



## What is a hate crime?

The term 'hate crime' is used to describe a range of criminal behaviours where the offender is motivated by hostility towards another due to their personal characteristics. You do not need to personally perceive the incident to be hate related. It would be enough if another person, a witness or even a police officer to think that the incident was hate related.

If you are found guilty of a hate crime the courts have the power to increase your sentence if it is proven that the motivation for the crime was because of a person's protective characteristics.

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Last year 83% of people taken to court for hate crime either admitted the offence or were found guilty by the jury or judge. Check out [wwwsource.me.uk](http://wwwsource.me.uk) which is a local support group for young people.

## What are protected characteristics

Protected characteristics are what makes you the person that you are and in the eyes of the law these are: race, religion, sexual orientation, disability, transgender identity. For more information for support go to: [www.victimsupport.org.uk](http://www.victimsupport.org.uk)



What can be classed as a hate crime?  
When someone is hostile to another person because of a protected characteristic (see left) and they show their hostility by intimidation, harassment, damaging property or using violence.

## PARENT HUB

Hate crime can effect many people and can be extremely upsetting. For more advice and support visit the [#firstprinciple](https://www.suffolk.police.uk/firstprinciple) page on the Suffolk police website or Crimestoppers. Also [www.cps.gov.uk](http://www.cps.gov.uk) has some very helpful information and links.



## NEED SOME HELP?

Call the police on 101 or 999, visit the Suffolk police website or contact [www.stophateuk.org](http://www.stophateuk.org). Speak with a responsible adult who will get you help. If you feel like you can't speak to anyone you can visit [www.fearless.org](http://www.fearless.org) where you are able to report information to the police anonymously.



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