

A guide to supporting patients who have experienced HATE CRIME

What is hate crime?

Hate crime is a criminal act which is directed at a person due to an aspect of their identity. This can include:

- disability
- race or ethnicity
- religion or belief
- sexual orientation
- transgender identity

The police also recognise hate incidents such as name calling which often escalate into hate crimes such as physical violence, online abuse, graffiti or damage to property or pets.

Why do I need to be aware of it?

As a clinician you may be asked to treat injuries that have occurred as a result of hate crime. Alternatively, a patient may confide in you during treatment that they have been the victim of hate crime or hate incidents.

If a vulnerable adult or a child tells you that they are experiencing neglect or abuse related to hate crime this may be a safeguarding issue which requires you to act.

What should I do?

Hate crime can have devastating consequences, causing high levels of fear and anxiety as well as financial and social costs.

- If you have safeguarding concerns refer to your employer's safeguarding policy or local authority guidance.
- The police can only tackle hate crime effectively if they know the true scale of the problem. Encourage the patient to report the crime if they have not done so already. This can be done at their local police station or via the online form on the True Vision website.
- People who have experienced hate crime can benefit from psychological support. Signpost patients to local services or back to their GP to access counselling and support.

Where can I find further information and support?

Victim Support offer emotional and practical help to victims of hate crime. This includes advice on home security and graffiti removal as well as navigating the criminal justice system. (Victim Support NI in Northern Ireland)

Stop Hate UK is a national organisation working to challenge all forms of hate crime and discrimination. It provides independent, confidential and accessible reporting and support for victims, witnesses and third parties.

The CSP "Duty to Report" information paper contains guidance on safeguarding issues. Available via the CSP website www.csp.org.uk.