

What happens when you report a hate crime

Hate is not welcome in Islington.

We believe everyone deserves to live free of fear and abuse but to act against those responsible, the police rely on reports from the public. This is the first step towards ensuring that the offender is caught and stopped from committing a crime again.

Unfortunately, many hate crimes are not reported. If more people make reports, we can gain a better understanding of the problem and how we can prevent it.

And by reporting a hate crime, you can access support to help you to recover from the experience. You can also report a hate crime as a witness, even if you do not know the victim.



What is a hate crime?

The legal definition is as follows: 'Any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice, based on a person's disability or perceived disability, race or perceived race, religion or perceived religion, sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation, or transgender identity or perceived transgender identity.'

In reality, this might mean a verbal or physical assault on someone. Telling them to 'go back to their country' or using a derogatory or disrespectful term in relation to someone's sexuality would be classed as hate crimes.

The journey of hate crime reporting

Hate crime takes place

Unfortunately, hate crimes do take place in the borough, in many different forms. Support is immediately available to you – please see the end of this leaflet for a list of organisations who can help.

Reporting to the authorities

Report the incident to police

- Call 999 in an emergency
- Call 101 in a non-emergency visit www.report-it.org.uk
- Call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111
- Speak to a police officer or visit a police station directly

Victims may also report a hate crime to other authorities like their landlord or the council, but by reporting the incident to the police, victims will have a crime report created.

A crime report will be created

- Crime reports are generated following an allegation of crime. This can either be in person to a police officer, at a police station or through third party reporting sites online
- The victim can apply through freedom of information act if they wish to have a copy of the crime report
- The crime report will exist either in paper form or digitally
- Victims will be given a crime reference number which will help them to follow up their case

Further investigation

Following the creation of a crime report, it will be assessed and allocated to an officer who will make contact with the victim.

Contact by police

A police officer will aim to contact the victim within 24 hours but this may not always be possible. They will ask you for more details about the event (where it took place, what happened, what the person looked like, were there any witnesses).

Follow-up

The police will then decide on the next steps and what additional information they may need. The police will gather all evidence available, including the victim's statement, to create a full overview of the incident. This may also include CCTV footage and statements from witnesses.

If there is enough evidence, the offender will be cautioned and arrested. The case could also be referred to the Crown Prosecution Service to be considered for court. Evidence will be presented at a trial, and the person will either be found guilty or not guilty. A range of outcomes is available for a guilty verdict.

If the Crown Prosecution Service do not accept the case, it will unfortunately be closed. The police will keep their information on file, which may help them with future hate crime incidents.

At any point during the hate crime reporting journey, victims can reach out to the organisations listed in this leaflet who can help.

Support

There are several support services available to anyone who has experienced a hate crime.

Victim Support

0808 168 9111

www.victimsupport.org.uk

Victim Support helps people cope with the effects of crime whether the crime is reported or not. It also provides information on local victim support groups.

Tell MAMA

0800 456 1226

<http://tellmamauk.org/>

Tell MAMA supports victims of anti-Muslim hate and is a public service which measures and monitors anti-Muslim incidents.

GALOP

020 7704 2040

www.gallop.org.uk/how-we-can-help/

GALOP supports victims of hate crime who are members of the LGBT+ community.

forum⁺

www.forumplus.org.uk

caseworker@forumplus.org.uk

020 7388 5720

Formerly Camden LGBT Forum, forum⁺ supports victims of homophobic, biphobic and transphobic hate crime in Islington and Camden.

Citizens Advice Witness Service

0300 332 1000

www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Citizens Advice Witness Service provides free help and support for victims and/or witnesses of crime. If you are worried about going to court you can contact the Citizens Advice Witness Service.

See www.islington.gov.uk/ **hatecrime** for more details and access online hate crime training on what hate crime is and how to report it.