Welcome to the Spring 2014 edition of the Stop Hate UK quarterly newsletter.

Improving accessibility of services

Stop Hate UK has launched a new British Sign language service for BSL users wanting to contact our helplines. The launch of the BSL service is an important development as it helps to widen Stop Hate UK’s reach amongst the deaf community in our helpline areas. Stop Hate UK have partnered with InterpreterNow to deliver this unique Video Remote Interpreting Service which offers online communication support for BSL users.

InterpreterNow can be accessed via a link on the Stop Hate UK website from any PC or Mac which has a web-cam, and any tablet or Smartphone which runs on Android or Apple software. The link will connect the user to an online interpreter who relays the conversation with the user to one of our helpline operators.

15 year anniversary of the Macpherson report

24th February 2014 marks 15 years since the publication of the Macpherson report, following the public inquiry into the death of Stephen Lawrence.

One of the key recommendations from the report (recommendation 16) stated that all possible steps should be taken by police services at local level in consultation with local government and other agencies and local communities to encourage the reporting of racist incidents and crimes. This should include:

• The ability to report at locations other than police stations
• The ability to report 24 hours a day

At Stop Hate UK we continue to be absolutely committed to delivering Hate Crime reporting services based on recommendation 16 and are proud to have Stephen’s mother, Baroness Doreen Lawrence of Clarendon OBE, of Clarendon in the Commonwealth Realm of Jamaica as our Patron.

Helpline statistics

In the first 9 months of 2013-14 Stop Hate UK received 1091 incident reports via the Stop Hate line and the Stop Learning Disability Hate Crime line.

The recorded Hate Crime figures for all Police Forces for the year 2012-13 were published recently. This shows that over 43,000 Hate Crimes were recorded by police forces in England and Wales during the year, 1,800 of which were Disability Hate Crimes so clearly this still remains a significantly under reported strand. During the same period Disability Hate Incident reports to the Stop Hate line service formed over 36% of all incident reports - the highest of all the monitored strands. This clearly shows that the independent, 24/7, confidential services offered by Stop Hate UK are seen as accessible by disabled victims of Hate Incidents.
Stop Learning Disability Hate Crime Helpline

Stop Hate UK is pleased to announce that funding has been extended for our Stop Learning Disability Hate Crime service in England and Wales, and would like to express our thanks to the Ministry of Justice for their commitment to this service through their Victim and Witness Fund.

People across England and Wales who have experienced, witnessed or know someone who is experiencing Learning Disability Hate Crime can contact the Stop Learning Disability Hate Crime line on 0808 802 1155 for support and information. The helpline is open 24 hours a day, every day of the year. It is free to call the helpline from landlines and most mobiles, the number won’t show on a phone bill and you will always get through to an operator.

Calls are confidential and callers will be asked whether they need ongoing support. Referrals will be made where consent has been given by the victim. Stop Hate UK will also follow up with callers and offer additional support, referrals or signposting where appropriate. All incidents will be reported to the local police by Stop Hate UK, either with the victim’s details for investigation purposes, if that is what the victim wants, or without the details of the victim for information and monitoring purposes.

We would like to use this opportunity to say thank you to all of our partners and colleagues who have supported our ongoing campaign to raise awareness of the new helpline, and vital work to encourage and support people to access it.

We are aware that there is still a great deal of work to be done, largely in increasing reports of what still remains a massively under reported issue. This is something indicated when comparing British Crime Survey findings with statistics of incidents reported, and unequivocally corroborated in our regular talks with people who, whilst they have not reported to police or contacted our helpline, can recount numerous stories of times they have experienced abuse, bullying and discrimination because they have a learning disability.

It is a very similar story when speaking to a great number of family carers, support workers and other professionals supporting people with a learning disability, and it never fails to surprise us how many people have become normalised to this kind of abuse, viewing it as part of people’s daily existence – ‘that’s just what happens’ - and not something worthy or necessary to report.

Yet, this is only one of a myriad of reasons why people might not feel comfortable or able to talk about their experiences of Hate Crime or others that they know and every person faces their own barriers.

We hope that in reading this newsletter you will be encouraged by the renewal of our helpline service, and join our many partners and supporters in helping us to challenge these views, misconceptions and misunderstandings of Hate Crime and provide ever increasing support to the people it affects.

New easy read Mate Crime publicity

0808 802 1155
Stop Learning Disability Hate Crime
Open 24 hours a day, every day of the year

Mate Crime is wrong
real friends don’t...

...call you names

we are here to support you
See it. Report it. Sort it.

Follow us on social media
Twitter: @stophateuk
Facebook:
www.facebook.com/stop.hate.uk
On the 1st October over 50 delegates from a wide range of disciplines including local authority, social care, police and voluntary sector attended a moving and insightful Stop Hate UK conference that was hosted by The Northern School of Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy in Leeds. The day consisted of morning sessions exploring the intersections of loss, hate and Hate Crimes with Ted Bowman, a specialist trainer in grief and loss, and afternoon sessions focusing on the roots of harm: trauma, insecurity and violence in contemporary social life with Dr. Rowland Atkinson and Dr. Simon Winlow from Teeside University.

