prime Minister and Cabinet in place, we can't afford to wait any longer. Now is the time to implement a long-term plan that will close service gaps, deliver better training for officers, and ensure disabled people can live a life free from hate.



## Authors' note – Content and Trigger Warnings

Please note that some readers may find this report distressing. This report discusses, and contains descriptions of, disability hate crimes, which is a sensitive and at times traumatising topic. Content and trigger warnings include: descriptions of crime, descriptions of prejudice, accounts of harassment, and explorations of psychological impacts of hate crimes, including trauma.

**Dr Ruth Owen OBE, Chief Executive,  
Leonard Cheshire**



As a pan-disability charity, Leonard Cheshire campaigns and advocates for all disabled people. Wherever we campaign we are guided by those we work with, talk to and support. They are the experts in knowing what needs to change and

where barriers and injustice still exist.

A key concern emerging from surveys and focus groups for a long time has been disability hate crime. Four years after we first started exploring the prevalence and impact of this issue in the UK, it still ranks as one of the most urgent and painful problems that the disabled community face today. Statistics help us understand hate crime's scale, but only testimonials reveal the true human cost. Far too many disabled people in the UK live in fear of abuse, violence and victimisation, and far too few see perpetrators brought to court.

The stories included in this report show exactly why more action is needed to prevent disability hate crime and ensure victims get justice.



# Introduction

## What is disability hate crime?

To use a shortened form of the official definition<sup>1</sup>, a hate crime is any criminal offence which is perceived to be motivated by hostility and prejudice based on a person's disability or perceived disability.

But there is another answer to the question of: "what is a disability hate crime?" It is constant abuse. It is living in fear of violence and sexual harassment. It is living in fear of one's neighbours. It means name-calling, cat-calling and death threats. It means mental and physical harm. It means being trolled, harassed and threatened online. It means trauma and complications.

Many don't even realise they are a victim of hate crime and don't go on to report it. Those that do may find investigations challenging, and the proportion of crimes making it to court remains low.

Numbers of reported hate crimes have been steadily rising since at least late 2017. Reports

of online hate crime have risen at an even faster rate. The drivers for this warrant further study and increased reporting may be a major factor; in any case the statistics indicate that disability hate crime exists on a large scale. In 2021/22, more than half involved 'violence against the person', slightly above the proportions seen in 2020/21<sup>2</sup>, and from 2018/19 to 2019/20<sup>3</sup>. Many involve repeat offenders, who may be victimising their neighbours; some cases see disabled people manipulated and bullied by people pretending to be friends.

That said, as we will see, the number of disability hate crime reports that result in a charge or court summons remain at a low level relative to reports. Once again, the exact picture is unclear, but the number as a proportion of total crime reports has been shrinking, as we'll see in our analysis of the findings later in this report.

What is disability hate crime? In short, it's something we can no longer ignore.

"I was afraid when a man took control of my wheelchair and wouldn't release me for a mile, but was it a crime? Did this man, who repeatedly heard me say 'no' as I begged to be released, cross a criminal line?

Was it a hate crime?"

**Melissa**



<sup>1</sup> Source note: <https://www.cps.gov.uk/crime-info/hate-crime>

<sup>2</sup> 44% in 2020/21 as cited from Leonard Cheshire and United Response,

'Lockdowns lead to surge in disability hate crime', 6 October 2021.

<sup>3</sup> 49% involved violence in 2019/20 and 48% in 2018/19, as cited in Leonard Cheshire and United Response, 'Reports of violent disability hate crime continue to rise as number of police charges fall again', 8 October 2020

# Our findings

Of the 46 police forces in the United Kingdom we asked for information about disability hate crime reports in 2021 and 2022, via Freedom of Information requests. 43 provided us with data, either in full or partially, in time for it to be reflected in our research findings. This included British Transport Police, which covers England, Wales and Scotland<sup>4</sup>. We have submitted FOI requests on this topic, with consistent questions, since 2018.

