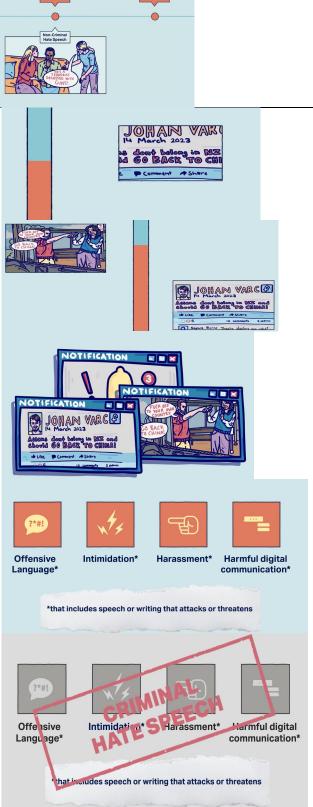




Hate speech can start as an online hate incident, and then move into the real world. Recording a hate speech incident can help track patterns and any escalation of hateful behaviour. Offences such offensive language, intimidation, harassment, or harmfu digital communication, with a perceived prejudice is criminal hate speech.



Section 9(1)(h) of the Sentencing Act ensures the prejudicial motivation of the offender is considered an aggravating factor at sentencing. It is a justified limit on someone's right to Freedom of Expression. This means that the victim's right to Freedom from Discrimination outweighs the offenders right to Freedom of Speech. The offending has been recognised as undermining social cohesion and wellbeing. To successfully apply section 9(1)(h) it is important we record the exact language used that evidences the hate motivation of the offence.

## Aggravating and mitigating factors

- In sentencing or otherwise dealing with an offender the court must take into account the following aggravating factors to the extent that they are applicable in the case:
  - to the extent that they are applicable in the case:

    (a) that the officence involved extend or threatened violence or the actual or threatened use of a weapon:

    (b) that the offence involved unlawful entry into, or unlawful presence in, a dwelling place:

    (c) that the offence was committed while the offender was on bail or still subject to a sentence:

    (a) that the offence was a family violence offence (as defined in section 123A) committed—

  - (aa) that the offence was a family violence offence (as defined in section 123A) committed—
    () while the offence was as baject to a protection order (as defined in section 8 of the Family Violence Act 2018, or that was made under section 123B of this Act); and
    (ii) against a person who, in relation to the protection order, was a protected person (as so defined):
    (d) the extent of any loss, damage, or harm resulting from the offence:
    (b) that the offence was abusing a position of trust or authority in relation to the victim:
    (fa) that the victim was a constable, or a prison officer, acting in the course of his or her duty:
    (th) that the victim was an emergency health of fire services provider acting in the course of his or her duty at the seene of an emergency.

    (v) that the victim was an emergency health of fire services provider acting in the course of his or her duty at the seene of an emergency.

    (v) that the victim was an emergency health of fire services provider acting in the course of his or her duty at the seene of an emergency.

  - scene of an emergency:

    (g) that the victim was particularly vulnerable because of his or her age or health or because of any other factor known to the offender:

    (h) that the offender committed the offence partly or wholly because of hostility towards a group of persons who have an enduring common characteristic such as race, colour, nationality, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, or disability; and
    - the hostility is because of the common characteristic; and
       the offender believed that the victim has that characteristic
  - at the offence was committed as part of, or involves, a terrorist act (as defined in section 5(1) of the Terrori ppression Act 2002):





to the extent that they are applicable in the case:

(a) that the offence involved actual or threatened violence or the actual or threatened use of a weapon:

(b) that the offence involved unlawful entry into, or unlawful presence in, a dwelling place:

(b) that the offence was committed while the offender was no hail or still subject to a sentence:

(ca) that the offence was or a family violence offence (as defined in section 123A) committed—

while the offender was subject to a protection order (as defined in section 8 of the Family Violence Act 2018, or that was made under section 123B of this Act); and

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2018, or that was made under section 123B of this Act); and
(ii) against a person who, in relation to the protection order, was a protected person (as so defined):
(d) the extent of any loss, damage, or harm resulting from the offence:
(e) particular cruelty in the commission of the offence:
(t) that the offender was abusing a position of trust or authority in relation to the victim:
(fa) that the victim was a constable, or a prison officer, acting in the course of his or her duty:

(fa) that the victim was a constable, or a prison officer, acting in the course of his or her duty;
(fb) that the victim was an emergency health or fire services provider acting in the course of his or her duty at the scene of an emergency;
(g) that the victim was particularly vulnerable because of his or her age or health or because of any other factor known to the offender.
(h) that the offender committed the offence partly or wholly because of hostility towards a group of persons who have an enduring common characteristic such as race, colour, nationality, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, or disability, and
(i) the hostility is because of the common characteristic; and
(ii) the offender believe that the victim has that the heart-citie is

(ii) the offender believed that the victim has that characteristic:

Version as at 5 April 2023



## **Sentencing Act 2002**

Public Act 2002 No 9 Date of assent 5 May 2002 Commencement see section 2

