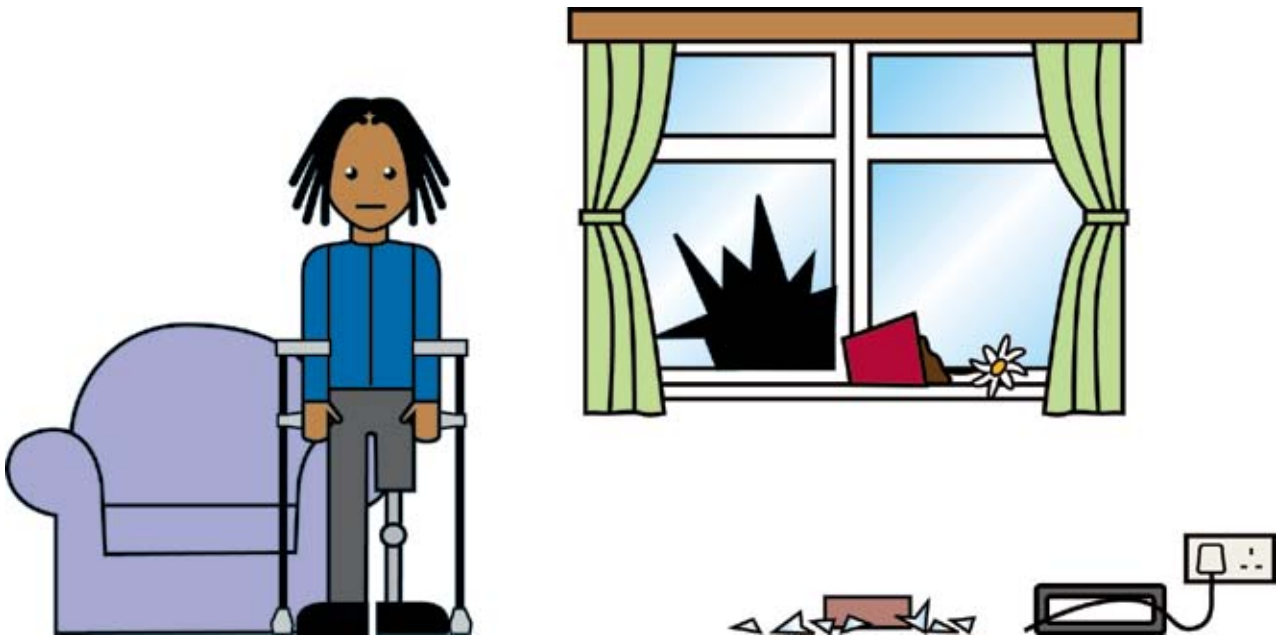




Office for Disability Issues

HM Government



Let's stop disability hate crime

Disability Rights UK



Important

This booklet is about disability hate crime and what you should do if someone carries out a disability hate crime against you.

Green writing

In this Easy Read booklet we explain what some words mean.

The first time we mention any of these words, it is in **bold green** writing. We then write what the words mean in a blue box.

These words and what they mean are also in a Words List at the back of the booklet.

If any of the words are used later in the booklet, we show them in **normal green** writing. If you see words in **normal green** writing, you can look up what they mean by looking for the blue box earlier in the booklet, or by looking at the Words List.

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CDS, 7 Eastgate, Leeds LS2 7LY

Tel: 0113 399 4000

Web: www.cds.co.uk/clarity

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About this booklet

This booklet tells you about **crime** and what makes it a disability hate crime.

Crime

A **crime** is when someone breaks the law of this country.

There are lots of kinds of **crimes**. These are some of them.

- Taking something that belongs to someone else and keeping it. This is called stealing or theft.
- Hurting someone or making someone worry that they are going to be hurt or attacked.
- Breaking or damaging property that belongs to someone else.