Thirty-nine police forces provided useable data<sup>5</sup> on the numbers of disability hate crimes reported to police in the 2020/21 and 2021/22 financial years. 9,339 such reports occurred in 2020/21, while 11,723 occurred in 2021/22, indicating a 25.5% increase. Of these, 5,942 were recorded as involving violence<sup>6</sup> in 2021/22: 50.7% of the total. Thus, victims of these crimes were more likely than not to experience violence.

Analysis of data provided to us by these FOIs suggested, in general terms, that<sup>7</sup>:

- Hate crimes involving violence were 27.0% higher in 2021/22 than in 2020/21, based on useable data from 35 police forces.
- Hate crimes involving repeat offenders (of previous disability hate crimes) were 31.3% higher in 2021/22 than in 2020/21, based on useable data from 26 police forces.
- Online hate crimes were 20.4% higher in 2021/22 than in 2020/21, based on useable data from 36 police forces.
- Intersectional crimes, wherein someone was targeted because of multiple protected characteristics (these are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation), as well as disability rose in line with crimes overall, to 1,266 – a rise of 24.6% compared to 2020/21.

**11,224**

hate crimes reported in  
England and Wales

**Only 129**

of these resulted in a  
charge or summons



<sup>4</sup> British Transport Police's figures are not included in general discussions of rates across the UK due to the unique nature of its remit, and all statistics quoted exclude British Transport Police unless stated.

<sup>5</sup> By 'useable data' we mean a complete enough dataset to be reflected in our statistics, where data for both financial years (2020/21 and 2021/22) were provided and separated by financial year.

<sup>6</sup> That is, 'violence against the person' as recorded in police reporting systems.

<sup>7</sup> Based on reports of crimes. Throughout, we use report numbers to try to understand the overall state of affairs with regards to disability hate crime. We use these as an indicator, with the caveat that changes in reporting affect numbers and rates of change.

While overall numbers of disability hate crimes provide only a partial picture, we have seen a consistent rise in reports since we first began sending FOIs to police forces in 2018. What this means in practice is less clear. Increases could be as a result of disabled people feeling more confident in reporting hate crimes. The figures could indicate an increasing number or frequency of hate crimes. However, they could also indicate that more disabled people are reporting hate crimes than in previous years, or that police forces are recognising more crimes as hate crimes.

Drawing a conclusion from figures alone is therefore difficult; our aim remains chiefly to draw attention to disability hate crime, and we feel that the reported numbers we have gathered do at least

help to illustrate the current scale of the problem in the UK.

All this being said, the numbers of reports have risen every year based on available data from England and Wales since we first began researching disability hate crime in this way, using data from the 2017/18 financial year up to the present<sup>8</sup>.

This is true of disability hate crimes generally, as well as disability hate crimes that (a) involve violence against the person, and (b) disability hate crimes that take place online.

This data comes from live reporting systems. We treat it as accurate at the time of extraction<sup>9</sup>.

**Compared year on year, report numbers increase consistently (figures for England and Wales):**

Financial year	Disability hate crimes – total	Disability hate crimes – increase from previous year	Disability hate crimes involving violence - total	Disability hate crimes involving violence – increase from previous year	Online disability hate crimes - total	Online disability hate crimes - increase from previous year
2018/19	5,015	n/a	2,558	n/a	344	n/a
2019/20	7,333	2,318	3,628	1,170	620	276
2020/21	8,983	1,650	4,653	1,025	900	280
2021/22	11,224	2,241	5,910	1,257	1,084	184

<sup>8</sup> Data from Police Scotland and Police Service of Northern Ireland was only gathered from 2020/21 onwards, and as such is not reflected here.

<sup>9</sup> See Appendix C for detailed notes on the dataset.

