



University of
Leicester

The Leicester
**HATE
CRIME**
Project

Briefing Paper 4

**RACIST
HATE CRIME**

**This briefing paper is part of a series of publications produced as part of
The Leicester Hate Crime Project:**

Findings and Conclusions: Full Report

Findings and Conclusions: Executive Summary Report

Victims' Manifesto

Briefing Paper 1: Disablist Hate Crime

Briefing Paper 2: Gendered Hostility

Briefing Paper 3: Homophobic Hate Crime

Briefing Paper 4: Racist Hate Crime

Briefing Paper 5: Religiously Motivated Hate Crime

All of these publications can be accessed at www.le.ac.uk/centreforhatestudies.

RACIST HATE CRIME

VICTIMS' PERSPECTIVES

Over a two-year period from 2012 to 2014 the Leicester Hate Crime Project team conducted groundbreaking research into acts of hate, prejudice and targeted hostility. Funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, this research – Britain's biggest ever study of hate crime victimisation – engaged with over 4,000 people from a diverse range of backgrounds and recorded the views of 1,421 victims of hate crime. The findings from this work have generated new and significant insights into the nature, forms and impacts of hate offences.

The Leicester Hate Crime Project had three broad aims:

- to discover as much as possible about people's experiences of hate, prejudice and targeted hostility;
- to understand the physical and emotional harms suffered by victims and their families; and
- to identify ways of improving the quality of support offered to victims.

The project used a broad definition of hate crime in order to capture the experiences of anyone, from any background, who felt that they had been victimised specifically because of who they are. Among the research participants were those who felt that they had been targeted because of their race or ethnicity. This briefing paper, the fourth in a series of such papers from the project, outlines the standout findings from this aspect of the research. It focuses upon the nature and extent of racist hate crime; the impact of being targeted; concerns about future victimisation; the profile of offenders; the reporting of hate crimes; and the value of support services supplied to victims.

This briefing paper refers to the views of people victimised because of their race or ethnicity. It is important to acknowledge, however, that categorising victims like this does underplay the fact that many of our research participants had been targeted as a result of more than one aspect of their identity. Many issues are therefore shared between different groups and these are noted in the text where appropriate.

A full set of the project's findings, including detailed analysis and commentary, can be found in the *Findings and Conclusions* report.

Profile of racist hate crime victims

The survey was completed by 363 people who had been targeted because of hostility towards their ethnicity, while an additional 107 people took part in individual interviews. Combined, this provides a total sample of 470 victims of racist hate crime. What follows is a demographic breakdown of the profile of participants within this subset of victims.

Age

Age	Total sample ¹	Proportion of total sample (%) ²
Under 18	21	4
18 to 24	122	26
25 to 34	86	18
35 to 44	96	20
45 to 54	58	12
55 to 64	24	5
65 to 74	44	9
75 to 84	7	1
85 or over	1	0
Prefer not to say	1	0
Not stated	10	2

¹This includes all of the survey respondents and interview participants who felt that they had been victimised because of their ethnicity.

²Individual percentages have been rounded to the nearest integer in this and subsequent tables.

Gender

Gender	Total sample	Proportion of total sample (%)
Male	192	41
Female	272	58
Not stated	6	1

Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Total sample	Proportion of total sample (%) ³
White British	38	8
White Irish	5	1
Eastern European	10	2
Western European	5	1
Any other White background	3	1
Black/Black British	35	7
Black Caribbean	17	4
Black African	86	18
Any other Black background	2	0
Asian/Asian British	86	18
Indian	61	13
Pakistani	19	4
Bangladeshi	6	1
Chinese	29	6
Any other Asian background	11	2
Irish Traveller	0	0
European Roma	8	2
English/Scottish/Welsh Gypsy	2	0
Afghani	1	0
Iraqi	9	2
Iranian	1	0
Any other Middle Eastern background	4	1
White and Black Caribbean	4	1
White and Asian	5	1

Ethnicity Continued

Ethnicity	Total sample	Proportion of total sample (%) ³
White and Black African	1	0
Any other mixed background	9	2
Any other ethnic group	3	1
Prefer not to say	1	0
Not stated	9	2

³55 participants identified as being either an asylum seeker or refugee.

Religion

Religion	Total sample ⁴	Proportion of total sample (%)
Christianity	122	35
Hinduism	77	22
Islam	112	33
Jainism	1	0
Judaism	1	0
Sikhism	14	4
Other	5 ⁵	1
Prefer not to say	2	0
Not stated	11	3

⁴ This data set is based on those participants who stated that they actively practise a religion.

