



How to report a hate-motivated crime to Police



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Before you start



This information may upset some people when they are reading it.



If you are upset after reading this document you can talk to your:

- whānau / family
- friends.



NEED TO TALK?



**free call or text
any time**

You can also contact Need to Talk by:

- calling 1737
- texting 1737



It does not cost any money to call / text 1737.

What you will find in here

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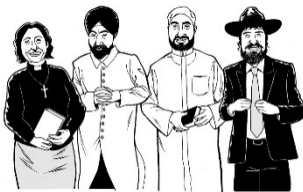
What is a hate-motivated crime?



This document is about how to tell Police about a **hate-motivated crime** that has happened.



A **hate-motivated crime** is when someone commits a crime against another person / group of people because of things like their:



- race / skin colour

- religion



- **gender**

- **sexuality**



- age

- disability.



Gender is if you are:

- a man
- a woman
- another gender like nonbinary.



Your **sexuality** is things like:

- who you are attracted to
- who you want to be in a relationship with
- if you want to be in a relationship or not.





When hate is directed at you it can make you feel:

- unsafe
- attacked
- threatened
- hurt
- targeted.



When this happens to you it is a **hate-motivated incident.**



If the person directing the hate at you was breaking the law when doing this it is a **hate-motivated crime.**



If you feel you were the **victim** of a hate-motivated crime / incident it is important that you tell Police about it.



This is called doing a Police report.



A **victim** is someone who has had a crime happen to them.



Everyone has the right to report to Police even if you are:



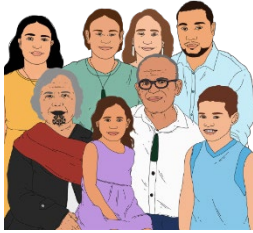
- a **witness** to a hate-motivated crime / incident
- the family member of a victim
- a friend / workmate.



A **witness** is someone who saw / heard a crime taking place.



You can also bring a support person with you when you report to Police.



This could be someone you trust like:

- a family member
- a friend.



The steps you will need to take when reporting to Police



If you are the victim of a hate-motivated crime / incident you will need to follow **4 steps** when reporting it to Police.

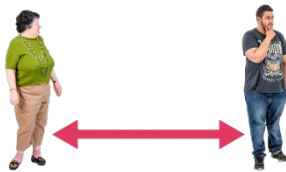
Step 1



You will need to contact Police to report the hate-motivated crime / incident.



It is important that you keep safe.



This means that you / anyone else impacted by what happened should:

- get to a safe place where you feel safe
- keep away from the person directing the hate at you.

You can ask police to come right away by:



- calling **111** on the phone
- saying you need Police.



111 is the New Zealand emergency services number for:

- Police
- Fire service
- Ambulance.



When you say **police** you will get put through to a call taker who will:

- ask questions to get the information they need to help like:
 - your name
 - a phone number that they can reach you on



The call taker might also ask things like:

- what happened
- where the incident took place
- where you need Police to come to.





You should call **111** when it is an **emergency**.



An **emergency** is when:

- someone is in danger
- someone needs help right now
- a crime / incident is happening right now.



You can call 111 even if you speak a language other than English.



You can sign up for an emergency text messaging service with Police if you:

- are deaf / hard of hearing
- find it hard to talk on the phone.



Deaf



You can sign up for this service at this website:

www.police.govt.nz/111-txt



When it is **not** an emergency you can:

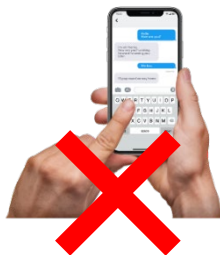
- Call Police on **105**
- tell Police on the 105 website at:



www.105.police.govt.nz



105 does not cost any money.



You **cannot** text 105.



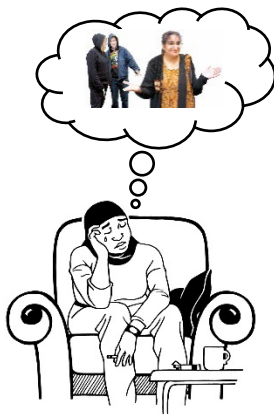
It is **not** an emergency when:

- the incident has already happened
- no one is in danger right now.

Step 2

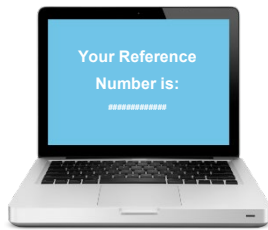


Police may record what happened as **perceived hate**.



Perceived hate means that someone feels they were targeted with hate because of who they are.

Perceived hate **does not** mean that there is proof that hate has taken place.



