

## Organisations that can help

### Citizens Advice North Somerset Hate Crime Reporting Centre

Providing advice for the problems people face. Valuing diversity, promoting equality and challenging discrimination.

01934 836 201  
[www.NSCAB.org.uk](http://www.NSCAB.org.uk)

### Educational Action Challenging Homophobia

EACH provides a free and confidential, homophobic, biphobic or transphobic bullying reporting service for children and young people up to 18 years of age across North Somerset.

0808 1000 143  
(Monday to Friday, 9am-4.30pm)  
[www.each.education](http://www.each.education)

### Stand Against Racism & Inequality (SARI)

Providing a 24 hour free, confidential casework service and support service for victims of hate crime across Avon and Somerset.

01179 420 060  
[www.sariweb.org.uk](http://www.sariweb.org.uk)

### Victims of Crime Advocacy Service (VOCAS)

Free, independent and confidential advocacy for vulnerable adults affected by crime and antisocial behaviour.

03333 44 7928  
[www.swanadvocacy.org.uk/vocas/](http://www.swanadvocacy.org.uk/vocas/)

Council documents can be made available in large print, audio, easy read and other formats. Documents on our website can also be emailed to you as plain text files. Help is also available for people who require council information in languages other than English.

Tel: 01934 426 752

email: [Community.Safety@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:Community.Safety@n-somerset.gov.uk)

If you or your property are in danger contact the police on  
**999** or  
**101** (for non-emergencies)  
[www.saferstrongerns.co.uk/hatecrime](http://www.saferstrongerns.co.uk/hatecrime)



28954 0719

Safer and Stronger  
**North Somerset**

**No place for hate**  
in North Somerset

**Feel safe. Be safe. Report it**  
[www.saferstrongerns.co.uk/hatecrime](http://www.saferstrongerns.co.uk/hatecrime)

## What is a hate crime?

A hate crime is a criminal offence which has been perceived by the victim as having been motivated by some form of prejudice or hate. Hate crimes and incidents can be motivated by prejudice about:

- Race, skin colour, ethnic origin, nationality (including against gypsies and travellers)
- Religion and faith (or lack of religious belief)
- Gender identity (including resentment of transgender people, transsexuals and transvestites)
- Sexual orientation (including homophobia)
- Disability (including physical disabilities, sensory impairments, learning disabilities and mental health issues)

Crimes that are often committed as hate crimes are:

- Physical attacks such as assaults
- Vandalism, criminal damage, graffiti or arson
- Verbal abuse or abusive gestures
- Cyberbullying
- Offensive letters or text messages (hate mail) or phone calls
- Offensive leaflets and posters
- Threats of an attack

If an incident has occurred which is motivated by hate or prejudice but is not necessarily a criminal offence, then it is known as a hate incident. Although hate incidents are not criminal offences, they are still a serious matter and should be reported.

## Reporting Hate Crime

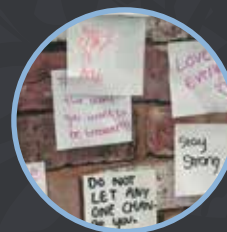
By reporting hate crime, you can stop it from getting worse and help make North Somerset a safer place by stopping it from happening to someone else.

### Report –

- can be made over the phone (emergencies **999** – Non-emergencies **101**)
- online ([www.avonandsomerset.police.uk](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk) or [www.saferstrongerns.co.uk/reportate](http://www.saferstrongerns.co.uk/reportate))
- in person at a North Somerset Council Office, Libraries, Citizens Advice Offices and all housing offices.

### When you report hate crime:

- you will be listened to and asked what happened
- your information will be kept private and safe
- you will be offered practical help
- you will be given emotional support as your case develops
- an action plan will be drawn up that you agree with.



## What should you do if you see a hate crime?

- Offer support for the victim. Whilst the incident is taking place and only if you feel safe to do so. Let the victim know they are not alone.
- Understand. Console the victim after the event, show that you understand them, that they are not alone and that hate has no home in your community.
- Tell the Police. If you witnessed a hate crime it is important to report the details, even if you don't feel comfortable to report it at the time, you can report online later at [www.avonandsomerset.police.uk](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk) or calling **101**.

