

# News story: Hate crime plan refreshed to protect victims and promote shared values

As the country rallies to promote our shared values through Hate Crime Awareness Week, the Home Office and the Ministry for Communities, Housing and Local Government has today (Tuesday 16 October) published an update to the [Hate Crime Action Plan](#).

These new measures include:

- wide-ranging Law Commission review into hate crime – to explore how to make current legislation more effective and consider if there should be additional protected characteristics, such as misogyny and age
- new nationwide public awareness campaign to launch later this autumn designed to educate on what hate crime is
- extending the Home Office Places of Worship Scheme for a further year to support more religious institutions which are vulnerable to hate attacks
- improving police response by offering call handlers specialist training on how to support hate crime victims and revamping the True Vision reporting website
- over £1.5 million of further funding for groups such as the Anne Frank Trust and Kick It Out, which support young people to challenge prejudice and hatred
- anti-Semitism and anti-Muslim roundtables, hosted by ministers, to discuss responses to these issues

The refresh has been designed to address specific concerns across all 5 monitored strands of hate crime:

- race
- religion
- sexual orientation
- transgender identity
- disability

Home Secretary Sajid Javid said:

Hate crime goes directly against the long-standing British values of unity, tolerance and mutual respect – and I am committed to stamping this sickening behaviour out.

Our refreshed action plan sets out how we will tackle the root causes of prejudice and racism, support hate crime victims and ensure offenders face the full force of the law.

The updated plan includes over £1.5 million of new funding for programmes

that work with schools and young people to challenge discriminatory beliefs, promote positive discussions and encourage reporting. This includes supporting Kick It Out to challenge attitudes and behaviour in grassroots football and continue its work with Show Racism the Red Card.

Communities Secretary, Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP said:

It is completely unacceptable that anyone should live in fear of intimidation and violence because of their beliefs or the colour of their skin. We must challenge prejudice and intolerance, whenever and wherever it appears in our society.

Alongside publishing our refreshed plan to tackle hate crime, I am pleased to announce further funding of over £1.5 million for projects that challenge the attitudes that underpin racially and religiously motivated crime.

Minister for Faith, Lord Bourne added:

Britain is a proudly tolerant nation, where everyone has the right to live according to their beliefs. Despite this, in recent years we have seen increased reports of religiously motivated hate crime, intolerance and prejudice.

The publication of today's updated plan reaffirms this government's belief that there can never be an excuse for hatred towards anyone. Wherever we find it, we will oppose it and challenge it.

As well as extending the Places of Worship Scheme from 3 to 4 years, the Home Office confirmed today that 45 places of worship have been awarded nearly £800,000 in the latest round of funding through the scheme.

This year, grants have been awarded to 9 churches, 22 mosques, 2 Hindu temples and 12 Sikh gurdwaras. Since the scheme launched in 2016, 89 grants worth over £760,000 have been allocated to places of worship across England and Wales.

Minister for Countering Extremism, Baroness Williams said:

While I am proud that the UK continues to be a tolerant country we know that, sadly, there are pockets of people who attempt to intimidate religious communities through violence and abuse just because of their faith.

The Places of Worship Scheme works to ensure religious freedoms are protected and I am pleased this funding can provide further reassurance to others that this government will support them.

The publication outlines the progress made against actions committed to in 2016. Completed actions include launching the Building a Stronger Britain Together programme, funding for organisations across all hate crime strands and carrying out a project with the Sophie Lancaster Foundation to challenge hateful attitudes.

Further new commitments from across government and partner organisations in the refresh include the following:

- the Crown Prosecution Service to update its hate crime resource pack for schools – to help teachers engage and equip pupils on issues of hostility and intolerance
- Government Equalities Office to provide further funding for anti-bullying interventions in schools from March 2019 to March 2020
- extending government's engagement with disabled people – to better understand the nature of those hate crimes and their impacts
- taking forward commitments in this summer's LGBT Action Plan – including measures to examine the provision of victims services and enhance police training
- the Office for Students will provide over £480,000 of funding for 11 new projects to tackle religion-based hate crime and harassment, as part of its student safeguarding scheme
- the government will be supporting projects that encourage reporting, such as True Vision and Stop Hate UK which will tackle online abuse

The refresh comes ahead of the latest hate crime annual statistics, which are due to be released today.