

Homophobic Hate Crime

The Gay British
Crime Survey 2013



My male friend had his jaw broken by a man outside a nightclub because he is gay.

Anne, 35 — South East

It is not taken seriously enough by authorities. A recent acid attack at a local gay bar relied heavily on Facebook to find the attacker!

Iain, 53 — East Midlands

Unfortunately I am so severely anxious about being attacked I am permanently housebound.

Ed, 24 — Wales

Homophobic Hate Crime

The Gay British
Crime Survey 2013

by April Guasp

Stonewall

Anne Gammon
& Gavin Ellison

YouGov



Foreword

As the Stonewall senior champion for 2013, I am eager to ensure the police service is playing its part in helping, protecting and listening to victims of hate crime.

While overall homophobic hate crime has decreased, as a service we need to look at how we tackle issues of under reporting and the overall satisfaction in the police response when people do step forward to report such crimes.

As the professional body for policing, the College of Policing works to set high, evidence-based standards, to assist forces in cutting crime and protecting the public.

The results of this Stonewall survey provide a significant opportunity to review and improve how the police respond to homophobic hate crime.

The College has already taken positive steps to engage with the LGBT community through work with the National Policing Portfolio lead for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) issues with the creation of an online clip featuring 36 LGBT police officers and staff talking about their stories of being in the service and being LGBT.

The clip, which can be watched on [YouTube](#), was produced for International Day Against Homophobia and I believe shows the service is moving in the right direction in helping break down barriers to more confidence and trust in officers when helping victims of such crimes.

There is still more to do and we are committed to working with forces, police and crime commissioners and wider stakeholders to ensure we play our part in delivering a better service to victims of homophobic hate crime.



Alex Marshall

Chief Executive
College of Policing

Introduction

No-one should live in fear of verbal or physical violence just because of the way they were born. Yet for many lesbian, gay and bisexual people in Britain today, that remains the case.

This report reveals that one in six lesbian, gay and bisexual people – 630,000 – have been the victim of a homophobic hate crime or incident over the last three years. It finds that gay people still suffer abuse in all areas of their life – from strangers, neighbours, workmates and even family. The abuse ranges from verbal insults and harassment to physical assault. The picture is similar across Britain.

Most victims don't report abuse and, if they do turn to the police, they have low expectations that anyone will listen or act. Many of those who engage with the criminal justice system come away dissatisfied as so many crimes and incidents are reported but not followed up.

There has been some real progress in tackling hate crimes in recent years but this research demonstrates starkly that much more needs to be done.



Ben Summerskill

Chief Executive
Stonewall



I am sick of feeling bullied and intimidated on my own street when I have worked very hard to be able to buy my own house. How is it fair for me to be made to feel like a lesser individual?

Tom, 33 — Wales

Contents

Summary and Key Findings	04
01 The problem of hate crimes and incidents	06
02 The nature of hate crimes and incidents	10
03 Who commits hate crimes and incidents?	13
04 The triggers of hate crimes and incidents	15
05 Reporting hate crimes and incidents	17
06 Experiences of the police and the justice system	20
07 The impact of hate crimes and incidents	24
Recommendations	26

Summary and key findings

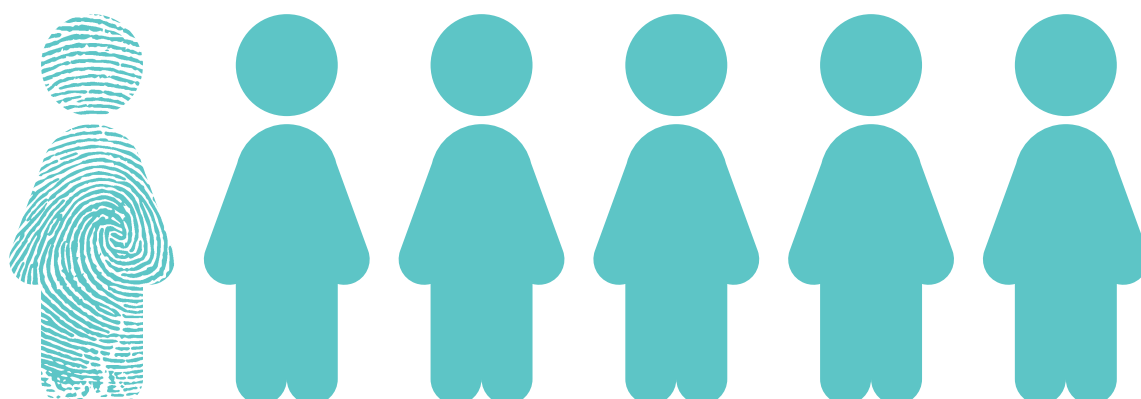
YouGov, commissioned by Stonewall, surveyed more than 2,500 lesbian, gay and bisexual people across Britain to investigate their experiences of homophobic hate crimes and incidents. The research looks at the extent of homophobic hate crimes and incidents, when and where they are committed and how victims respond. It also looks at how well the police and criminal justice system serve victims.

In 2013 hate crimes and incidents remain a serious issue in Britain with one in six lesbian, gay and bisexual people experiencing a homophobic hate crime or incident over the last three years. The research paints a picture of lesbian, gay and bisexual people suffering wide-ranging abuse, from physical assaults and threats of violence through to harassment, verbal insults and damage to their property. Hate crimes and incidents affect gay people of all ages living in all regions of the country.

- **One in ten experiencing a homophobic hate crime or incident were physically assaulted.**
- **Almost one in five victims were threatened with violence or the use of force.**

- **One in eight victims experienced unwanted sexual contact.**
- **One in eight victims have had their home, vehicle or property vandalised.**
- **Harassment, insults and intimidation are most common, reported by more than eight in ten lesbian, gay and bisexual people who have suffered a hate crime or incident.**

A large proportion of those committing homophobic hate crimes and incidents are young. Half of those who experienced a hate crime or incident said that the perpetrator was a stranger aged under 25. However, three in ten victims said they knew the perpetrator or one of the perpetrators, whether it was someone living in their area, a colleague or even a friend or family member.



One in six lesbian, gay and bisexual people have experienced a homophobic hate crime or incident over the last three years.



Many victims of hate crimes and incidents do not report them to the police. The research shows that little has changed in the last five years. The reasons for not reporting include anticipation that it will not be taken seriously, a fear of negative response and a belief that there is little that the police can do.

- **Two thirds of those experiencing a hate crime or incident did not report it to anyone.**
- **More than three quarters did not report it to the police.**
- **Two in five victims of a hate crime or incident did not report it because they didn't think it was serious enough to report.**
- **One in fourteen victims were concerned about further homophobia from those they would report it to.**
- **More than one in five of those who did report the crime or incident didn't mention its homophobic nature.**

Many lesbian, gay and bisexual people who report hate crimes and incidents to the police complain of unsatisfactory results, ranging from the way the crimes or incidents were recorded to the actions taken by police and the support they received personally.

- **Fewer than one in ten victims who reported hate crimes and incidents to the police said it led to a conviction.**
- **Half of victims who reported a hate crime or incident to police said it was recorded with no further action taken.**
- **Two in five of those reporting a hate crime or incident to police said it was not recorded as a homophobic incident.**
- **Half of those reporting a hate crime or incident were not satisfied with the way it was handled.**

The fear of hate crimes and incidents leaves many lesbian, gay and bisexual people feeling unsafe in their homes and local community.

- **Two thirds feel they are at a bigger risk of being insulted, intimidated or harassed than heterosexual people.**
- **A quarter feel the need to alter their behaviour so they're not perceived as gay to avoid being the victim of crime.**
- **Six per cent of lesbian, gay and bisexual people said that crime is their biggest fear.**

The police, crown prosecution service and other criminal justice agencies have the following commonly agreed definitions of homophobic hate crimes and incidents:

A hate crime is any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by a hostility or prejudice based on a person's sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation.

A hate incident is any non-crime incident which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by a hostility or prejudice based on a person's sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation.

01 The problem of hate crimes and incidents

- **One in six** lesbian, gay and bisexual people have experienced a homophobic hate crime or incident over the last three years.
- In the last year alone, almost **one in ten** lesbian, gay and bisexual people have experienced a homophobic hate crime or incident.
- **One in sixteen** regard homophobic harassment or attacks as a big problem in their area.

