



Help and support for people reporting homophobic or transphobic hate crime

Nobody ever deserves to be the victim of a homophobic or transphobic hate crime and no victim is ever to blame for it happening to them.

Everyone will react differently when they are the victim of a crime. Often people need help to cope with how they are feeling afterwards. You can pass on information about hate crimes/incidents anonymously to Crime Stoppers.

If you need help, information or support please visit Cumbria Together website and you will find relevant information and signposting to appropriate organisations and networks.

Cumbria together – Support for people affected by Crime

This website provides information and confidential support through a trusted network of support organisations, giving strength back to those affected by crime. See more at: www.cumbriatogether.com



Together, we can tackle Homophobic or Transphobic Hate Crime

If you hear it, see it, or feel it
Report It!



What is homophobic or transphobic hate crime?

“Any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone based on a personal characteristic.” There are five types of hate crime monitored by police and they are:

- Race
- Religion or faith
- Sexual orientation
- Disability
- Gender-identity

The victim does not have to provide proof of the perpetrator’s hostility and police officers must investigate it as a reported hate crime or hate incident. It is important too, that people working with or helping a victim take his/her concerns seriously. The victim should never be dissuaded from reporting a hate crime or incident, if he/she perceives it to be so.

What kind of things can homophobic or transphobic hate crime involve?

A homophobic or transphobic crime is where you are targeted because of hostility or prejudice based on your sexual orientation or Gender-identity and it may involve:

- Physical assault
- Damage to your property, home or any public/private building e.g. graffiti that promotes hate against LGBT people
- Hitting, spitting, name calling or abusive comments
- Malicious phone calls, abusive messages on Facebook, Twitter or other social media

Does homophobic or transphobic hate crime happen here?

Yes, it does...

A man was ordered to perform 275 hours of unpaid work , fined and ordered to pay compensation after a New Years Day incident at a pub in Cumbria that was described as “...a violent homophobic assault.” The victim’s father said after the sentencing that his son “suffered some really bad injuries and he had to have counselling because of the attack and is still having counselling.” “When he goes out he’s always looking over his shoulder and he’s always very cautious.”

A Cumbrian man was jailed for six years after attacking a man in the face using a glass, in a homophobic assault. The judge in the case described the incident as “...a particularly serious, nasty and protracted act of extreme violence.” The court was told that the victim had suffered multiple lacerations to his face, which would leave a permanent scar and sustained two fractured fingers as he tried to protect himself.

A man from North Cumbria was fined £125 after hurling homophobic insults at a nurse who was trying to treat him in hospital.

How can I report a homophobic or transphobic hate crime?

If you believe you have been the victim of a crime that you think was motivated by hostility or prejudice against your sexual orientation or gender identity or by a mistaken perception of your sexual orientation or gender identity then you should report the matter as soon as you feel able to do so. Reporting allows the police and other agencies to investigate and hopefully prosecute someone for the incident. It also sends a strong message that homophobic motivated crime is not acceptable and will not be tolerated. The police always take reports of hate crimes and incidents seriously:

If it’s an emergency, call the Police on 999. Otherwise you can report the crime by calling 101

Or can report it directly to the Cumbria Police online at:

<http://bit.ly/10a9bbH>

You can ask any support organisation to report it for you. This is called a Third Party Report. It can be anonymous so won’t be investigated by the police, but it could help them join up related crimes. You can find your nearest Hate Incident Reporting Centres online at:

<http://bit.ly/1fbzdvT>