

WE ARE COMMUNITY SAFETY.

WE ARE NEWHAM.



**NO PLACE
FOR HATE**

**NEWHAM HATE CRIME STRATEGY
2022-25**

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FOREWORD

As a Council, we are immensely proud of Newham's diversity, it is our strength and it makes Newham such a rewarding place to live and visit. The way our residents interact with each other is important because the process of learning from each other delivers several key benefits. These include enhancing the richness of our lives, broadening our perspectives, opening up opportunities for making social connections and enabling fuller economic participation, particularly for those most marginalised groups and individuals within the community.

There is no place for Hate in Newham. Those who commit hate crimes attack the fundamental values that underpin our diverse society, values of acceptance and respect for others. Hate Crime is any crime that is targeted at a person because of a hostility or prejudice towards a person's race, faith or religion, sexual orientation, transgender or disability. It can have a devastating impact on victims, create fear and weakens community cohesion. Reported Hate Crime in our borough has been rising for the past 3 years. It is completely unacceptable that individuals and communities should suffer abuse or attacks because of who they are and as a Community Safety Partnership we intend to focus our collective efforts on reducing Hate Crime in Newham.

We are committed to working with our partners to tackle all forms of Hate crime in Newham. This three-year strategy sets out our commitment to supporting victims of hate crime and holding perpetrators to account. It has been developed in consultation with key partners including the Metropolitan Police Service, community and third sector organisations. We want to work with communities in our borough to increase their confidence to report these awful crimes and access appropriate support. We also want to educate and empower our residents to understand how hate manifests and be able to challenge and call out problem behaviours and attitudes. The strategy also focusses on how we will work with partners to prevent hate crime, support victims, and bring perpetrators to justice.

Cllr Carleene Lee-Phakoe
Cabinet Member for Crime and Community Safety

Newham Hate Crime Strategy 2022-2025

The purpose of the strategy is to provide an overview of how hate crime is impacting on residents in Newham and to set clear direction for how the Community Safety Partnership will work to tackle the problem over the next 4 years.



OUR VISION FOR NEWHAM

Diversity is at the heart of Newham and we are immensely proud of that. Newham Council is driven to build a more cohesive, united and fairer borough, where 72% of our residents are from black, Asian and ethnically diverse communities. According to the last census, Newham is also one of the most religious London boroughs and its diversity is also reflected in our religious identities.

Diversity is Newham's strength and we must work together to protect it and support one another in our communities and neighbourhoods. By joining together, we can ensure that those who commit acts aimed at destroying lives and breaking down our communities will not succeed.

Newham is no place for hate and it will not be tolerated. We welcome everyone inclusive of their race, faith, disability, sexuality and gender identity. Through this strategy we will work to tackle hate crime in all its forms so our residents feel safe and valued and be free to live well and thrive in our borough.

Whilst this strategy aims to tackle the issue of hate crime our borough, it also feeds into our wider commitment of tackling crime. In line with the Mayor of London's vision for the future of policing and crime in London, our strategy will take a victim-oriented approach, putting the victim's safety and wellbeing at the heart of everything we do.



Newham acknowledges the Metropolitan Police's commitment to reducing hate crimes and working with partners to identify and prosecute those who commit such crimes. Newham Council and the Police will work together to deliver this strategy to support victims and communities affected by hate crimes.

This strategy also links in with the Council's Social Integration Strategy which aims to break down barriers and inequalities faced by residents to help create a rich and connected community, as well as working to support a transformation that strengthens our voluntary, community and faith sector (VCFS), working in partnership with the Council to continue to transform our neighbourhoods for the better, bringing people together in the spirit of collaboration so that everyone can thrive.

The priorities of this Hate Crime strategy are to:

-  **1. Develop a better understanding of hate crime and hate incidents in Newham**
-  **2. Increase reporting of hate crime and hate incidents**
-  **3. Build community resilience against hateful beliefs and attitudes**
-  **4. Respond to hate incidents and crime in our communities**
-  **5. Provide high quality support to victims to lessen the impact of hate crime**

These actions will help us work towards the overarching aim of eradicating hate crime in Newham.

