

#MuralInAction

GENERAL HATE CRIME TOOLKIT



FAITH MATTERS

WORKING GLOBALLY, IMPACTING LOCALLY

Faith Matters (www.faith-matters.org) launched in 2006 as a vehicle to enable faith communities to reduce conflict using conflict resolution tools. Faith Matters works on integration, cohesion, hate crime and countering extremism projects.

Faith Matters was one of six organisations working together to address the increase in anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim sentiments in Europe by supporting tolerance and respect for different faiths, religious beliefs and ethnicities within MURAL ('mutual understanding, respect and learning'), a project that ran from 2018-2019 in six European countries – Germany, Greece, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal and the United Kingdom.

The MURAL project was led by the British Council. It promoted the principles of pluralistic and democratic societies. It aimed to foster transnational cooperation, exchange of knowledge and exchange of best practice to encourage tolerance and counter attitudes that contribute towards acts of hatred and discrimination.

MURAL partners brought together an empowered network of social activists and key stakeholders who became agents of positive change in their communities. The project harnessed people's power for advocacy and their desire for social change to creatively engage the people they live and work with.

Some of the MURAL social action projects led by Faith Matters UK participants were around improving critical thinking and social media literacy skills that can help counter extremist, hateful, and racist narratives online, assist in identifying bots and cyborgs, and provide practical ways to resist and counter extremist narratives.

As part of this, Faith Matters UK participants have developed this series of toolkits to provide practical and legal information around discrimination and hate crimes.

REPORTING HATE CRIMES TO THE POLICE

WHAT IS A HATE CRIME?

Hate crimes are crimes where the offender is motivated by hostility or prejudice towards the victim's disability, race, religion, sexual orientation or transgender identity.

Hate crimes can include verbal abuse, threatening behaviour, bullying, intimidation, harassment, assault, damage to property, and inciting others to commit a hate crime.

REPORTING THE CRIME

If you have been a victim of a hate incident or crime, you can report it to the police. You can also report a hate crime even if you were not the one being targeted.

You can report to the police directly by calling 999 or 101, or you can contact your local police station. You can also report the hate crime online on True vision, an online reporting facility, using this link: http://report-it.org.uk/your_police_force

Tell MAMA can also report on your behalf

When reporting the hate crime, make sure to provide as many details as possible about the incident and the offender, such as the offender's age, ethnicity, and any specific features you can remember, time and place of incident and whether there were any witnesses.

It is also important to tell the police whether you think the offender targeted the victim because of their identity, so the police can record the incident as a hate crime.

IF YOU'RE UNSURE IF THE INCIDENT IS WORTH REPORTING

If you are unsure if the incident is a criminal offence or think that the incident is not serious enough to be reported to the police, it is still best to report it.

The police will keep a record of all hate incidents and crimes reported, even if the offender was not charged and the case did not proceed. If you think the incident is a hate incident or hate crime, the police must record it as such, regardless if they agree with you.

Keeping record of all reported hate incidents and crimes helps the police identify where and how often hate incidents and crimes occur, and assists them in finding ways to tackle hate crime.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER YOU'VE REPORTED THE CRIME?

Once you've reported the incident to the police, you can be interviewed at the police station, or you can ask to be interviewed somewhere else like your home. You can take someone with you to the interview, like a friend, family member or solicitor. Tell MAMA can also provide support for interviews, and where possible, a caseworker may be able to attend with you.

After recording the incident as a hate incident, the police will investigate and decide whether to **charge the suspect with a criminal offence**. Furthermore, after investigating, the police will determine if there is sufficient evidence of prejudice or hostility towards the victim's protected characteristic to treat the criminal offence as a **hate crime**.

If the police decide to charge the suspect, the Crown Prosecution service will decide whether to prosecute the suspect and take the case to Court.

If you are not satisfied with the police's decision to not charge the suspect, or their decision to charge the suspect but not treat the offence as a hate crime, you can file a complaint.

You can file a complaint in person at the police station, by telephone or online by completing a complaint form which is normally available on the police force's website. Additionally, you can contact the Professional Standards Department, details of which can be found on your local police forces' website.

MURAL

Mutual Understanding Respect and Learning

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