All crime

Almost half (48 per cent) of all lesbian, gay and bisexual people have been the victim of some type of crime or incident in the last three years, which includes homophobic hate crimes or incidents but also general crimes ranging from harassment, theft and damage of property to physical and sexual assaults.

Insults, intimidation and harassment were the most common, affecting more than one in four (27 per cent) lesbian, gay and bisexual people in the last three years. A quarter of all lesbian, gay and bisexual people have been the victim of some form of vandalism including damage to their own home, property or vehicle. Eight per cent of lesbian, gay and bisexual people have been threatened with violence or force and four per cent have been physically assaulted in the last three years. Unwanted sexual contact was reported by seven per cent of lesbian, gay and bisexual people.

Those experiencing crimes or incidents are often repeat victims. A third (34 per cent) of those who have been insulted, intimidated or harassed have experienced this on four or more occasions. More than one in ten (11 per cent) who have had their homes vandalised have experienced this four or more times. Almost one in five (18 per cent) threatened with violence and more than one in five (22 per cent) who experienced unwanted sexual contact were victimised on four or more occasions.

Lesbian, gay and bisexual people living in urban areas were more likely to have been the victim of a crime or incident in the last three years than those living in rural areas (50 per cent compared to 33 per cent), which reflects general population trends of greater crime in urban areas.

Have you been the victim of a homophobic hate crime or incident?



Homophobic hate crimes and incidents

Many of those crimes and incidents experienced by lesbian, gay and bisexual people were homophobic in nature.

Over the last three years, one in six (17 per cent) lesbian, gay and bisexual people have experienced a homophobic hate crime or incident. Gay men (24 per cent) and lesbians (19 per cent) are more likely to have experienced this than bisexual people (10 per cent of bisexual men and 9 per cent of bisexual women).

They are more common among young people. More than one in five (21 per cent) 18 to 24 year olds have experienced a homophobic hate crime or incident in the last three years.

In the last 12 months alone, nine per cent of lesbian, gay and bisexual people experienced a hate crime or incident. This includes 14 per cent of gay men and 11 per cent of lesbians, with rates dropping to six per cent of bisexual men and four per cent of bisexual women. The differences between those who identify as gay or lesbian and those as bisexual may, in part, be due to many bisexual people reporting that their sexual orientation is less easily identified.

Minimal regional differences show a persistent level of homophobic hate crimes and incidents across the country. However, as crime in general is more common in urban than rural areas, lesbian, gay and bisexual people living in urban areas are also more likely to have experienced a homophobic crime or incident, 18 per cent compared with 11 per cent in rural areas. Yet, a similar proportion of crimes in urban and rural areas are homophobic. About a third of lesbian, gay and bisexual people in both urban and rural areas who have experienced any crime or incident said they were victim of these crimes or incidents because of their sexual orientation, 36 per cent compared with 33 per cent.

Overall, the proportion of lesbian, gay and bisexual people who have experienced a hate crime or incident in the last three years decreased slightly from one in five in 2008 (21 per cent) to one in six in 2013 (17 per cent). The rate experienced by lesbians has decreased from one in three in 2008 to one in five in 2013, while the proportion of gay men affected remains at roughly one in four (26 per cent in 2008 compared with 24 per cent in 2013).



I have friends who have been attacked and physically and verbally abused in the street. My friends and I have been verbally abused by bouncers in local 'straight' bars.

Steve, 45 — Wales

The problem of hate crimes and incidents



Homophobic hate crimes are not uncommon in Liverpool where I live and I know several people who have been physically attacked and had some serious injuries.

Mary, 44 — North West

I think hate crimes are much more common than they seem as people like me don't report them, so they don't appear in statistics. I have grown up with this throughout my life. It doesn't feel like it has lessened over the past 50 years.

David, 44 — London

The perception of crime levels has a big impact on how safe individuals feel in their own community. One in sixteen (six per cent) lesbian, gay and bisexual people report there being a 'very' or 'fairly big' problem of harassment or attacks due to sexual orientation in their neighbourhood.

Black and minority ethnic lesbian, gay and bisexual people are more than twice as likely as white lesbian, gay and bisexual people to report feeling homophobic attacks are a problem in their local area, thirteen per cent compared with six per cent. The picture is similar for disabled lesbian, gay and bisexual people; ten per cent consider homophobic attacks as a problem in their neighbourhood compared with five per cent who aren't disabled. Those living in urban areas are more likely to feel there's a problem with homophobic hate crime where they live (eight per cent compared with two per cent of those in rural areas).



One in sixteen (six per cent) lesbian, gay and bisexual people report there being a 'very' or 'fairly big' problem of harassment or attacks due to sexual orientation in their neighbourhood.



One in twenty lesbian, gay and bisexual people said they have been the target of homophobic abuse or behaviour online in the last year.

Homophobic abuse online

One in twenty lesbian, gay and bisexual people said they have been the target of homophobic abuse or behaviour online in the last year, including seven per cent of those aged 18 to 24. More than a quarter of lesbian, gay and bisexual people (28 per cent) have encountered homophobic abuse directed at someone else online in the last year, which increases to almost half (45 per cent) of those aged 18 to 24.



I don't see hate crimes of this nature as a very common problem in my city, but I do see the internet as a place where people feel safer to indulge this hate without any real repercussions. I think this is a problem because it's helping to normalise this behaviour again, and that may translate to a shift backwards in real world behaviour over time.

Michelle, 31 — Scotland



I was harassed and abused on Twitter and through email by an individual who has since been prosecuted by others who were also victims of her abuse. Judging from what I've heard about the case the police (and the legal system) have a lot to learn about this new kind of crime. Some don't even know what Twitter and Facebook are, others don't take online harassment seriously, even though its effects can be devastating.

Ian, 45 — London

On gaming sites or discussion boards it isn't just every so often, it's every single time.

Chris, 30 — Scotland



I feel that the internet is awash with homophobic sentiment. I regularly encounter (almost on a daily basis) homophobic language and comments while surfing the internet in YouTube comments, on Twitter, supposedly humorous Facebook posts, etc. It's intimidating how widespread it is.

Anna, 25 — South West

02 The nature of hate crimes and incidents

- **One in ten** lesbian, gay and bisexual people who have experienced a homophobic crime or incident over the last three years were physically assaulted.
- Almost **one in five** were threatened with violence or the use of force.
- **One in eight** victims of a hate crime or incident experienced unwanted sexual contact.
- **One in eight** victims have had their home, vehicle or property vandalised.
- Harassment, insults and intimidation are most common, reported by more than **eight in ten** lesbian, gay and bisexual people who have suffered a hate crime or incident in the last three years.

Hate crimes and incidents can take many forms and the research paints a picture of lesbian, gay and bisexual people suffering wide-ranging attacks, from physical assaults and threats of violence to harassment, verbal insults and damage to their home and property.

Violent crimes

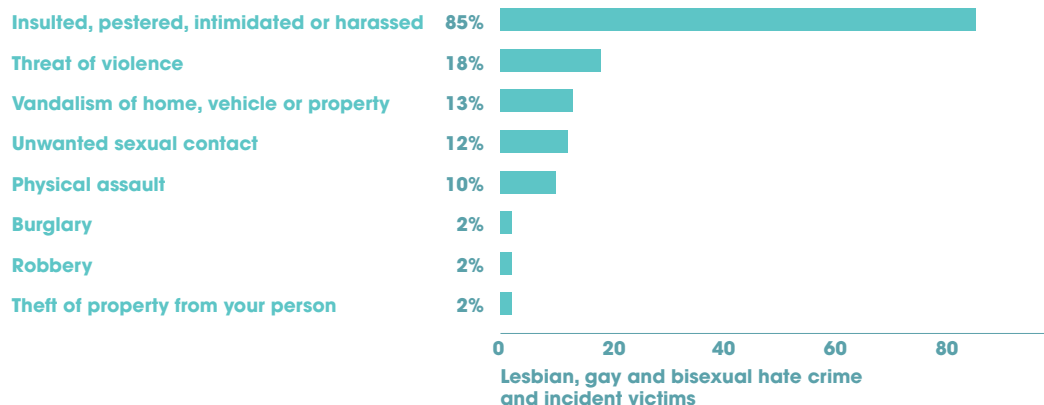
One in ten (ten per cent) lesbian, gay and bisexual people who experienced a homophobic hate crime or incident in the last three years were physically assaulted, which equates to two per cent of all lesbian, gay and bisexual people. The figures are higher for black and minority ethnic lesbian, gay and bisexual people with 22 per cent of victims having been physically assaulted, two and a half times the

figure for white people (nine per cent). Disabled lesbian, gay and bisexual people were also twice as likely (16 per cent) to be physically assaulted compared with eight per cent of those who aren't disabled.