DEFINITION OF HATE CRIME

What is Hate Crime?

The issue of hate crime has become increasingly recognised in recent years at both a local and national level. There has been a growing determination from public and voluntary agencies to tackle this problem and provide an effective response for victims.

Hate crime is the targeting of individuals, groups and communities because of who they are, and it can have a devastating and psychological effect on its victims. While it is often perceived that hate crime affects a small number of individual victims, the nature of hate crime is that it is based on prejudice or hatred of a particular group in society, and therefore it has a wider impact on the confidence and cohesion of the wider community.

It is known that the under reporting of hate crime is a serious problem across the country, due to a lack of confidence in authorities to take reports seriously and take action or for fear of repercussions. Third party reporting has been a method employed across the country to encourage victims to come forward to non-police sites to report incidents in an environment where they feel comfortable.

Definitions of Hate crime

The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and the Home Office (HO) define hate crime 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 personal characteristic (actual or perceived);

- Race or ethnicity
- Religion or beliefs
- Sexual orientation
- Disability
- Gender identity

The Metropolitan Police record all hate incidents, but not all incidents will meet the threshold to be classed as a criminal offence.

Hate incidents are incidents that do not constitute a criminal offence but cause alarm, distress or harassment which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by a hostility or prejudice based on a personal characteristic; specifically actual or perceived race, religion/faith, sexual orientation, disability and gender identity.

It is important to ensure hate incidents are also reported and recorded as this will allow victims to receive adequate support. It will also help to build a clearer picture of what is happening in our community. This will enable us and our partners to target resources and take positive action to prevent hate incidents from occurring or escalating into criminal activity.

Hate incidents and hate crimes can take many forms including:

- **Physical attacks** – including physical assault, damage to property, offensive graffiti, neighbour disputes and arson.
- **Threat of attack** – including offensive letters, abusive or obscene phone calls, intimidation and unfounded, malicious complaints.
- **Verbal abuse or insults** – including offensive leaflets and posters, abusive gestures, dumping of rubbish outside homes or through letterboxes and bullying at school or in the workplace.
- **Threats, harassment and bullying**
- **Online abuse** Hate crime can have a significant impact on victims as it targets a fundamental part of their identity.

Victims of hate crime are more likely to suffer repeat victimisation and serious psychological impact. Hate crime is also a damaging social problem that harms entire families and communities, as well as individual victims. Failure to recognise and effectively target hate crime and hate incidents can lead to victimisation of individuals and vulnerable groups, as well as the destabilisation of entire communities.

It is important to recognise that there is no specific offence of 'hate crime' in criminal law. Rather, there are existing offences committed against a person, which may include threats, physical assault, harassment and damage to property. There are also offences which may not be directed at individuals such as incitement to violence or incitement to hatred. When such offences are motivated by hostility or prejudice as outlined in the Home Office definition, they are categorised as 'hate crime' and this can influence how the offence is investigated and prosecuted. It can also, in the case of a conviction, lead to an enhanced sentence compared to the same offence where the 'hate' motivation is not evident¹.

Misogyny

In November 2020 members voted unanimously at Newham Full Council to support a motion, resolving to ask the Law Commission to add misogyny to its definitions under the law. Newham Council believes this would give protection to the 85% of women aged 18-24 who have reported being subjected to sexual harassment in public and the many more who suffer in silence.

In March 2022, the UK Government confirmed that it would ask the House of Lords to disagree with the House of Lords amendment on the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill 2021 that sought to make misogyny a hate crime. This amendment sought to add the characteristics of sex or gender to hate crime laws, as well as to oblige police forces to collect data on crimes motivated by hostility or prejudice towards these characteristics.

