

Hate Crime



What is a hate crime?

A hate crime is defined as 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:

- **Race**
- **Religion**
- **Sexual orientation**
- **Disability**
- **Transgender identity**

The government were looking at whether Misogyny should be classified as a hate crime.

What is a hate incident?

A hate incident is any incident which the victim, or anyone else, thinks is based on someone's prejudice towards them because of their race, religion, sexual orientation, disability or because they are transgender **but does not breach criminal legislation.**

Not all hate incidents will amount to criminal offences, but it is equally important that these are reported and recorded by the police.

Reporting a hate crime to the police

- You should always call **999** when it is an emergency, such as when a crime is in progress, someone suspected of a crime is nearby, when there is danger to life or when violence is being used or threatened.
- If you have a non-emergency but require police assistance, call **101** or report online at **met.police.uk**.
- The police also have a specific hate crime reporting page – **True Vision**
<https://www.report-it.org.uk/>

Other ways to report and get support

If you do not feel comfortable reporting directly to the police there are a number of services in Merton that can support you with making a report or getting support and advice:

- **Stop Hate UK Helpline for Merton**

You can speak confidentially to **Stop Hate UK 24 hours a day, seven days a week** to report a hate crime or incident:

Call Stop Hate UK free on **0800 138 1625**

Text 'Stop Hate UK' to **07717 989 025**

Report online using the [Stop hate UK website](#)



Other ways to report and get support

- Via a hate crime **Third Party Reporting Centre** (*list on hate crime web page*).
- **Merton Hate Crime Advice Surgeries** (*second Wednesday of each month 12pm-1pm*).
- *See Merton Council's hate crime webpage for all info:*
<https://www.merton.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/crime-prevention-and-community-safety/hate-crime>

Merton's Hate Crime Strategy Group

- **Merton's Hate Crime Strategy Group** is made of up of partners from the council, police and members of the community representing each strand of hate crime.
- The aims of the group are to **raise awareness of hate crime and the support services available to victims to encourage victims to report and get the support they need. Developing a partnership approach to tackling perpetrators.**
- The group meets quarterly and leads our hate crime strategy and work plan. We have a **strategy 2022-26 and work plan**
- **Regular reassurance messaging** via Merton Councils media channels that Merton is no place for hate and hate in any form will not be tolerated.
- The group continue to work on **expanding Merton's hate crime Third Party Reporting Scheme.**

Engaging with the community

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Hate crime Awareness week Baitul Futuh Mosque



Wimbledon Piazza

- **Stop Hate UK** have been successful in applying for funding from the Violence reduction unit ty MOPAC for a Hate crime project.
- This is to include delivering workshops/training sessions to children and young people in Merton Schools

The aim is for pupils to understand what hate crime is, its impact in relation to serious violence on both themselves and others.

- It will also aim to provide pupils with the knowledge on how and where to report and gain support.



Current political events

- **Discussions had with the Baitul Futuh Mosque in Morden- event held during Hate crime awareness week.**
- **Support Events offered to The Wimbledon Synagogue.**
- **Working closely with Police and other partners over planned events being held locations of possible concern requesting extra police presence.**
- **CCTV operators vigilant - led to an arrest for Racist graffiti recently.**
- **Regular comms on how and where to report/receive support relating to Hate Crime.**

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