

Tackling racism, hostility and discrimination: information for Roma people living in Yorkshire



Mutual Action Targeting
Racism, Intolerance
and Xenophobia



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Migration Yorkshire
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Contents

1. Your right to be safe from hate crime in the UK
2. Racism is unacceptable, but so are other types of discrimination and hate crime
3. What kind of treatment are you protected against?
4. Where should you go if something happens to you?

The manual provides information for Roma people about how you can be protected against racism and other forms of hostility in this country, and what to do if something happens to you.

This manual has been produced by Stop Hate UK as part of the Roma MATRIX project, led by Migration Yorkshire. The information is based on what Roma people told us they needed to know during a series of training workshops we carried out in 2014.

1. Your right to be safe from hate crime in the UK

Racism, hate crime and discrimination are treated very seriously in the United Kingdom.

We know that it has a serious impact on victims, their families and communities. We also know that groups such as the Roma community have suffered severe discrimination in their countries of origin and we want to make sure that if it happens here in the UK, victims get the help they need.

Organisations work together to make communities as safe as possible and to make sure that if people are subject to racism or other types of hate crime and discrimination, they are able to get the support they need.

If you are a victim of racism or other types of discrimination, don't feel you have to suffer. Have the confidence to report what has happened. If you do, you will be listened to, you will be treated with respect, you will be taken seriously and you will be helped.



2. Racism is unacceptable, but so are other types of discrimination and hate crime

Criminal or unacceptable behaviour towards you because you are Roma is against the law. You can also be protected if you are treated badly because of:

- Your age
- If you are disabled
- Your gender - if you are male or female
- Your race
- Your religion
- Your sexual orientation - if you are lesbian, gay or bisexual
- If you have had or are having a sex change or consider yourself transgender
- Your marital status
- You are pregnant or in the period following birth of a child

The way in which individual incidents may be dealt with may vary depending on exactly what has happened, but there is a range of support services which can help you.



3 What kind of treatment are you protected against?

Racism and other types of hostility can be carried out in many different ways and can be categorised into three main groups, hate crimes, hate incidents and discrimination.

Hate crimes

Hate crimes are those forms of hostility that are covered by criminal law. If reported to the police, they will result in a police investigation and potentially a conviction.

Example of a hate crime:

A Roma woman is assaulted and during the assault the attacker says "Get back to Slovakia". This would be treated as a racially aggravated assault.

Potential sentences for hate crimes can range from 2 years for something minor to 30 years for something serious

Hate incidents

Hate incident is a term used to describe things that happen that may be distressing to the victim, but do not break criminal law.

Example of a hate incident:

A Roma family believe that their neighbour makes lots of noise at night to upset them, because they do not want Roma people living next door to them. This is obviously upsetting, but the police do not have specific powers to charge the neighbour with a criminal offence.

Even though they don't break the law, hate incidents are still serious and should still be reported. Reporting will ensure that support agencies are aware of hostile behaviour in local communities, and they may be able to provide you with support, or take other forms of action against the perpetrator.



Discrimination

Discrimination is what happens if organisations, shops, employers, or people who provide you with services treat you unfairly because you are Roma, or because of your age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender reassignment, marital status, pregnancy, race or nationality, or sexual orientation.

An important law called the Equality Act 2010 protects you against this unfair treatment.

Example of discrimination

A Roma man works for a company as a labourer. He has noted that he is always given the worst jobs, whilst colleagues are given easier jobs and a wider range of tasks. He has also noticed that although other labourers are often offered extra hours, he is never offered extra hours.

Typically, discrimination is not dealt with by the police, but other organisations such as ACAS, trades unions, Citizens Advice Bureaux, Race Equality Councils, MPs and councillors who can assist you if you become a victim of discrimination.

4 Where should you go if something happens to you?

Being Roma is not a crime. Racism Is.

Racism can be...



Find out more at:

Or call our 24-hour Helpline



STOP HATE CRIME
0800 138 1625
24 HOUR HELP LINE

 Mobilizing Roma, Romani, and Travellers  A service provided by  With financial support from the European Union

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There are many organisations that can help you across Yorkshire.
To find out details of where you can report hate crimes and get support visit:
www.stophateuk.org/roma-community-yorkshire-humber-region

You can also telephone the Stop Hate UK 24-hour helpline:

0800 138 1625

In an emergency, always call the police on: 999



Photos courtesy of Roma MATRIX project and Leeds Migration Partnership

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