

LGBT Hate Crime & Domestic Abuse Support Service



We all have the right to live free from violence or fear.

Age UK Isle of Wight, working in partnership with the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Police and Crime Commissioner, offer a confidential and safe support service for LGBT victims of Hate Crime and those living with domestic abuse. Make the change today.



Breaking barriers for an inclusive Island. We offer safe, confidential & impartial support on the Isle of Wight for people experiencing hate crime and/or domestic abuse.

This service is for people who are: 50 years and older and who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) or non-binary.

LGBT Drop-in sessions are held on the first Wednesday of every month from 10am to 2pm at Age UKIW's offices in Newport High Street, offering free:

- Information and Advice
- Support around Hate Crime
- Domestic Violence/Abuse support
- Support groups/social group connections
- LGBT friendly services & business links
- Referral & signposting onwards
- Safety advice & information

There are a range of services that Age UK IW offer, and can tailor support packages to your individual need.

You matter. Your story matters. Connecting with others who understand and people who can support you when you need it is enriching. Our service enables:

Supporting

We are here to offer impartial and confidential information and advice on hate crime and domestic abuse.

We can offer support throughout criminal justice proceedings and have excellent links with the Police and other organisations to ensure that you are informed and supported in a client centred way.

We can help you report hate crimes and get appropriate support to help you feel safe and secure.

Sharing

We are working hard to increase awareness across the Island and to work with organisations, services, businesses and agencies to improve LGBT awareness & facilitate a more inclusive Island.

Socialising

Developing a sustainable and thriving social network across the island with a range of activities and events to cater for everyone's interests. From confidential drop ins and support groups in a safe environment to more social events across the wider community.

We all have something we can bring to improve and enrich the Isle of Wight. We can get so much from each other and the communities in which we live. We are one Island together and it is richer because of each and every person here.

What is Hate Crime?

If you have experienced any of the behaviours listed below and feel they were motivated by prejudice or hostility based on your sexual orientation or gender identity, then they may constitute a hate crime.

Physical Abuse

All forms of violence even including minor bruising and scratches, unwanted sexual contact. Threats of physical abuse are also a hate crime.

Harassment

When any form of abuse becomes repeated then it can be considered harassment.

Verbal Abuse

This can be name calling, insults or threats. In addition to this it includes any form of written abuse including emails, texts, graffiti and hate mail.

Domestic Abuse

When abuse happens within the home, between current or former intimate partners, or family. It includes forced marriage, controlling of finances, friendships & social activities.

Threatening to "out" someone is also a form of abuse.

A victim does not have to be a member of the group at which the hostility is targeted. In fact, anyone could be a victim of a hate crime.

What can I do?

Call 999: if you are at risk of harm or in an emergency. If you have been physically abused seek treatment, even if the injury seems to be minor.

Report it: approaching an organisation that specialises in hate crime will ensure that you are safe. Age UKIW can support you in reporting such a crime. Reporting a hate crime to the police will mean that the perpetrator can be stopped and potentially be charged. Even if you are not sure that it is a crime, the police can only deal with something that is brought to their attention. If you do not want to report it to the police you can anonymously report it at www.report-it.org.uk.

Record it: when you report the incident to the police ask for it to be recorded as a homophobic or transphobic crime. Make sure that you get a crime number. You can also ask for a copy of the report.

Support from the Age UKIW LGBT project can empower you in a variety of ways.

Victims of hate crime experience isolation and loneliness. Talking to a member of our caring team can help to reassure you.

All conversations are confidential and impartial, for more information please contact our specialised project worker Kelly on **525282** or email lgbtproject@ageukiw.org.uk.

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