

East and Southeast Asian communities' experience of hate crime in the UK

Policy recommendations & summary findings

This briefing summarises a research study and report by [Protection Approaches](#) and the [Centre for Hate Studies](#) based at the University of Leicester, on the true level of hate crime faced by East and Southeast Asian (ESEA) communities in the UK. The findings reveal disturbing trends of victims not reporting hate incidents, unable to access support services, and a general widespread mistrust towards authorities.

This report offers a clear roadmap for change by prioritising better support for victims and investing in meaningful community-led initiatives towards hate crime prevention, protection and response. Protection Approaches calls on His Majesty's Government and funding bodies to take the following immediate steps:

- HMG should prioritise the publication of a new national Hate Crime Strategy, focussed on prevention and meaningful victim support, developed in partnership with community organisations as well as organisations supporting hate crime victims and delivering hate crime prevention programmes
- Increased funding to third party support and reporting services by allocating more resources to national third party (non-police) support and reporting services like 'On Your Side'
- Investing in and prioritising local community initiatives that address the unique needs of hate crime victims
- Commissioning educational projects that raise awareness about hate crimes within ESEA communities. This could involve funding for community workshops, public educational adverts, and the creation of materials in various languages to ensure accessibility
- Commissioning public awareness campaigns that encourage reporting and access to support for hate crime victims
- Funding in-depth community-led research into hate crime experiences and their societal impacts to inform policymakers, toward developing targeted policies and response strategies

Closing the data gap

Hate crime against ESEA communities in the UK spiked during the COVID pandemic. That period of increased hate crime reports and ESEA community activism revealed both a lack of services supporting ESEA community members who face hate and the extent to which ESEA experiences of hate crime had been historically neglected in UK public consciousness.

Since the pandemic much has changed. Filling a vital gap, in August 2022, alongside a consortium of predominantly ESEA community-based organisations, Protection Approaches launched [On Your Side](#), the first UK-wide dedicated, culturally competent hate crime support and reporting service for East and Southeast Asian communities.

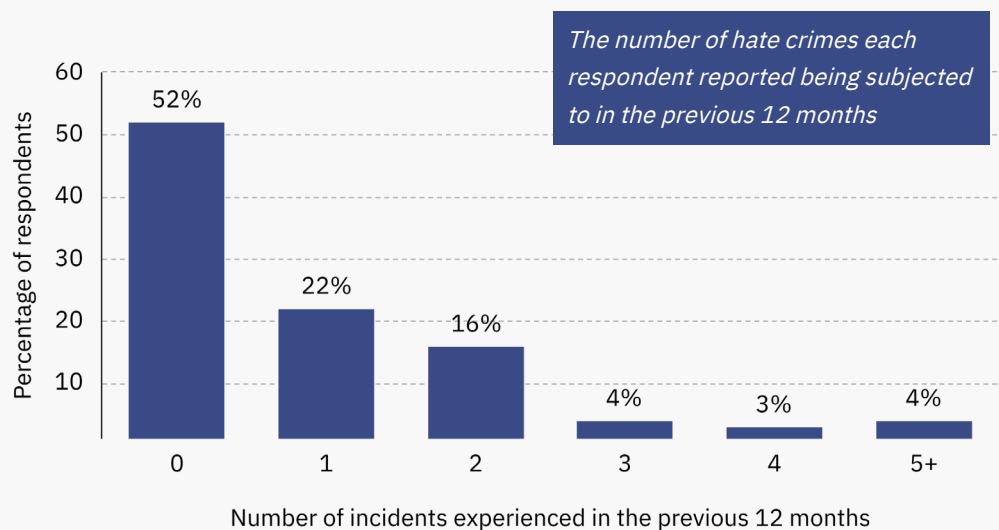
However, we know from our work with ESEA communities that significant levels of hate crime targeting those communities still goes unreported. As a result, there is very little knowledge or reliable data on the true extent of hate crime faced by ESEA communities in the UK. For a long time, groups supporting ESEA community members have known that the real picture is much worse than has been recorded to date, but had no quantitative data to demonstrate the true extent of the challenge.

This new research conducted in partnership with the Centre for Hate Studies at the University of Leicester, with the support of [Reportable](#), [End Violence and Racism Against ESEA Communities](#) and [VoiceESEA](#), works toward closing this data gap.

Key findings

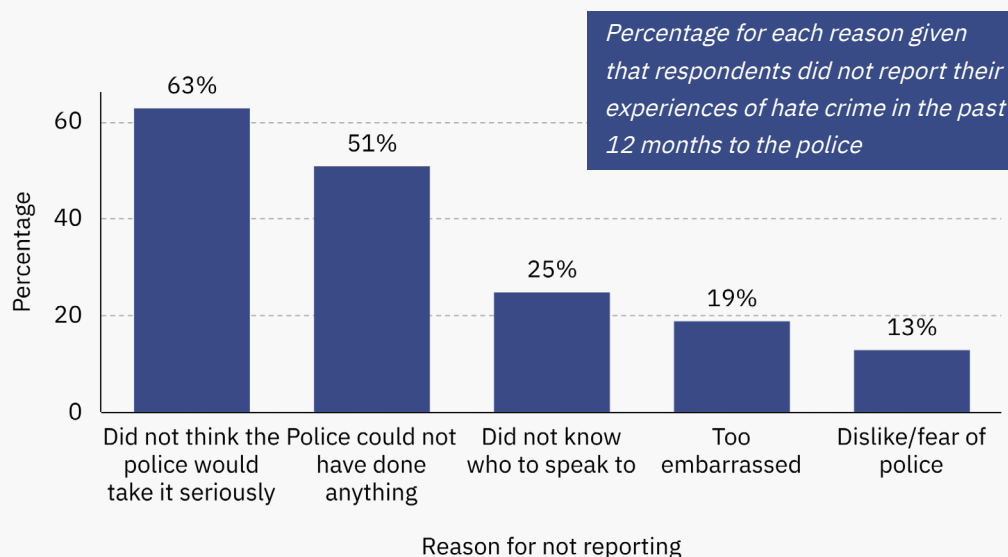
The true scale of hate crime against ESEA communities