Step 3

You will get a **case reference number**.



A **case reference number** is like a special code given to you when you report a crime / incident to Police.



Your case reference number helps:

- Police to keep track of your report
- you to check on what is happening with your case.



You can use the reference number to add information to your report.



**www.webforms.police.govt.nz/en/
update-report**

- add information about what happened

-



To **withdraw a report** means that you have decided that:

- you do not want to go ahead with the report anymore
- you want Police to stop working on your case.

Step 4



If an **investigation** is started because of your report Police will be looking for evidence that the crime happened because of hate.

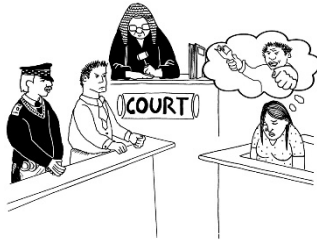


An **investigation** is when Police try to find out what happened during a crime by:

- asking the victims what happened
- gathering information / **evidence**
- looking for clues to understand who did the crime.



Evidence is any information about a crime that can help Police to understand what happened.



Police may give information to the court so they can use it when:

- the crime goes through the court system
- they **sentence** the person who did the hate-motivated crime
- you or someone else gives a **Victim Impact Statement.**

A **sentence** is what happens to someone who does a crime like:

- being sent to prison
- having to pay money
- doing work for your community without being paid.



A **Victim Impact Statement** is a way for you to tell the court:

- how the crime made you feel
- any injuries you got from the crime
- any other problems the crime caused you.



A Victim Impact Statement can be:

- spoken by you in **court**
- written down for a **lawyer** to read out in court.





A **lawyer** is someone who:

- supports you to understand the law
- speaks for you in court if you are involved in a legal problem.

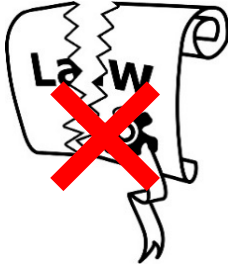
A **court** is where decisions to do with the law are made like:

- if someone is proven to have done a crime
- what sentence someone will get for doing a crime.



If your report **can not** be investigated it might be because:

- what happened did not break the law
- your report is closed.



When Police close your report it can mean Police:

- have finished looking into the case
- will not work on the case anymore unless new information comes up.



Even if what happened did not break the law it is still **not OK** for it to have happened.



The information you tell Police can still be useful to:

- track similar acts
- stop these acts from becoming crimes
- keep the community safe.



What to include in your Police report



Your report should be about:

- what you think happened
- why you think it happened.



Tell Police about anything that shows why you think it was a hate-motivated crime / incident like:



- any hurtful words that were used like name calling.
- any evidence like:



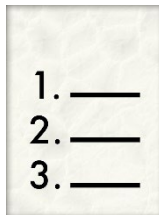
- videos
- pictures.



Your report could also include anything from the person who directed hate at you like:



- things they have done on the internet
- text messages
- letters



You can also include some notes with anything else you think is important.



Make sure you include:

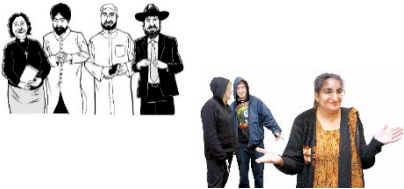
- where the incident happened
- when it happened.



It can be useful to Police to say in your report things like:

I believe this happened because:

- of my religion
- of my race / skin colour
- I am disabled.



You do not need to be able to prove that it was a hate-motivated crime / incident to include it in your report.



New Zealand Police record all hate-motivated incidents / crimes from how the victim views the incident happening.



If **anyone** during the reporting thinks the crime was hate-motivated it will be put into Police system as perceived hate.



Remember **perceived hate** does not mean that hate has been proven yet.



It might be decided that the incident **was** hate-motivated if:

- Police find more information
- your case goes through the courts to decide whether the incident was hate-motivated.



If it is decided that the crime / incident **was not** hate-motivated then it may no longer be listed as perceived hate in Police system.

More Information



Victim Impact Statements

You can find out more about making a **Victim Impact Statement** at this website:



www.victimsupport.org.nz

Victims Information



Victims Information is the New Zealand government website for people affected by crime.

On this website you can find more information about:



- your rights
- ways to get support.



You can find out more about **Victims Information** at this website:

www.victimsinfo.govt.nz



**Information about
hate-motivated crimes on
Police website**

You can find this information at this website:



www.police.govt.nz/hate



This information has been written by
New Zealand Police Ngā Pirihimana o
Aotearoa.

Make it Easy
Kia Māmā Mai



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service of People First New Zealand
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