



UNIVERSITY OF  
**LEICESTER**

THE CENTRE FOR  
HATE STUDIES

# Challenging Hate Crime in Challenging Times

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Caitlin Roper @Caitlin\_Roper

Trannies, your families will never love you. You are living a lie & you know it. End your miserable existence. Commit suicide now.

Caitlin Roper

Promoted



# Making sense of hate crime

An increasingly widespread problem?

- 105,090 hate offences were committed in 2019/20 (excluding Greater Manchester Police – a rise of 8% from the previous year's total of 94,121 (Home Office, 2020)
  - 76,070 (72%) were racist hate crimes (+6% from previous year's total)
  - 15,835 (15%) were homophobic hate crimes (+19%)
  - 8,469 (8%) were disability hate crimes (+9%)
  - 6,822 (6%) were religiously motivated hate crimes (-5%)
  - 2,540 (2%) were transphobic hate crimes (+16%)
- Approximately five per cent of hate crime offences in 2019/20 were estimated to have involved more than one motivating factor
- The number of racially and/or religiously aggravated offences in June 2020 was a third higher (34%) than in June 2019. Increases were seen across most forces, with 27 forces seeing an increase of a quarter (25%) or more.
  - Likely to have been triggered by the Black Lives Matters protests and far-right counter-protests across England and Wales following the death of George Floyd in May

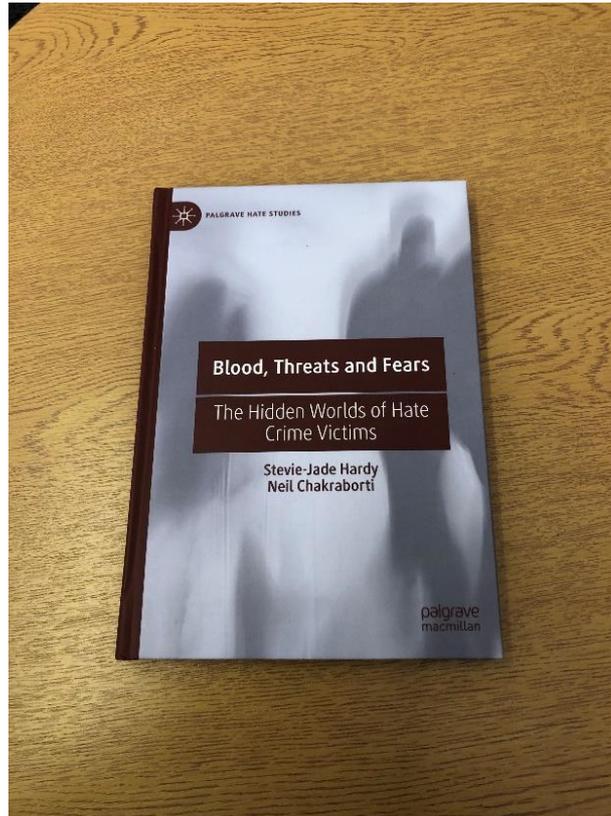
# Making sense of hate crime

- By contrast, the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) suggests a long-term decline in hate crime, with a 38% fall in these incidents between the combined 2007/08 and 2008/09 and the combined 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20 surveys.
- Why the disparity between police recorded figures and the CSEW figures?
  - Improvements to police recording processes and practices
  - The CSEW covers people aged 16 and over living in households. However, police recorded figures cover people of all ages, and include crimes against businesses and against people living in institutions such as care homes.
- Why does neither measure provide a full picture?
  - Very difficult to measure levels of online hate
  - Many of those most affected by hate crime are unlikely to engage with surveys or to report incidents to the police

# Making sense of hate crime

- An 'invisible' set of problems?
  - Commonly includes micro-crimes and -aggressions which might not be recorded or reported but which routinely affect victims from different backgrounds and walks of life
- An 'invisible' set of victims
  - Commonly includes people who find themselves on the margins of mainstream society and who are less likely to tell anyone about their experiences of victimisation
- An 'invisible' set of harms
  - Commonly causes harms to mental health and emotional well-being, and to families and wider communities