Ted Bowman led the group through a thought provoking presentation exploring the effects of loss and sorrow on individuals who have been victims of hate. Ted emphasised how important it was for friends, family and support organisations to stand alongside individuals during times of grief, trauma and loss quoting Ken Hardy "it’s one thing to lose something that was important to you, but it is far worse when no one in your universe recognizes that you lost it”

Ted also helped the group identify common symptoms of grief that individuals may be carrying and was keen to emphasise that it was important to sensitively give people time to work through the grieving process whilst also providing opportunities to encourage them to “grow their world” and search for future hope and meaning.

Dr. Atkinson (Reader in Urban Studies and Criminology and Co-Director of the Centre for Urban Research) and Dr. Winlow (Professor of Criminology and Co-Director of the Centre for Realist Criminology) presented a new piece of research due to be carried out with regards to the root causes of trauma, insecurity and violence in contemporary social life.

Setting the scene of the research they shared with the group their observations around the rising “epidemic” of individuals in the UK with poor mental health, the effects on rising antisocial behaviour in concentrated urban areas in post industrialised Britain and the movement towards a more consumer and competitive national culture.

A constructive feedback session concluded this presentation, giving delegates the opportunity to feed their thoughts into the design of the research.

In addition to these two sessions, our own Rose Simkins delivered a presentation on the vital work of Stop Hate UK and participated on the guest panel for a Q&A session after lunch.

We are now planning a 2014 event with Ted Bowman and will focus on online abuse and Hate Crime.
On placement at Stop Hate UK

Jordan Mayo, a Forensic Psychology placement student at Stop Hate UK, shares his thoughts and experiences at Stop Hate UK.

I first discovered Stop Hate UK last year whilst on placement with an organisation called Volition. I spotted Stop Hate UK amongst Volition’s list of 50+ members and decided to find out more about them. Upon reading their website and learning about what they do I knew that this organisation would be a great opportunity for me as a second year placement.

Once it was time to organise my placement I immediately contacted Stop Hate UK. I was welcomed into the office for an informal chat, as an opportunity for everyone to get to know one another and to explore the potential for placement. After meeting the team that were so friendly and obviously very passionate about what they do, I knew it would be a great environment to work in. However, what really sold it for was all the hard work that the organisation is dedicated to doing. They not only provide a service that is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with several ways of contacting them but they also offer a range of other services including training, education and consultancy. What lies in the core of Stop Hate UK are awareness-raising, campaigning and delivering projects on a variety of issues relevant to Hate Crime and equality.

All crime is wrong, but crime motivated by hatred of a specific characteristic of the victim – whether it’s their disability, gender identity, race, sexual orientation or religion, faith or belief, or anything else for that matter - is particularly damaging. Whilst staying with Stop Hate UK I quickly learnt that tackling Hate Crime is so important, not just because of the devastating consequences it can have for victims and their families, but also because it can divide communities.

I believe that everyone has the right to live their life free from the fear of attack or abuse because of just being who they are. Britain today is more diverse than ever before, and the vast majority of us embrace this rich mix of different races, cultures, beliefs, attitudes and lifestyles. Unfortunately this is not always the case. For example, Stonewall conducted a gay British survey on homophobic Hate Crime with shocking results. One in ten of people experiencing a homophobic Hate Crime or Incident were physically assaulted.

Being a member of the LGBT community myself I have great issue with this, hearing stories from friends, the local community or news stories from around the world just shows how much is needed to be done. No-one should ever be targeted because of hostility or prejudice of another person. It’s comforting to know that victims of Hate Crime now have greater legal protection, with the courts having enhanced sentencing powers to reflect the seriousness of such offences.

However, there is still much more to do and no-one should think for a moment that this is a problem that has been solved. Police figures show that there were over 42,000 hate crimes recorded in 2012 in England and Wales. That is simply unacceptable in a civilised society, and while people continue to be attacked and even killed because of who they are, we owe it to them, their families and their communities to carry on the fight against hatred.

More new staff members at Stop Hate UK

Duncan joined the team as the Helpline Operations Co-ordinator last September. The role involves managing all staff on the helpline, ensuring that the level of advice provided is maintained at a high level and that the organisation’s volunteer team is trained and supported.

Duncan Wells

Duncan has been working in the refugee and asylum field in Yorkshire for the past 12 years in a wide variety of roles, including 8 years as Director of RETAS.

Ian joined Stop Hate UK in May 2013 as the Reporting Analyst. Ian is primarily responsible for collecting and cleansing data relating to the use of the helplines. This data is then used to produce quarterly helpline activity reports for all the commissioned areas.

Ian Davey

Ian joined Stop Hate UK after 30 years with the police service. On retirement Ian was the Diversity Manager for Derbyshire Constabulary with responsibility for overseeing the reporting, recording and investigation of Hate Crimes and Incidents throughout Derbyshire.
LGBT history month

James Gibbs, Hate Crime Advocate at Stop Hate UK, shares his thoughts on tackling transphobic and homophobic Hate Crime as part of this year’s February LGBT history month.