## England and Wales

Of the 36 police forces in England and Wales who contributed useable data on disability hate crime rates in 2021/2022, only 4 reported a decrease. Otherwise, forces reported increases as low as 1.7% (Dorset Police) and as high as 142.2% (Gwent), with rates of increase varying widely. Aside from Gwent, the highest rises were seen in Cleveland (119.5%), Bedfordshire (84.2%), Warwickshire (81.4%) and Greater Manchester<sup>11</sup> (81.1%).

Some areas also saw surges in crimes involving violence against the person; Essex reported a 147.8% increase in crimes of this type, and four other forces also saw rates more than double.

Not all areas followed the rising trend for disability hate crimes overall. A sharp decline took place in the West Midlands, with a 50.7% drop in reported crimes, though a smaller proportion made it to court (0.9% in 2021/22 versus 3.3% in 2020/21). That said, of all forces reporting court outcomes, West Midlands recorded the most in any single year covered by this year's study – 43 charges and/or summons in 2020/21<sup>12</sup>. This is particularly interesting given that the West Midlands also experienced the most reports of any area in 2020/21 – 1,278.

With West Midlands experiencing this apparent steep drop<sup>13</sup> in disability hate crimes, the single greatest number of reports came from Greater Manchester: 1,335 in 2021/22, which equates to 11.4% of the total UK number generated by our research.

## Scotland and Northern Ireland

The increase in overall disability hate crimes in England and Wales, and in those reported by the British Transport Police, were mirrored in Scotland and Northern Ireland. These areas are covered by a single police force each, as opposed to a number of regional forces as in England and Wales. These forces are Police Scotland and the Police Service of Northern Ireland respectively.

In Scotland, reported crimes rose from 298 in 2020/21 to 406 in 2021/22 (a 36.2% increase). In Northern Ireland, these figures were 58 for 2020/21 and 93 for 2021/22. The latter numbers indicate an increase once again, but the totals involved are too small to be statistically significant.

Of note in Scotland is the smaller proportion of crimes involving violence compared to numbers from England, Wales and the British Transport Police: 26 (8.7% of total) in 2020/21, and 32 (7.8% of total) in 2021/22.

<sup>11</sup> Numerically, the largest single increase occurred in Greater Manchester, with 1,335 reports in 2021/22 compared to 737 in 2020/21.

<sup>12</sup> This was also the largest numerical drop, from 1,278 in 2020/21 to 630 in 2021/22.

<sup>13</sup> According to the data supplied. The caveats discussed earlier in this section apply; the cause(s) of such a large change cannot be determined with certainty.

# 5.6%

Percentage of all crime reports (ie. crimes of all types, not just hate crimes) leading to a charge or summons in England and Wales (2021/22, ONS)

# 3.2%

The highest percentage of disability hate crimes reports leading to a charge or summons achieved by any police force in England and Wales (Kent, 2021/22, our findings)

# 1.1%

The percentage of hate crime reports leading to a charge or summons in England and Wales (2021/22, our findings)



## Reporting versus outcome

The difficulty in analysing such numbers is deciding what they represent, as we mentioned before. Do they indicate that disability hate crimes have doubled in four years? Or is improved reporting by police forces generating a false positive, a 'report-demic' of a problem that is the same in scale but becoming more visible?

Whichever is true, it hasn't translated to any significantly improved outcome. The proportion of disability hate crime reports resulting in a charge or summons has remained at a very low level since 2018/19, and has actually fallen; while in that financial year 5.6% of reported crimes might lead to such an outcome, the figure has been closer to 1% since 2020/21. In 2021/22, 129<sup>14</sup> disability hate crimes resulted in a charge or summons, out of the 11,723 reports mentioned previously, equivalent to 1.1% of the total.

Someone who has experienced a disability hate crime had the highest chance of seeing the perpetrator referred to the CPS, charged or summonsed in Kent, where 3.2% crimes resulted in this outcome – 19 crimes out of a total of 596. In contrast, Bedfordshire and Lincolnshire reported no outcomes of this type in 2021/22, out of 105 and 81 reports respectively<sup>15</sup>.

