



How we're tackling hate crime based on sexual orientation

Our staff complete **specialist training** on homophobic and biphobic hate crime to make sure they understand all aspects of the law and the context of their decision making.

We've developed **legal guidance** on this type of hate crime – this explains what we will consider when prosecuting these offences to make sure we're presenting the strongest possible case in court.

We **work with organisations who support lesbian, gay and bisexual victims of hate crime** to better understand the impact of these crimes and what more we can do to bring offenders to justice.

We recognise how quickly language changes. We've developed **guidance for our prosecutors** to improve our understanding of offensive language to ensure we fully understand the evidence.

What does the law say?

If someone commits a crime against you because of your sexual orientation – or what they think is your sexual orientation – that is a hate crime.



Turn over for an example of how we've been prosecuting these crimes

Case studies: Prosecuting homophobic and biphobic hate crime

A man threatened to bring a bomb to an LGBT march. He told passengers on a train that he had a bomb in his backpack and made derogatory comments about gay, lesbian and bisexual people.

The police arrested the man. They found that he wasn't carrying a bomb but had a toy gun in his backpack. He admitted communicating or falsely giving information with intent.

We presented evidence that the crime was a hate crime – as he had demonstrated hostility towards people based on sexual orientation.

The judge agreed with us and added three months onto his sentence. He was sentenced to a total of nine months in prison.

