



**HATE CRIME
ADVOCACY SERVICE**

Support for you each step of the way

What is Hate Crime?

What is a 'hate crime'?

A hate crime is any crime where the perpetrator's hostility or prejudice against an identifiable group of people is a factor in determining who is victimised.

What is a 'signal crime'?

'Signal crimes' are 'message crimes' that signal that the community of which the victim is a member is different or not accepted. They include any crime that causes change in public or a particular segment of society's behaviour and/or beliefs about their security.



Strands of Hate Crime



- Disability

- Racist

- Homophobic

- Transphobic

- Faith/Religion

- Sectarian



Hate Crime Advocacy Service

- Introduced in 2008 & is contracted by DOJ & PSNI
 - Aims to improve support for victims
 - Increase confidence & encourage reporting
 - Improve access to the criminal justice system
- Victim Support NI acts as co-ordinator
- Consortium includes Migrant Centre NI, The Rainbow Project & Disability Action
- Examples of good practice & learning are shared across the partnership

How the Advocates Can Help

- **Investigative support**
- **Third party reporting**
- **Signpost to relevant support agencies**
 - Emotional Support
 - Criminal Injury Compensation Services
 - Police Ombudsman
 - Health
 - Other Advocacy Organisations
- **Housing**
- **Awareness raising**
- **Building partnerships**



Disability

- **Communication**
- **Mobility**
- **Access to transport**
- **Isolation**
- **Mental health**



LGBT

- Discrimination
- Targeting sexual orientation / gender identity
- Hate speech & public harassment
- No outcome / consequence for perpetrator

Religious & Sectarian

- Fear and intimidation
- Threat of escalating violence
- Unwillingness to report
- Lack of support
- Concern for family/friends



Racial

- Victim might not understand 'hate crime'
- Use interpreting services when needed
- Speak clearly & listen intently
- Refer victims to migrant orgs if necessary
- Empathy can overcome cultural barriers



What is Victim Support NI?

- **VSNI** is a charity supporting crime victims
- Offers a **free & confidential** service
- **Vision:** A society that ensures appropriate support & information is available to victims & witnesses
- **Mission:** Victims treated with respect & dignity while receiving the support they are entitled to





Victim Support NI services include:

- **Emotional Support** – forum to speak about trauma
- **Criminal Injury Compensation Services**
- **Witness Service** – support in court
- **ChISVA** – support for young victims of sexual violence
- **SOLA** – legal support for adult victims of sexual violence
- **Phoenix Youth** – supporting young people w/ trauma
- **Restorative Justice** – alternative means to justice

Thank you for your time

Any questions?

Website: www.hcasni.com

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Department of
Justice

An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt
Máinnystrie o tha Laa