Almost one in five (18 per cent) of the victims of a hate crime or incident were threatened with violence or the use of force, equating to three per cent of all lesbian, gay and bisexual people. Gay and bisexual men were almost twice as likely as lesbian and bisexual women to have been threatened with violence due to their sexual orientation, 23 per cent compared with 12 per cent.

Young victims of hate crimes and incidents are more at risk of physical violence. Those aged 18 to 24 who experienced a homophobic crime or incident were

What did the hate crime or incident involve?



much more likely to have been threatened with physical violence than those aged over 55, 28 per cent compared with 12 per cent. One in four (25 per cent) disabled victims were threatened with physical violence compared with 14 per cent of those who aren't disabled.

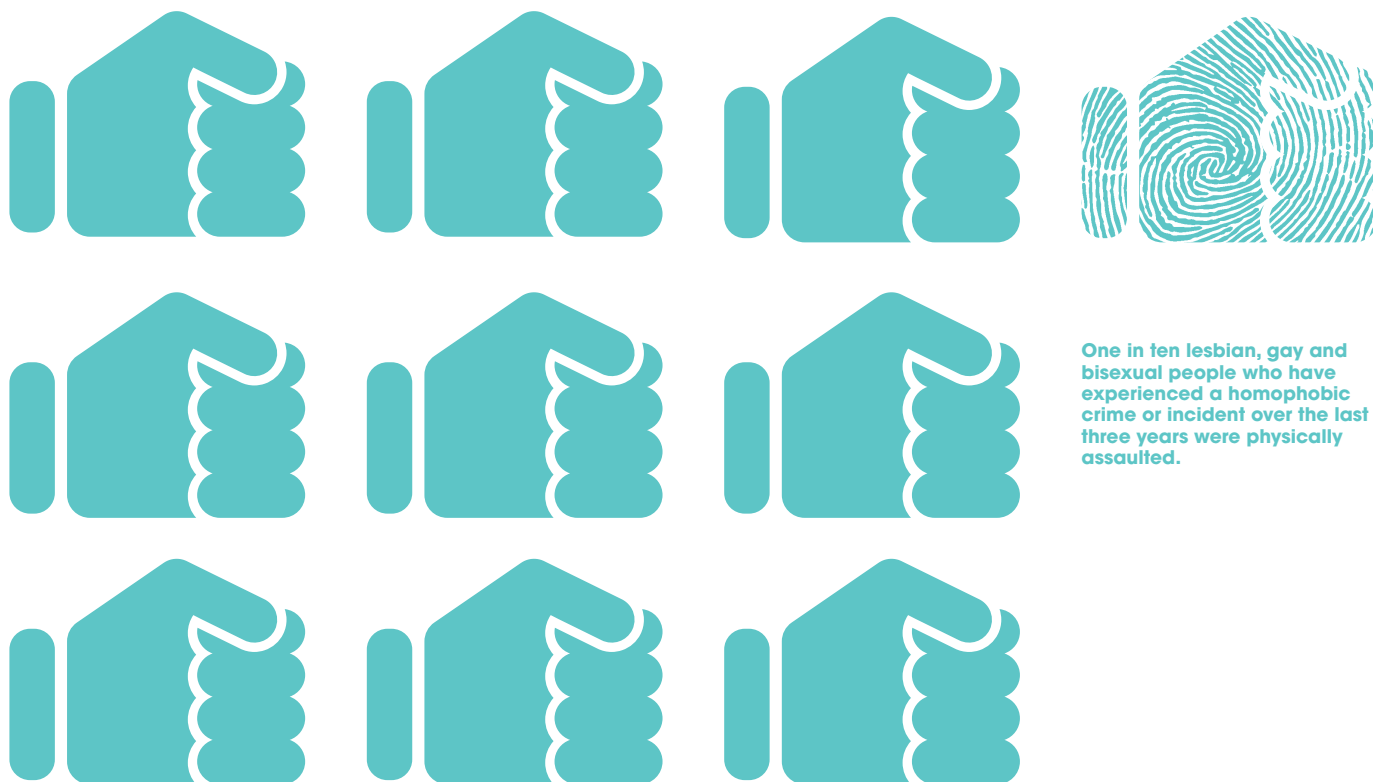
Sexual assault is an all too common aspect of homophobic crimes and incidents. One in eight (12 per cent) lesbian, gay and bisexual victims experienced unwanted sexual contact. Despite bisexual people being less likely to experience any homophobic hate crime or incident, it is much more likely to involve sexual assault when it happens. One in five bisexual victims reported this compared with ten per cent of lesbians and gay men.

Overall, two per cent of lesbian, gay and bisexual people experienced a homophobic crime or incident involving unwanted sexual contact in the last three years. This rose to four per cent of those aged 18 to 24.



A friend of mine was assaulted. This was definitely an organised homophobic assault as it was a gang of people attacking a queue outside a gay club and several were assaulted.
Charlotte, 34 — North West

My male friend had his jaw broken by a man outside a nightclub because he is gay.
Anne, 35 — South East



The nature of hate crimes and incidents

Harassment

The vast majority (85 per cent) of lesbian, gay and bisexual people who have suffered a homophobic hate crime or incident in the last three years reported being harassed, insulted or intimidated as part of it. This equates to 14 per cent of all lesbian, gay and bisexual people having experienced homophobic harassment, insults or intimidation in the last three years; 20 per cent of gay men and 16 per cent of lesbians compared with eight per cent of bisexual people. Many are often repeat victims with three quarters (74 per cent) experiencing this more than once, a third (31 per cent) on four or more occasions.



I have been verbally abused twice by people whilst out walking. The trouble with crimes like that it's hard to prove.

Judith, 30 — South East

I do report the serious ones, but the low level name calling is a horrible but everyday occurrence really – it messes with your self-confidence and affects your work and health.

Michaela, 48 — South East



Basically, a neighbour uses my garden as a toilet for his dog. He even opens the gate to let him in. Last week the faeces was right by my front door, so I couldn't ignore it. I have tackled the neighbour directly, but he denies it... the only other people to complain about the same guy, doing the same thing to them, are two openly gay guys living at the other end of the street, which is why I believe it to be gay-related. It's pure intimidation and anti-social behaviour.

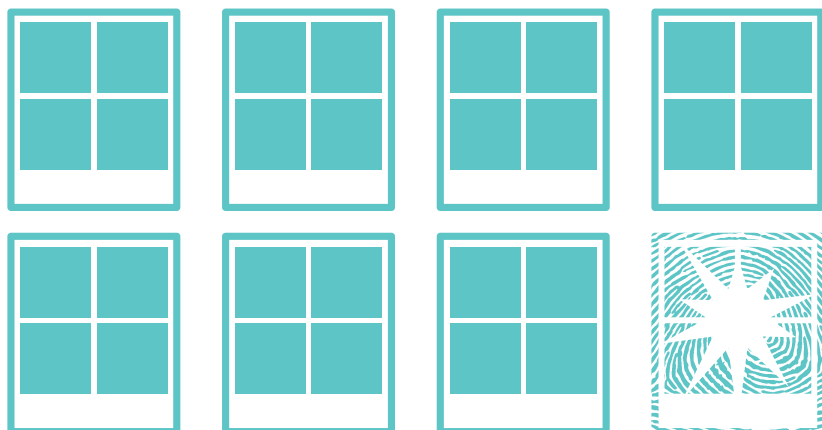
Robert, 61 — North West

Fear of intimidation due to her sexual orientation forced my niece to give up higher education.