# Making sense of hate crime



## **PALGRAVE HATE STUDIES**

*Series Editors:* **Neil Chakraborti** · **Barbara Perry**

This book offers unparalleled insight into the ways in which hate crime affects individuals and communities across the world. Drawing from the testimonies of more than 2,000 victims of hate crime, the book identifies the physical, emotional and community-level harms associated with hate crimes and key implications for justice in the context of punitive, restorative, rehabilitative and educative interventions. Hate crime constitutes one of the biggest global challenges of our time and blights the lives of millions of people across the world. Within this context the book generates important new knowledge on victims' experiences and expectations, and uses its compelling evidence-base to identify fresh ways of understanding, researching and responding to hate crime. It also documents the sensitivities associated with undertaking complex fieldwork of this nature, and in doing so offers an authentic account of the very necessary – and sometimes unconventional – steps which are fundamental to the process of engaging with 'hard-to-reach' communities.

**Stevie-Jade Hardy** is Associate Professor in Hate Studies at the University of Leicester, UK.

**Neil Chakraborti** is Professor in Criminology, Head of School and Director of the Centre for Hate Studies at the University of Leicester, UK.

# Further inspiration for the book

*Britain is in the grip of an epidemic, apparently. An epidemic of hate. Barely a day passes without some policeman or journalist telling us about the wave of criminal bigotry that is sweeping through the country ... what the BBC calls an 'epidemic' is a product of the authorities redefining racism and prejudice to such an extent that almost any unpleasant encounter between people of different backgrounds can now be recorded as 'hatred' ... According to one leftie online magazine, Britain now evokes 'nightmares of 1930s Germany'. But this doesn't square with the reality of our country today, and you shouldn't believe it. The hate-crime epidemic is a self-sustaining myth — a libel against the nation.*

O'Neill, 2016

*To be honest the term "hate crime" was cooked up by the extreme Left as a whip to crack over white British heterosexual Christians, and it's just another way of gagging free speech. If you call someone a twat, a bastard or a wanker it's no big deal, people can brush it off, so why is it different if you call someone a nigger, a poof or a whore?*

'Fan mail' received by the authors

# Our evidence base

- Based on a series of funded research studies from 2012 to 2019 which were commissioned by:
  - Amnesty International
  - The Barrow Cadbury Trust
  - The Economic and Social Research Council
  - The Equality and Human Rights Commission
  - The Office for Students
  - The Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner in Derbyshire
  - The Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner in Hertfordshire
  - The Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner in Leicestershire
  - The Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner in the West Midlands
- Based on engagement with more than:
  - 6,000 members of 'hard-to-reach' communities
  - 2,000 victims of hate crime
  - 1,000 senior professionals and frontline practitioners

# Our evidence base

- African Caribbean communities
- Somalian communities
- Zimbabwean communities
- Congolese communities
- Indian communities
- Pakistani communities
- Bangladeshi communities
- Iraqi communities
- Iranian communities
- Syrian communities
- Afghani communities
- Kurdish communities
- Turkish communities
- Polish communities
- Lithuanian communities
- Chinese communities
- Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities
- Jewish communities
- Muslim communities
- Asylum seekers and refugees
- LGBTQ communities
- People with physical disabilities
- People with learning disabilities
- People with mental ill health
- Victims of elder abuse
- Victims of misogynistic harassment
- Homeless men and women
- People suffering from HIV or AIDS
- People with alternative lifestyles and/or dress and appearance
- Victims of body shape abuse
- International students
- Minorities working in the night-time economy (e.g. taxi drivers, restaurant workers, take-away staff)

# Everyday hate

*I've been spat on, kicked, punched, thrown up against a wall. (Keith, targeted on the basis of his learning difficulties)*