The limitations of the data notwithstanding, it should be noted that our findings bear some similarity with officially released data on wider crimes and case outcomes. In a March 2022 bulletin, the Office of National Statistics reported that 5.6%<sup>16</sup> of all reported crimes result in a charge, continuing a decline from 7.1%<sup>17</sup> the previous year, and part of a longer-term downward trend from 16% in 2015<sup>18</sup>.

<sup>14</sup> Excludes British Transport Police. It should be noted that this is based on responses from the 26 police forces who provided useable data on these outcomes, versus the 39 who provided numbers of reported crimes overall. In any case, both this number and the proportion is consistent with previous findings.

<sup>15</sup> Of those police forces who responded. City of London Police also reported no charges/summons, but out of only 5 reports. Given this and the very low population of the area, it is not mentioned above. <sup>16</sup> According to the data supplied. The caveats discussed earlier in this section apply; the cause(s) of such a large change cannot be determined with certainty.

<sup>16</sup> Office of National Statistics, 'Crime outcomes in England and Wales 2022', 21 July 2022.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid

<sup>18</sup> Ibid

## The barriers to justice

As our findings highlighted the low rates of offenders facing a charge or summons, we wanted to explore what the barriers are to justice for victims. For the first time, we asked police services in England in Wales to share their no-charge data.

Across the 26 forces who supplied data we found that 'evidential difficulties', 'victim withdrawing' and 'no suspect identified' were the three most common out of twelve 'no charge' outcomes for victims to go without redress. In 2020/21 these three no charge outcomes accounted for 49.4% of all recorded no charge outcomes.

Currently victims of disability hate crime do not receive the same protection under the law for aggravated offences as those afforded to victims of hate crime based on race and religion.<sup>19</sup> There are also unique challenges associated with prosecuting disability hate crimes, particularly around the outdated and inconsistent definitions of "hostility" in present anti-hate statutes.<sup>20</sup>

Present CPS guidance uses agreed definitions of hostility with the National Police Chiefs' Council to identify disability-related incidents<sup>21</sup>, but equally acknowledges that the flagging of such incidents is subjective and not all flagged cases will result in a sentence uplift.

Whilst significant improvements have been made to improve how victims can report a disability hate crime, our data suggests that urgent work needs to be done to break down barriers to justice once a crime has been reported.

## Beyond numbers: findings from focus groups

To get a true understanding of disability hate crime, looking at data alone isn't enough. We need to gain insight from disabled people who have been impacted by these crimes.

With that in mind, in August 2021, Leonard Cheshire and United Response worked with research consultancy Savanta ComRes to hold focus groups with disabled people who had experienced hate crime. We heard experiences from 13 participants across three focus groups, one hosted virtually within each country of Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales).<sup>22</sup> Working with an external partner, respondents were recruited so there was a mix of ages, gender identities, ethnicities, sexualities and disabilities.

Due to the highly sensitive and personal nature of the topic, each focus group was led by a moderation team of four, where at least one moderator had experience of the following:

- Lived experience of a disability/long term health condition,
- Lived experience of discrimination as part of their identity, or
- Professional experience moderating focus groups of a sensitive nature with vulnerable groups.

<sup>19</sup> Law Commission. (2021). Hate Crime Laws: Final Report. 8.56 Pg 318.

<sup>20</sup> Law Commission. (2021). Hate Crime Laws: Final Report. Pg.122.

<sup>21</sup> Crown Prosecution Service. (2018). Disability Hate Crimes and other crimes against disabled people. 18th August. Online.

Available at: <https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/disability-hate-crime-and-other-crimes-against-disabled-people-prosecution-guidance>

<sup>22</sup> Locations were chosen for availability in 2021, meaning Northern Ireland is unfortunately not covered by the Focus Group findings.



Through the focus groups we wanted to get an understanding of participants' experiences with disability hate crime and how the reporting experience (if they reported it) may have been for them. We also wanted to gain insight by asking them their opinions on solutions for preventing disability hate crime and better supporting those affected by it.

