

Help Keep Highland Hate Free

Highland Community Planning Partners are aware that some people in our community experience prejudice and discrimination. We want to tackle these issues and send out a strong message that hate incidents are unacceptable.

What is a hate incident?

A Hate Incident is defined as:

Any incident, which may or may not constitute a criminal offence, which is perceived by the victim, or any person, as being motivated by prejudice or hate towards them and an identifiable group of people.

A hate incident is any form of abuse on the grounds of age, gender, disability, religion or belief, race or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, or social background.

It is the understanding of victim or the witness that is important in defining a hate incident. In other words, if someone thinks that an incident has been motivated by any of the factors mentioned above they can report it.



Stand Up: Speak Out

- 1 in 4 disabled people living in Highland have been harassed or bullied because of their disability.
- 47% of 16-25 year olds felt levels of racism had increased in Highland in recent years.
- 23% of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender people in Scotland say they have been assaulted due to their sexual orientation or gender identity.

What forms can a hate incident take?

Hate incidents may be physical, verbal or written and can take many forms including:

- Physical attack, such as physical assault, damage to property, offensive graffiti;
- Threat of attack, including offensive letters, abusive or obscene calls;
- Verbal abuse or insults;
- Offensive leaflets and posters, hate mail, abusive gestures, dumping of rubbish outside homes; and
- Harassment, bullying and victimisation, including at school, in the workplace or in public places.

Don't ignore it, please report it!

Why should I report an incident?

If it happens to you, or if you witness an incident, don't ignore it, please report it and help put an end to hate in the Highlands.

Reports of incidents will help us understand who is affected by hate incidents in Highland and in which locations.

Information can also be used to identify specific incidents that may require us to take some action to stop any other such incidents happening.

Do I have to give my name?

No, you can report anonymously. If you do choose to leave your name, your details will be kept confidential.

Will I be contacted if I send a report?

If you provide your details, it may be necessary for the police to contact you for further information about the incident.

If you do not provide your details, the police will be unable to contact you. However, depending on the information provided by you, it may be necessary for

the police to carry out further enquiries into the incident.

How can I report an incident?

The Highland Community Planning partners (listed over) have set up a comprehensive recording and monitoring system for all types of hate related incidents.

To report an incident:

- If you require an immediate response please telephone your local police station.
In an emergency, please dial 999.
- Report on-line at:
www.hatefreehighland.org
- Contact a network of advice and support organisations who can help and support you to report an incident.
Look for the **REPORT IT** symbol.



Organisations that display this symbol will be able to help you.
You can find their details on-line at:

www.hatefreehighland.org

For information about the project, please contact:

HATE FREE HIGHLAND

Community and Health Improvement Planning Team,
Assynt House,
Beechwood Park,
Inverness IV2 3BW

Tel: **01463 704826**

Textphone users can contact NHS Highland via Tynetalk: **0800 959 598**

Email: info@hatefreehighland.org



The Hate Free Highland campaign has been developed by Highland Community Planning Partners including:

- The Highland Council
- NHS Highland
- Highlands and Islands Enterprise
- Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service
- Northern Constabulary
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- SCVO/HIEF
- Voluntary Action Highland

HATE FREE HIGHLAND



A Guide to Reporting Hate Incidents

www.hatefreehighland.org