

Stop Hate UK Helpline Areas: Coronavirus Update and Advice

Introduction

Sadly at a time when community cohesion is needed more than ever, we continue to see instances of Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents that threaten the safety of everyone in the community.

We have detailed the key national issues that are emerging to ensure that your area is prepared and able to use its resources to best protect the community.

Levels of Hate Crime

Levels of reported Hate Crime, specifically Faith Hate Crime, are steadily increasing as the lockdown continues. Stop Hate UK believe underreporting remains an issue, but that victims are now more willing to come forward.

Two main themes are emerging:

- Increased numbers of neighbourhood disputes
- Increased accusations of individuals being engaged in “risky/unsafe” behaviour

A real area of concern is the a narrative being developed by the far right, that links the increased mortality rate from BME communities with “unsafe lifestyles”.

Increased sectarianism

Sadly, we are also seeing an increase of Race Hate incidents between BME communities.

Muslim communities

A number of extremist groups and individuals are using the current crisis to promote their own anti-Muslim agenda. The Muslim Hate Crime working group has produced a document, a link to which is here - <https://bit.ly/35nVbYy> - which details a number of fake news and conspiracy theories targeted at Muslim communities.

It is also feared that Ramadan may increase these tensions. A guide for communities, prepared by TellMAMA, is attached here - <https://bit.ly/2YtFOfQ> - alongside a short video from the Communities Minister, which we believe is worth further circulation.

Fake News

Fake news continues to concern us, with the use of historic footage being used out of context. There are instances, for example, where historic footage of Asian family gatherings purporting to represent contemporary events flouting social distancing.

STOP HATE UK
0800 138 1625
24 HOUR HELP LINE

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Traveller issues

A recent Channel 4 documentary, linking the Traveller community to crime, has increased tensions, specifically with online Hate. The documentary used “data” that Channel 4 have subsequently failed to verify, and the tone and nature of the programme was overtly racist. Stop Hate UK is challenging the programme makers separately.

Funerals

Funerals, specifically for Traveller and Ahmadiyya Muslim groups, may be a source of tension. The NPCC guide on funerals is attached here - <https://bit.ly/2xsd6Ro>

Social media platforms

Users of social media platforms - especially Facebook - are now being discouraged from complaining about Hate material and users are finding it increasingly difficult to get hate material removed.

The “trusted flagger” status, enjoyed by Stop Hate UK and others, appears to be unaffected, nevertheless, the apparent downgrading of action by social media companies needs to be challenged robustly.

What can be done?

When information, either local or national is available, we will ensure that it is shared. However, please feed any information you have using the Stop Hate UK helpline, if it relates to a specific incident, directly to talk@stophateuk.org

Whilst we are working nationally to get social media companies to act responsibly in removing Hate material we would now strongly recommend that the helpline is used to facilitate the removal of offensive material.

Stop Hate UK also has the capacity to run online training sessions for any local group that wants more information during the current crisis, so please do contact us info@stophateuk.org

How to contact us

 [@stophateuk](https://twitter.com/stophateuk)  [stop.hate.uk](https://www.facebook.com/stop.hate.uk)

 [linkedin.com/company/stophateuk](https://www.linkedin.com/company/stophateuk)  [stop_hate_uk](https://www.instagram.com/stop_hate_uk)

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