Sharon, 65 — East Midlands

Property and personal possessions

Everyone should feel safe in their homes, regardless of sexual orientation. For one in eight (13 per cent) lesbian, gay and bisexual victims of homophobic crimes or incidents this has been jeopardised by having their home, vehicle or property damaged. Those who are disabled were almost twice as likely to be victims of vandalism; 19 per cent compared with ten per cent of those who aren't disabled.



One in eight (13 per cent) lesbian, gay and bisexual victims of homophobic crimes or incidents have had their home, vehicle or property damaged.

03 Who commits hate crimes and incidents?

- **Two in three** victims experienced a hate crime or incident committed by a male stranger.
- **Half** reported the perpetrators as strangers aged under 25.
- **One in six** reported the perpetrator as being a neighbour or someone living in the local area.
- **One in ten** were victimised by a work colleague.

Lesbian, gay and bisexual people suffering hate crimes and incidents report a wide variety of people who victimise them, either as individuals or groups of people. While the perpetrators can be neighbours, work colleagues, family or friends, the majority are strangers. Two in three (67 per cent) victims of a homophobic hate crime or incident said it involved male strangers; 13 per cent reported it involving female strangers.

A large proportion of those responsible for hate crimes and incidents are young. Half of victims said that the perpetrator was a stranger aged under 25. Lesbian, gay and bisexual people aged 18 to 24 themselves are more likely to have experienced a crime or incident from someone under 25; 64 per cent reported this compared with 38 per cent of those aged over 55.



Police spoke to the parents of young people aged 12 or so who had been homophobic, abusing me and my partner and vandalising our allotment. This seemed to deal with the problem. But I never felt quite at ease in the area thereafter.

Maureen, 53 — Scotland

There needs to be more education in schools as it's teenagers carrying out the attacks, both boys and girls!

Morgan, 35 — London

The perpetrators are not always strangers with three in ten (29 per cent) victims saying they knew the perpetrator or one of the perpetrators; whether it was someone living in their area, a colleague or even a friend or family member. More than a third (35 per cent) of lesbians and 32 per cent of bisexual people said they knew the perpetrator compared with 23 per cent of gay men.

Who commits hate crimes and incidents?

One in six (17 per cent) lesbian, gay and bisexual people reported the perpetrator as being a neighbour or someone living in the local area. Older gay people and disabled gay people are more likely to have been victimised by neighbours. Almost a quarter (23 per cent) of people who are disabled and 30 per cent of people aged 55 or over said the perpetrator was a neighbour or someone living in the local area.



I am sick of feeling bullied and intimidated on my own street when I have worked very hard to be able to buy my own house. How is it fair for me to be made to feel like a lesser individual?

Tom, 33 — Wales

The abuse that I get is from an adjoining neighbour who seems to be regarded as a 'pillar' of the community. His technique is known as passive bullying. As I live alone I have no witnesses to his tactics.

Simon, 56 — North West

Our neighbours are homophobic. We reached a particularly difficult time when they had threatened to damage our property.

Annie, 39 — London

For some victims, the perpetrators are people they have to see on a more regular basis. One in ten (ten per cent) lesbian, gay and bisexual people reported perpetrators as a work colleague; three per cent reported them as a friend and two per cent a family member.



I am not 'out' to everyone at work and I do not think the service users realise that I am bisexual. For staff who are openly gay, and 'appear' gay and lesbian, I have seen them face verbal abuse and bullying from service users and even other staff.

Jenny, 42 — West Midlands

My brother has physically and verbally abused me and has forbidden the rest of my family from having any contact with me because of my sexuality.

Alexander, 69 — Wales

Almost one in ten (9 per cent) bisexual men reported gay men being the perpetrator of a hate crime or incident. Three per cent of lesbian, gay and bisexual victims said the perpetrator was a person delivering goods or services such as a shop assistant, tradesperson or nurse.



One in six victims of homophobic crimes and incidents reported the perpetrator as being a neighbour or someone living in the local area.



04 The triggers of hate crimes and incidents

- More than a **quarter** of lesbian, gay and bisexual victims of hate crimes and incidents thought the perpetrators knew their sexual orientation because of where they were or who they were with.
- Nearly **one in five** thought the perpetrators knew their sexual orientation due to the way they looked or dressed.
- Almost a **third** of lesbian, gay and bisexual victims were with their partner at the time.
- More than **six in ten** of those aged over 55 were on their own, compared with less than **three in ten** aged 18 to 24.

Victims often felt they were targeted for a variety of reasons, including because of who they were with, where they were or the way they were dressed.

More than one in four (27 per cent) lesbian, gay and bisexual people who have experienced a hate crime or incident in the last three years said the perpetrators knew their sexual orientation because of the people they were with or where they were, for example outside a gay bar. This rises to 40 per cent of 18 to 24 year olds.

Almost a third (29 per cent) of lesbian, gay and bisexual people were with their partner at the time of a hate crime or incident. This includes a third (34 per cent) of gay men and lesbians compared with 15 per cent of bisexual people.

Many victims were with friends at the time. One in six (17 per cent) were with other lesbian, gay or bisexual friends, which rises to 30 per cent for those aged 18 to 24. Seven per cent were with heterosexual friends and eight per cent were with work colleagues, meaning that heterosexual people are also exposed to homophobic hate crimes and incidents. Three per cent were with adult family members; one per cent were with a child. The largest proportion were alone.

The triggers of hate crimes and incidents



I can't go to local gay bars after dark without being threatened at least once.

Alexis, 31 — Yorkshire and the Humber

More than two in five (43 per cent) lesbian, gay and bisexual people were on their own at the time of the crime or incident. Those aged over 55 were more than twice as likely to be on their own as those aged 18 to 24, 63 per cent compared with 28 per cent. This figure is also higher for bisexual people (57 per cent) compared to 39 per cent of lesbians and gay men.

Nearly one in five (19 per cent) lesbian, gay and bisexual people felt the perpetrators knew or suspected their sexual orientation due to the way they look. More than one in four (27 per cent) lesbians said this, more than double the number for gay men (13 per cent).



Because I don't look like people's perception of a stereotypical lesbian, I tend not to get targeted – plus I am always very careful of how I behave e.g. not holding hands with a partner, making sure that any gay magazines/other items aren't visible to others, etc. It is more difficult for friends who are perceived as being lesbians or live with a partner (so it's more difficult to hide it from the neighbours). However, I don't think that I should have to always be on my guard and that LGB&T people should be able to just carry on their lives in the same way as straight people without the fear of harassment or violence.

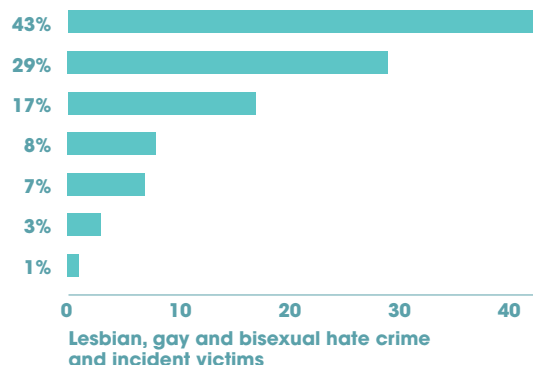
Isabelle, 37 — North West

I am a femme looking, straight looking woman who is gay. I 'pass' is the short hand way of looking at it, therefore I don't get a lot of attention; my butch girlfriends get harassed far more than I.

Sarah, 43 — London

Who were you with at the time of the crime or incident?

I was on my own
My partner
Lesbian/gay/bisexual friend(s)
Work colleagues
Heterosexual friend(s)
Adult family member(s)
Child family member(s)



05 Reporting hate crimes and incidents

- **Two thirds** of lesbian, gay and bisexual people experiencing a hate crime or incident did not report it to anyone.
- More than **three quarters** of those experiencing a hate crime or incident did not report it to the police.
- **Two in five** victims didn't report it because they didn't think it was serious enough.
- More than **one in five** of those who did report the crime or incident did not mention its homophobic nature.

Who did they report it to?

The majority of those suffering a hate crime or incident do not report it at all, either to the police or any other official or support organisation that may be able to help. The reasons for not reporting vary from anticipating it would not be taken seriously, to a fear of negative outcomes or a belief that there is little that the police can do.