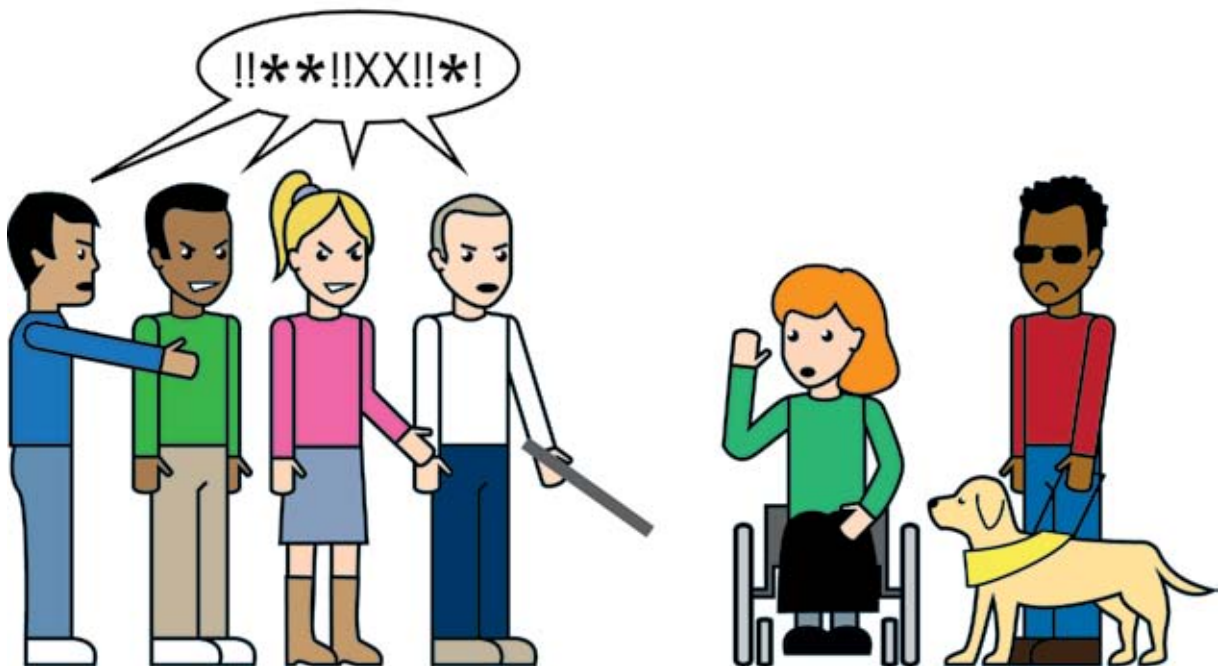
What is a disability hate crime?

If a person who breaks the law does so because they do not like disabled people, that makes the crime a disability hate crime.

Not all **crimes** against disabled people are disability hate crimes. Sometimes it can be hard to tell if it is a disability hate crime.

But if you think it is a disability hate crime you should tell someone.

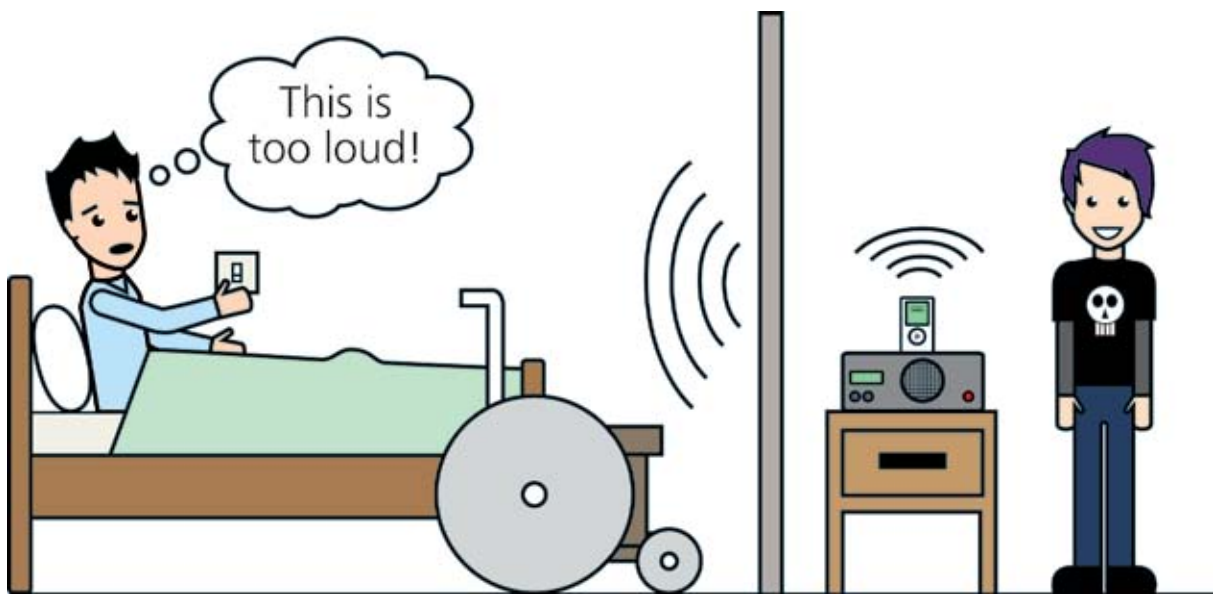
Anyone who sees a disability hate crime can tell the police.



Disability hate incidents

A disability hate incident happens when someone does something because they do not like disabled people. But it is not a **crime**. This could be these kind of things.

- Playing loud music at night to keep a disabled person awake so that they move away.



