



# Hate Crime and Harassment

 [www.k-h-t.org](http://www.k-h-t.org)

 **0151 290 7000**

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Contact us on **0151 290 7000** for more information.

# Hate Crime and Harassment

## What is harassment?

Harassment is a criminal offence under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, which defines it as:

*A deliberate action designed to cause alarm or distress.*

Harassment can often be planned and occur many times, though it can also be a single event.

Harassment can take many forms including:

- \* threats or name calling
- \* graffiti
- \* rubbish dumping
- \* malicious complaints
- \* malicious letters, emails, texts or telephone calls
- \* physical violence
- \* criminal damage to property
- \* providing or offering offensive literature
- \* offensive jokes
- \* arson
- \* spitting

## What is hate crime?

'Hate-related' behaviour is any incident or harassment that occurs because a person objects to someone's personal characteristics. We expand the government's definition of racist incidents (in the Stephen Lawrence report) to include harassment motivated by any sort of difference between people, especially race, sexuality, age, gender, and disability. We define hate-related harassment as:

*Any behaviour that is perceived by the victim or any other person to be motivated by hatred because of a particular characteristic of that person.*

So if you or people you know are being harassed or targeted because of race, sexuality, disability, or any other personal characteristic, we call this hate-related harassment.

Hate-related harassment is a serious breach of the tenancy agreement, and we will do all we can to stop it.

## What sort of incidents count?

Any incident where you have felt threatened or harassed can count. Examples include:

- \* verbal intimidation
- \* threats of violence
- \* actual violence
- \* damage to property
- \* offensive graffiti

But there are many more.

## KHT's policy

We are committed to working in partnership with other local organisations, such as Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council and the police, to support victims and witnesses, and take strong measures against alleged perpetrators.

We take a victim-centred approach where you will be listened to, believed and supported. We can choose not to give your name when we report incidents, and we will maintain confidentiality at all times.

## What actions can we take?

What we can do will depend on the details of the case, and your wishes.

With your permission, we will interview the alleged perpetrator (the person harassing you) as part of our investigation. We may then issue strong warnings for breach of tenancy; get them to sign a formal agreement not to harass you; or in very serious cases begin legal proceedings which can include demotion of tenancy (to a less secure form), injunction, or even eviction in extreme cases.

With your permission we may also pass information on to the police, who may investigate and take action against alleged perpetrators.

We will keep you informed at all stages of the process, and tell you what we can do to help. You don't need to give your name and we will only take further action with your permission.

## Security measures and support

In certain cases, for example if the harassment has involved damaging your home, we may be able to assist with security measures to keep you safer. These measures can include CCTV, security lighting, fire-proof letterboxes, or alarms/lifelines.

We will also provide you with support – from the officer dealing with the case, and by referring you, with your permission, to agencies that specialise in witness and victim support related to hate crime. Here are some useful numbers:

## Useful numbers

Merseyside Police (non-emergency)	0151 709 6010
Knowsley Domestic Violence Support Services	0151 548 3333
Knowsley Council	0151 489 6000
Victim Support	0845 3030900
Age Concern	0800 009966
Shoutline (for victims of homophobic harassment)	0800 3282244

# Phone numbers to help you

**Repairs: 0500 96 96 94**

**General enquiries: 0151 290 7000**

You can have this leaflet in large print, Braille, audiotape, CD or other languages. Please contact 0151 290 7000 for more information.

Poniższy tekst dostępny jest w wersji dla osób słabowidzących, pisany alfabetem Braille'a, oraz w wersji audio. Prosimy o kontakt pod numerem 0151 290 7000 w celu otrzymania dodatkowych informacji.

這份單張提供有大字印刷體，盲文，錄音帶光碟或其語言，有關詳情請致電 0151 290 7000

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