



The Hate Crime Report

Homophobia, biphobia and transphobia in London

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2013



**HOMOPHOBIA
TRANSPHOBIA
ABUSE**

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making life
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Foreword

Is hate crime reporting going up or down? Do we trust the police? How well are the police and courts serving us?

They're simple questions but activists, police and journalists rarely agree on the answer. It doesn't help that the numbers can be baffling and are open to interpretation.

This report tries to answer those questions and put tools into the hands of people to hold their local police and council to account.

It uses evidence gathered through freedom of information requests and new analysis of data about lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) participants within existing studies; much of which is available here for the first time.

We have tried to present the facts in a simple way, but if you want to see more detailed data about the police and courts, it will soon be available on the Galop website.

Galop is London's LGBT community safety charity, making life safe just and fair for LGBT people. We give advice, support and advocacy to people who have experienced homophobia, transphobia, biphobia, sexual violence or domestic abuse. We also help people who have had problems with the police or have questions about the criminal justice system. Find out more about our work at www.galop.org.uk

How much hate crime is there?

Answer: There are over 1000 homophobic crimes and about 50 transphobic crimes recorded by police in London each year

A quarter of reported homophobic crimes happen in London

A fifth of reported transphobic crimes happen in London

98 anti-LGBT hate crimes get recorded each week by UK police

Homophobia

1008 homophobic crimes were reported in London during 2012/13

1 in 4 UK homophobic crimes reported to police happened in London in 2011, yet only 1 in 8 of the UK population lives in London.

1 in 5 UK homophobia and transphobia court cases are about crimes which happened in London

Transphobia

Transphobia (anti-transgender prejudice) is massively under-reported

There were only 50 transphobic crimes recorded in London during 2012/13

Yet we have anecdotal evidence of individual trans people who are the target of over 50 transphobic crimes each year

1 in 5 UK transphobic crime reported to the police happened in London in 2011, yet only 1 in 8 of the UK population lives in London

Biphobia

Prejudice, stigma and abuse of bisexual people is a regular occurrence for many. It originates both within and outside LGBT communities and is a hidden problem.

At present the police record whether a crime was motivated by sexual orientation hatred. Theoretically that label could include homophobia, biphobia and anti-heterosexual hatred. Practically it is always used to describe homophobic crime. Therefore, there is no data on biphobia

We believe more needs to be done to document and address biphobia

Murders

There were no homophobic or transphobic homicide investigations recorded by police in London during 2007/08, 2010/11, 2011/12 and 2012/13

There was one transphobic and two homophobic homicide investigations in 2009/10

There were two homophobic homicide investigations in 2008/09

Has hate crime gone up or down?

Answer: It has gone down. Recorded hate crime is dropping much faster than other types of crime. That may be due to less hate crime happening. It may also be partly caused by a decrease in LGBT confidence in the police and low satisfaction with the way police handle hate crime

Last year transphobia reports decreased by a quarter

Homophobia reports decreased by a fifth

Yet comparable types of crime only dropped by a tiny amount

Hate crime is falling

Homophobic crime recorded by the police decreased by 20% in 2012/13 compared with the previous year. It decreased 5% the year before and by 1% the year before that

Transphobic crime recorded by the police decreased by 25% in 2012/13 compared with the previous year. It decreased 27% the year before and it increased 19% the year before that.

UK and European crime rates are falling

‘Violence against the person’ is how the police categorise crimes involving violence and harassment. It can be useful to compare with hate crime as it involves similar types of behaviour. In 2012/13 it decreased in London by 3%, it decreased 7% the year before and 5% the year before

The UK had the largest drop in recorded crime in Europe during 2002 to 2010. Murders in the UK dropped by about half in the same period and in Western Europe they dropped by about a third [1]

The national picture

Despite less hate crime being reported, the proportion of hate crime which is homophobic is increasing compared with other types of hate crime such as racism. The proportion which are transphobic has stayed roughly the same

9% of reported UK hate crime in 2009 was homophobic. That rose to 10% in 2010 and 11% in 2011

0.7% of all reported UK hate crime was transphobic in 2011. It has stayed at roughly that proportion for several years

Other types of hate crime in 2011 were racism (making up 81% of the national total), anti-disability (4%) and anti-faith (4%)

[1] UK Peace Index Report, Institute for Economics & Peace, 2013

How much hate crime goes unreported?