⁵ 'Other' responses included 'Catholic' (n=4) and 'Wicca' (n=1).

Sexual Orientation

Sexual Orientation	Total sample	Proportion of total sample (%)
Heterosexual (straight)	406	86
Gay	10	2
Lesbian	8	2
Bisexual	5	1
Asexual	0	0
Pansexual	0	0
Undecided	0	0
Prefer not to say	14	3
Not stated	27	6

1 What is the nature and extent of racist hate crime?

1.1 What forms of hate crime do people experience, and where do they occur?

Of those targeted because of hostility towards their ethnicity:

- 91% of survey respondents had been a victim of verbal abuse.
- 72% had experienced a form of harassment such as bullying or threatening behaviour.
- Four in ten (42%) had been victims of property crime.
- 29% had been the victim of violent crime. This was slightly higher for respondents describing themselves as Asian British (34%) or Indian (33%) compared to other ethnic groups.
- For nearly two thirds (58%) their most recent experience of hate crime had been verbal abuse, followed by harassment (32%) and property crime (13%).
- Around a third of hate crimes had occurred in a public street or park, the most common location for incidents (33%). Outside, near or in the home of a respondent accounted for 24%, whilst 16% were located in the city centre.
- Just under half were victimised when they were on their own (46%).

It was the manner in which she spoke and how she looked at me, I felt so degraded. She looked up to me with this certain look in her eyes of pure dislike ... that was the most racist experience I have ever had and she never said a racist word.

Male Bangladeshi restaurant worker

They'd been on holiday and their house had been burgled. When they came back they had nothing left, everything had been stolen. Later he went to visit his relative in Germany, his house was again burgled ... A group of young people from the area they attacked his son ... He had his car nicked from the drive. He got a new car and he said he came out and his windscreen was smashed completely. So he got it repaired and the next day, they came back and they broke it again.

Iraqi asylum seeker speaking through a translator

1.2 What concerns do people have about future victimisation?

Of those targeted because of hostility towards their ethnicity:

- 67% of survey respondents said they were at least fairly concerned about being harassed again in the future. Black African participants reported the highest levels of concern (64%), followed by Chinese respondents (42%).
- A quarter (25%) were 'very concerned' about being a victim of sexual violence in the future.
- Nearly a third (30%) reported being 'very concerned' about becoming a victim of violent crime in the future. Compared to other groups, Indian respondents were more likely to state that they were 'very concerned' about targeted violence (40%).
- Victims within this overall subset were also concerned that their religion (42%), dress and appearance (27%) and gender (27%) could be contributing to their experiences of hate crime.
- 91% felt that their quality of life had in some way been affected by the fear of hate crime.

When it comes to throwing eggs at the door, it's not very nice. I have my kids here. I'm scared for my kids because what if they just come and hurt my children when I'm not here?

Zimbabwean man

Even a newborn child in our community, it's hated because it's been born. Now that child, it has to come into the world, the parents let that child in and they love that child, so why should everybody else hate it? It's not done anything wrong.

Female English Roma Gypsy

1.3 Who commits hate crime?

In cases involving people targeted because of hostility towards their ethnicity:

- Over half of the most recent incidents (54%) had been perpetrated by more than one offender.
- 9% of the most recent incidents had involved offenders known to the victim as acquaintances, 8% as neighbours, 4% as work colleagues, and 3% as friends. Just 1% of incidents involved family members.
- The offender(s) had been single males or groups that included males in two third of cases (66%). Within this subset of victims Black African respondents were more likely to refer to the involvement of female offenders (30%).
- The majority of incidents appeared to have been perpetrated by those at the lower end of the age spectrum, with 37% of the most recent incidents involving offenders aged 19 or less while 32% involved those aged 20-30.
- 58% of the most recent incidents involved perpetrators of White ethnicity, with 10% being Asian/Asian British and 6% being Black/Black British.

Everybody. Everybody. Young, old, White, Asian, Black ... Each and everybody's got it in them somewhere, normally when they've had a few drinks and it comes out, simple as that.

Asian man who works as a taxi driver

It's mainly young boys who are responsible, but young girls tend to be around as well. Especially in the park in the summer you see the mixed groups.

Zimbabwean man

2 What is the impact of victimisation?

2.1 Verbal abuse and harassment

Of those targeted because of hostility towards their ethnicity:

- 97% said that being verbally abused or harassed had had some form of impact upon them. This impact ranged from feeling upset or fearful to wanting to move to another city.
- For over half of respondents their most recent incident of victimisation had taken place within the last year (58%).
- Four in ten referred to feeling anxious as a result of the incident (40%). For 36% their experiences had made them feel fearful and over a quarter described feeling depressed as a result of their victimisation.
- Nearly two thirds said that their experience(s) had made them avoid certain areas since they were targeted (63%), and a third had improved their home security (29%) as a result of their victimisation.

