



Hate Crime Don't suffer in silence

Support for victims of hate crime



Inside this issue:

Welcome & Update	1
What is hate crime and its affects.	2 & 3
Harmless fun or hate crime?	4

Welcome

A big hello to everyone! My name is Paula Sousa and I am the hate crime manager, replacing Amanda. I know Amanda has done a fantastic job for East Sussex and will be missed. She has left me with big shoes to fill!

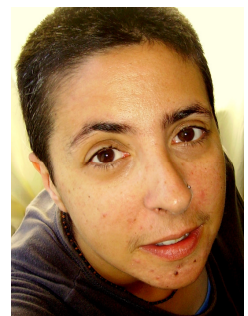
A little about my background, previous to my work at Victim Support, I spent eight years in the social care field, primarily working with adults with learning disabilities and adults with mental health needs. I started with Victim Support in 2008 as a Victim

Care Officer, working with Victims of crime across the board, including hate crime.

I was primarily interested in this role as it allowed to me to concentrate my focus on hate crime and specifically, supporting individuals and groups through case working.

I have been encouraged by the support and engagement by individuals, communities and agencies in supporting the service and the work being done to address hate crime and I look forward to meeting you all in the next few

weeks and months.



Contact me on

0845 38 99 528 or paula.sousa@victimsupport.org.uk

Update

We have seen an increase in the reporting of hate incidents which is very encouraging. Thank you to everyone for all your work to highlight the importance of this. However, we know there is still much to do to build the confidence and trust in people coming forward to report.

We are currently looking at making the hate incident reporting form more accessible, including simplifying the lan-

guage and including more pictures.

This has been in conjunction with the East Sussex learning disability partnership board and hope this will allow further access to the service. It is not yet ready to be launched but we will keep you updated.

We also start piloting the hate incident reporting in four schools in East Sussex, which started in September

with a roll out, hopefully from the New Year.

Thank you to everyone involved in this and watch this space for further details!

Lastly, some people may be aware that Habibah Anwar Bhatti, the hate crime worker at HVA, Hastings has left.

We want to wish her all the best and thank her for all the work she has put in.





Hate Crime
Don't suffer in silence
Support for victims of hate crime



What is Hate crime? How does it affect our everyday lives?



Contact Us

National helpline:

0845 30 30 900

Victim Careline Sussex:

8am – 8pm Monday to Friday

0845 38 99 528

Online:

www.victimsupport.org

Fax: 01293 536 888

Hate Crime Project Manager:

paula.sousa@victimsupport.org.uk

0845 38 99 528



Victim Support Sussex

Unit 11, Riverside Business Centre

Brighton Road

Shoreham by Sea

BN43 6RE

I will begin with a short narrative about a middle aged Gay man who has always considered himself open minded, non judgemental and pretty much free spirited in his outlook on life. As a young Gay guy he never felt the need to hide his sexuality but was aware of the need in the 1970s to be discreet which always struck him as odd, but of course there was no protection against prejudice in the work place or in just about any other environment .

Then one day along came a strange illness which seemed to effect so many of his friends, they all started to die often at an early age and in some very distressing and painful ways . Of course this was the start of what the press called the Aids epidemic. The press at the time had a field day by spreading fear and stigma amongst the public.

It is a blessing that organisations run by volunteers and latterly professional staff such as THT were formed to support those affected and educate the wider population.

This particular Gay guy lost many long term friends over 10 years and in the 1990s found himself at the top of his profession and happily settled in a long term relationship, happy and involved in many community organisations in London .Then disaster struck, he became ill. Out of the blue, pneumonia, which turned out to be aids related, shortly followed by a string of problems and he was advised to resolve his affairs and prepare to die within 3 months.

Disowned by his family he struggled on with new medication and wondrously started to get well .His partner was always loving and supportive and continued to build up his garden design business in West London with a list of clients .Then disaster struck again and the Gay guys partner became very poorly and died in 1999 aged 35. The Guy found himself alone and frail with failing sight and no prospect of working or indeed continuing with a purposeful life. As the years passed he became well again with an intense self awareness. He is now totally blind and has found that life has much to offer if you search it out. In 2008 he embarked on a new path in life and went back into education to train as a counsellor and psychotherapist. In 2010 he gained his diploma .

How was that achieved?

Well there are many reasons, his acceptance of what his life is and has been and importantly his life script which has always been, since a child and from parental influence, one of being non judgemental, listening to what people have to say about their own lives and respecting every culture and belief system .I guess he was taught from an early age a kind of equal opportunities view of society which turned against him, but rather than have a negative impact it was the reverse ,making him empathic and accepting of all .

That person is me as you may have guessed.

Continued on next page



Hate Crime
Don't suffer in silence
Support for victims of hate crime



Contact Us

National helpline:

0845 30 30 900

Victim Careline Sussex:

8am – 8pm Monday to Friday

0845 38 99 528

Online:

www.victimsupport.org

Fax: 01293 536 888

Hate Crime Project Manager:

paula.sousa@victimsupport.org.uk

0845 38 99 528



Victim Support Sussex

Unit 11, Riverside Business Centre

Brighton Road

Shoreham by Sea

BN43 6RE



What has this got to do with hate crime? Well the story explains how it was to feel hatred so deeply but conversely how it may be overcome with education and awareness training and importantly the support within the community.