*I was smashed in the face and completely disorientated and blinded, and was unable to make any response. I staggered out of the woods, fortunately without this guy getting hold of me, got onto a public road. And as I got on the footpath, this guy caught up with me and flung me in front of an oncoming car. (Simon, targeted on the basis of his sexual orientation)*

*One of them kicked the door, with both feet and it slammed against my hand ... they had spat all over my back. And I didn't even know they'd done it. How disgusting is that? ... They spit on the windows or they throw eggs. (Damien, targeted on the basis of his race)*

*I was walking through an estate on a sunny day and I simply looked at them. They didn't like the look of me, so they ran up to me and they chased me and I fell and I couldn't get up because I'd broken my knee, and they kicked me in the face, and they kept doing that repeatedly. (Will, targeted on the basis of his mental ill-health)*

# Everyday hate

*If you pull up on the side of the road you have all sorts chucked at trailers, sometimes bricks ... [One time] a car had driven by, it had slowed down, somebody had thrown something the size of an orange, lobbed it at her, it had missed her, whizzed by her head, hit the ground and it was an explosive device. (Rosie, targeted on the basis of being an English Gypsy)*

*These people with bikes and two golf clubs came and we just ran ... They ended up getting my friend in the face with a golf club ... they were just tearing at his clothes, beating him up ... That was a very frightening experience. We were shit scared of going there again. (Callum, targeted on the basis of his alternative appearance)*

*One day I was walking with my friend and this person came in and kicked my friend and started swearing. My friend just asked him "Why are you swearing at me?" And he threw his bike and came for a fight. (Adil, targeted on the basis of his asylum seeker status)*

*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? (Jaali, targeted on the basis of his race)*

# Barriers to reporting

- Fewer than one in four victims (24%) had reported any of their experiences of hate crime to the police
- Minimal take up of third party reporting options due to widespread lack of awareness and/or perceived inaccessibility of existing options
- Minimal engagement with more localised, tailored support services as a result of widespread closures or significant cuts to resources
- Deep sense of frustration amongst groups of victims who find themselves on the margins of hate crime policy
- Evidence of a perceived hierarchy of protected characteristics whereby race (and to a lesser extent sexual orientation and religious identity) are privileged within victims' interpretations of what 'matters' to the criminal justice system

Barriers to reporting	Implications for victims
<i>Isn't it just something you have to put up with?</i>	Experiences of hate crime 'normalised'
<i>Will I be wasting police time?</i>	Increased reluctance to report non-violent offences
<i>Will I be taken seriously?</i>	Lack of faith in the ability of police officers and other professionals to provide effective support and/or empathy
<i>Will I be 'outed'?</i>	Concern that sexual orientation will be revealed to family members, colleagues and friends
<i>Will it make things worse?</i>	Fear of retaliatory attacks and repeat victimisation
<i>What is the point?</i>	Reluctance to engage with a reporting process which feels time-consuming, confusing and unlikely to yield a successful outcome
<i>What is third-party reporting?</i>	Lack of take up for online and alternative reporting options

# Barriers to justice

- Problems encountered at the pre-reporting and initial response stages are often compounded by a slow, intimidating and incomprehensible criminal justice system
- Widespread frustrations amongst hate crime victims in relation to:
  - low numbers of prosecutions
  - high evidential threshold
  - lack of communication through the stages of the criminal justice process
- Only 44% of victims referred to extended sentences as their preferred response to hate crime
  - 82% called for greater use of tailored programmes of education within schools and local communities
  - 55% wanted to see more use of community ‘payback’ orders for hate crime perpetrators
  - 32% were in favour of more facilitated dialogue between the victim and the offender

# Barriers to justice

Widespread evidence of further problems relating to:

- Inadequate understanding of hate crime
  - Inconsistencies in the availability and quality of training provision across police force areas
  - Strategic, organisational, operational and individual barriers to effective training (Hardy, Chakraborti and Cuko, 2020)
  - ['More than a tick box?' The role of training in improving police responses to hate crime](#)
  - See also [Facing all the Facts \(2020\)](#); [HMICFRS \(2018\)](#)
- Inadequate engagement with diverse communities
  - Engagement processes still heavily reliant upon selective dialogue with familiar communities and self-identified 'community leaders'
  - Deep sense of frustration with 'narrow' and 'tokenistic' approaches to engagement



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I WANT PEOPLE  
TO STOP MAKING  
FUN OF ME....  
THEY DON'T REALISE  
THE DAMAGE IT DOES TO  
ME.



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I WANT THE VERBAL  
ABUSE, HARASSMENT  
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TO STOP



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Project

I WANT TO BE ABLE  
TO DO EVERYDAY  
THINGS WITHOUT  
FEELING SCARED

# What can we do?

## **Break the cycle of hollow responses to hate crime:**

Condemnation by political figures → media outrage → issuing of Actions Plans and refreshed strategic guidance → lack of effective monitoring and evaluation → more empty promises

## **Implications of inaction:**

- Victims continue to reject opportunities to report experiences
- Victims become increasingly detached from support structures
- Victims continue to have little faith in criminal justice professionals and policies

# What can we do?

Ten improvements that hate crime victims would like to see:

- To be treated with empathy
- To see frontline practitioners adopt a less hostile manner
- To know that they are being dealt with by a professional with specialist training
- To be reassured that 'everyday' microaggressions will be taken seriously
- To feel safer on public transport
- To see less use of complex, unfamiliar terminology
- To receive some form of independent advocacy support
- To be kept informed on the progress of their case
- To understand why prosecution rates are so low
- To see extended use of alternatives to conventional punitive measures

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SAVE & EXIT

### HOW DOES EXTREMISM MANIFEST ITSELF?

The Counter-Terrorism Strategy identifies two key extremist ideologies which are causing the UK significant problems: Islamist extremism and right-wing extremism.

Click on the buttons below to find out more

Further information on Islamist extremism and the extreme right-wing and the terrorist groups associated with these forms of extremism can be found in Chapter 1 of the UK Government's Strategy for Countering-Terrorism, [CONTEST](#)

NEXT >

## Improve policy and practice

- Promote and evaluate hate crime support services to identify what works, for whom and in what contexts
- Make greater use of online apps to make reporting easier for victims and witnesses
- Extend policy frameworks beyond the five monitored strands of hate crime, where appropriate
- Identify and promote pathways to support outside of criminal justice
- Equip frontline practitioners with the knowledge and skills to deliver victim-centred support

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Hate Crime: Identifying and Dismantling Barriers to Justice

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Hate Crime: Mapping Support Services for Hate Crime Victims

F--- OFF BACK HOME

WE DONT WANT YOU HERE ANYMORE

I FEEL SCARED

IM AFRAID TO GO OUT WHO WILL HELP?

**To review the adequacy and parity of protection offered by the law relating to hate crime and to make recommendations for its reform.**

Includes:

- Reviewing the current range of specific offences and aggravating factors in sentencing, and **making recommendations on the most appropriate models** to ensure that the criminal law provides consistent and effective protection from conduct motivated by hatred of protected groups or characteristics.
- **Reviewing the existing range of protected characteristics**, identifying gaps in the scope of the protection currently offered and making recommendations to promote a consistent approach.

# Reform aspects of the legal process

- Offer restorative justice to victims and defendants in hate crime cases which involve 'low-level' offences, where the accused accepts the allegations against them, and where the victims requests RJ?
- Consider community- or custody-based rehabilitation interventions as a means of sentence uplift?
- Introduce a new Hate Crime Act, containing all relevant provisions under one code which aggravates any offence where there is sufficient evidence of targeted hostility, and which consolidates all offences relating to the stirring up of hatred?

# Thank you for listening!

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