

Keeping Safe in Islington

Hate Crime Awareness and Safe havens

Islington Community Safety Team

What we will cover

- Hate crime vs hate incident.
- How to report and support available.
- Safe havens

Hate Crime

‘Hate Crime’ is when someone targets you because of who you are.

criminal offence + hostility = hate crime

Hate Incident

Unkind or hateful behaviour because of who you are

But NOT a crime under the law

Personal Characteristics

Something that makes you who you are.



Disability

Sexual
Orientation

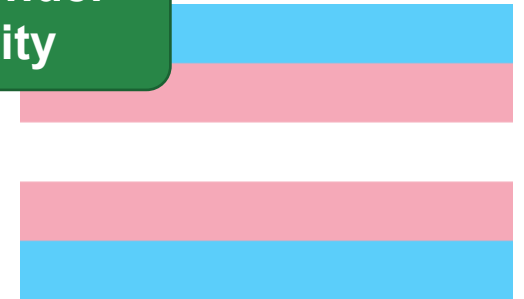


There are **5 personal characteristics** that someone can be targeted for in a hate crime.

Religion/Faith



Transgender
Identity



Race/Ethnicity



“Hate crime” is the umbrella term often used to talk about hate crimes and incidents.

Types of hate crime

Hate Crime can be any type of crime

Verbal abuse

Physical
violence

Damage to
property

Online abuse

Bullying or
intimidation



True or False- Is this a Hate Crime?

- Someone steals a phone for money
- Racist graffiti on someone's front door
- Two people get into an argument about football
- Religious clothing being pulled off

Important factors to remember

- **Anyone** can be a victim of a hate crime.
- **Anyone** can be a perpetrator of hate crime.
- An incident or crime can be motivated by prejudice towards **one or more** personal characteristics. E.g. someone's race **and** sexual orientation.
- A person does not need to have the personal characteristic(s) they think they were targeted for. E.g. if a heterosexual person is called a homophobic slur, this is **still a hate crime**.
- Police and other agencies must take a victim-centred approach to recording hate crime. This means that if someone believes an incident or crime was motivated by prejudice, it **must be recorded** as a **hate** incident or **hate** crime.



Personal safety

- If you witness or experience a hate crime, do not put yourself in danger trying to help
- If the situation is threatening or violent, remove yourself from the area and call emergency services.
- Avoid confrontation if it could escalate the situation.
- Support safely. Even just witnessing and reporting helps.

Useful Phrases

- "Are you OK?"
- "Do you need help?"
- "I want to report a hate crime."
- "This is not acceptable."

Things you can do to look after yourself

- Prioritise your immediate safety.
- Talk to someone you trust about what is happening.
- Seek support from specialist organisations.
- Avoid blaming yourself. Your identity is not the problem- their behaviour is.

Responding to a hate crime disclosure

- If someone tells you that they've been a victim of hate crime, it's important to validate their feelings, respond sincerely and show empathy.
- You might not agree with the victim's analysis that the incident was a hate crime. However, it's important to allow them to tell you how they feel and why they feel this way, without passing judgement.

“I am so sorry to hear this”

“How did that make you feel?”

“This was not your fault”

“Is there anyone you can speak to about how you're feeling?”

“Do you feel able to report this to the police?”



How to report

If you witness or are targeted with hate crime, remember to write down or tell someone:

- **Where** it happened.
- **When** it happened- the day and time.
- **What** the people looked like.
- If anyone else saw what happened.
- Any details you might remember, like license plates, bus numbers etc.
- You can also film the incident on your phone, **if you feel safe to**.

Reporting hate crime

- We recommend that people report directly to the police if they feel comfortable doing so. Reporting to the police means the report can be dealt with as soon as possible. There are several ways to contact the police:
 - In an emergency, always call 999
 - If it's not an emergency, call 101 or report online (it's often quicker to report online)
 - If the incident happened on a train, report to the British Transport Police
- You can also report hate crime anonymously to the independent charity Crimestoppers. Your report will be passed to the police, but no personal details will be provided, so the you won't be contacted.



CrimeStoppers.
Speak up. Stay safe.