The experiences of hate crimes reported by participants in this study were varied, with a range of types of crimes perpetrated, including physical abuse, verbal abuse, sexual assault, online harm, and vandalism of property.

We heard from individuals who had been targeted because of their visible differences. But we also heard from people where perpetrators were questioning if they were truly disabled – this occurred more frequently with participants who had non-visible disabilities.

"A man came up to me, he was really nasty, and said, 'What the hell are you about?' He said, 'How much have you had to drink?' And he was abusive about me being overweight. He was abusive for the fact that I was, [...] trying to stay upright and he punched me, very, very hard in the stomach."

**Alison, who was attacked after experiencing vertigo due to her disability**

Many of the participants felt like the incidents they experienced weren't 'worth' reporting. Individuals didn't perceive them as serious enough to report. For many respondents, their experience had been compiled of multiple smaller incidents. They had built up over time, having long-term effects on those individuals.

"...the same attitudes that led to the crimes have also led to a crisis in reporting them - the stigma and myths around disability and the idea that we can't live independently and report crimes committed against us. A problem of ignorance runs through our society, these crimes and the police forces designed to protect us."

**Melissa, whose wheelchair was grabbed and held by a stranger during a hate crime**



Discussions with participants found that reporting was seen as onerous. Individuals mentioned that it causes a significant burden for those who are reporting in terms of time and energy. It was noted that advocacy services to support with this process would likely ease the burden.

Research shows that reporting frequently stalls because there is insufficient evidence for police to press charges. Participants explained that this can make those who do report feel like they are disbelieved – leading to further anxiety. And negative experiences of reporting can lead to less reports in future too.

Discussions found that understanding and awareness through education is incredibly important in order to foster attitudes that celebrate difference rather than ridicule it. There was agreement that this kind of behaviour started in schools, and younger respondents pointed out that this was something they had experienced first-hand.

Some participants also expressed frustration at a lack of witness support when they saw incidents occur – and so campaigns around what to do if you see a hate crime could be a helpful way of ensuring that members of the public act as allies. This would also increase the chance of having sufficient evidence when hate crimes are reported.

“[...] they didn’t shirk it off, they didn’t just say, ‘Oh, you’re being overdramatic,’ or anything like that. They were actually quite good, and they followed through on stuff.

“And it didn’t matter how small, how big, they were gathering a good body of evidence, so when they went to, you know, through the court system, it was, as we’d say in the States, a slam dunk, they had him. I guess I was lucky because there are a lot of people that don’t have the kind of experience I did and have it come to a fruition of a conviction. So, I was lucky.”

**Sandra, who secured a conviction after being sexually assaulted due to her disability**

"I was at 49.9 thousand social media followers when I was targeted by trolls that set up hate pages. The abuse was motivated by the fact that I have autism and am a member of the LGBTQ+ community. They stole pictures of me and my partner and misgendered them. And they even revealed my real name even the location where I lived. The social media site just told me to make my account private but took no action to identify the trolls, remove their hateful content or prosecute them. The police also just told me to unlink or deactivate my social profiles. I felt like the onus was completely on me to sort it out, rather than any real action being taken to stop the hateful content."

**Ferris, a content creator, describing her experience of online abuse**



# What we need to do now

Educators should teach children about disability issues and disability hate crime.

We'd like to see the national curriculum directly address ableism, similar to Hackney Education's successful Diverse Curriculum<sup>23</sup> model. With 905 victims under the age of 18 in 2020/21 and 1,732 in 2021/22 we believe changing attitudes among children and young people, and raising their awareness of ableism's harmful manifestations will be a positive step to addressing disability hate crime.

Police Services should better support disabled people who experience hate crime to seek justice.

All forces should receive appropriate central funding to appoint at least one dedicated Disability Liaison Officer trained in disability awareness and engagement. The Officers would support their colleagues in disability awareness, as well as providing a link to the disability community and the issues they face.