It is Newham's stance that Misogyny should be tackled robustly alongside Hate Crime with legislative backing. Newham's Community Safety Partnership will continue work to tackle misogynistic behaviour and will develop actions to tackle misogyny within its Community Safety Partnership Plan 2022-25 and Safer Spaces Actions Plan 2022.



**NO PLACE
FOR HATE**

POLICY CONTEXT



A number of policy developments have been considered when developing this strategy:

- **The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime developed its Hate Crime Reduction Strategy in 2014.** This outlined plans to boost confidence and increase the reporting of hate crime, to improve prevention work, to reduce repeat victimisation and to ensure justice for victims. The plan included several recommendations for key agencies such as the Metropolitan Police and the Crown Prosecution Service.

- **In 2016 the Home Office released 'Action Against Hate'**, the Government's plan for tackling hate crime over the next four years. An update to this plan, 'Action Against Hate Two Years On' was published in October 2018. This plan builds on improvements made since the previous Government's Hate Crime Action Plan of 2014 which led to increased reporting of hate crime and the understanding of its impact within criminal justice agencies. Action Against Hate sets out five priorities for Government and community partners to address:

1. Preventing hate crime - by tackling the beliefs and attitudes that can lead to hate crime.
2. Responding to hate crime in communities – by focussing on the settings that have proven to be high-risk environments for hate crime including the internet.
3. Increasing the reporting of hate crime – by making it easier for those affected to report hate crime and increasing victim confidence.
4. Improving support for the victims of hate crime – by ensuring that effective provision is available at the time of reporting, with a focus on improving reporting of disability crime which is under reported.
5. Building our understanding of hate crime – by improving data collection and analysis to inform our understanding of its drivers².

Newham Council Policy and Corporate priorities

This Hate Crime Strategy will contribute to the delivery of the Towards a Better Newham recovery and re-orientation strategy, specifically the following pillars:

- **Pillar 1:** Our measures of success will be the health, happiness and wellbeing of our residents, rather than growth, productivity and land value.
- **Pillar 2:** The Council will ensure every resident under 25 is safe, happy and cared for, with positive activity to secure their long-term wellbeing
- **Pillar 4:** The Council will make sure our residents are healthy, happy, safe and cared for, to enable them to thrive during times of recession and in the new economy
- **Pillar 5:** The Council will enable every resident to live in an accessible and inclusive neighbourhood which will provide all of their social, civic and economic essentials

This Strategy also contributes to the delivery of the priority of 'Safety in Public Spaces' in the Newham Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2022-25.

2. 'Action Against Hate', The UK Government's Plan for tackling Hate Crime, July 2016, p19

London Police and Crime Plan

In March 2022 the Mayor of London published the Police and Crime Plan for 2022-25, to which this strategy is aligned through its priorities of tackling hate crime and better supporting victims. The four key priorities of the Plan are:

- **Reducing and preventing violence** – preventing and reducing violence affecting young people; making London a city in which women and girls are safer and feel safer; tackling the harm caused by drugs; reducing reoffending by the most violent and high-risk groups; preventing hate crime; and working together to prevent terrorism and violent extremism.
- **Increasing trust and confidence** – increasing public trust in the MPS and reducing gaps in confidence between different groups; ensuring that the MPS engages with Londoners and treats them fairly; and ensuring that the MPS, borough councils and all community safety partners respond to neighbourhood crimes such as burglary and anti-social behaviour.
- **Better supporting victims** – improving the service and support that victims receive from the MPS and the criminal justice service; working to ensure victims receive a better criminal justice response and outcome; and reducing the number of repeat victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence.
- **Protecting people from being exploited or harmed** – reducing the number of young people and adults who are criminally exploited or harmed; keeping young people in the justice system supported and safe; and keeping people safe online.