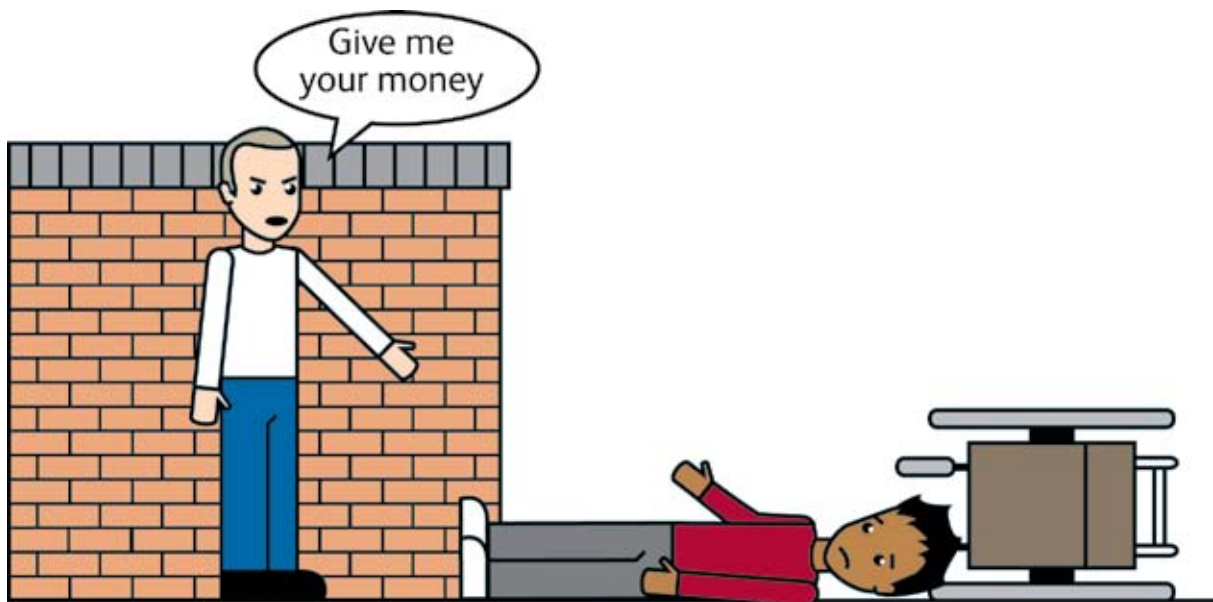
- Parking a car so that a disabled person cannot get into their home.
- Standing in the way so a disabled person cannot get past.
- Calling a disabled person bad names.
- Making fun of a disabled person when they are on a bus or a train.

It is important to tell the police about disability hate incidents. This is because the person who carries out the disability hate incidents may start carrying out disability hate crimes.

What can become disability hate crimes?

Any **crime** could be a disability hate crime. These are some of the things that could happen.

- Using bad language, this includes calling a disabled person names.
- Being told or sent a nasty message. This could be in a letter, in an email, on the internet or in a message on a mobile phone.
- Having money taken.
- Being hit or hurt.



- Being hurt in a sexual way.
- Being touched in a sexual way. This is when a disabled person's body is touched in a place that is private and it upsets the disabled person.
- Making a disabled person worry that bad things will happen to them.
- Having property damaged or broken.



Who carries out a disability hate crime?

Anyone can carry out a disability hate crime. In most cases the disabled person does not know the person who carried out the disability hate crime.

But it could be someone the disabled person knows. Or it could be someone who tries to make friends with the disabled person so they can carry out a disability hate crime.



Who should I tell about disability hate crimes?