Two thirds (67 per cent) of those who experienced a homophobic hate crime or incident did not report it to anyone.

More than three quarters (78 per cent) of those who experienced a hate crime or incident did not report it to the police. This is compared to Government figures which state that three in five crimes go unreported. Little has changed in the last five years when a similar three in four victims of hate crimes and incidents hadn't reported them to the police.

Gay and bisexual men (27 per cent) who have experienced a homophobic hate crime or incident are more likely to have reported it to the police compared with lesbians and bisexual women (16 per cent).

More than one in five (22 per cent) of those reporting homophobic hate crimes and incidents did not report the homophobic aspect of it or their suspicion that it may have been motivated by homophobia.

Just four per cent of lesbian, gay and bisexual victims reported the crime or incident to a third party reporting service or a similar support organisation for lesbian, gay and bisexual people. This is higher for London (eight per cent) and the South East (eleven per cent).

Reporting hate crimes and incidents



At times in my life I have reported incidents to police but found them to either ignore the crime and/or show definite homophobic signs, so why bother?

Vince, 58 — London

Reasons for not reporting

Victims gave a variety of reasons for not reporting a hate crime or incident but the overriding message is that many lesbian, gay and bisexual people still feel they have to reconcile themselves to abuse and that if they do complain their complaints will not be taken seriously by those in authority.

Two in five (41 per cent) victims did not report it because they didn't think it was serious enough to report. Half (50 per cent) of lesbians and bisexual women felt this way compared with a third (33 per cent) of gay and bisexual men.

Almost a third (31 per cent) of those who experienced a hate crime or incident did not report it because they didn't think the police could or would do anything and 28 per cent said they didn't think it would be taken seriously.

A significant number, 18 per cent, said they experienced this type of incident commonly and so do not always report it. Lesbians and bisexual women (24 per cent) were almost twice as likely to say this compared with gay and bisexual men (13 per cent). One in seven (14 per cent) of all those experiencing a hate crime or incident said they did not report it because they didn't think it was an offence.



From my own experience and those of my friends I suspect that less serious (non-violent) homophobic incidents are under-reported because victims feel like no action will be taken by the police if they do report it.

Denise, 26 — West Midlands

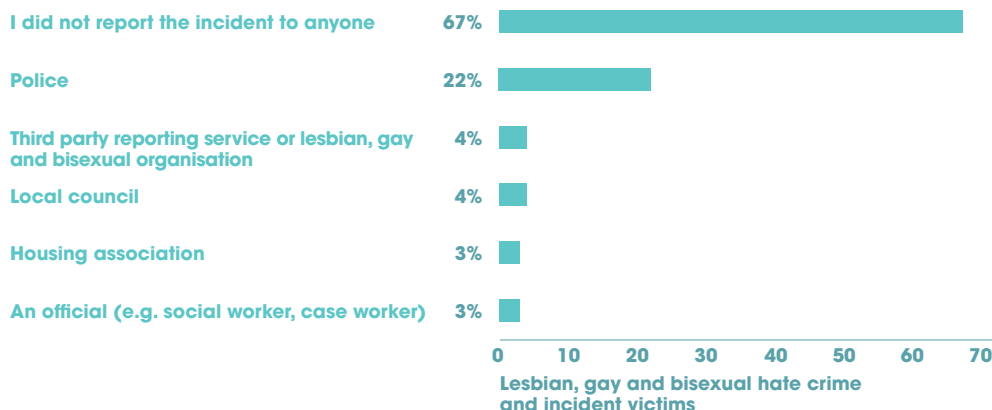
Fears about outing themselves by reporting were mentioned as a reason not to report by ten per cent of lesbian, gay and bisexual victims. This rises to 25 per cent of bisexual men. Some (seven per cent) were concerned about homophobia from those they would report it to. Negative experiences from reporting events in the past were cited by eight per cent as a reason for not reporting.



In my lifetime I've been physically assaulted three times and hospitalised once on leaving gay venues. Police were not interested on the two occasions I reported the attacks.

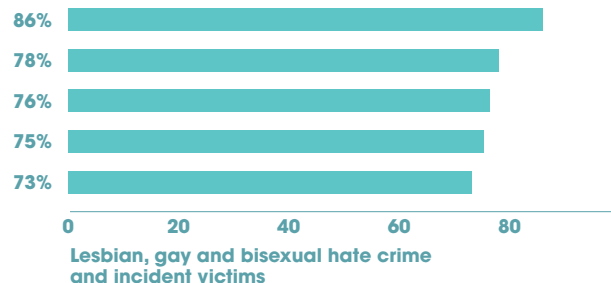
Michael, 66 — London

Who did you report the crime or incident to?



Victims of hate crimes and incidents who did not report to police

Midlands & Wales
South of England
London
Scotland
North of England



Seven per cent of lesbian, gay and bisexual victims didn't report it because they didn't know who to report it to.

Fear of reprisals from the perpetrator or others prevented 12 per cent of lesbian, gay and bisexual victims from reporting it. Sixteen per cent of disabled victims of hate crimes and incidents cited this reason – almost double the proportion of those who aren't disabled, nine per cent.

One in twenty victims (five per cent) did not report it because they were concerned about being publicly outed as lesbian, gay or bisexual if it went to court.



When I was attacked and had money stolen the police said that if I did not out myself and stand up in court then nothing could be done. They said they could catch the perpetrator because I had his car number. So really it was my decision to take it no further.

Sue, 65 — Yorkshire and the Humber

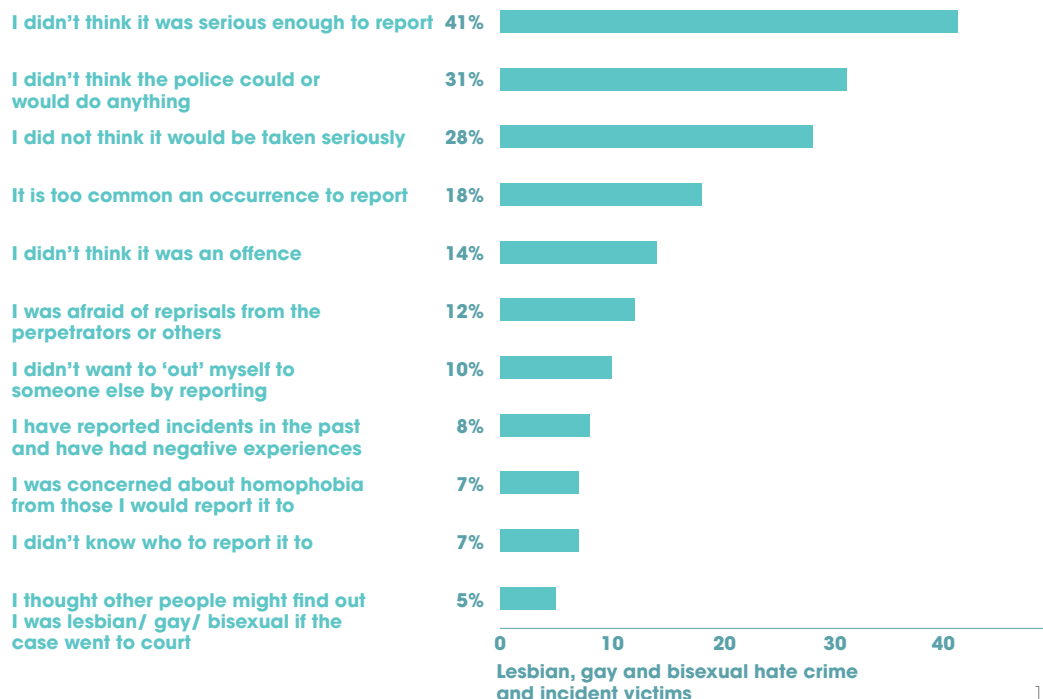
Thoroughly disillusioned by the flippant and lax attitude of the Metropolitan Police in relation to reporting a hate crime. It made me far less likely to deal with the police or report crimes in the future.

Graeme, 22 — London

It is not taken seriously enough by authorities. A recent acid attack at a local gay bar relied heavily on Facebook to find the attacker!

Iain, 53 — East Midlands

Why didn't you report the hate crime or incident to anyone?



06 Experiences of the police and the justice system

- Fewer than **one in ten** victims who reported hate crimes and incidents to the police said it led to a conviction.
- **Two in five** of those reporting a homophobic hate crime or incident to police said it was not recorded as a homophobic incident.
- **Half** of victims who reported to the police were not satisfied with the way it was handled.
- Just **one in four** of those who reported a crime or incident to the police were referred to a support group or agency.
- Just **one in five** lesbian, gay and bisexual people are confident that their Police and Crime Commissioner will address homophobic hate crime in their area.

Investigating and prosecuting hate crimes and incidents

Many lesbian, gay and bisexual people who report homophobic hate crimes and incidents to the police tell of unsatisfactory outcomes, ranging from the way they were recorded, the actions taken and the support they received personally.

Half (51 per cent) of victims who reported a homophobic hate crime or incident to police said it was recorded with no further action taken and a further 22 per cent said it was investigated without anyone being charged. Little has changed since 2008 when half of victims who reported hate crimes and incidents to the police said it resulted in no action being taken other than it being recorded.

Just 13 per cent of victims who reported hate crimes and incidents to the police said it resulted in anyone being charged and nine per cent said it led to a conviction. Considering that only 22 per cent of victims reported to the police, this means that just two per cent of victims overall said that a homophobic hate crime or incident resulted in a conviction.



My front door was set on fire. Only means of escape. Police never bothered to chat to neighbouring people to enquire if they'd seen anything! As if they could not be arsed!
Paul, 22 — Scotland

Fewer than one in ten victims who reported hate crimes and incidents to the police said it led to a conviction.



It was reported to a British Transport Policeman who declared that there was nothing he could do about it.

Clive, 62 — London

I continue to suffer harassment from the offenders and am disgusted that even the police's so-called 'Safer Neighbourhood Team' and the council's 'Harassment Priority Intervention Team' both ignored/washed their hands of my complaint.

Heather, 68 — London

It's clear that homophobic crimes and incidents aren't being recorded accurately. While one in five (22 per cent) victims who reported a homophobic crime or incident said they didn't report the homophobic aspect, two in five (39 per cent) who reported a hate crime or incident to police said it was not recorded as homophobic and twenty eight per cent didn't know whether it was or not.



The police did not take the incident seriously at all and effectively 'blamed the victim' for walking at night (from the late shift) for putting themselves at risk! They did not bother recording anything.

Peter, 36 — East of England

Without going over the top, the police did absolutely nothing, recorded it down as 'alcohol induced' when the incidents took place in sound state of mind.

Simon, 24 — Wales

A friend was assaulted and homophobia was a reason, he believed, as they used insults and taunted him, but the police didn't use that when charging them.

Harry, 26 — London



I felt the magistrates looked down on me and cared more about the offender, and the prosecutor constantly repeated the homophobic language in court with great relish so it felt like I was going through it all again. The magistrates seemed unsympathetic and the offender just thought the whole thing was a joke.

Dan, 36 — West Midlands

Experiences of the police and the justice system

Providing advice and support

Appropriate advice and support is very important to help those affected by homophobic hate crimes and incidents. However the research shows that support was offered to only a minority of those reporting to the police. The vast majority of lesbian, gay and bisexual victims are also unlikely to seek out support themselves.

Just one in nine (11 per cent) of those reporting a crime or incident, to the police or to another official body, had contact with a dedicated police LGBT liaison officer about it. Just one in four (26 per cent) of those who reported a homophobic hate crime or incident to the police were referred to a support group or agency.

Nine in ten (89 per cent) of all victims of a homophobic hate crime or incident did not seek out support themselves. Victims who didn't seek support cited a variety of reasons. One in six (16 per cent) said they did not feel that suitable advice or support would be available to them. A lack of suitable support was mentioned by 30 per cent of black or minority ethnic victims.

One in eight (13 per cent) didn't know where to seek support and this was particularly true of disabled lesbian, gay and bisexual victims (19 per cent) and those who belong to a religion (20 per cent).

Others (seven per cent) were concerned about encountering homophobia from support workers and the same proportion (seven per cent) did not want to 'out' themselves to support workers. Three in five (61 per cent) said they didn't feel they needed any advice or support and three in ten (29 per cent) didn't want to discuss the incident any further.



These crimes are not taken seriously at all by the authorities in my area. I have been a victim of harassment for over four years and I believe in part this is because of my sexual orientation. It has been raised with both the local housing authority and the police and neither seems to think it's worth helping me move away from. They have offered nothing in the way of support or help/advice.

Sarah, 32 — London

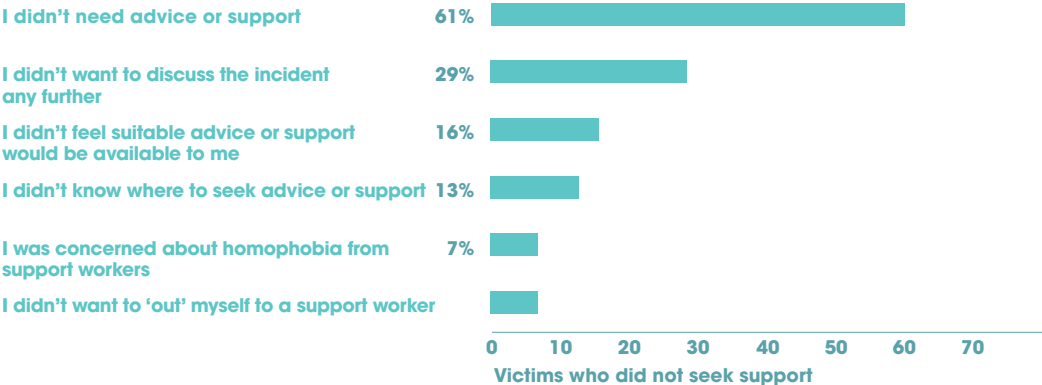
Advice of support groups would have been very helpful.

Steven, 34 — Scotland

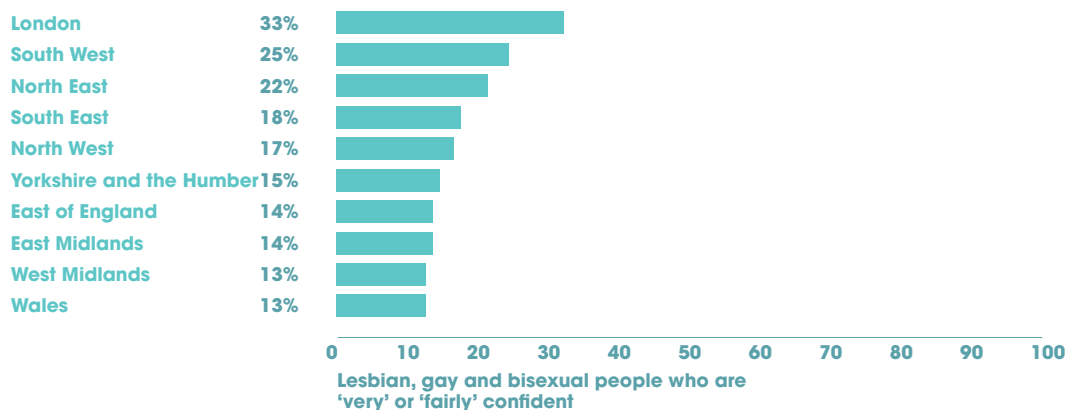
Friends were very supportive and helpful. My housing officer could not have cared less and has made no attempt to help me to move away from the neighbour who harasses me.

Eileen, 57 — London

Why did you not seek advice or support after the hate crime or incident?



How confident are you, if at all, in your Police and Crime Commissioner (or the Mayor of London) to address homophobic hate crime in your area?



Satisfaction with the police

Alongside the low levels of reporting of homophobic hate crimes and incidents, the research shows that many lesbian, gay and bisexual people who did report to the police have significant concerns about how they were treated.

Half (51 per cent) of those reporting a hate crime or incident to the police were dissatisfied with the handling of it and 40 per cent said they now have less confidence in the police as a result.