- Circa 45% (430,000) of ESEA community members in the UK were subjected to a hate crime in the previous 12 months
- Close to one million hate incidents targeting ESEA community members were committed in the previous 12 months, 5% of which included violent crime
- Of those who experienced hate crime in the previous 12 months, 55% were subjected to more than one incident, which is equal to 26% of all participants



Hate crime reporting and support

- Just 1 in 10 of those who were subjected to hate crime in the past year reported it to the police
- 63% of participants who did not report their experience of hate crime to police felt the police wouldn't take it seriously



We asked what would make those participants more likely to report to the police:

- 23% told us they would report if they thought their report would be taken seriously and actioned by the police / authorities - e.g. “Easy to access the police / evidence that the police would do something about it”
- 15% told us that they needed more awareness or understanding of what can be reported or how to report - e.g. “What kinds of hate crime should be reported and “be informed about where I can go to”
- 12% felt that they would report if it were easier to do so - e.g. “Easier way to report it online”

Who are the offenders and where are incidents taking place?

- In 75% of recent experiences of hate crime, the offender/s were men
- 73% of hate crimes targeting ESEA women are perpetrated by men
- 42% of victims were targeted by groups of perpetrators.

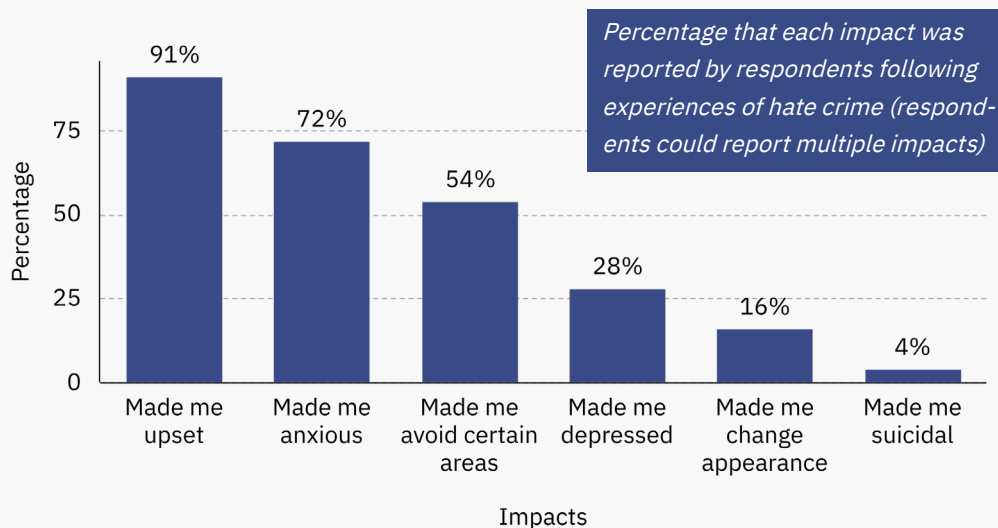
At least 42% of participants told us that during their most recent experience of being subjected to hate crime there was more than one offender. In the majority of cases (~78%) the offender/s were strangers.

We found that in 53% of recent incidents participants believed the offender/s were under 30 years old. This shows that hostility and prejudice towards ESEA communities in the UK is not an issue of the past, or confined exclusively to older generations.

What are the impacts on victims?

99% of those who have experienced hate crime suffered negative impacts to their wellbeing.

- 90% told us that their experiences of hate crime had made them upset
- 72% had been made to feel anxious
- 26% were made to feel depressed
- 16% changed their appearance or the way they dressed
- 4% felt suicidal



Despite such serious impacts, only 5% of those who had experienced hate crime had ever received emotional support from any agency or organisation. Of the 18 participants whose experiences of being subjected to hate crime had made them feel suicidal, only 4 had ever accessed support and just 7% of people who felt depressed had done so.

We asked those who had never accessed support if anything would encourage them to get support in future:

- 28% said if they thought there was appropriate support available for them. For many this meant accessing in-community support, for others it was being able to contact a specialist support service, and for others it meant ease of access
- 22% said if they had a better understanding of where they could access support, or what they could get support for
- 12% said if they felt authorities would take them more seriously or treat hate crime and hate incidents more seriously

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Protection Approaches: a UK-based charity that works to change how the world views identity-based violence – and by doing so, change the way we respond to and prevent it. PA’s work includes coordinating the consortium delivering ‘On Your Side’, the UK-wide support and reporting service for East and Southeast Asian communities who experience racism and/or any forms of hate.
www.protectionapproaches.org | [@IBVprev](https://twitter.com/IBVprev)

Centre for Hate Studies: a world leading research centre whose core mission is to transform responses to hate through ground-breaking research. They shape policy and practice by enabling professionals across different sectors to engage with diverse communities, to support victims and to tackle hate.
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