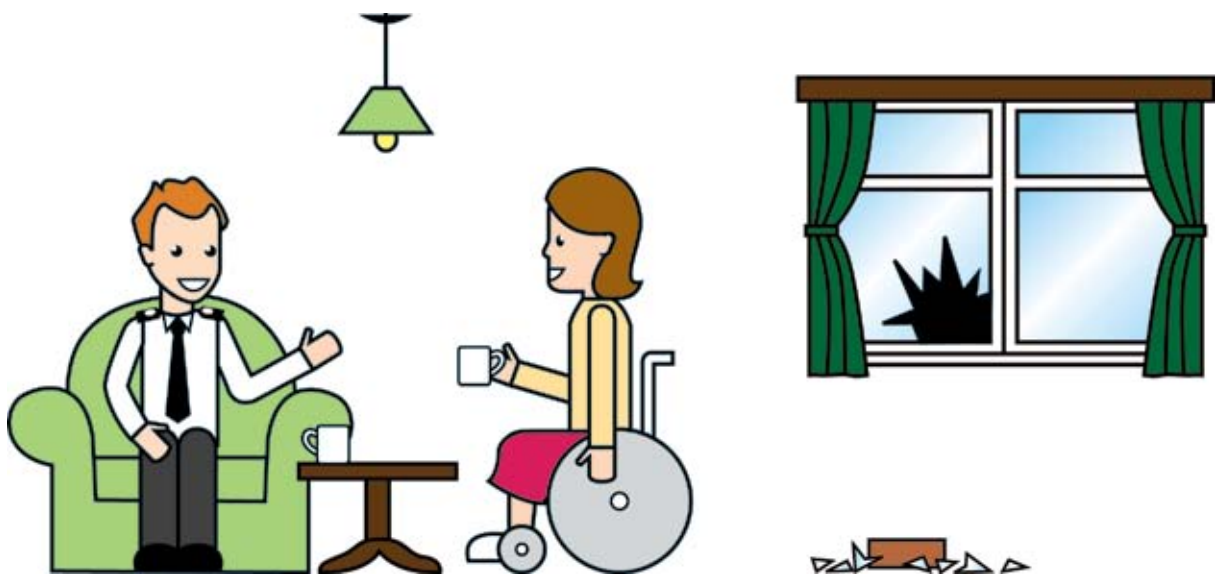
You should tell the police about disability hate crimes. But if you do not feel happy about talking to the police you can tell a friend, a member of your family or a disabled person's organisation.

These people can then support you or tell the police about the **crime** for you.

Why you should tell the police about a crime

You should always tell the police if a **crime** happens to you. You should do this for all **crimes**, not just disability hate crimes.

This will help the police to find out about **crimes** happening in the area. It can help them stop other **crimes** from happening in the future.



What the police did in one area

In one area, the police had meetings with disabled people. At one of these meetings the police were told that bad things were happening to disabled people on buses.

The police worked with the bus drivers and now the bus drivers can help if something bad starts to happen on one of the buses. The police also travel on the buses sometimes to make sure nothing bad happens.



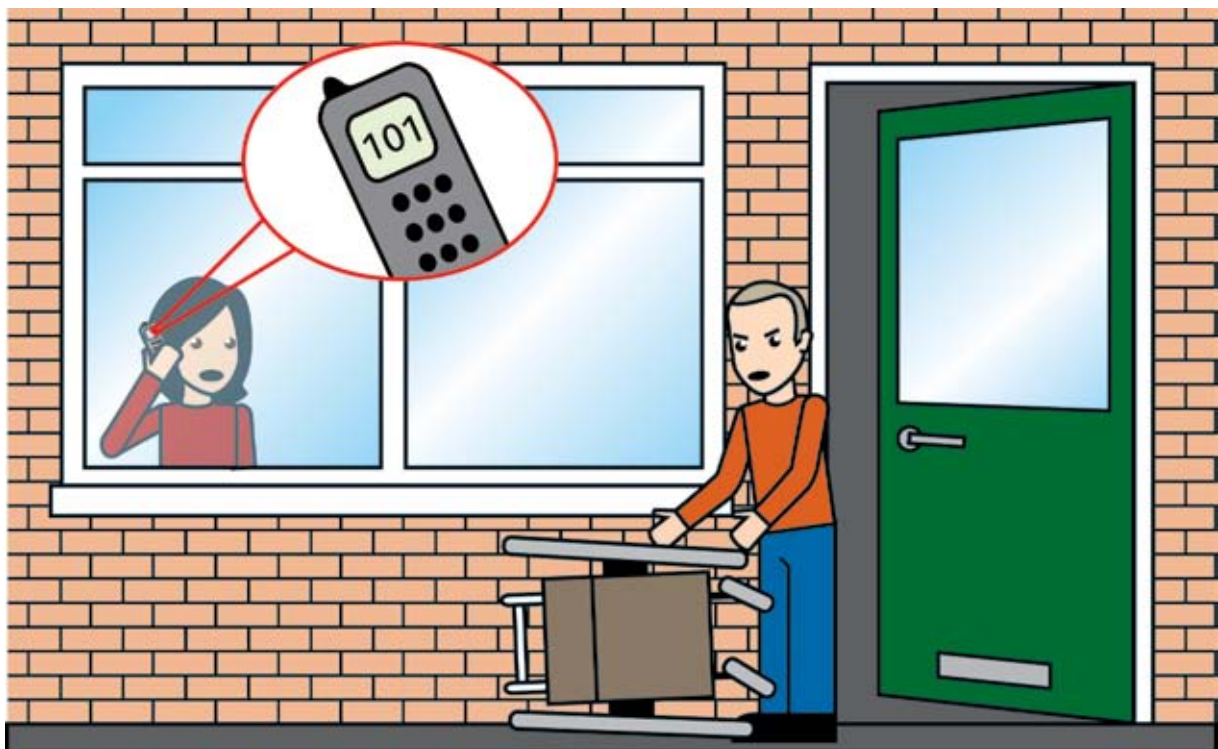
Telling the police if something happens

Anyone can tell the police about a disability hate crime, even if it has not happened to them. They could have seen the **crime** or have been told about the **crime** by someone else.