The Crown Prosecution Service should convene its proposed panel of Disabled People's Organisations and other stakeholders<sup>24</sup> as a matter of urgency.

Upholding its commitment in the Disability Strategy to advise prosecutors and support the Policy Statement on Disability Hate Crime and Other Crimes against Disabled People.

The government should invest in ways to mitigate disability hate crime's impact, publish its hate crime action plan and better support people who experience disability hate crime.

We would like to see a cross-government approach to tackling disability hate crime.

The government should roll out its promised awareness-raising campaign around disability<sup>25</sup> as a priority with a view to educating the public on disability hate crimes and the importance of community when reporting it.

The government should ensure that the Online Safety Bill provides clear parameters to help challenge disability-related abuse happening online when this bill is published.

<sup>23</sup> Batty, D., Parveen, N. and Thomas, T. (2021) 'Hundreds of schools in England sign up for anti-racist curriculum.' The Guardian. Online. 26 March 2021. Available at: <https://amp.theguardian.com/education/2021/mar/26/schools-england-anti-racist-curriculum>.

<sup>24</sup> HM Government. (2021). National Disability Strategy. Pg.33. London: APS Group.

<sup>25</sup> National Disability Strategy. Pg.22.

Government should adopt recommendation 12 of the Law Commission's Hate Crime Report to widen the scope of aggravated offences to include disability-related hostility<sup>26</sup> and strengthen the legal response when addressing disabled people's abuse and exploitation.

We would like to see a government funded pilot training programme on supporting disabled crime victims for police officers<sup>27</sup> with five police forces in England. The training will be developed and delivered by experts-by-experience and will be piloted in areas where there is both low reporting and charging and sentencing for disability hate crime.

It should also invest in a ring fenced fund dedicated to providing State support for disabled people and their families to help navigate the criminal justice system, alongside similar grants allocated to advocacy and community groups<sup>28</sup>.

Finally, it should invest in the establishment, promotion, and rollout of a pilot helpline for victims of disability hate crimes, akin to crisis services used by victims of homophobia and sexual assault.

"The general public [can] make these places feel hostile. I've been followed around in shops by people trying to sneakily stroke Sheila [assistance dog]."

"One man did this for half an hour and laughed at me for being more and more scared. I ended up having to leave because of him. As someone whose been stalked before it was a really bad experience, but not an isolated one."

**Zoe, recounting experiences with her assistance dog Sheila**



<sup>26</sup> Law Commission. (2021). Hate Crime Laws: Final Report. Pg.

<sup>27</sup> A two-year study from the University of Portsmouth (2022) found that many rank-and-file police officers in England and Wales lack the confidence to support disabled interviewees, citing an over-reliance on passive e-learning environments and a strong desire for specialist training.

<sup>28</sup> Ministry of Justice. (2022). 'Press Release: Extra support for thousands navigating the legal system.' 12 July. Online. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-support-for-thousands-navigating-the-legal-system>

# Reporting a hate crime

There are several ways in which you can report a hate crime. You can report a hate crime or hate-related incident that has happened to you (as a **victim**). You can also report it if you've seen it happen to someone else (as a **witness**).

Citizens Advice recommends that you contact a hate crime support service before you report the incident to the police. The support service can help you work out what to say in your report. This will help the police be successful if they investigate the crime.

The most important thing to remember during any kind of reporting is that **you must give the police your contact details**. If you don't, they will not be able to support you and it will make it much harder for them to investigate the issue.

## In Person

- You can go to any police station and tell the officers at the main desk what's happened.
- You will be asked to be interviewed by the police so they can write up a statement. This involves providing them with as much information as possible about what happened, where it occurred, who did it, and who to.
- If you find it difficult or upsetting to talk during the interview, you can ask for a break at any point.
- The police will read the statement to you to ensure it is correct. They will then ask you to sign it so they can begin a formal investigation.