Existing legislation

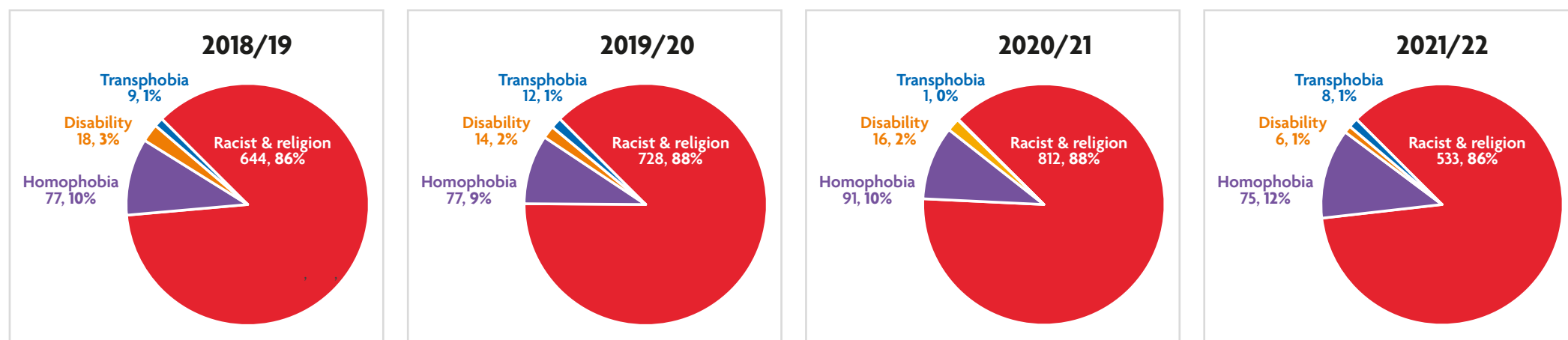
- **Racially and religiously aggravated offences**
These offences are limited to four offence groups - assaults, criminal damage, minor public order and harassment offences.
- **Incitement offences**
These crimes include the stirring up of hatred on the grounds of race, religion or sexual orientation. In addition to the above there is a specific offence of Racist Chanting where the Football (Offences) Act 1991 makes it an offence to engage or take part in chanting of an indecent or racist nature at a designated football match.
- **Enhanced sentencing legislation**
The enhanced sentencing provisions are provided for by Sections 145 and 146 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003. Section 145 requires the courts to consider racial or religious hostility as an aggravating factor when deciding on the sentence for any offence (which has not been identified as a racially or religiously aggravated offence as outlined above). Section 146 has the same effect for sexual orientation, disability or transgender. In cases where the prosecution is able to prove that the offender was motivated by hostility towards a person's (actual or perceived) race, religion, sexual orientation, disability or gender identity the court must treat that fact as an aggravating factor³.



WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT HATE CRIME IN OUR BOROUGH

In 2021 Newham ranked 6th in London for overall hate crime offences and was above the MPS Average for the last 12 months. This is an increase on the previous ranks of 10th in 2020 and 11th in 2019.

- Newham Offences are at their highest for 3 years.
- There was a 17.7% increase in offences from 2020 and a 35.4% increase from 2019.



HATE CRIME IN NEWHAM BY CALENDAR YEAR														
YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL	AVERAGE
2019	55	46	76	60	62	68	66	68	66	77	83	60	787	66
2020	80	71	69	38	58	97	92	114	80	79	69	65	912	76
2021	35	79	117	90	89	94	110	81	70	89	108	107	1,069	89

*Red months are above the average for that 12 month period. Italic months were during Covid-19 reduction measures e.g. lockdown.

Racist and religious hate crime is by far the most reported hate crime in Newham. However there is likely under reporting of other hate crimes, such as disability and LGBTQ+ hate crime, therefore partnership work should focus on ensuring victims are supported to report these crimes when they happen.

As a partnership we are working to ensure that we use the information we have on hate crime more effectively so we know how best to tackle the problem successfully. By improving how we collect and analyse data we can understand more about our perpetrators, suspects and hotspots, helping us to develop effective interventions and prevent hate crimes from happening in the first place.