You can ring 999, but you should only do this if you or someone else is being hurt or in a lot of danger.

If something happens that is not urgent you should tell the police using their non-emergency number, which is 101 in England and Wales.

You can report disability hate crimes to the police at their True Vision website at www.report-it.org.uk. You can ask someone to help you if this is better for you.



What to do if something happens

On a bus, a train or a taxi

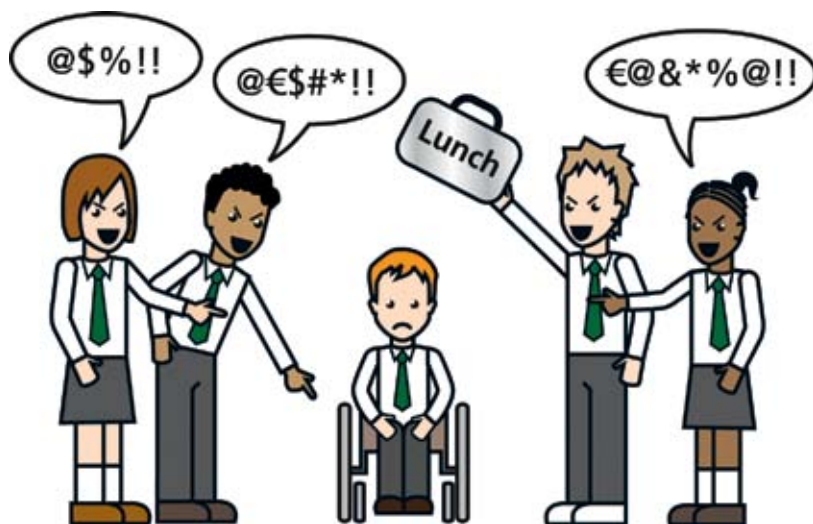
If a disability hate crime happens to you while you are on a train you can call the transport police on 0800 40 50 40.

If a disability hate crime happens to you while you are on a bus or a taxi, get in touch with the police where you live.

In all cases, if it is an emergency ring 999.

At school or college or where you live

If a disability hate crime happens to you at school or college you should tell someone who works there, like your teacher. You should ask your school or college to tell the police for you



If you are scared or you do not think they will believe you, you can tell student services or the National Union of Students. Some schools have websites that you can use to say what happened to you.

If a disability hate crime or a disability hate incident happens where you live you should tell your local council. They may work with the police to sort it out or they may be able to deal with the person or people who are carrying out the disability hate crimes to stop it from happening again.

On the telephone, on the internet or on a mobile phone

If a disability hate crime happens to you while you are on the internet or on a mobile phone, keep copies of whatever is sent to you, like emails and texts. You may need to show them to the police.

If a disability hate crime happens to you by telephone, write down when you got the calls and what was said. You can also dial 1471 to find out the telephone number that called you.



Third party reporting sites

A third party reporting site is a place where you can tell someone what has happened. The third party reporting site then tells the police for you.



You could talk to a local disabled people's organisation or a group like Mencap, People First or Voice UK. Or your local council may run a site like this.

When a third party reporting site passes on the details to the police they do not have to give your details. They may be able to tell you about local support services.

What do I need to say about the disability hate crime?

You need to say these things.

- What happened.
- When it happened.
- Where it happened.
- If you or the person you saw was hurt and how they got hurt.
- If anything was stolen or broken.



- Why you think it was a disability hate crime.
- How many people were there when it happened.
- If you know the people, who they are and where they live.
- If you don't know the people, what did they look like.
- Was there anything about the people that made them stand out, like a tattoo or coloured hair.
- If they had a car, what sort of car it was and what colour it was.



There are a few other things you can give to the police that may help.

- Any notes you have made saying when and at what times the **crimes** or incidents happened.
- Copies of any letters, emails and texts that are about the **crimes** or incidents.
- Photographs of any damage to your property.

These are all things that will help the police find out more.

