

Support Dimensions “I’m with Sam”
Campaign against autism and
learning disability hate crime.



About hate crime



This booklet explains in simple words and pictures about the campaign, what needs to change and how you can help.



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



You may have experienced hate crime such as bullying or worse.



Another form of hate crime is when someone pretends to be your friend to take advantage of you. This is called **mate crime**.



About our #ImWithSam Campaign



We've launched #ImWithSam to raise awareness of, and tackle, autism and learning disability 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.



Dimensions wants to do something about autism and learning disability hate crime, and we need your help.



We want to change 8 things.

These are listed on the next pages.



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



Make saying hateful things online a crime



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



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



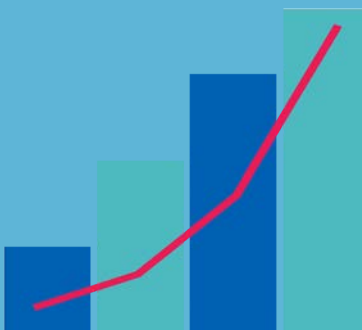
- race



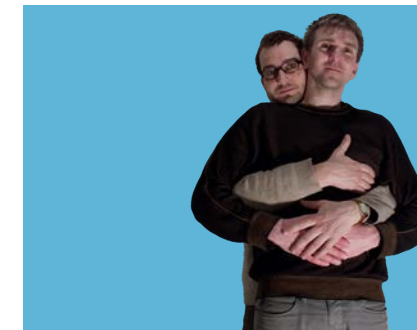
At the moment, there is no way of knowing if the victim of one of these crimes has a learning disability or a different kind of disability.



- religion



We asked a big group of people with learning disabilities and autism about hate crime. Most of the people who answered said they had been a victim of hate crime.



- sexuality



It is important to have better information about how many victims of hate crimes have learning disabilities. With this information, you can change the law and help the police.



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



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



Children have always been bullied for being different.



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.



Bullies learn to hate at home and at school.



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



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



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



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



We want the people who make toys, shows and games to change this.



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



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 might not know a crime has taken place.



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



Getter 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 people 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.



People say that the rooms in police stations made them 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.



Most autistic people say they find 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



How you can help the campaign



To make things change, we need your MP to support the campaign.



An MP is a Member of Parliament.

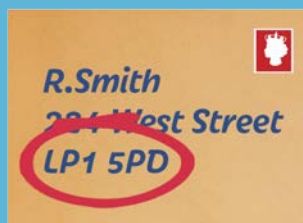
They are the person who has been elected by people in an area, to represent them in parliament.



You can write your own letter to your MP. Telling them why you think the campaign is important and why we need their support.



To do this visit <https://www.writetothem.com/>



Enter your postcode and select the MP for the area

Info



Write to your MP



Write your letter.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Fill in your contact details



You can ask for help from a staff member if you want.



View your letter before you send it to make sure you're happy with it.



Send your letter to your MP.



Where to find more information



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



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



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



Mark Brookes is our expert on hate crime. Mark works for Dimensions and has a learning disability. He has worked for years telling people about hate crime.



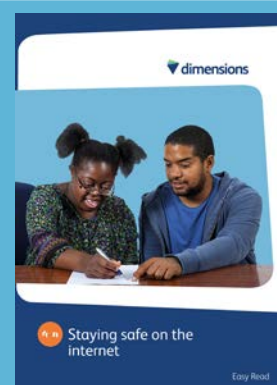
If you tell the police about a hate crime that has happened to you, you might stop that crime happening to someone else.



There is more information from Mark on the Dimensions website.



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



If you would like to find out information about staying safe on the online please ask for the **Staying safe on the internet booklet**.



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