

Manifesto for Change:

Nationwide consultation to build a new hate crime strategy for England and Wales

Background

The past decade has borne witness to spiralling levels of hate crime, with official statistics showing recorded hate crime to have more than tripled in England and Wales over this period. However, with research demonstrating that fewer than one in four victims report any of their experiences of hate crime, we know that this is the tip of the iceberg.

It has been eight years since the government published its most recent strategy – the Hate Crime Action Plan for England and Wales - with it expiring completely in 2020. Acts of hate and violence are now widespread, with extreme upsurges in hostility following trigger events. With deepening divisions among communities and resources stretched to deliver effective prevention, victim support and justice, there is an urgent need for a coordinated, evidence-based response to hate, hostility and harassment.

This consultation

Between October 2024 and January 2025, [The Centre for Hate Studies](#) based at the University of Leicester, and hate crime prevention charity, [Protection Approaches](#) are leading a national consultation to collect evidence from civil society organisations, academic experts, policy makers, criminal justice professionals, and individuals who have been impacted by hate crime to better understand what a new hate crime strategy for England and Wales should include.¹

The evidence gathered will be published in a ‘*Manifesto for Change*’ in Spring 2025 which will include a set of practical, evidence-based policy recommendations relating to the areas of hate crime prevention, victim support and justice.

What we’ll be asking

We are asking the key stakeholders listed above to share their views on a range of key themes, including:

What is needed to more effectively address hate crime? What are the main barriers to prevention, victim support, and justice? What does good practice look like? What has resulted in supportive practice, good engagement or positive outcomes?

All named parties who submit evidence and consent will be listed in the final written outputs.

How to get involved

- **Written evidence:** In our call for written evidence, affected individuals and organisations will have the opportunity to tell us their views and submit evidence through an open call which can be accessed [here](#). This questionnaire will close on **23.59 on Friday 3rd January 2025**.
- **Consultation events:** Between November 2024 and January 2025 we will facilitate a series of consultation events to share views on hate crime with each other and with our research team.
- **Stakeholder interviews:** Some stakeholders with specific roles focussed on hate crime and/or policy making will be invited to interviews to discuss strategic action points further.

For more information

For more information, to discuss accessibility provisions or to be added to our contact list, please contact Emily Wertans at the Centre for Hate Studies centreforhatestudies@leicester.ac.uk.

¹ This consultation focuses on England and Wales reflecting the geographical scope of the UK Government's previous strategy, the Hate Crime Action Plan 2016–2020. We note that while hate crime legislation and policing in Wales is not devolved, operational response to hate crimes such as victim support services fall within the devolved powers of the Welsh Government.