

i am ME!

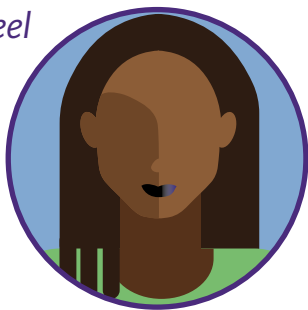
Valuing and empowering
diversity across Worcestershire,
Herefordshire, Shropshire,
Telford and Wrekin



What is a hate crime?

Hate crime is the term used to describe an incident or crime against someone based on a part of their identity. It can take the form of any criminal or non-criminal act such as graffiti, vandalism to a property, name calling, harassment, assault or online abuse using social media.

“There’s a massive disjunct between [...] how you feel about experiencing racism and then how seriously you think anyone will take it as a crime.”



Victim of hate crime

Experiencing hate crime can be a particularly frightening experience as you’ve been targeted because of who you are, or who or what your attacker thinks you are. Unlike non-identity related offences, the attack is very personal and specifically targeted, which means it’s less likely to be a random attack.

A person may be targeted because of a hostility or prejudice towards their:

- disability
- race or ethnicity
- religion or belief (which includes non-belief)
- sexual orientation
- transgender identity.

Victim Support also recognises crimes targeted at women (misogyny) and alternative sub-cultures (such as goth) as forms of hate crime.

i am ME!

i am ME! is a project designed to help communities, statutory agencies and any workplace setting, recognise and understand the impact of hate crime.

The service offers training and awareness sessions to anyone that wants to understand what a hate crime is, how to report a hate crime, and also what support is available. By being more informed, we can all play a part in standing together against hate.

The way in which we respond to anyone targeted because of their identity is a crucial factor in helping them to cope with what has happened, or what could still be happening. It will also have a huge impact on their confidence to report.

i am ME! values and empowers diversity across Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin.

For more information, or to request a training session for your organisation, or community group, you can contact us on 01905 726896 or TrainingWestMercia@victimsupport.org.uk

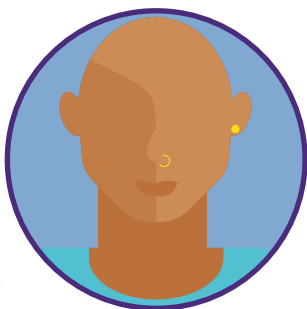


Support and report?

We will support you whether you have reported the crime or not. We understand that some people may not want to report hate crime to the police and that's fine. However, if you did want to report you can do so in the following ways:

- Direct reporting to the police (**101** or **999** in emergencies).
- Using a third party reporting centre – reporting to a third party organisation who will communicate with the police and other agencies on your behalf. Victim Support is a third party reporting centre.
- Anonymous reporting on the internet via True Vision **www.report-it.org.uk**. Victim Support can also support you with this.

“These things happen so often, every day, I didn't think the police could or would do anything. I didn't know that specific support was out there.”



Victim of hate crime

If you do report the crime and the offender is tried and convicted, courts can take their hate motivation into account during sentencing. This means a stronger sentence could be imposed. Victim Support teams can provide you with further information regarding reporting if you would like to do this.

To speak with someone directly and in confidence about hate crime you've experienced, contact Victim Support West Mercia on **01905 726 896**, Monday to Friday 9am–5pm. You can also contact our free 24/7 Supportline on **08 08 16 89 111** or start a live chat at **victimsupport.org.uk/livechat**.

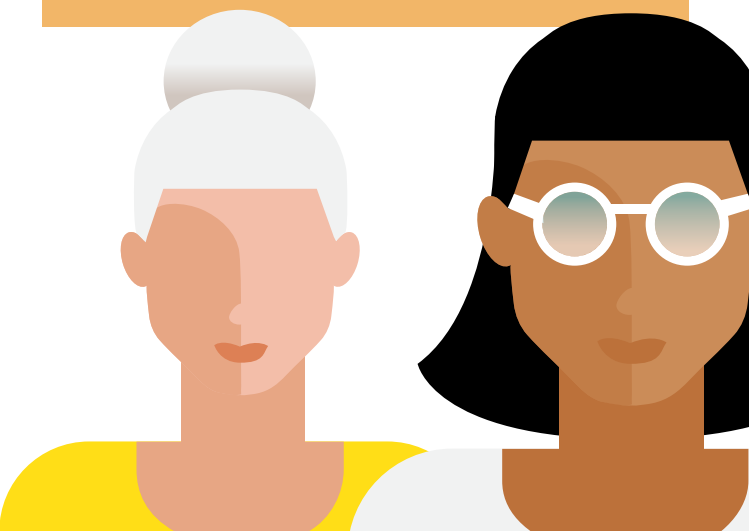
Would you like to explain the impact of the hate crime to the person causing you the harm?

Restorative justice brings those harmed by crime, and those responsible for the harm, into communication.

Restorative justice gives victims the chance to have their say, to get answers to their questions, and to move on with their lives. Restorative justice has the potential to address the harms caused by hate crime.

It allows hate crime victims to take back control by telling their story and having their voice heard. It aims to help the person causing the harm to understand the impact that their behaviour is having. This communication can take place in a number of ways: face to face, letter exchange or even your supporter passing information back and forth. This process would be thoroughly assessed to ensure your safety is paramount.

If you want to know more about restorative justice, you can contact the team by telephone on 01562 549610 or via secure email on rjwestmercia@victimsupport.cjsm.net



For further information and help visit the following links or scan the QR codes:



www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk



www.victimsupport.org.uk