Working for Stop Hate UK, and supporting people on a daily basis who have experienced Hate Crime and discrimination because of who they are, I was initially worried about writing this piece for LGBT history month.

Firstly, was Hate Crime something people wanted to hear about in what should be a celebration of LGBT identity and culture? Perhaps not, but to shy away from it, to push it under the carpet would be to disregard the experiences of the victims, families and communities it affects. Victims such Ian Baynham, beaten to death because he was gay.

Secondly, it is clear from my work with Stop Hate UK, that Hate crime and discrimination based on somebody’s sexuality or gender identity is not an issue that has been consigned to the history books.

Take my hometown for example, Plymouth. Also the home of Olympic diver Tom Daley, who went to my high school and still lives just down the road from my parents. Tom Daley recently told the world that he was in a same-sex relationship. Great - the torrent of support and congratulations that followed his YouTube video was wonderful to see, and it was nice to see a fellow Janner (Plymouth-folk) happy.

Yet, the very next day –less than 24 hours later - I took a report on our helpline from an individual who had pulled together a series of Tweets, directed at Tom and his new partner, ranging from the offensive to the downright vile. I would like to say I was shocked, but unfortunately this kind of targeted hatred is something I have become all too familiar with during my time with Stop Hate UK.

It is right; we have come a long way from the days when people were persecuted because of their sexuality. Tom’s announcement would have been illegal in the early 1960s! But it is clear that we have a long way to go when, firstly somebody speaking about their sexuality is considered worthy of national media scrutiny, and secondly it is accompanied by any form of abuse or hatred. So whilst I had my initial worries about writing this short piece, I am pleased to tell you about Stop Hate UK, who are working to challenge this.

We operate a 24 hour helpline service across Leeds, for anybody affected by Hate Crime and discrimination. The aim of this helpline is to encourage and support people to report incidents of hatred and abuse based on any aspect of their identity, provide independent advice and information to allow people to access the right support. Anybody who has experienced, witnessed or knows somebody who has been affected by Hate Crime can contact the Stop Hate Line 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

New Board Members

We are delighted to have some new additions join our dedicated Board of Trustees. One of our new recruits is Migs Ward. Here she shares a bit about her background.

Hello, I am a marketing and communications professional and I have worked in a variety of roles over the years. I started my career in the music industry marketing acts from Madonna to Andre Rieu. It was a very pressurised job, however it did have it’s funny moments, like when I attended the Kerrang awards and did not realise that the ‘strange man with the slurring voice’ who I was talking to was in fact Ozzy Osbourne! I also worked on PR for Cirque du Soleil, Vodafone, Smart Car and Eddie Izzard.

When I moved to Yorkshire I swapped pop stars for property and became the Marketing and Communications Manager at Yorkshire Housing, After 8 years at Yorkshire Housing I set up my own company (Migs TM) and I now do contract marketing and communications for various companies.

When I was asked by Stop Hate UK to be a Trustee I have to say I was very honoured, and a little scared! I’ve never done this before and I did not know what was expected of me. They said that having someone who has marketing and communications experience on the Board would be of great benefit to them and I am a strong believer in helping people that work for a valuable cause – and you can’t get much better than the work the guys do at Stop Hate UK! I hope that I shall be able to assist Stop Hate UK in their mission to reach out to a much wider audience.
**Hate Incidents and Hate Crimes**

A Hate Incident is any incident which may, or may not constitute a criminal offence, which is perceived by the victim, or any other person, as being motivated by prejudice or hate.

A Hate Crime is any Hate Incident, which constitutes a criminal offence, perceived by the victim, or any other person, as being motivated by prejudice or hate. The offence can be against a person or property and includes verbal and physical abuse and graffiti, letters and leafleting.

The prejudice or hate perceived can be based on any identifying factor, including Disability, Race, Religion or Sexual Orientation.

If you would like to become a member of Stop Hate UK, please contact Rose at info@stophateuk.org

If you are interested in volunteering with Stop Hate UK, please contact Duncan at Duncan@stophateuk.org

Check to see if your area is covered at http://www.stophateuk.org/report-hate-crime/

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**Hate Crime Headlines**

The number of contacts made to the Helpline service was over 3000 during 2012/13. The highest volume of calls related to Disability Hate Crime, followed by Race related Hate Crimes. Victims reported a wide range of incidents including physical assaults. Verbal abuse and threatening behaviour were the most commonly reported incident types.

**Reporting a Hate Crime**

Remember, should you or anyone you know want to report a Hate Crime or Incident, we offer a variety of services for reporting Hate Crimes or Incidents:

- Stop Hate Line - 0800 138 1625
- Text Relay - 18001 0800 138 1625
- Email - talk@stophateuk.org
- Text - 07717 989 025
- Live web chat - www.stophateuk.org/talk
- Online form - www.stophateuk.org/tell
- Post - Stop Hate UK, PO BOX 484, LS7 9BZ
- Stop Learning Disability Hate Crime - 0808 802 1155

A person reporting a Hate Crime does not have to be the victim themselves, nor do they need full details of the incident. Any detail could help make an area safer.

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Thank you for taking the time to read the Stop Hate UK newsletter. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.