I felt like I was the criminal. I was treated with suspicion and no respect. They made me regret reporting the incident and the people who committed the crime were actually present in the house when I made the statement which made me feel really unsafe.

Holly, 18 — South West

Whilst there seems to be a lot of talk of institutionalised racism there is little (if any) talk about institutionalised homophobia. This is an area that clearly needs to be looked at because it is my belief that attacks against gay people are not taken seriously enough because of the beliefs of the investigating police officers (either for religious or other reasons).

David, 27 — Yorkshire and the Humber

Some positive experiences are reported and one in four (26 per cent) have more confidence in the police having reported it.



The incident was relatively minor and happened late at night. I reported it in the knowledge that little evidence existed for the perpetrators to be caught but did so in order that the police were aware as it may have happened to someone else. I was very impressed both with the speed of response and the seriousness and willingness with which the assault was dealt with. There wasn't sufficient evidence to find the perpetrators but it was reassuring to know that LGB&T hate crimes are treated in a fair and appropriate manner, my biggest fear being that it wouldn't be taken seriously.

Richard, 34 — London

Avon and Somerset's Police LGBT Liaison Officers and PCSOs are brilliant. They have Facebook and Twitter presences so that you don't have to dial 999 to report it; they have a very high public profile so that lots of people know they're available as a resource.

Sam, 24 — South West

Police and Crime Commissioners

There is relatively low confidence in the ability of the newly elected Police and Crime Commissioners to hold Chief Constables and police forces to account for the way homophobic hate crime is tackled in their area.

Overall, just 20 per cent of lesbian, gay and bisexual people are confident that their Police and Crime Commissioner will address homophobic hate crime in their area. More gay men (27 per cent) feel confident than lesbians and bisexual women (16 per cent). Confidence in the London Mayor who holds the role in the capital is somewhat higher than in the rest of England and Wales, though still only 33 per cent.

07 The impact of hate crimes and incidents

- **Two thirds** of lesbian, gay and bisexual people feel they are at a bigger risk of being insulted, intimidated or harassed than heterosexual people.
- A **quarter** feel the need to alter their behaviour so they're not perceived as gay to avoid being the victim of crime.
- **One in four** said they feel worried about being a victim of crime in general.
- **Six per cent** of lesbian, gay and bisexual people said that crime is their biggest fear ahead of issues such as illness, accidents or financial difficulties.

Worries about crime

Lesbian, gay and bisexual people have widespread fears about being the victim of general crime alongside their specific worries about being harassed or assaulted due to their sexual orientation. One in four (26 per cent) lesbian, gay and bisexual people said they feel worried about being a victim of crime in general.

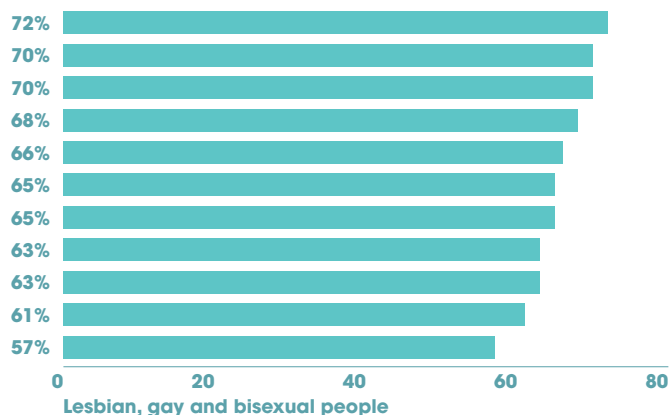
A quarter (23 per cent) are worried about being insulted or harassed, 20 per cent are concerned about being physically assaulted and 13 per cent are worried about sexual assault.

Six per cent of lesbian, gay and bisexual people said being the victim of crime is their biggest fear *ahead* of issues such as illness, accidents or financial difficulties. This is true for 11 per cent of those aged 18 to 24.

The level of concern about crime varies according to where people live; 28 per cent of those in urban communities worry about being a victim of crime compared with 13 per cent of those living in rural communities, which correlates with higher rates of crime in urban areas.

Lesbian, gay and bisexual people who feel at greater risk of being insulted, intimidated or harassed than heterosexual people

London
East of England
Scotland
Wales
Yorkshire and the Humber
North East
North West
East Midlands
West Midlands
South East
South West



It isn't fair that anyone should worry constantly about the risk of crime.

Helen, 29 — South West

Unfortunately I am so severely anxious about being attacked I am permanently housebound.

Ed, 24 — Wales

Being at risk of crime

The research shows that lesbian, gay and bisexual people feel at greater risk than heterosexual people of a wide range of crimes. Two thirds (66 per cent) feel they are at a greater risk of being insulted or harassed than a heterosexual person; 76 per cent of those aged 18 to 24 feel this.

More than four in ten (43 per cent) feel they are at greater risk than a heterosexual person of being physically assaulted; 53 per cent of gay men feel this compared with 41 per cent of lesbians and 36 per cent of bisexual people.

A third (31 per cent) of lesbians and bisexual women, 24 per cent of bisexual men and 19 per cent of gay men feel they are at greater risk of sexual assault than heterosexual people.

One in four (26 per cent) lesbian, gay and bisexual people feel more at risk than heterosexual people of having their property damaged. This was higher among gay men and lesbians (30 per cent) than bisexual men and bisexual women (21 per cent).

Altering behaviour and crime prevention

A quarter (26 per cent) of lesbian, gay and bisexual people alter their behaviour so they're not perceived as gay to avoid being the victim of crime. Almost a third (31 per cent) of gay and bisexual men do this as do 21 per cent of lesbians and bisexual women. Those in Yorkshire and the East of England are more likely than those in the South East and South West to say they alter their behaviour to avoid becoming the victim of crime.



You wouldn't hold hands or kiss in public like heterosexual couples can for fear of abuse or violence. I never feel 100 per cent safe doing this anywhere, even in a gay bar.

Steve, 37 — North West

I live in a very small town in North East England. I suspect that if it became known that I am bisexual then the whole town would know very quickly and at that point I would be worried. I make sure nobody knows!

Edwin, 52 — North East



I am careful not to show any affection to my partner in public.

James, 43 — London

Recommendations

Police

Train all police officers and control room staff to identify and record homophobic hate crimes and incidents, including those perpetrated online, and deal with victims sensitively. Victims must be able to report homophobic crimes and incidents to all police officers, not just dedicated Lesbian and Gay Liaison Officers.

Continue to provide different ways for people to report incidents so that victims feel comfortable reporting 'less serious' crimes and incidents. Third-party reporting is a good short-term solution but it doesn't address the main causes of under-reporting.

Use your data more effectively on the number of recorded homophobic hate crimes and incidents by analysing the data to identify particular problems in your force area and take action to address any issues identified by your findings.

Engage more meaningfully with local lesbian, gay and bisexual people to address the attitude among many victims that homophobic hate crimes are not serious enough to report. Proactively capture the experiences of the local lesbian, gay and bisexual community in Community Impact Statements.

Work with schools to challenge homophobic attitudes among young people and to encourage young people to stay safe. Send police officers into schools and youth groups to talk about hate crime and challenge the use of casual homophobia.

Be a gay-friendly employer and tell people in the local area about the work being undertaken to support gay police staff and officers. Join Stonewall's Diversity Champions programme and enter the Workplace Equality Index so you can identify progress year on year.

Police and Crime Commissioners (and the Mayor of London)

Make a public commitment to tackle homophobic hate crime and to lesbian, gay and bisexual equality. This will give confidence to gay people in the force area that their needs and concerns are understood by their elected representatives.

Hold the local force to account on how well it is meeting its legal duty to address the needs of lesbian, gay and bisexual victims of crime. Make use of data on satisfaction with the police amongst gay victims of crime.

Protect and support the existing work of the local force to tackle homophobic hate crime and support lesbian, gay and bisexual victims of crime. Make sure your Police and Crime Plans underpin this work.

Work in partnership with lesbian, gay and bisexual people in the local area to find out what their needs are and how they well they think the force is supporting them, in order to inform your strategic priorities. Actively involve lesbian, gay and bisexual people in consultation exercises.

Hold victim services to account on supporting lesbian, gay and bisexual victims of crime. Throughout the commissioning process through to delivery make sure support services are able to provide specialist support to victims of homophobic hate crime.

College of Policing

Develop national standards on training of police officers and police staff on homophobic hate crime and lesbian, gay and bisexual equality. This should ensure that that all police officers and frontline police staff are able to recognise and record a homophobic hate crime or incident and provide appropriate support to victims.

Make sure police officers have access to practical resources while on duty to help them handle homophobic hate crimes and incidents appropriately and better support lesbian, gay and bisexual victims of crime.

Share best practice amongst police forces on how to increase reporting of homophobic hate crimes and incidents and better support victims. Encourage forces to embed measures to tackle homophobic hate crime in their equality strategies.

Commission and publish further research to evaluate what measures are effective in encouraging victims to report homophobic hate crimes and incidents to the police.

Crown Prosecution Service

Improve the process for keeping victims of homophobic hate crime informed about the progress of their case and the options available to them when testifying. When a decision is made not to prosecute, or to drop the aggravated element of the offence, make sure victims fully understand the reasons for this decision.

Refer victims of homophobic hate crime to appropriate support services including specific services for lesbian, gay and bisexual victims where available.

Track the satisfaction of victims throughout the prosecution process and disaggregate the data by sexual orientation in order to identify those areas where lesbian, gay and bisexual victims are not being adequately signposted.

Record and monitor the use of enhanced sentencing, including when it hasn't been used and the reasons for this. Ensure the data records where the Crown Prosecution Service sought enhancements which were not handed down by magistrates and judges.

Monitor online incidents of homophobic hate and resulting cases to develop best practice about successful prosecutions. Be clear with technology providers about the standards expected of them in moderating homophobic content online.

Prisons and probation services

Identify and work with the perpetrators of hate crime to challenge homophobic attitudes and reduce the risk of reoffending. Offenders should be helped to understand the impact of their behaviour on victims and the wider community.

Educate young hate crime offenders in particular about the impact of homophobic language and behaviour on victims. Train staff working with young offenders to recognise and challenge homophobic language whenever they encounter it.

Evaluate the impact of rehabilitation work with hate crime offenders, including by analysing data on reoffending rates amongst those convicted of homophobic hate crimes. Share examples of good practice with other prison and probation services.

Provide training to probation officers to use restorative justice when working with offenders and victims of homophobic hate crime and to identify cases where this may be appropriate for the victim. Involving victims in the rehabilitation process may help to lessen their fear of being a victim of homophobic hate crime in the future.

Media organisations and technology providers

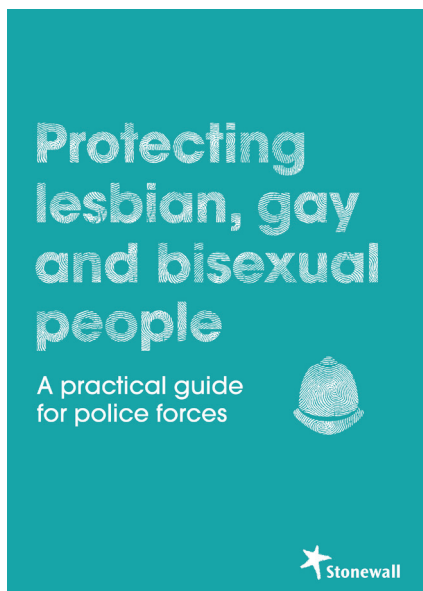
Have a zero tolerance policy on homophobic hate speech posted on social media platforms and news websites and make sure users know about it. This will give users the confidence to report abuse when they encounter it.

Train moderators on how to identify and remove homophobic abuse perpetrated online. A policy on responding to abuse will only be effective if moderators know how to apply it and do so consistently.

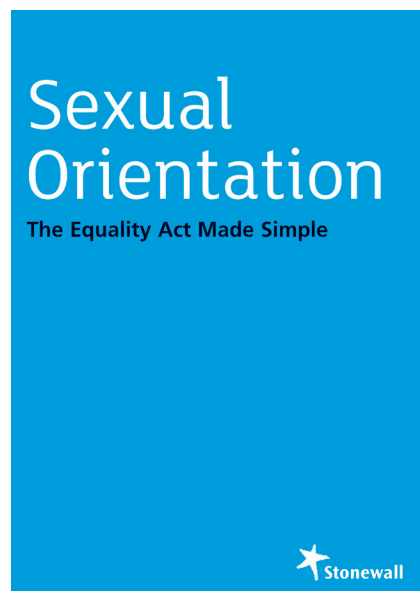
Make it as easy as possible for users to report online homophobic abuse so that you get an accurate picture of the extent of the problem. Users will be put off reporting abuse if the complaints mechanism is too complicated.

Resources

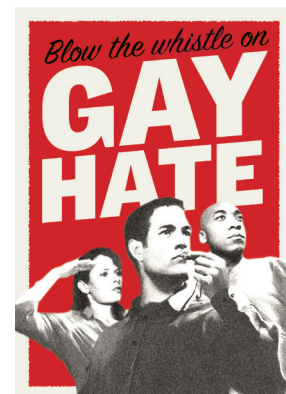
Protecting lesbian, gay and bisexual people is Stonewall's practical guide for police forces providing tips and recommendations on how to tackle homophobic hate crime and serve lesbian, gay and bisexual people effectively.



Sexual Orientation: the Equality Act made simple provides plain-English information about the Equality Act 2010 and sample equality objectives for police forces.

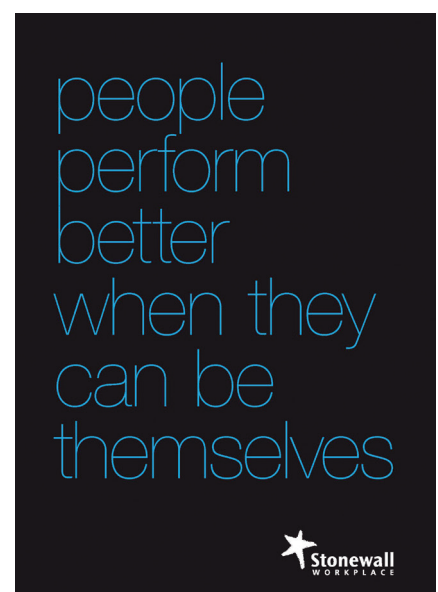


Blow the Whistle on Gay Hate is Stonewall's plain-English pocket-sized guide for lesbian, gay and bisexual people on what to do if you've experienced a homophobic hate crime or incident.



For more information or to order any of these resources visit stonewall.org.uk/hatecrime or contact crime@stonewall.org.uk

Stonewall's Diversity Champions programme is Britain's good practice employers' forum on sexual orientation. With over 600 members who employ 5.5 million staff, our programme is the largest non-governmental intervention of its kind in the world. Major employers, including police forces and other criminal justice agencies, work with Stonewall and each other to make their workplaces the best they can be. For more information visit stonewall.org.uk/dcs or call 0207 593 1868.





I felt like I was the criminal. I was treated with suspicion and no respect. They made me regret reporting the incident and the people who committed the crime were actually present in the house when I made the statement which made me feel really unsafe.

Holly, 18 — South West

Methodology

All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov Plc. Total sample size was 2,544 lesbian, gay and bisexual adults from across Britain. The survey was conducted using an online interview administered to members of the YouGov Plc GB panel of 350,000+ individuals who have agreed to take part in surveys. Thirteen per cent of respondents are from Scotland, seven per cent from Wales. Thirty nine per cent of respondents are bisexual. Sixty two per cent of respondents are male, thirty eight per cent female. The figures have been weighted by gender and age. Fieldwork was undertaken between 28th February and 19th March 2013.

Homophobic Hate Crime

The Gay British Crime Survey 2013



In my lifetime I've been physically assaulted three times and hospitalised once on leaving gay venues. Police were not interested on the two occasions I reported the attacks.

Michael, 66 — London

I do report the serious ones, but the low level name calling is a horrible but everyday occurrence really – it messes with your self-confidence and affects your work and health.

Michaela, 48 — South East

A friend of mine was assaulted. This was definitely an organised homophobic assault as it was a gang of people attacking a queue outside a gay club and several were assaulted.

Charlotte, 34 — North West



Stonewall