- If you are reporting as a victim, the police should also ask you make a separate Victim Personal Statement – this is your chance to say how the crime has affected you, and it will be taken into account if it gets to trial.
- The police will provide you with the contact details of the officer responsible for investigating your case and will be in touch as they gather evidence.

## On the Telephone

- You can call 101 if you'd prefer to report a hate crime by phone.
- The officer will ask you similar questions as they would during an in-person interview.
- When you report it, ask for the incident reference number. You'll need this if you want to contact the police about the crime again.
- If you can't hear or speak on the phone, you can type what you want to say using Relay UK. To use Relay UK, dial 18001 then 101.

## Online

- You can report a hate crime online at True Vision (<https://www.report-it.org.uk/>). This is a website run by the police specifically for hate crimes.
- There are resources available that explain what the police need from you, including Easy to Read guides.

# Joining the campaign

Leonard Cheshire and United Response will continue campaigning for action on disability hate crime. You can be a part of that campaign by signing our pledge to #StopDisabledHate, and signing up to hear more about our campaigns and ways to get involved.

- Sign Leonard Cheshire's pledge: [www.leonardcheshire.org/hatecrime](http://www.leonardcheshire.org/hatecrime)
- Be a United Response campaigner: [unitedresponse.org.uk/UnitedAgainstHate](http://unitedresponse.org.uk/UnitedAgainstHate)

“To reduce disability hate crime, we really need non-disabled people to be advocating for our needs, to be taking part in disability campaigns, and to be centring disabled people. Only then can we begin to break down stigma around disability and reduce the amount of hate disabled people are getting.”

**Cassie, a PhD student and blogger**



# Appendix A: non-emergency help and advice – useful contacts a-z

Hate crime can be a difficult topic to talk about for many people. If you or someone you know is struggling with abuse, it's important that you do something. You can contact any of the following organisations for more information and support.

**Citizens Advice Bureau** – an independent organisation that provides free and confidential information to people about different problems, including debt, housing, finance, and legal issues.

**Website:** <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/law-and-courts/discrimination/hate-crime/>

**Crimestoppers** – a national charity with a free helpline for reporting crime anonymously.

**Website:** <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>  
**Phone:** 0800 555 111

**Down Syndrome Association** – the UK's main advocacy organisation for people with Down Syndrome and their families, providing advice and support.

**Website:** <https://www.downs-syndrome.org.uk/>  
**Email:** [info@downs-syndrome.org.uk](mailto:info@downs-syndrome.org.uk)  
**Phone:** 0333 1212 300

**Equality Advisory Support Service (EASS)** – a free Helpline to give information and guidance on discrimination and human rights for people living in England, Scotland, and Wales.

**Website:** <https://www.equalityadvisoryservice.com/>

**Email:** [advice@equalityadvisoryservice.com](mailto:advice@equalityadvisoryservice.com)

**Phone:** 0808 800 0082

**Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC)**

– the independent non-departmental public body responsible for the promotion of equality and non-discrimination laws in England and Wales.

**Website:** <https://equalityhumanrights.com/en>

**Email:** [correspondence@equalityhumanrights.com](mailto:correspondence@equalityhumanrights.com)

**Phone:** 020 7832 7800 (London) / 02920 447710 (Cardiff)

**GALOP** – the UK's largest anti-abuse charity for LGBTQ+ people, supporting LGBTQ+ victims and survivors of domestic violence and hate crime.

**Website:** <http://www.galop.org.uk/>

**Email:** [hatecrime@galop.org.uk](mailto:hatecrime@galop.org.uk)

**Phone:** 020 7704 2040

**Leonard Cheshire** – Leonard Cheshire is a pan-disability charity with the guiding aim of supporting disabled people to live, learn and work as independently as they choose - whatever their ability.

