

HATE CRIME

What happens if I report a hate crime?

If you're a victim of a hate crime you can contact the police over the phone, at the station, or online through the True Vision website.

If you do, the police will explain what will happen next. They will also offer to pass your details to Victim Support. *You don't have to agree to this.*

They will give the contact details of a police officer and a crime reference number.

You'll need this number to:

- Make an insurance claim
- Contact the police about the investigation
- Claim compensation



Someone who witnesses a crime you are the victim of can also report the incident to the police.

In this case, the police will contact you as part of the evidence-gathering process.

MAKING A STATEMENT

You'll need to make a statement to the police. **You can stop anytime** you need to during this interview. You are also entitled to be accompanied by a friend, family member, or other representative. You will also be given the chance to read the statement to **check it is correct.**



MAKING A VICTIM STATEMENT

After the interview, you'll be given the chance to make a separate Victim Personal Statement. As the name suggests, this will be a more personal statement about how the incident has affected you. It will be taken into account during trial.



GETTING EVIDENCE

The police may also need to collect evidence from where the crime took place, such as photos or fingerprints. If you've been injured in a violent attack, the police will ask you whether you agree to have a medical examination. It's your decision: you don't have to.

While the police are investigating the crime, they'll give you an update on the case at least once a month until it's closed.



AFTER THE POLICE HAVE FINISHED INVESTIGATING...

They **might** decide to caution the person who committed the crime. **OR**

They will pass the evidence to the Crime Prosecution Service, who will decide **if the person should be prosecuted.**

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The police may decide to **issue a caution**. A caution is not a criminal conviction, but it could be used as evidence of bad character if the person goes to court for another crime.

Cautions for hate crimes are used about 20% of the time.

The Crown Prosecution Service has to consider the **impact the crime** has had on you when making a decision about whether or not they should prosecute. It should also take into account the views of your family. If the defendant pleads guilty, you won't have to go to court. However, if they deny the offence you may have to give evidence as a witness.

The CPS will take into account whether or not you want the case to proceed to court; but this will not be the only factor.

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Source: Victim Support