

How hate hurts

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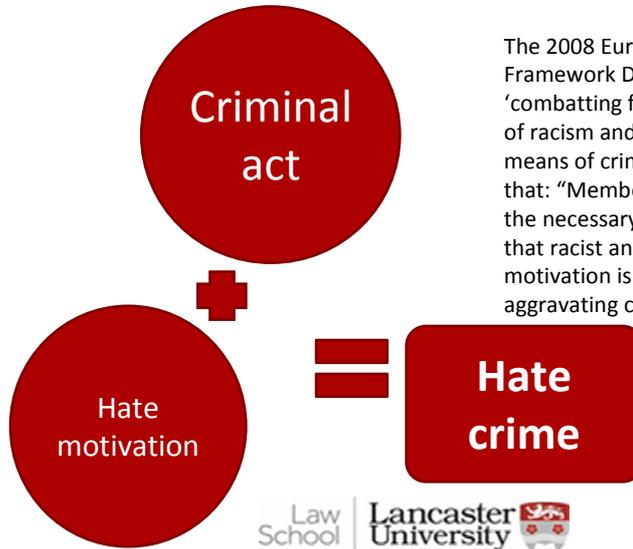
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What is 'hate crime'?

Crimes in which hostility, prejudice or hatred against some aspect of the victim's identity, such as their 'race', ethnicity, national origins or skin colour, or their religion, gender, sexual orientation, or a disability they might have, plays some part in the offence, either as the motivating impulse for the offender, or as an aggravating factor worsening something else going on.

What is 'hate crime'?



The 2008 European Council Framework Decision on 'combatting forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law' specified that: "Member States shall take the necessary measures to ensure that racist and xenophobic motivation is considered an aggravating circumstance, or,

alternatively that such motivation may be taken into consideration by the courts in the determination of the penalties".

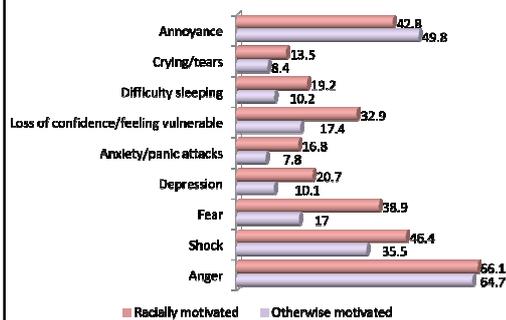


The spatial impact of hate violence



The psychosocial impact of hate violence

Hate crimes hurt more



Crime surveys show that on average hate crime victims report greater levels of post-victimization distress compared with victims of comparable, but otherwise motivated crimes.

Compared with victims of parallel crimes, victims of hate crime are more likely to report experiencing:



- Higher levels depression and withdrawal;
- Anxiety and nervousness;
- Loss of confidence;
- Anger;
- Increased sleep difficulties;
- Difficulty concentrating;
- Fear and reduced feelings of safety;

Hate crimes: Exactly what is it that hurts more?



Hate crimes are 'message crimes'. They convey to the victim, and those who share their social identity, that they are devalued, unwelcome, denigrated, despised and even hated, because of their identity.

Some victims feel powerless. They carry around with them the reason for their victimization: their visible appearance and what it represents to others in the dominant culture. and in a constant sense of insecurity and alertness to the potential for repeat attacks marked by suspicion of others, and constant assessment of their immediate surroundings with calculations of safety and danger.

Hate violence sends a message striking at the core of the victim's identity

Significance of understanding the greater harms of hate crime



1. Appropriate support for victims.
2. Justification for penalty enhancement.
3. Targeting resources.
4. Awareness raising.
5. Working with offenders.