

Understanding experiences of hate crime

NatCen Social Research is carrying out a study to explore people's views and experiences of hate crime, motivations and barriers to reporting it, and interactions with the police and/or support organisations in relation to these experiences. This leaflet tells you more about the research so you can decide whether you would like to be involved and give your views.

What is this research about?

We have been asked to do this research to enhance understanding of people's recent experiences of hate crime, including any experiences with support services, the police, and other criminal justice organisations.

We are interested in all experiences of hate crime, including:

- incidents related to race, religion, sexual orientation, disability, transgender identity
- incidents related to other personal characteristics such as age, gender, or being part of an alternative subculture
- physical, verbal, and online incidents of hate crime.

We would like to talk to you if you experienced or reported a hate crime or hate-related incident from January 2017 in one of the following areas:

- Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport or Torfaen
- Greater Manchester area
- Nottinghamshire
- Somerset, Bath, Bristol, or South Gloucestershire
- Suffolk
- West Yorkshire

Who is carrying out this research?

NatCen Social Research is an independent, not-for-profit organisation working to improve people's lives through research. Our reports help to inform public services, charities, the government and other organisations so that they can provide better support for people.

We are doing this work for **Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS)**, which assesses the effectiveness and efficiency of police forces and fire and rescue services to make everyone safer. HMICFRS works in the public interest and is independent of the government, police, and fire and rescue authorities. We have been asked by HMICFRS to do this research to enhance understanding of people's experiences of hate crime.

Why take part?

You have been given this leaflet because you may have been subjected to a hate crime in one of the six areas where this research is being carried out.

Sharing your views and experiences will help us to improve understanding of hate crime from survivors' perspectives, and support HMICFRS and other organisations to develop more informed policy and more effective support for victims. Speaking to people who have direct experience of these crimes, including any experiences of reporting them, will also help HMICFRS to understand what works well and less well about current police practice, so that they can recommend improvements to how hate crime is handled in future encounters.

What will taking part involve?

If you choose to go ahead, a researcher from NatCen will carry out a research interview with you. This will take place in person, at a venue that is safe and convenient for you, or by telephone if you prefer.

Interviews usually take about an hour, but you can speak for as long or as little as you like. You do not have to answer every question and can stop the discussion at any time.

The sorts of things you will be asked about are:

- A bit about your background and daily life
- Your experience(s) of hate crime
- Your views about reporting the crime to the police
- Views on help and support you received throughout this process

We will ask your permission to audio record your answers so nothing you say is forgotten. If you don't want to be recorded, we can make written notes instead. NatCen will keep all recordings and/or written notes securely so that no one else can access them. Our systems are encrypted and password protected.

Everything you tell us will be confidential. The only time we may need to tell someone what you say to us is if you tell us about a significant and identifiable crime which the authorities don't know about, or we have reason to believe you or someone else may be seriously harmed in the future.

Everyone who takes part in the research will receive £20 as a thank you for your time. It may not be possible for us to speak to everyone who would like to take part.

How will the research team use the information I give?

We will write a report about the issues that you and others speak about in our research interviews. When it is published, our report will be publicly available on the NatCen and HMICFRS websites.

When we talk about the research and write the report, we may include some words you have said, but we will not use your name or include any details that could identify you in any way.

Do I have to take part?

No – it's entirely up to you. You can change your mind at any time before, during, or after giving your views. Your choice will not make a positive or negative difference to any support you receive or may receive in the future.

What should I do if I am happy to take part?

If you would like to take part in this research or would like further information about this study, please get in touch with NatCen's research team.

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