CATCH London

- CATCH is a group of charities working to end hate crime in London. They give specialist advice and help to people targeted because of their race, religion, disability, sexuality or gender identity.
- CATCH is an advocacy service for people over 18 years old facing hate crime in London.
- Victims and third parties can make a referral to CATCH online: <https://www.catch-hatecrime.org.uk/>



How can they help?

- Provide a safe space to talk.
- Explore the options available to you.
- Advise on your rights.
- Support you to report to the police if you choose.
- Give guidance on applying for financial compensation for victims of crime.
- Provide practical advice to help you feel safe.
- Help you access other support and services you need, such as counselling or housing.

Why should I report it?

- Keep yourself and your community safe.
- Stop it from getting worse.
- Stop it from happening to others.
- Help improve services there to support victims.

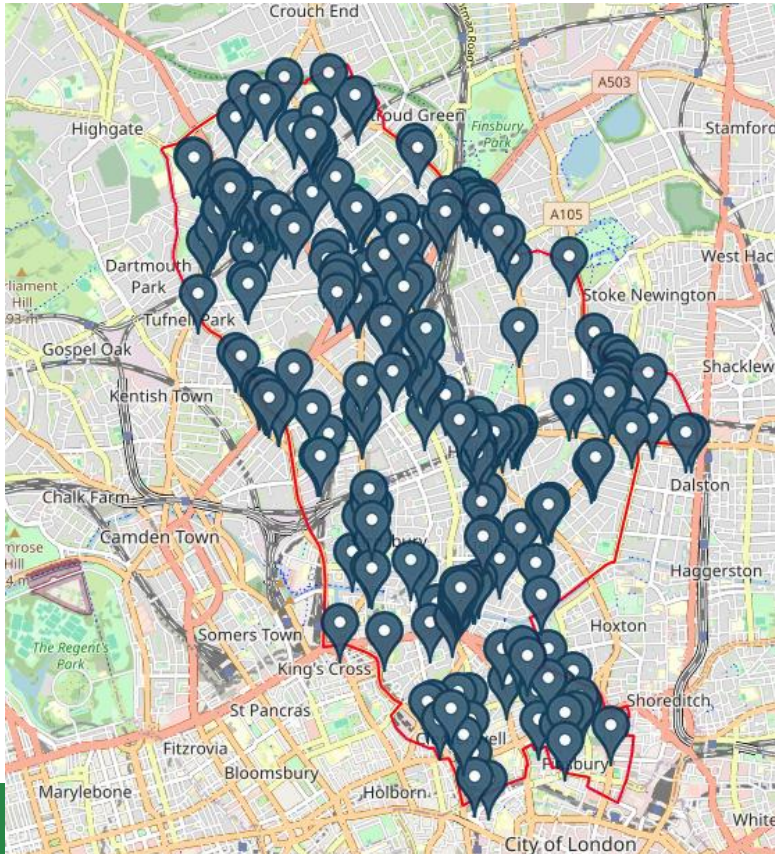
**DON'T
TOLERATE
HATE
CRIME
TELL
SOMEONE**

Safe Havens in Islington

What are they &
how to use them



What is a Safe haven and why does the scheme exist



We have 250 Safe havens in Islington made up of business or community spaces that offer immediate help if someone feels unsafe.

It exists to:

- give residents safe places to go if they feel threatened, lost, followed, or distressed
- strengthen community safety and confidence

How to use a Safe haven

Look for the Safe Haven sticker in shop windows

Go inside and tell staff you need help

Staff can:

- **Give you a safe space** to wait until you feel comfortable again.
- **Offer reassurance and support** if something has frightened or unsettled you.
- **Help you contact someone you trust**, like a friend or family member.
- **Call emergency services** if you need urgent help.
- **Help you plan a safe way to get home** or continue your journey.

[Safe Haven \(full version\) \(4K\)](#)

When to use a Safe haven

- Feeling followed or harassed
- Lost or disoriented
- Experiencing a hate crime or incident
- Feeling unsafe walking home
- Need help contacting someone



Thank you!

Any Questions?