

STOP HATE CRIME
0800 138 1625
24 HOUR HELP LINE
Text Relay 18001 0800 138 1625



Unique campaign to promote Mental Health Hate Crime reporting

A unique national campaign has been launched by Stop Hate UK and Community Links which is aimed at raising awareness of Hate Crime and protecting people with mental health problems.

It is estimated that approximately 450 million people worldwide have a mental health problem and 1 in 4 people in UK will experience some kind of mental health problem in the course of a year.

Many people with mental health problems experience Hate Crime in the form of verbal abuse, intimidation and physical attacks as a result of people's ignorance, stigma or prejudice. According to recent research, Hate Crime affects 3 out of 4 people with a mental health problem. At present this goes virtually unreported.

Charities Stop Hate UK and Community Links are working together to encourage reporting of Mental Health Hate Crime, raise awareness of victims rights and offer support to victims.

Stop Hate UK works to raise awareness of Hate Crime and discrimination based on Disability, Religion or Belief, Race, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. A 24-hour helpline, the Stop Hate Line, provides a free and confidential alternative to reporting directly to the police and enables victims to get support when they need it.

The Stop Hate Line can be used to report incidents people witness, even if they do not have full details or were not themselves the victim. Anyone who sees Hate Crime happening, or thinks they know someone who is a victim, can call **0800 138 1625** in confidence. Information will only be passed on to the police and relevant support agencies with the caller's consent.

Community Links, a leading mental health charity, works with many people who have suffered harassment, verbal abuse, intimidation and even physical attacks, simply because they have a mental health problem.

Stop Hate UK and Community Links have developed a poster and leaflet to raise awareness of how people with mental health problems can be victims of Hate Crime. Service users were involved in this campaign from the very beginning to help create effective resources.

“People often aren’t aware that they have experienced a Hate Crime, or that they can report it. This campaign is to inform and encourage people to report such incidents” said Rose Simkins (Chief Executive, Stop Hate UK).

Copies of Mental Health Hate Crime posters and leaflets can be obtained from Stop Hate UK and Community Links.

Notes to the Editor

Please contact

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- The campaign will use posters and leaflets to encourage Mental Health Hate Crime reporting.
- Stop Hate UK works to raise awareness of Hate Crime and discrimination based on Disability, Religion or Belief, Race, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. A 24-hour helpline, the Stop Hate Line, provides a free and confidential alternative to reporting directly to the police and enables victims to get support when they need it.
- Community Links is a charity founded in Leeds in 1981, which runs community, residential and housing services to support people with mental health problems, and delivers mental health awareness training. The charity exists to provide excellent, client focused mental health services which value diversity, instill hope and improve quality of life through recovery.

- For more information about Community Links please visit www.commlinks.co.uk