**Website:** [www.leonardcheshire.org](http://www.leonardcheshire.org)

**Email:** [info@leonardcheshire.org](mailto:info@leonardcheshire.org)

**Phone:** 020 3242 0200

**Mencap** – one of the UK's major charities advocating and campaigning for people with learning disabilities.

**Website:** <https://www.mencap.org.uk/advice-and-support/bullying-and-discrimination/mate-and-hate-crime>

**Email:** [yournetwork@mencap.org.uk](mailto:yournetwork@mencap.org.uk)



**Phone: 0808 808 1111**

**National Autistic Society (NAS)** – the UK’s national advocacy charity for autistic people and their families, providing information, advocacy, and support services.

**Website:** <https://www.autism.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/topics/criminal-justice>  
**Email:** [nas@nas.org.uk](mailto:nas@nas.org.uk)  
**Phone:** 0207 833 2299

**Scope** – a major charity in England and Wales campaigning to inform the public about disability, change negative attitudes, and provide advocacy and information.

**Website:** <https://www.scope.org.uk/>  
**Email:** [helpline@scope.org.uk](mailto:helpline@scope.org.uk)  
**Phone:** 0808 800 3333

**Stop Hate UK** – a charity that provides independent and confidential support to people affected by hate crime.

**Website:** <https://www.stophateuk.org/>  
**Email:** [info@stophate.org](mailto:info@stophate.org)  
**Phone:** 0113 293 5100

**Tell MAMA** – national initiative that seeks to tackle anti-Muslim attitudes whilst supporting victims and survivors with confidential advice.

**Website:** <https://tellmamauk.org/>  
**Email:** [info@tellmamauk.org](mailto:info@tellmamauk.org)  
**Phone:** 0800 456 1226

**True Vision** – a national police scheme to help victims report hate crimes online.

**Website:** <https://www.report-it.org.uk/>

**United Response** – an established charity with an excellent track record in supporting young people and adults with a range of mental health needs and disabilities – which include learning disabilities, autism, acquired brain injury, sensory impairments and dementia.

**Website:** [www.unitedresponse.org.uk](http://www.unitedresponse.org.uk)  
**Email:** [info@unitedresponse.org.uk](mailto:info@unitedresponse.org.uk)  
**Phone:** 0208 016 5678

**Victim Support** – an independent charity operating in England and Wales that provides advice, information, and support to victims of abuse, hate crime, and other traumatic incidents.

**Website:** <https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/>  
**Email:** <https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/help-and-support/get-help/supportline/email-supportline/>

# Appendix B: further research

Several universities around the UK run dedicated research programmes and specialist institutions that study hate crimes. Many are leading world authorities on the subject and have undertaken work investigating hate crimes' impact and how society can better protect victims' human rights.

Please note that inclusion on this list should not be taken as a recommendation by Leonard Cheshire or United Response. Please contact the organisations for further details of the courses they offer or find out about their respective projects.

## **British Society for Criminology – Hate Crime Network**

**Website:** <https://www.britsoccrim.org/networks/hate-crime-network/#Websites>  
**Email:** [irene.zempi@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:irene.zempi@ntu.ac.uk)

## **The International Network for Hate Studies (INHS)**

**Website:** <https://internationalhatestudies.com/>

## **The University of Leicester – Centre for Hate Studies**

**Website:** <https://le.ac.uk/hate-studies>  
**Email:** [centreforhatestudies@le.ac.uk](mailto:centreforhatestudies@le.ac.uk)  
**Phone:** 0116 252 3784

## **University of Sussex – Sussex Hate Crime Project**

**Website:** <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/psychology/sussexhatecrimeproject/index>  
**Email:** [mark.Walters@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:mark.Walters@sussex.ac.uk)

## **Nottingham Trent University – Centre for Study and Reduction of Hate Crimes**

**Website:** <https://www.ntu.ac.uk/research/groups-and-centres/centres/centre-for-study-reduction-hate-crimes-bias-prejudice>  
**Email:** [michael.sutton@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:michael.sutton@ntu.ac.uk)

## Appendix C: findings in full

Download the full FOI data gathered by Leonard Cheshire and United Response here.

