

# **LGBT+**

# **HATE CRIME**

Information and guidance



**NORTH SOMERSET**  
**LGBT+ FORUM**

**Registered charity no: 1174545**

[www.nslgbtforum.com](http://www.nslgbtforum.com) / [support@nslgbtforum.com](mailto:support@nslgbtforum.com)

## Hate Crime in the South West

Figures from Avon and Somerset, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire police forces reported LGBT+ hate crimes rose by more than 50% in the West between 2019 and 2021. Figures from the three police forces revealed a total increase from 712 reported incidents to 1,109. However, only a quarter of hate crimes and incidents are reported to the police. Seven in 10 victims report the incident to no-one.

Evidence suggests that the main reasons victims do not report hate crimes is that they do not think the incident is serious enough to report or they did not know that the incident perpetrated against them was an offence.

## Examples of LGBT+ Hate Crime

- Using threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour, or disorderly behaviour,
- Attempting to harm or physically harming another person, and acting in a way that causes the victim to fear that they will be harmed.
- A person who without lawful excuse destroys or damages any property belonging to another intending to destroy or damage any such property (e.g. flag burning).

Put simply, if an incident occurs which is motivated by hate or prejudice but is not necessarily a criminal offence, then it is known as a hate incident. Although hate incidents are not criminal offences, they are still a serious matter and should be reported.





## How do I report a hate crime?

Online: [www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report/hate-crime/](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report/hate-crime/)

By phone: Dial 101 for non-emergencies (non-life-threatening), or 999 for emergencies in which life is in danger.

Report anonymously:

If you do not wish to disclose your personal details, you can call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

After you report an incident, your details will be stored securely and will not be shared outside of the police database.

**Did you know?** You can use your mobile to text to 999 if you do not feel safe to speak on the phone. **You must register to use this service before texting in an emergency.** To register simply text 'register' to 999. You'll then receive a response confirming you are set up to communicate by text in the future. *Do not use this function for any non-emergencies, and do not reply to the initial confirmation message.*

## Further Support

For more support and guidance around hate crime incidents for the LGBT+ community, feel free to check out the organisations below:



### **Galop UK** [galop.org.uk](http://galop.org.uk)

A service that has decades of experience in supporting LGBT+ people who are victims of domestic abuse, sexual violence, hate crime, so-called conversion therapies, honour-based abuse, forced marriage, and other forms of abuse.



### **Stand Against Racism & Inequality** [saricharity.org.uk](http://saricharity.org.uk)

SARI provides free and confidential support for anyone who is a victim of hate crime across Avon and Somerset, whether that's based on race, faith, disability, sexual orientation, transgender identity, age, or sex.



### **Stop Hate UK**

[stophateuk.org](http://stophateuk.org)

Stop Hate UK is a leading anti-hate and anti-discrimination organisation. They operate the UK's only free dedicated 24-hour anti-hate crime reporting service for all monitored strands of a person's identity or perceived identity.



### **Switchboard**

[www.switchboard.lgbt](http://www.switchboard.lgbt) 0800 0119 100

Switchboard is the national LGBTQIA+ support line for anyone, anywhere in the country, at any point in their journey. All volunteers identify as LGBTQIA+ and the line is a non-judgmental space; whatever you say will stay confidential. Their support line is free and available on the phone, via chat or email, every day 10am-10pm.