OUR APPROACH TO TACKLING HATE CRIME

Over the next four years we will work with the police and other partners to develop an effective approach to tackling hate crime and supporting victims. Our strategy will focus on the following 5 priorities:

1. Develop a better understanding of hate crime and hate incidents in Newham



- We will undertake engagement and consultation with residents to listen to their views and reports on hate incidents in the borough.
- We will visit community and faith groups to listen to concerns and to promote hate crime reporting.
- Newham's Community Safety Service and Newham police are developing better practices to share data and analyse hate crime patterns, hotspots, perpetrators and victim vulnerability so that we can take action to prevent incidents and crime in the future.
- Our TRID Programme and Youth Service will ensure that Young People have a clear voice that is listened to and incorporated in the Council's response to hate crime.

2. Increase reporting of hate crime and hate incidents



- We will develop a third party reporting pathway with Stop Hate UK for residents and services to use as an alternative to reporting directly to police to facilitate increased reporting. Stop Hate UK provides specialist expertise and victim support for one or more of the protected characteristics to facilitate hate crime reporting.
- We will distribute the promotional materials to key partners and hate crime hotspots, including schools, libraries, hospitals, GP surgeries, supermarkets, community organisations and places of worship to encourage reporting of incidents.
- We will ensure frontline services have a consistent practice for responding to hate crime reports.

3. Build community resilience against hateful beliefs and attitudes



- We will encourage cohesion and celebrate diversity in Newham by supporting and promoting community events and cohesion programmes as well as through increased engagement with the police, local businesses and community partners.
- We will promote cultural awareness with a focus on the value of diversity and cultural understanding.
- We will deliver prejudice and hate awareness training and resources to Newham schools and youth clubs working with MPS Safer Schools officers and Council Youth Services.
- We will deliver awareness raising workshops and seminars on extremism at youth zones and community organisations that come in to contact with young people including schools and local community centres.
- We will enable and support residents, schools, local businesses, faith and community groups to counter hateful narratives and actions through the delivery of the Council's Social Integration Strategy.

4. Respond to hate incidents and crime in our communities



- We will use our CCTV and enforcement officers to support the police in gathering evidence, tackling hate and prosecuting offenders.
- We will provide hate crime awareness training to frontline Newham Council staff to enable them to recognise and respond to any hate crime witnessed in a timely, appropriate and effective manner.
- We will share intelligence and information about perpetrator patterns of behaviour so that all partners can respond effectively and provide communities with support and advice they need.
- We will work to increase sanction detection rates for reported Hate Crime by identifying suspects and making arrests and preventing reoffending.
- We will develop a campaign to address street harassment addressing both hateful and misogynistic behaviours.

5. Provide high quality support to victims to lessen the impact of hate crime



- We will increase partnership working with the Victim Support Service, Stop Hate UK and CATCH to offer support and reporting options to victims of hate crime. The CATCH Alliance includes partners that can offer specialist advice for individuals with any of the protected characteristics, including physical and learning disability.
- We will ensure that Newham Council employees are safeguarded against hate crime in the workplace through hate crime awareness training and clear guidance and support on how to report hate crime and hate incidents as well as expected behaviours in the workplace.
- We will promote the Community Risk Management Meeting (Community MARAC) so that agencies supporting hate crime victims are encouraged to make appropriate referrals to access multi-agency support.

HOW WE WILL DELIVER THIS STRATEGY

This strategy and its related action plan will be monitored and reviewed by Newham's Community Safety Partnership. This is a statutory board under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and will include membership from:

- Metropolitan Police
- Probation
- Housing
- Adult / Children's social care
- Community Safety Service
- Community leaders
- Victim Support

A Sub Group of the Newham Community Safety Partnership will oversee the delivery of this Strategy and Action Plan.



Contact

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