



Prejudice Free Dorset Hate Crime Charter

Prejudice Free Dorset is a partnership organisation that seeks to promote inclusive communities across Dorset. Our message is clear: prejudice and hate crime will never be tolerated and victims of hate incidents and crimes will be supported.

A hate crime is any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person's race or perceived race; religion or perceived religion; sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation; disability or perceived disability and any crime motivated by hostility or prejudice against a person who is transgender or perceived to be transgender.

Hate crimes and incidents cover issues relating to: age, disability, race, gender, sexual orientation, transgender and faith/ belief.

A prejudice incident is an incident, which may or may not constitute a criminal offence, which is **perceived** by the victim or any other person, as being motivated by prejudice or hate.

A Prejudice Incident is defined as: "Any incident, which may or may not constitute a criminal offence, which is perceived by the victim or any other person, as being motivated by prejudice or hate."

Hate incidents and hate crimes can involve:

- Physical attacks like assault, damage to property, offensive graffiti and arson.
- Threat of attack like offensive language or writing, or abusive telephone calls,
- Intimidation and unfounded or malicious complaints, outing or threat of outing.
- Verbal abuse, bullying and harassment, like taunting or abusive gestures.

Everyone living, working or visiting Dorset has the right to peace, and to be free from hostility or prejudice. The number of hate incidents and hate crimes here is low, but we recognise that even a single incident can have significant impacts.

It is the responsibility of all members of society to challenge hate crime and hate incidents. We will encourage and support Dorset residents and visitors to report hate crime.



This Charter sets out our commitment as Prejudice Free Dorset to work together to tackle hate crime and hate incidents. By setting common goals and standards, we aim to provide a consistent approach. We want to ensure our members and our partners fully understand the impact of hate crime and hate incidents so that they in turn can encourage people to report incidents either as victims or witnesses, and we want to share best practice across the local community.

You can use 999 for emergencies or 101 for non-emergencies, providing as much information as possible, including your personal contact details. You can also make a report to Dorset Police using the [Do It Online](#) function.

Alternatively, download the [Hate Crime2](#) app, contact [Crimestoppers](#) or make a report at any of our third-party reporting centres.



Our Commitments

We will not tolerate prejudice and hate crime and we will work with the communities we serve, the police and other partnership agencies including local authorities to help prevent prejudice and hate crime, and to support the prosecution of hate offenders.

We will work together to reduce fear and prejudice in our communities and prevent prejudice and hate crime, by challenging the attitudes that underpin it, and providing pathways to support early intervention.

We will actively strengthen community cohesion across Dorset.

Reporting

We want members of the public who live, work or visit Dorset to feel safe, and will encourage and support Dorset residents and visitors to report hate crime and incidents.

We will work with our members and our partners to ensure they understand the impact of hate crime and incidents, so they in turn can encourage reporting and sharing best practice across the local community.

We will play a key role by making sure people are aware how to make reports, and the importance of doing so, regardless of when and where they occur.

We encourage anyone who has been a victim of, or witnessed a hate crime or incident to report such cases to Dorset Police.

Governance

We will build a common understanding of what constitutes a hate crime or hate incident across our partnership and the broader community.

We will continue our commitment to a victim centred approach.

We will work to improve the sharing of information between partnerships to promote reporting of hate incidents and hate crime.

Response

We will improve our response to hate crime and incidents, by better identifying and managing cases, and dealing effectively with offenders.