I was standing in my bathroom last week shaving my face and overheard a conversation between one of my neighbours and some guys working on the gardens which confirmed that we have a hill still to climb. Hate crime is still out there and with a multi cultural society which is so diverse and rich in its diversity there has never been a more important time for those at Victim Support to be out there and available to support those who need it.

What was that conversation I overheard I hear you saying?

The group were discussing a local single man and what his sexuality might be and a closing remark from one adult was “ well there are far too many poofs out there anyway it ’ s about time something was done about all those queers ” .

These remarks are unacceptable. I believe they were not directed at me specifically but as an entitlement on the wider society. I now live in a council house and have done for some years, without feeling any prejudice or hate... but it is out there and bubbling under the surface.

Take this and the issues facing our communities today as there has never been a more important time for Advocates against Hate Crime and Victim Support. (ANON)

‘I would like to be remembered as a person who wanted to be free...so other people would be also free’ Rosa Parks

On December 1, 1955 in Montgomery Alabama, Parks, age 42, refused to obey bus driver James Blakes’s order that she give up her seat to make room for a white passenger.

REPORT IT!

You do not have to suffer any kind of hatred directed at you because of who you are. Victim Support are here to help provide emotional support or advice to all victims of crime.

You may also report any hate crime or incident to us anonymously using the hate incident reporting form (details below) or as a witness to a hate crime/incident or as a third party.

The hate incident reporting form can be found:

www.eastsussex.gov.uk

www.sussex.police.uk

Or by contacting Victim Support on 0845 38 99 528.

We need you!

If you have any news/articles/events that you would like included in future publications of this newsletter, please let us know!

We are happy to discuss any ideas or suggestions for future issues and welcome your input. You can contact Paula on the contact details above.

We look forward to hearing from you.



Hate Crime
Don't suffer in silence
Support for victims of hate crime



Contact Us

National helpline:
0845 30 30 900

Victim Careline Sussex:
8am – 8pm Monday to Friday
0845 38 99 528

Online:
www.victimsupport.org

Fax: 01293 536 888

Hate Crime Project Manager:
paula.sousa@victimsupport.org.uk
0845 38 99 528



Victim

Support Sussex
Unit 11, Riverside Business
Centre
Brighton Road
Shoreham by Sea

Harmless Fun Or Hate Crime?

Please Note:

This is a personal account of my experiences and thoughts, and is NOT intended to be a definitive article on Hate Crime, or Hate Crime Categorisation.

If I said that a section of society have and continue to be targeted for their difference, and that some have then been: publically humiliated, verbally and/or physically assaulted, subject to offensive graffiti, had windows and doors smashed, stabbed. Would you agree they are victims of Hate Crime? Absolutely. But what if I said the difference is **not** because of their sexuality, religion, disability, nor even their ethnicity nor gender, but because they are Ginger. Would you still agree they are Victims of Hate Crime?

When I was growing up, I used to hear a family story that would make everyone laugh. Even I would laugh – even though I never really understood why it was funny. My mum always wanted a little boy. Having two daughters already, when she was pregnant with me she was asked if she had a preference. She jokingly replied "Well, if it's a girl or Ginger, it's going over the balcony". I am sure many of you are sniggering about now, and believe me, this was just the first of the daily jokes and taunts I endured for being ginger and at this point I wasn't even born!

There may be some who will argue that I am being precious here, and I have had laughs and ridicule when I suggested I write about Ginger Abuse as an emerging Hate Crime. Some have argued that I am being a bit dramatic and that being Ginger has never garnered the violence and hatred that other ethnic minorities face. Or has it? When do 'a few harmless taunts' become a crime?

Maybe when the verbal abuse becomes prolonged harassment? An example perhaps is when a family with 4 children were forced to move home as a direct result of the bullying to their children – all because they had Red Hair.

In 2007 a page was launched on Facebook for "National Kick a Ginger Day", an act that incited several assaults on Red Heads. This incident was investigated by Canadian Police and a spokesman said that 'This is inciting hate, it's a Hate Crime really'.

Or the even more extreme incident was when a 20 year old man was stabbed in the back 3 times following comments made about his Ginger Hair. Photographer Charlotte Rushton, herself a Redhead, has published a collection of photographs of Redheads called *Ginger Snaps*. Of the 300 Redheads photographed, only 2 have been spared bullying as a direct result of the colour of their hair.

As a society, we make jokes, we minimize and hope that it will go away. This negation is the very nourishment that breeds discrimination and prejudice. I can still remember growing up listening to comedians on TV that had whole stand-up routines of racist joke after sexist joke; all of which was in the vein of 'I don't mean anything by it, it's just a bit of fun'. Well clearly it is not acceptable to target any person because of their difference and then mock and humiliate them as a result. So why is it acceptable to mock, humiliate and abuse those with ginger hair?

When will the time come for the recognition this growing area of abuse deserves? To bully a child at school, or a colleague at work because of their Race, Age, Ethnicity, Disability, Gender or Sexuality is a Hate Crime. This list of discrimination is growing. But why do we need to categorise? Why can we not just say that to discriminate because of *difference* is to discriminate. Full Stop.

By missing out sections of society in a list of what constitutes equality and diversity, are we not discriminating in the first place?

Naomi Burke