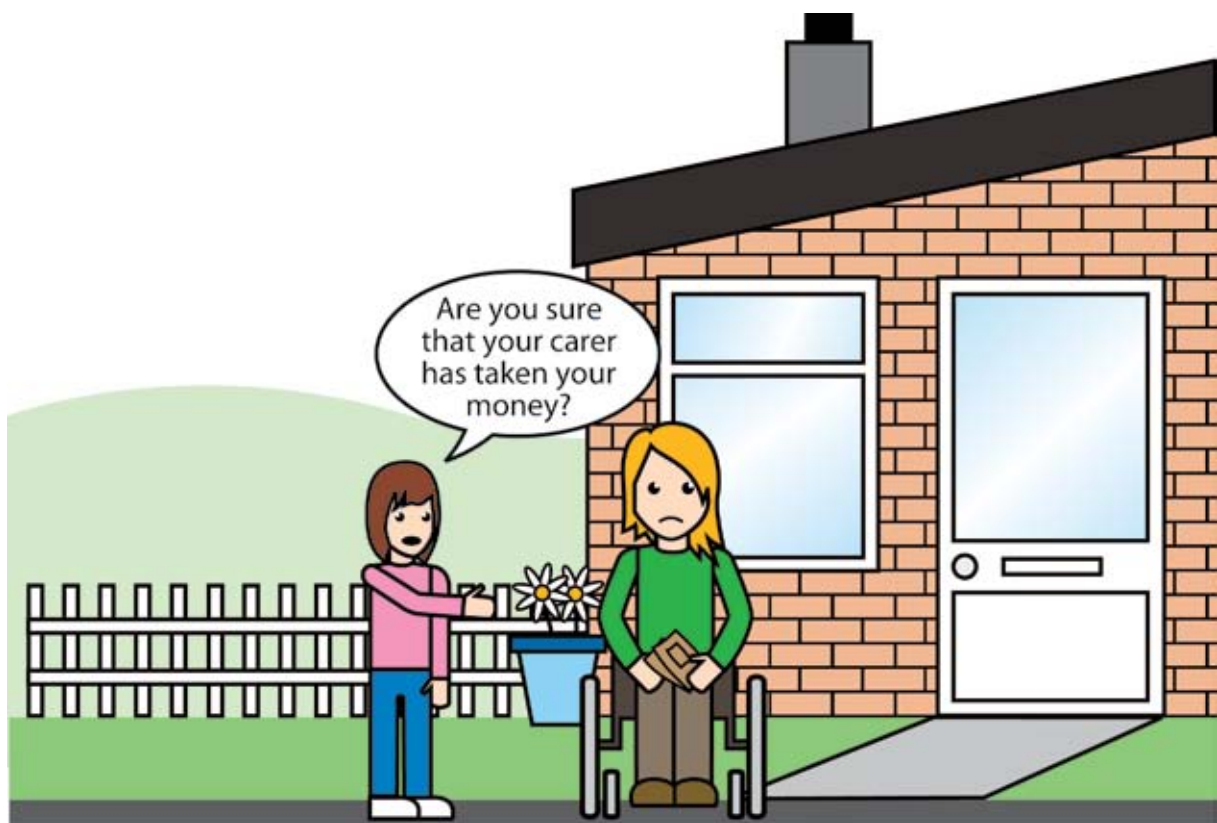


What to do if you are scared about saying what happened

This is always the hard part about disability hate crime. If you do not tell someone what happened it may never be dealt with. But if you do tell someone what happened the person who carried out the **crime** may keep doing bad things or sometimes worse things.

You should always tell someone what happened. You do not have to give your name. You can say that you are scared.

Sometimes it is hard to tell someone about a disability hate crime because you know them. You may be worried about telling a member of your family or a friend because they might not believe you or think that you should not live on your own.



It may be hard because it is a member of your family or a friend who carried out the **crime** and you are worried that they may do something else if you tell someone. But it is very important that you tell someone.

Telling someone may help the police stop what is happening and may stop another person getting hurt and having bad things happen to them.



What happens after I tell someone about a disability hate crime?

If you tell the police what happened to you they must make sure that you know what happens next. They will do these things if you have given your name and address.

- Get in touch with you within one day to tell you what they are going to do next.
- Check to make sure you are not at risk.
- Make sure you know what is happening to the person who carried out the disability hate crime, if they have been caught.
- Make sure you have someone to talk to about what has happened and who will make sure you have what you need.



Getting the best evidence about a disability hate crime

The police will look at all the **evidence** they have before they decide what to do.

Evidence

This is information that is used to decide if a person has carried out a **crime**.

You will have to make a witness statement. This is when what happened is written down in your own words. You must tell the truth as the statement may be used in court.

Sometimes the police may record or film your witness statement.



The police may also ask you to make a personal statement. This is a chance to say what effect the crime has had on you or your family. You can also say how the crime has made you feel. You do not have to make this statement if you do not want to.

If the case goes to court you may be asked questions about both of the statements.

Can you get help when making a statement?

You can get help if you are over 17 and you have learning disabilities, physical disabilities or mental health issues.

You can get a personal assistant or an **advocate** to help you with things like making your statement or making sure you understand the questions that are asked by the police.

Advocate

This is someone who helps you speak up about what you want.



