

# ADVICE ON HATE INCIDENTS & LAGLO



## Homophobia, transphobia & biphobia

Is any incident or hate crime that is motivated by prejudice or hostility towards lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender people.

### Incidents vs Crimes

A homophobic or transphobic **incident** is defined as “any incident which is perceived to be homophobic or transphobic by the victim or any other person” (CPS 2009).

A homophobic or transphobic **crime** is defined as “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/against a person who is transgender or perceived to be transgender” (CPS 2016).

The difference between the two definitions is often difficult to distinguish and the police would encourage you to **report all incidents** regardless of whether you believe a criminal offence has been committed.



### What should I do if faced with homophobia or transphobia?

Whether the incident is directed at you personally or someone in your vicinity, your first concern should be your safety and the safety of others.

Try not to speak up or otherwise involve yourself in the incident unless doing so poses no risk to your safety, or the safety of those around you. Common risks include things like people/groups of people who are under the influence of alcohol or drugs, people who are prone to aggressive behaviour, being alone in a situation or being in a remote location, ignorant people or people with entrenched strong opinions. This list is not exhaustive by any means, but be aware of your surroundings.

Even if you cannot speak up at the time of the incident, you are always able to report it at a later date when it is safe to do so. The LGBT+ committee can help you with this by anonymising your report and sending it to the police to help them.

In day-to-day life therefore, you should feel able to call out friends and acquaintances on their use of homophobic or transphobic slurs or phrases (such as the use of the word ‘gay’ to refer to something in a derogatory fashion) as the likelihood is they are unaware that these things can cause offence.

For more serious incidents that are not crimes, we would encourage you to speak to the LGBT+ committee or one of our welfare officers. The more we know about what is happening in the community, the better we can plan our socials and activities and focus our resources to ensure the continuation of our safe space policy.

### More Information:

Union Southampton LGBT+ Society: <https://lgbt.susu.org/welfare>

LAGLOs: [www.hampshire.police.uk/internet/advice-and-information/general/lesbian-and-gay-liaison-officers](http://www.hampshire.police.uk/internet/advice-and-information/general/lesbian-and-gay-liaison-officers)

Stonewall: [www.stonewall.org.uk/help-advice/hate-crime/what-hate-crime](http://www.stonewall.org.uk/help-advice/hate-crime/what-hate-crime)



### What is a LAGLO?

LAGLOs are police officers who, on top of their normal duties, act as **Lesbian and Gay Liaison Officers**. In practice this means that every crime that has an element of LGBT+ culture involved will be assigned a LAGLO to advise and supervise. There are around 90 LAGLOs based around Hampshire and the Isle of Wight who you may see visiting local LGBT+ venues in order to foster good relations in the community. Contact with the police through LAGLOs has several benefits, not least in simple things such as not asking offensive questions about the sex and gender of Transgender people, but also in understanding the motivations for crimes and other homophobic incidents.

#### How can I get in touch with a LAGLO?

No matter how trivial the incident might appear, it is important to report it either directly to the police on their non-emergency number 101 and ask to speak to a LAGLO (in an emergency use 999), or in person at the police station, or finally to a member of the LGBT+ Committee who will be able to pass on the information for you. You can also email [postmaster@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:postmaster@hampshire.pnn.police.uk) and your message will be sent to a LAGLO. **Always report an incident!** It helps LAGLOs target their resources and better serve the community.



### How do I report an incident?

You can report a hate crime to the police using the True Vision website: [www.report-it.org.uk/home](http://www.report-it.org.uk/home)

On the website there is an online form which is sent directly to your local police force once filled in. You can also use the self-reporting form which you must then send to your local police. It’s important to record as many details as you can to help the police deal with your case more effectively. If you want the police to investigate the incident, you need to provide your contact details and times you will be available to talk. However, if you are worried about the police contacting you at home you can ask to be contacted through a person you trust who has agreed to provide details. You still need to provide your contact details as well.

#### Useful information to include in your form:

The reporting forms have sections for the information you need to give the police when reporting the hate incident or crime. When describing the offender, it is useful to give information such as age, height, build, gender, ethnicity, and clothing. Also try to include any particularly identifying features: hair colour, glasses, jewellery or piercings, tattoos, facial hair, a particular accent, teeth, scars, birth marks. If the incident has involved damage to property, you should describe the damage or loss as well as the costs involved if possible. You can also take photos of the damage to show the police.

### What constitutes a crime?

- @ Verbal abuse
- @ Harassment
- @ Physical attacks
- @ Threats of violence
- @ Hoax Calls, abusive phones calls or text messages, hate mail
- @ Online abuse
- @ Harm or damage to property, such as your home or vehicle
- @ Graffiti
- @ Arson (Stonewall 2016)

