

Hate Incident Minority Liaison Officer (HIMLO)

If you report a homophobic incident the HIMLO will contact you, (unless you indicate that you do not want them to) and provide information about the incident and any developments in the investigation. They will also provide information on crime prevention, police powers and procedures and appropriate support groups (some are listed in this leaflet).

The HIMLO can be spoken to in confidence, offer a sympathetic service and respond appropriately to the individual needs of the victim.

Information including contact details for Hate Incident Minority Liaison Officers in your district and **confidential online reporting at**

www.psni.police.uk

Non-Emergency Number
0845 600 8000

Emergency Number
999

protecting your rights

If you have been the victim of a homophobic incident contact the police, and some of the organisations listed who may be able help you.

Northern Ireland Gay Rights Association
028 90 665257 / 028 90 664111

Cara-Friend/GLYNI (Men Women Youth)
028 90 890202 www.Cara-Friend.org.uk

Rainbow Project
028 90 319030 Belfast
028 71 283030 Foyle
www.rainbow-project.org

Lesbian Advocacy Services Initiative
028 90 249452 www.lasionline.org

Lesbian Line
028 90 238668
www.lesbianlinebelfast.org.uk

Samaritans
0845 790 9090 www.samaritans.org.uk

Victim Support
028 90 244 039
www.victimsupport.org.uk

Equality Commission for Northern Ireland
028 90 500 600 www.equalityni.org

Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission
028 90 243987 www.nihrc.org

Crimestoppers
0800 555 111
www.crimestoppers-uk.org



hate crime



nobody deserves this
and nobody deserves
to get away with it.

Homophobic Hate Crime is unacceptable.

To stop it...report it!



The Police Service of Northern Ireland has appointed a HIMLO (Hate Incident Minority Liaison Officer) or MLO (Minority Liaison Officer), as it may also be known, in every police district. These officers have been specially trained to support victims of homophobic incidents.

The HIMLO has an additional responsibility to engage with individuals and groups who work to support and assist victims of homophobic incidents.

What is a Homophobic Incident?

The Police Service of Northern Ireland define a homophobic incident as

Any incident which is perceived to be homophobic by the victim or any other person.

Homophobic incidents may take many different forms, for example

Assaults, damage to your home or other property, verbal abuse or hate mail.

The police recognise the impact that even minor homophobic incidents have on the victim and wider community. We will, therefore, respond to all incidents reported to us, whether or not they amount to a crime.

If you are the victim of a homophobic incident the police will investigate it in a professional and sensitive manner.

This leaflet tells you what to do, and who can help.

protecting your rights

What should you do if you have been the victim of a Homophobic Incident?

If you have been abused, threatened or assaulted in any way, contact the police in the normal manner and an officer will be appointed to investigate the case. You may wish to ask to speak to the HIMLO.

If you feel under immediate threat Call 999

If you do not require an immediate police response you should contact the police on the non-emergency number **0845 600 8000** and ask for the police station of the area where the incident occurred. An officer from that area will be appointed to investigate the incident.

The police recognise that some people, for whatever reason, may be reluctant to report this type of incident to them.

If the police are to prevent homophobic incidents and make those responsible accountable to the law, incidents must be reported. Even if you do not wish the police to investigate the incident, **it is important to report it for information to have the incident recorded.**

If applicable, the police can arrange for an interpreter to assist you.

If you do not wish to contact the police directly, you may do so through a third party or report online via the PSNI website or any one of the organisations listed at the back of this leaflet.

What will the Police do?

The Police Service of Northern Ireland has a clear policy in respect of the investigation of these incidents.

If you report at a police station, a room will be made available where you can discuss the matter in private.

A Police Officer will be appointed to carry out an investigation and you will be updated on the progress of the investigation in accordance with the instruction of the Chief Constable. You should note the Police Officer's name and station, date and incident number for further reference.

The local HIMLO will be informed and unless you indicate otherwise, this Officer will contact you to offer advice and support.

The police will deal with your complaint in a professional, confidential and sensitive manner.

The HIMLO can be contacted at

C&C ref. no. _____

