## Discriminatory Abuse

Discriminatory abuse exists when values, beliefs and culture result in a misuse of power that denies opportunity to individuals or groups.

A person may be exploited or targeted by others who have a negative view of the individual based on the following factors:

* Gender and gender identity
* Sexuality
* Culture
* Ethnicity
* Sexual orientation i.e. lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender
* Age
* Disability because of physical condition or cognitive impairment
* Religious observance
* Political affiliation
* Race
* Marriage and civil partnership
* Pregnancy and maternity

These are described as “protected characteristics” under the Equality Act 2010. [Protected characteristics | EHRC](https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/equality/equality-act-2010/protected-characteristics?return-url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.equalityhumanrights.com%2Fsearch%3Fkeys%3Dprotected%2Bcharacteristics)

**Factors which may indicate discriminatory abuse may include:**

* A failure to support the adult at risk to communicate in the language or medium most appropriate to them
* Loss of weight through lack of provision of culturally appropriate diet
* Anxiety/depression through lack of opportunities for religious observance
* Excluded from decision making
* Poor health because of poor care standards
* Failure to protect or provide redress through the criminal or civil justice system
* Denial of sexual expression
* Inappropriate use of language
* Delivery of personal care without reference to gender
* Harassment
* Verbal abuse, derogatory remarks or inappropriate use of language related to a protected characteristic
* Denying access to communication aids, not allowing access to an interpreter, signer or lip-reader
* Harassment or deliberate exclusion on the grounds of a protected characteristic
* Denying basic rights to healthcare, education, employment and criminal justice relating to a protected characteristic
* Substandard service provision relating to a protected characteristic

Possible indicators of discriminatory abuse

* The person appears withdrawn and isolated
* Expressions of anger, frustration, fear or anxiety
* The support on offer does not take account of the person’s individual needs in terms of a protected characteristic

Hate Crime

A hate crime is any behaviour that someone thinks was caused by hostility, prejudice or hatred of:

* **Alternative subculture** including Goths, Emos, Punks and Metallers
* **Disability** including physical impairments, mental health problems, learning disabilities, hearing and visual impairment
* **Gender identity** includes people who are transgender, transsexual or transvestite
* **Race**, skin colour, nationality, ethnicity or heritage
* **Religion**, faith or belief, including people without a religious belief
* **Sexual Orientation**, people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or heterosexual

A Hate Crime can manifest itself in the following ways:

* Spitting
* Physical attack
* Verbal abuse
* Damage to property including graffiti
* Offensive letter, leaflets, email and texts including the use of social networking sites
* Bullying
* Abusive gestures
* Name calling/harassment abuse.

There are lots of different types of Hate Crimes. These could include:

* **Physical attacks** - such as physical assault, damage to property, offensive graffiti, neighbour disputes and arson
* **Threat of attack** - including offensive letters, abusive or obscene telephone calls or text messages, groups hanging around to intimidate and unfounded, malicious complaints
* **Verbal abuse or insults** - offensive leaflets and posters, abusive gestures, offensive comments and/or name calling, dumping of rubbish outside homes or through letterboxes and bullying at school or in the workplace.

A victim is any person who lives, works or visits the borough of Salford and is subjected to a hate motivated incident or crime. A victim is also someone who witnesses another person being subjected to a hate motivated incident or crime.

A perpetrator or offender is any person who commits acts of hatred against other people because of their race, colour, ethnic origin, nationality, faith or religion, age, gender, sexuality or disability.

What is mate crime?

Mate crime involves someone befriending a person to abuse them.

Why should you report hate crimes?

If you tell us what is happening, the Police, Community Safety Partnership and other organisations like charities and housing providers can take action against the perpetrator and support victims and witnesses.

When you report hate crimes, you are making a bigger difference than you may think. It not only helps you get support, but it also helps us make your local area safer. Most hate crimes aren't reported, and your reports help us to understand how hate crime affects your community and then tackle the problem.

<https://www.scie.org.uk/safeguarding/adults/introduction/types-and-indicators-of-abuse#discriminatory>

[What is Discriminatory Abuse? - Ann Craft Trust](https://www.anncrafttrust.org/resources/what-is-discriminatory-abuse/)