

“I’m with Sam”
What Dimensions thinks
about hate crime

Product Number: 80100710161

Easy Read



What this booklet is about



We are Dimensions, an organisation that supports 3500 people with learning disabilities and autism.

Info



This booklet explains in simple words and pictures what Dimensions thinks about hate crime and what needs to change.



If someone commits a crime against you because of who you are or what you believe it is called a hate crime.



Sam is the name we have given to someone who might be a victim of hate crime. Sam is not a real person, but there are lots of people like Sam.



You can say that you agree with the things we say in this booklet by saying 'I'm with Sam'.



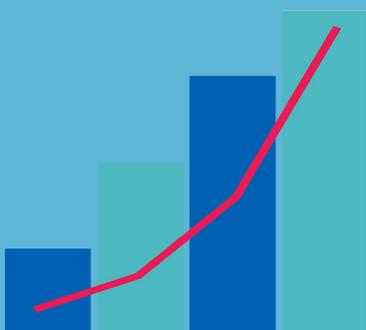
Make information better about who has been a victim of hate crime



Some reports say that last year there are 70,000 hate crimes.



At the moment, there is no way of knowing if the victim of one of these crimes has a learning disability or a different kind of disability.



We asked a big group of the people we support about hate crime. 53% of the people we support said they had been a victim of hate crime.



It is important to have better information about how many victims of hate crimes that have learning disabilities. With this information, you can change the law and the police to be fairer and safer for people with learning disabilities and autism.



Make saying hateful things online a crime



At the moment it is illegal to say hateful things on the internet about someone's:



- race



- religion



- sexuality



We want it to be a crime to say hateful things on the internet about people with a learning disability or autism.



Have better information at schools about being different



Children have always been bullied for being different.



Bullies learn to hate at home and at school.



It is important that children learn at primary and secondary school that it is great to be different.



We want more schools to teach children that it is great to be different.



Get the people who make toys, games and TV programmes to include people with learning disabilities and autism



There are some shows such as Mr Tumble, The Dumping Ground and Nina and the Neurons that include people with learning disabilities, but there are not enough.



There are not enough books with people in them who have a learning disability or autism.



There are not enough toys and games that include people with a learning disability or autism.



We want the people who make toys, shows and games to change this, we know it is difficult, but it needs to happen.



Get the government to help families and support workers with information about hate crime



Nearly half of all the learning disabled victims of crime did not tell the police.



People with a learning disability are often told to just ignore bullying when they are at school.



Lots of people with a learning disability and autism are not taught how to talk about crime. There are not enough symbols and pictures to help people to do this.



Lots of people do not know a crime has taken place.



It is very important for the people you trust to know what hate crime is and to be able to do something about it.



Getting better at dealing with hate crime in court



The court is where people who commit crimes go after they have been arrested.



In court, people decide if someone is guilty and whether they should go to jail or pay a fine.



Crimes against people with a learning disability or autism often do not make it to court because they are not trusted to understand or explain what has happened to them.



Dimensions wants changes to the way we deal with crimes so that people with a learning disability and autism are treated in a way that is fair.



Help the Police get better at dealing with hate crime



Some people with a learning disability are afraid of what they do not know. Police stations can be scary places.



Not enough police are trained to communicate with a person with a learning disability or autism.



A person with a learning disability might be scared of being ignored. Autistic people and parents of autistic people were asked about their experiences of the police.



A lot of people said they were unhappy about how things were communicated. They said that the rooms in police stations made people feel uncomfortable.



We want the police to have better training with communication and the rooms in police stations to be more comfortable.



Make the law better around mate crime



If you have a learning disability or autism it can be hard to make friends.



Mate crime is when the people you feel are your friends commit a crime against you, for example bullying or stealing money from you.



A large group of autistic people were asked questions about mate crime in 2015. Most of them said they found it hard to tell bullies and friends apart.



Most of them said that someone had taken advantage of them or they were asked to do something they did not want to do.



We want the law to change to make sure people are better protected from mate crime.

Info



Where to find more information



You can find more easy read information about hate crime on the Dimensions website.



Mark Brookes is our expert on hate crime. He has worked for years telling people about hate crime.



Mark works for Dimensions and has a learning disability.



There is more information from Mark on the Dimensions website.



What to do if you have been a victim of hate crime



Hate crimes can hurt. They can be confusing and frightening.



If you tell the police about a hate crime that has happened to you, you might stop that crime happening to someone else.



In an emergency call 999. You can also tell your support worker, member of staff, friend or family member that you trust.



You can also speak to organisations like CAB or Stop Hate UK who can also help.