2.2 Violent victimisation

Of those targeted because of hostility towards their ethnicity:

- Only 2% of survey respondents stated that being a victim of a violent hate crime had had no impact upon them.
- Similar numbers reported feeling anxious (47%), fearful (46%) and vulnerable (46%) as a result of their victimisation.
- Under half said that their experience(s) made them feel angry towards others (43%), with over a third saying that hate crime had affected their capacity to trust other people (33%).
- A quarter said that their experiences had made them feel depressed (24%).
- Nine out of ten said that their most recent experience had impacted upon the quality of their life (87%).

It made me feel absolutely horrible and angry, so angry. You wouldn't think it's common for a Muslim woman to be swearing, but I must have sworn. Oh, I was really angry. You can't help that they do these things because of the colour of your skin.

Pakistani woman

There's a shop at the end of our road and we'd have to do a mile detour because you couldn't walk that way up the road. If you did you'd get stoned ... get the shit kicked out of you on a regular basis.

Female mixed ethnic heritage

3 How are agencies responding to victimisation?

3.1 Did victims report their most recent hate incident or crime to anyone?

- Only 21% of survey respondents who had been targeted because of their ethnicity had reported their experiences to the police. Within the subset of victims, Black British respondents were least likely to have reported their experiences (14%), followed by Chinese and Indian respondents (21%).
- The most common reason given for reporting an incident to the police was that it had been a serious crime (cited by 75% of victims of racism overall), with the need for practical and emotional support being the next most frequently occurring reasons (33 and 24% respectively).
- Of those who had reported the incident to another organisation, the most common forms of help provided had been emotional and practical support (27% and 18% respectively).
- 60% of those targeted because of their ethnicity had not reported their most recent experience of hate crime to anyone. Of this subset, African Caribbean respondents were most likely not to have reported to anyone (71%), with similar levels of Pakistani (65%) and Black African respondents (62%) also not reporting.
- Of those victims who had not reported their most recent experiences to the police, the most frequently occurring explanations were that the police would not take it seriously (30%), that the respondent dealt with it themselves or with the help of others (25%) and that the police could not have done anything in any case (19%).

There's not much they can do anyway because you never come across those people again. I would never recognise them. There's no way they could get them. It would just be a waste of time on my side to report it to the police.

Female Zimbabwean asylum seeker

We are scared of the police, even if they said they would change their way. If we see somebody fighting, we would just change the way we are going, we wouldn't want to be involved. They might start blaming us. Once the police know we are asylum seekers then the way they are talking to us is changed. You can't call the police, if you call the police maybe they arrest you instead.

Male asylum seeker from Pakistan

3.2 How satisfied were victims with the support they received?

- 20% of victims who had reported their most recent experience of racist hate crime to the police did not believe that the police had recorded the incident.
- 63% of those targeted because of their ethnicity said that the police had not investigated their hate incident. Smaller proportions said that the police had arrested or cautioned someone (16% and 8% respectively).
- One in nine cases reported by victims targeted because of hostility towards their ethnicity (11%) had gone to, or were in the process of going to court.

Chinese don't want to have any trouble, they like to be by themselves. Self-contained, no trouble. So, if having to report to the police means having to wait until the police arrive, to take down the information and to see what else can be done, they wouldn't want to go that far. Unless they're pushed to the limit.

Chinese man

Ideally I should report it, and I know that I should report it. Will I go to the police and say somebody was being verbally abusive, being racist towards, chanting these words? Do I expect them to do anything? It's a waste of time. If they cannot deal with Stephen Lawrence in 20 years what chance do I have with verbal abuse? It hurts but it doesn't kill.

Male Zimbabwean refugee

- Overall within this subset of victims of racist hate crime, 24% would not encourage others to report hate crimes to the police.
- Of those who had reported to organisations or individuals other than the police, only four out of ten (41%) said that they would encourage others to report to these services.
- Half were satisfied with their response from the police (51%).
- Under a third felt that the police were doing a good or excellent job of tackling hate crime in Leicester (32%).
- However, the same proportion (32%) felt that the police were doing a poor or very poor job of tackling hate crime in the city.

It was last year, one of them take a stone and hit me. It was really, really painful. Then I call the police - I say, "Every day, every week I'm calling you". I say one day I will lose my temper with the children. It's on record, every day I complain, every day I call the police. Nobody ever does anything.

Congolese woman



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