

# HATE CRIME

Hate Crime occurs when a person is harassed or attacked because they seem different from other people. Examples of harassment are acts of bullying, intimidation, verbal or written abuse, including abusive or intimidating text messages, emails or graffiti. It can also be damage to property which has taken place as an act of intimidation.

If a person suffers harassment or attack which is because of any of the following differences, this is likely to be a hate related incident which can be a criminal offence.

- Disability
- Religious beliefs
- Race, ethnic origin, skin colour or nationality
- Being lesbian, gay or bisexual (or not)
- Gender identity (this includes transvestites, transgender, transsexual)

Monmouthshire Housing Association believes that everybody has the right to feel safe and live their lives free from fear. If you believe that you, or anybody that you know, has suffered Hate Crime we would encourage you to notify the police. If any of the people involved, either as a victim or as a person who may have instigated the abuse or attack, are Monmouthshire Housing Association tenants we recommend that you report this to us also.

Any reports of hate related incidents or Hate Crime made to Monmouthshire Housing Association will be dealt with under our Anti Social Behaviour Policy. Reports will be thoroughly investigated and those who are guilty of this will be held accountable. Hate Crime is a breach of tenancy and a criminal offence.

Where we are made aware of possible Hate related incidents or Hate Crime we will approach the situation sensitively. Supporting victims is a priority for us. We work in partnership with Gwent Police and within the Monmouthshire Community Safety Partnership to enable safety planning for victims and to ensure appropriate actions are taken against those who are guilty of Hate Crime.

## WAYS TO REPORT HATE CRIME

- Hate crime can be reported to **HEDDLU GWENT POLICE** via the Police's **NON EMERGENCY NUMBER 101**.
- Alternatively, you can report this directly to a **MEMBER OF MHA STAFF** in person or can log your report via the **MHA Website** ([www.monmouthshirehousing.co.uk](http://www.monmouthshirehousing.co.uk)).
- To **'SAFER WALES'** which is an independent charity that has a website where reports can be made direct at [www.saferwales.com](http://www.saferwales.com) - telephone: **02920 461564**.
- To **'CRIMESTOPPERS'** via their website at [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org) - telephone: **0800 555 111 (FREE TO CALL)** - You do not have to give your name, and what you say is confidential.

## WAYS TO REPORT HATE CRIME

Reporting makes a difference – to you, your friends, and your community. By reporting hate crime when it happens, you can help stop it happening again or to someone else. You will also help the police to better understand the level of hate crime in your local area, and improve the way they respond to it - **We can arrange for translators to communicate with those who have difficulties with English.**

## ORGANISATIONS & WEBSITE THAT CAN OFFER SUPPORT & ADVICE

Victim Support is a national charity which gives free and confidential help to victims of crime, witnesses, their family, friends and anyone else affected. They are not a government agency or part of the police and you don't have to report a crime to the police to get their help. You can call any time after the crime has happened, whether it was yesterday, last week or several years ago.

- [www.victimsupport.org.uk](http://www.victimsupport.org.uk) - VICTIM SUPPORT-LINE: **0845 300 0900**