The police can also make other changes if they are needed. These are called **reasonable adjustments**. For example, you may be able to give your statement at home instead of the police station if you cannot get to the police station.

Reasonable adjustments

This is when a change is made to a building, a work area or to the way something is done. The change makes it easier for a disabled person to do what they need to do.



The Crown Prosecution Service

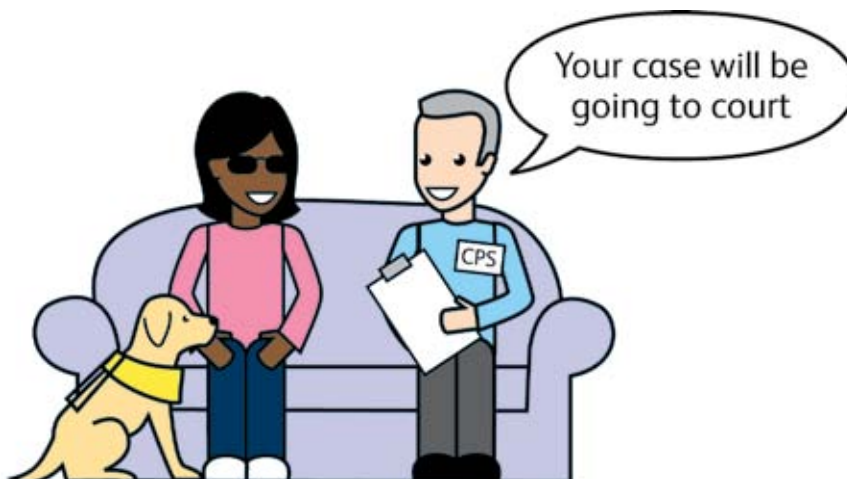
The police pass the case to the Crown Prosecution Service who will decide if there is enough **evidence** for the person who carried out the hate crime to go to court.

If the case goes to court the Crown Prosecution Service will do these things.

- Talk to you about your statement and what will happen in court.
- Tell the court why they think the person who carried out the **crime** should be punished.
- Make sure you have the support you need.

If the Crown Prosecution Service does not think the case should go to court they will tell you why.

You can find out more about the Crown Prosecution Service in a booklet written in easy to read words at this web address.
www.cps.gov.uk/publications/docs/supporting_v_and_w_with_a_learning_disability_easy_read.pdf



What happens in court?

The Witness Care Unit

Before you go to court someone from the Witness Care Unit will talk to you about what happens next.

The Witness Care Unit is run by the Crown Prosecution Service and the police.

The Witness Care Unit supports and helps people who have had a crime done to them. These people are known as victims. They also help people who saw a **crime** being carried out. These people are known as witnesses.



Help and support you can get in court

It can be hard to talk in a court and say what happened to you. You should get any help and support you need.

These are some of the things you can get.

- A screen to sit behind in court so you cannot be seen.
- You can say what happened to you from outside the court. You will be filmed while you say what happened and people will see and hear you on a television screen in court.
- Any film or recording you made for the police can be played, so you do not have to speak in court.
- You can say what happened to you in private.
- You can say what happened to you using an **interpreter**.

Interpreter

An interpreter is someone who listens to what you say and then tells other people what you said. This can be done in different languages and also sign language for deaf people.



You can decide what works best for you and what you are happy with.

You may want to take a friend or a member of your family with you to give you support.

The court has to make sure you have the support you need so that you can say what happened to you.

Saying what has happened to you

Before you go into court you will wait in a room away from the courtroom and the person who carried out the disability hate crime.

When it is your turn to go into court you will be told where to go. You will be asked to speak only the truth. You need to promise that you will do this.



Then you will be asked some questions and you will talk through the things that happened.

After all the questions have been asked

When all the questions have been asked you will be told that your part in the case has ended.

The **judge** listens to what everyone says. When everyone has finished speaking the **judge** will go and think about what is the right thing to do.

Judge

A judge is the most important person in the court. The judge makes sure everyone works the right way and that they do what the law says.

The **judge** decides if what happened was a **crime** or a disability hate crime.



If the **judge** decides it was a **crime** they will give out a **sentence** to the person who carried out the **crime** or disability hate crime. This may mean that the person who carried out the **crime** goes to prison.

Sentence

The sentence is the punishment that is given to people who are found guilty of carrying out a crime.



The Crown Prosecution Service will tell you about the sentence and what it means.

If you are not happy with what happens

If you do not think that what happened is good and fair you can make a complaint.

If you want to make a complaint you can go to the police, the local council or the Crown Prosecution Service website to find out how to do this.

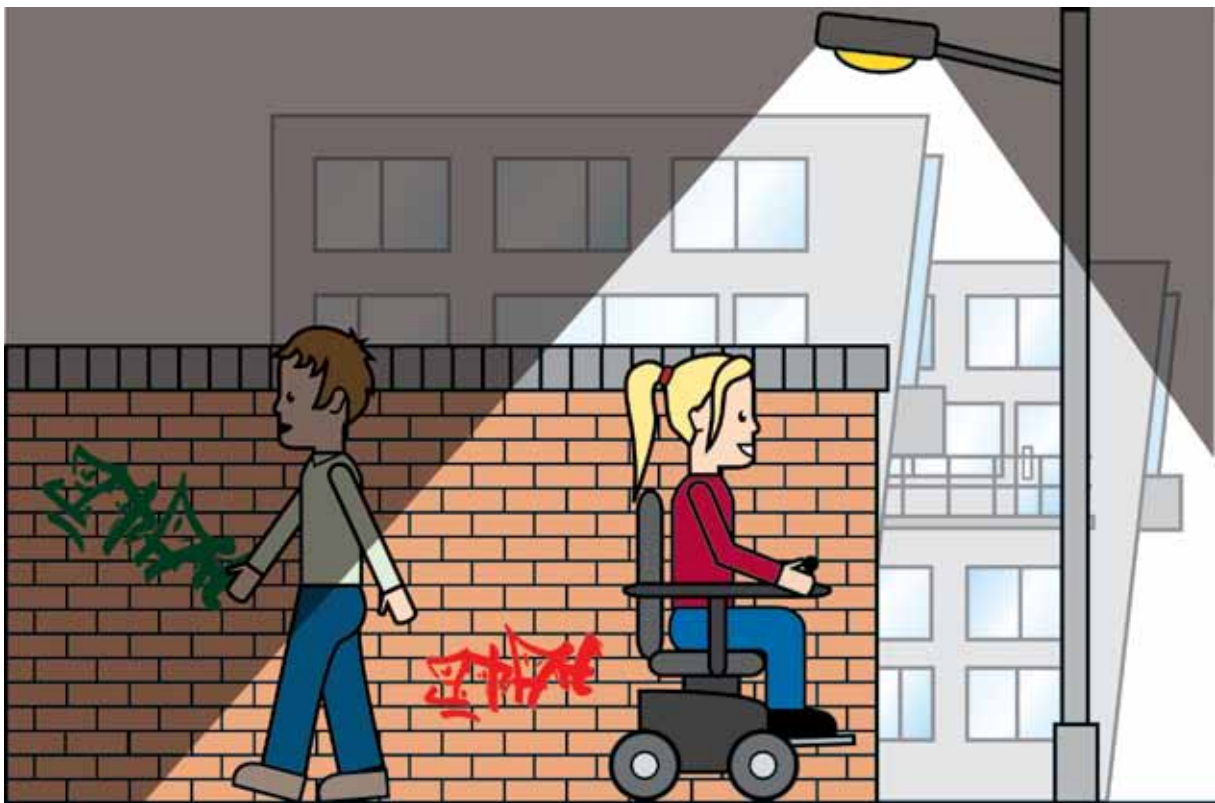


Can I stop a disability hate crime happening to me?

It is never right for a disabled person to have to change the way they live or move house to stop a disability hate crime happening.

There are some small things you can do that may help.

- Know what is happening around you. If you think something is going to happen do something like going somewhere where there are lots of people around.
- If you think there may be a problem where you are going, go with a friend if you can.
- If you are out at night, use streets and roads with good lighting.



- Make sure you know where you are going. If you look lost, some people may think you are easy to hurt.
- When you get home, have your keys ready so you can get in your house quickly.
- If you travel by bus sit near the driver at the front of the bus.
- If you travel by train sit near the conductor.
- Make sure you use licensed taxis. Safe taxi drivers need to have a license that says they can do their job.
- Take the telephone number of a taxi firm you trust.
- Make sure you know if there is a Safe Places scheme where you are going. The Safe Places scheme is somewhere you can go when you are out if you are bullied, get scared or get lost.



Word list

Advocate

This is someone who helps you speak up about what you want24

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The sentence is the punishment that is given to people who are found guilty of carrying out a crime31

Disability Rights UK – formed through a merger of Radar (The Royal Association for Disability Rights), Disability Alliance and National Centre for Independent Living on 1 January 2012.

Our vision is a society where all disabled people can participate equally as full citizens.

We aim to be the largest national pan-disability organisation led by disabled people.

How to contact Disability Rights UK

Email hatecrime@disabilityrightsuk.org



Telephone 020 7250 3222



Letters 12 City Forum
 250 City Road
 London
 EC1V 8AF



More information

You can get more information about stopping disability hate crime on our website at www.radar.org.uk/people-living-with-health-conditions-disability/disability-hate-crime/

The police have a hate crime website called True Vision at www.report-it.org.uk

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