

This factsheet explains why it is important to report all kinds of homophobic and transphobic hate crime and how you can do it

Why Report Hate Crime?

Metropolitan Police statistics show that 1361 homophobic offences were recorded between April 2003 and March 2004. ¹

However, less than 1 in 5 homophobic incidents are reported to the police. ²

3 out of every 5 incidents involved one victim and one suspect. ¹

Perpetrators are often neighbours, local young people or other people known to the victim. ¹



Unless the police, local and national government understand the true extent of homophobic violence and abuse, and the impact it has on the lives of individual lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people, services will not be developed and strategies will not be implemented to tackle this violence. Many of us are so used to living with a 'background' of homophobia and transphobia that we have put up with homophobic and transphobic abuse and insults, and if this violence escalates, often do not report it for fear of not being taken seriously, for fear of being outed by police, for fear of further victimisation, or even because we may feel we don't need or deserve to be helped. There are lots of reasons why people choose not to report, including previous bad experiences of dealing with the police.

But there are important reasons to report to Galop, even if you don't want to go to the Police.

- We are independent of the police and do not share confidential details with them unless you want us to.
- We can monitor the type and extent of homophobic and transphobic violence in London and use this information to work for more and better services for LGBT people
- We can lobby the police, local and national government to develop strategies to tackle and prevent violence, such as education campaigns in schools
- We can work for changes in the law to protect LGBT people from victimisation and for greater penalties for perpetrators
- In order to address our communities' needs, we need to know where violence happens.
- We may be able to identify 'violence hotspots' and warn members of the communities to be vigilant

However the only way we can do any of this is if you tell us what is going on.

call or text our
helpline on
020 7704 2040 or
visit our website
www.galop.org.uk

¹ *Understanding and Responding To Hate Crime factsheet*, Metropolitan Police

² *Breaking the Chains of Hate*, National Advisory Group/Policing Lesbian and Gay Communities

What do I do if I want to report a hate crime but don't want to talk to the police?

You can either fill in a report online and submit it to Galop, choosing whether to remain anonymous or to give your details, or you can call our helpline to talk to an advisor. See our Factsheet '**Assisted Reporting**' for more details about how this works.

You can contact your local police station directly and arrange to make a crime report. Alternatively, you can contact Galop and we may be able to refer you to an LGBT-friendly police officer (often called LGBT Liaison Officers). However, please be aware that calling Galop is not an alternative to calling 999 in an emergency.

What should I do following an incident?

If you become a victim of a hate crime, some of the things you should do immediately are:

- In an emergency, call 999 for the police, and/or an ambulance
- Get medical attention for injuries as soon as possible
- Take photographs of any visible injuries or damage to property or belongings for use as evidence
- Take details of any witnesses
- Call the police or Galop as soon after the incident as possible to make either an anonymous report or to make a crime report.
- If police come to the scene of the incident, get the officers' names and shoulder numbers
- Write down all the details of the incident as soon as you can including descriptions of the perpetrator(s), clothes they wore, any distinguishing marks, any nearby vehicles or witnesses, and anything they said such as homophobic/transphobic abuse or threats they made.
- Keep any evidence safe, such as clothing, photographs, letters/notes. If the perpetrator may have left fingerprints somewhere, do not touch the area, let the police know.
- Tell the police you want your report recorded as a homophobic/transphobic hate crime. This is important because the police investigate homophobic and transphobic crimes differently to other crimes. Transgender crime can be flagged as a transphobic incident so make sure you inform the police of this when you contact them.
- If you report to police, make sure they give you a crime reference number
- If you want someone to support you ask police for a referral to Victim Support
- Always ask for a copy of the crime report to be sent to you.
- If you were injured, you may be able to claim compensation. This will require both police and medical reports. You can apply to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, though the process is often quite slow. Ask the police or victim support (or Galop) to assist you.

Always remember that if the victim or any other person feels that an incident is homophobic or transphobic then the police will investigate it as such without needing to be 'convinced' of this.

Even if you report to police, it is worth telling Galop for our own monitoring purposes.

The information contained in this factsheet should only be used for guidance. While Galop has made every effort to make sure that it is correct and up-to-date, we would advise you always to seek further advice before making any decisions or taking action.

This factsheet aims to provide general advice, but you should always remember that factors, such as age, sexual orientation, sex, race, gender, religion, or disability, may make a difference to individual situations.

CRIMINAL INJURIES: If you have experienced a violent crime you may be entitled to compensation. For further details on this you should visit the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) at <https://www.cica.gov.uk>. If you are having difficulties, Galop may be able to assist you in completing any forms necessary to make a claim.

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