

"Just as the Commission is doing with disability hate crime, we need to bring this problem into the open and create a culture where victims are confident to come forward and society confronts all forms of abuse."

The report makes a series of recommendations to tackle the issues surrounding reporting of hate crimes. These include; increased community outreach by police to build trust with LGB and T communities; an increase in third party reporting systems where needed; increasing awareness of how and where to report hate crime and looking at what can be learned from the reporting of other types of hate crime.

Galop, a specialist LGBT anti-violence charity, has joined the year-long anti-hate crime initiative as one of the lead delivery partners.

Their Chief Executive, Nik Noone, spoke of the urgent need for the partnership, saying:

"It is not acceptable that people go so long without support and assistance, so I am pleased that the EHRC is steadfastly behind our partnership's work to build strong local community responses to homophobia, biphobia and transphobia in every village, town and city."

Report author, Dr Stevie-Jade Hardy, a lecturer at the University of Leicester's Centre for Hate Studies, said:

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"Hate crimes are a routine, and mostly unreported feature of many LGB and T people's daily lives.

"Simply expecting victims to report without taking meaningful action to dismantle perceived and actual barriers is futile, particularly when the evidence shows that many have little confidence in the capacity of authorities to act empathetically or effectively."

The Commission is also funding the UK's only 24/7 nationwide LGB and T hate crime helpline, run by [Stop Hate UK](#) – 0808 801 0661.

Other regional helplines can be found at www.lgbthatecrime.org.uk

Ends

For more press information and interviews contact the Commission's media office on 0161 829 8102, out of office hours 07767 272 818.

Notes to Editors

- The Home Office, Ministry of Justice Westminster Government Equalities Office, Welsh Government and Crown Office Scotland representatives all sit on the project's Expert Reference Group.
- A further programme will begin shortly in Scotland to complement the work in England and Wales.
- The Equality and Human Rights Commission is a statutory body established under the Equality Act 2006. It is an independent body responsible for protecting and promoting equality and human rights in Great Britain. It aims to encourage equality and diversity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, and protect and promote human rights. The Commission enforces equality legislation on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. It encourages compliance with the Human Rights Act 1998 and is accredited by the UN as an 'A status' National Human Rights Institution.
- The Equality and Human Rights Commission has funded this Partnership from February 2015 through to March 2016.
- LGBT Consortium is the umbrella body for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Voluntary and Community Organisations in the United Kingdom. It provides support for organisations so they are able to deliver services to LGBT individuals.
- Galop is London's LGBT anti-violence & abuse charity. It gives advice and support to people who have experienced biphobia, homophobia, transphobia, sexual violence or domestic abuse. It also supports lesbian, gay, bi, trans people who have had problems with the police or have questions about the criminal justice system.
- Stop Hate is one of the leading national organisations working to challenge all forms of hate crime and discrimination, based on any aspect of an individual's identity. Stop Hate UK provides independent, confidential and accessible reporting and support for victims, witnesses and third parties.

LGBT Consortium Project partners are:

Allsorts Youth Project

Birmingham LGBT

Bi UK

Camden LGBT Centre

East London Out Project (ELOP)

Galop

Gender Identity Research and Education Society (GIRES)

Gendered Intelligence

Health Equality and Rights Organisation t/a GMFA

Lancashire LGBT

Leicester LGBT

LGBT Consortium

LGBT Foundation

LGBTQ Youth Cornwall

London Friend

METRO

Mosaic LGBT Youth Group

North East LGBT Federation

Outreach Liverpool

PACE

Proud 2 b Parents

Proud2Be Project

Regard

SexYOUality

Space Youth Project

Stonewall Housing

The Intercom Trust

Trans Media Watch

Unity Group Wales

Yorkshire MESMAC

Youth North West

Details of the partnership's objectives can be found [here](#):

Company Contact: