



## Help and support for people reporting disability hate crime

Nobody ever deserves to be the victim of a disability 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](http://www.cumbriatogether.com)

## Together, we can tackle Disability Hate Crime

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



## What is a disability 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 disability hate crime involve?

A disability hate crime is where you are targeted because of hostility or prejudice based on your disability or your perceived disability, and it may involve:

- Physical assault
- Damage to your property or home
- Hitting, spitting, name calling or abusive comments
- Malicious phone calls, abusive messages on Facebook, Twitter or other social media

## Does disability hate crime happen here?

Yes, it does...

A man had illegally parked in a disabled bay somewhere in Cumbria, a lady with disabilities was trying to use this space and asked if he could move his car. Knowing the female was disabled the male became abusive to her. He shouted a torrent of abuse at her and as a result she attempted to get a picture of his car. The offender then threatened to run the victim over, as she tried to get back in to her car she was prevented because the male had opened his car door blocking her return, as she moved it to open her own door the male shoved the door back trapping and cutting her finger. The victim again tried to get into her car when the offender kicked her door causing the door to strike the victims head and caused a laceration to her head, The only way the victim was able to prevent a further serious assault was by holding her oxygen bottle in front of her as the male was lashing out at her.

The offender was located by Police and prosecuted, he subsequently pleaded guilty before magistrates.

## How can I report a disability hate crime?

If you believe you have been the victim of a crime that you think was motivated by hostility or prejudice against your disability, or by a mistaken perception of your disability 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 disability 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>