

REPORTING A HATE CRIME

If you report a sectarian incident a Police officer 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.

The officer can be spoken to in confidence, offer a sympathetic service and respond appropriately to the individual needs of the victim, taking their cultural needs and sensitivities into consideration.

Information including contact details for Neighbourhood Police Team officers in your District can be found at:

www.psni.police.uk/my-area

A confidential online reporting tool is available on the police website.

The Hate Crime Advocacy Scheme has been in operation in Victim Support NI since July 2013 and is funded by the Department of Justice and PSNI. It is a referral agency consisting of people who have an in-depth understanding of the various hate motivations for which a victim may be targeted. This allows for a bespoke support service to be offered to victims of hate crime to assist them through the criminal justice process.

psni.police.uk 

Report online. Call 101.

In an emergency call 999

If you have been the victim of a sectarian incident contact the police. Some of the organisations listed may be able to help you.

Community relations council

028 9022 7500

www.community-relations.org.uk

Samaritans

116 123

www.samaritans.org.uk

Victim Support

028 9024 3133 Belfast / 028 7137 0086

Foyle

www.victimsupportni.com

Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

028 9050 0600

www.equalityni.org

Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission

028 9024 3987

www.nihrc.org

Crimestoppers

080 055 5111

www.crimestoppers-uk.org

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**NOBODY
DESERVES THIS**

**AND NOBODY
DESERVES
TO GET AWAY
WITH IT
SECTARIAN
HATE CRIME IS
UNACCEPTABLE
TO STOP IT,
REPORT IT**



**Police Service
of Northern Ireland**

WHAT IS A SECTARIAN INCIDENT?

The Police Service of Northern Ireland define a sectarian incident as:

“ANY INCIDENT WHICH IS PERCEIVED TO BE SECTARIAN BY THE VICTIM OR ANY OTHER PERSON.”

Sectarian incidents may take many different forms, for example:

ASSAULTS, DAMAGE TO YOUR HOME OR OTHER PROPERTY, VERBAL ABUSE OR HATE MAIL.

PROTECTING YOUR RIGHTS

The police recognise the impact that even minor sectarian 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 sectarian incident the police will investigate it in a professional and sensitive manner.

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

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU HAVE BEEN THE VICTIM OF A SECTARIAN 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.

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 101 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 sectarian 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 Police Service of Northern Ireland 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. You should note the police officer's name and station, date and incident number for further reference.

Your Neighbourhood Policing Team officer or local Crime Prevention Officer may be informed and unless you indicate otherwise, they may contact you to offer advice and support. The police will deal with your complaint in a professional, confidential and sensitive manner.

THE LOCAL POLICING TEAM CAN BE CONTACTED AT:

