

# Say No to Disability Hate Crime

Easy read disability hate crime booklet and information for how victims of hate crime get support.



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## This easy read booklet will:

- Tell you about disability hate crime
- Tell you what you can do to get support
- Tell you where to ask for help if you are a victim of hate crime

# What is hate crime



A **hate crime** is when someone treats you badly and does something to you that is against the law because of your race, religion, sexuality, gender identity or disability.



A **disability hate crime** is when someone treats you badly and does something to you that is against the law because you are disabled.



The person who is treated badly and has something happen to them is called a **victim**.



Telling the police about a hate crime is called **reporting**. The number of hate crimes being reported by victims has been going up since 2017.



Sometimes people will commit more than one hate crime. These people are known as **repeat offenders**.



If police think they know who did the hate crime, they will **charge** the person. This is when police tell someone they have broken the law.

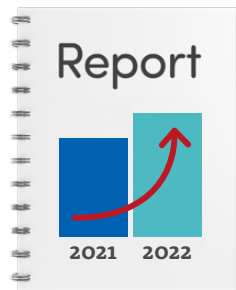
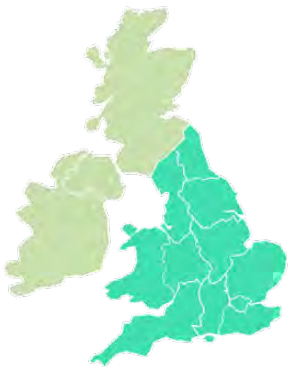


Some people who are charged with hate crime will have to go to court and take part in a **trial**. The victim and the person who has been charged will tell a judge what happened and the judge will decide if they will be punished.

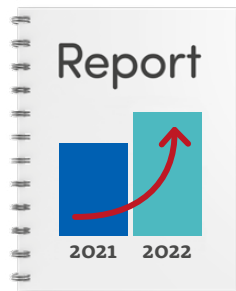
# Findings



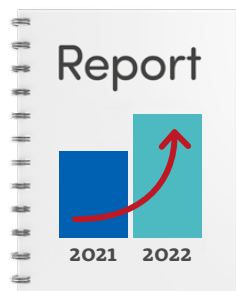
United Response and Leonard Cheshire asked 46 police forces in England, Wales and Scotland to tell them information about disability hate crime. 43 police forces replied.



In 2021 and 2022, there were 11,224 hate crimes reported in England and Wales. This is more than last year when there were 8,983 hate crimes reported.

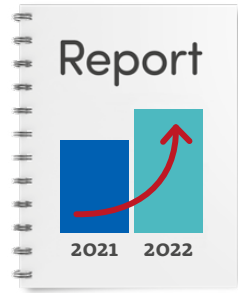


More than half of the reported hate crimes were violent. This is 27 per cent more than last year, based on data from 35 police forces.

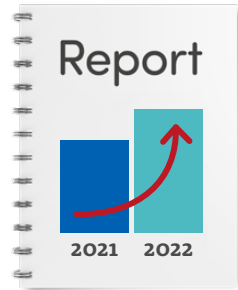


Hate crimes with **repeat offenders** were reported 31 per cent more than last year, based on data from 26 police forces.

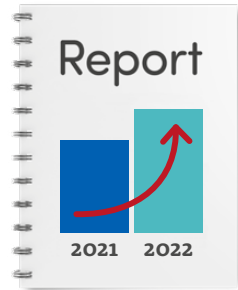




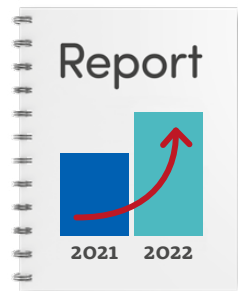
Online hate crimes were 20 per cent more than last year.



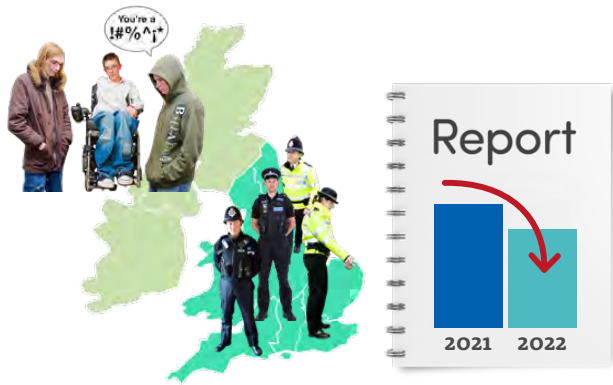
Hate crimes where the person was targeted because of disability and something else (their age, race, religion, gender identity, sexuality) were 24 per cent more than last year.



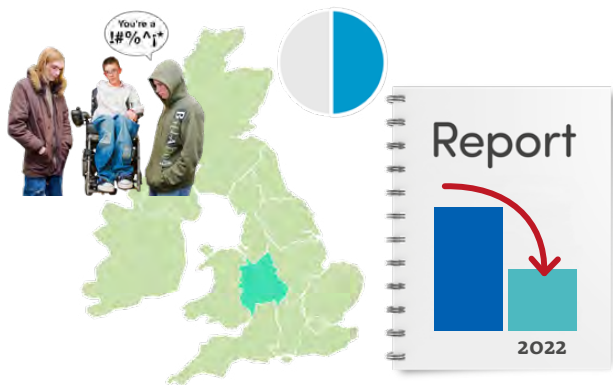
The number of hate crimes reported to police in Scotland this year was 406. This is 36 per cent more than last year.



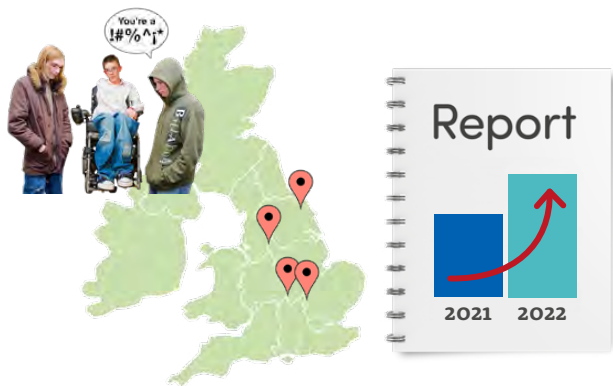
The number of hate crimes reported to police in Northern Ireland this year was 93. This is more than last year, when only 58 hate crimes were reported.



Only 4 police forces in England and Wales said there have been less disability hate crimes reported this year compared to last year.



West Midlands had 50 per cent less disability hate crimes reported this year.



The areas where there were lots more disability hate crimes reported than last year are Cleveland, Bedfordshire, Warwickshire and Greater Manchester.

# Barriers



The number of **charges** for disability hate crimes is still very low. This year, only 129 disability hate crimes led to a criminal charge. This is only 1 per cent of the hate crimes reported.



Police say that there is not always enough **evidence** to charge someone of disability hate crime. **Evidence** is an object or some information that proves if a crime happened.



Police also say that it is hard to find a **suspect** when a disability hate crime happens. A **suspect** is someone who police think might have done the crime.



# Victims' stories



Leonard Cheshire and United Response spoke to people with disabilities and autism about being victims of hate crime.



Some people said they did not think what had happened to them was a hate crime because it was not bad enough.



Other people said they had lots of bad things happen to them over time.



Some people said reporting hate crimes to the police takes a long time. Talking a lot about what happened can make people feel scared or sad.



Some people felt like the person who did the crime was not punished or found out. This made them not want to report a crime again.



Some of the people said hate crimes had started happening to them in school. They said schools and teachers should teach people about being different from each other because this could help.



Other people said they would like more information about what to do if you see a hate crime happening.

# Policy calls



United Response and Leonard Cheshire are asking for four things to change.



Police should get more money so they can get more training about disability and autism. More money would mean the police could hire a **Disability Liaison Officer**. This is a specially trained police officer who would support disabled people when they are reporting a crime.



Teachers should teach children about disability and disability hate crimes in schools. This will help change the way people think about disability.



The Government should make a new plan to stop the number of hate crimes going up. The plan should include money so there can be more support services for victims of disability hate crimes.



The Government should also set up a phone helpline for victims of disability hate crimes.



Other people can help by reporting hate crimes when they see something happen to someone else. This is called being a **witness**.



# What you can do



If someone is treating you badly or hurting you, you should tell someone you trust. This could be a family member, friend or your support worker.



If you think what they have done is against the law, you can report it to the police.



You can make a report in person at a police station, on the telephone at 101 or online at <http://report-it.org.uk/>



If you see someone treating someone badly or hurting them, you could stay with them or try to get help.





Leonard Cheshire and United Response want victims of hate crimes to get more support. You can join our campaign in two ways:

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

# Where to get help



Reading about hate crime can be difficult and make you sad or worried. If you would like some help, you can visit:  
[www.unitedresponse.org.uk/disabilityhatecrimehelp](http://www.unitedresponse.org.uk/disabilityhatecrimehelp)

# For further information contact:



## United Response

7th Floor  
Knollys House  
17 Addiscombe Road  
Croydon  
CR0 6SR

020 8016 5678  
info@unitedresponse.org.uk  
www.unitedresponse.org.uk

Registered charity no: 265249



## Leonard Cheshire



## Leonard Cheshire

66 South Lambeth Road  
London  
SW8 1RL

020 3242 0200  
info@leonardcheshire.org  
www.leonardcheshire.org

Registered charity no: 218186