Answer: Most of it, but we do not know exactly how much

More than half of hate crimes are not reported

Three quarters of trans people are the target of transphobic abuse each year

An eighth of LGB people experience homophobic or biphobic crime each year

Isn't less hate crime a good thing?

We all want to see an end to people being targeted because of who they are, but there are barriers to reporting for LGBT people which mean police figures are not always a good reflection of how much hate crime is happening

For instance, there are only about 4500 UK homophobic crimes recorded each year; yet 1 in 8 LGB people are the target of homophobic abuse each year [1]

There are only about 300 UK transphobic crimes recorded each year; yet 3 in 4 trans people are the target of transphobic abuse each year [2]

Very few recorded homophobic crimes involve online abuse; yet the word 'faggot' was used in over 13 million tweets this year and the word 'dyke' was used in over 1 million tweets this year [3]

What the numbers say

The British Crime Survey regularly asks large numbers of people about their experience of crime [4]. It found that:

57% of hate crimes are not reported to the police

1 in 8 LGB people experience homophobic or biphobic crime each year

1 in 3 LGB people experience some sort of crime each year, compared with 1 in 4 heterosexual people

1 in 14 LGB people experience violence each year, compared with 1 in 33 heterosexual people

1 in 10 LGB people experienced threats every year compared with 1 in 25 heterosexual people

How much of a problem is under reporting?

The government uses the figure that 5-7% of the UK population is LGB [5]. If we assume that figure is correct, about 3 to 4 million of us are LGB and that does not include the growing number of trans people

If we use the above figures from the British Crime Survey, 1 in 8 of those several million people experience a hate crime each year, but most will not report it (57% of them). That would mean a huge number of people experience anti-LGBT hate crime but never report it

That calculation is likely to be very inaccurate for various reasons, but it gives us an idea about the enormity of the problem

[1]. Gay British Crime Survey, Stonewall, 2008

[2]. Engendered Penalties, Press For Change, 2007

[3]. International figures for July 2012 to June

2013; sourced from www.nohomophobes.com

[4]. Equality groups perceptions and experience of crime, Equality & Human Rights Commission, 2011 (Analysis of British Crime Survey data for 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10)

[5]. Estimating the size and composition of the lesbian, gay and bisexual population in Britain, Equality & Human Rights Commission, 2009

Do we trust the police?

Answer: LGBT Londoners had high levels of confidence in police which may have dropped to the same level as the general population

Confidence in police of LGBT Londoners surveyed decreased by a quarter over five years

The confidence of all Londoners has remained fairly constant

This may partly explain why fewer hate crimes are being reported

Why measure trust and confidence?

We cannot directly measure how many hate crimes go unreported or if that number is increasing or decreasing. However, we can measure trust and confidence in the police. Confidence in the police is widely accepted as a factor affecting peoples decisions about whether to report hate crime or not [1], so it seems likely that changes in confidence can indicate whether under-reporting is increasing or decreasing

The Metropolitan Police commissions a regular survey asking thousands of Londoners about their opinion of the police. This is called the Public Attitudes Survey. Galop has analysed the answers given by LGBT people within the survey and the results are published here for the first time

What do the numbers say?

78% of the 185 Londoners who identified themselves as LGBT had confidence in the police in 2008/09. That compared with 61% of the general London population in the same period.

Only 58% of the 117 Londoners who identified themselves as LGBT had confidence in the police in 2012/13. That compared with 60% of the general population in London during the same period.

This apparent decrease in LGBT confidence in the police seems likely to be a factor in the decreasing number of hate crime reports

About the figures

The raw data is available from the UK Data Archive. The survey is conducted by BMG Research. The key question used to measure confidence in the police across London is "Taking everything into account, how good a job do you think the police in London as a whole are doing?". Those who answer 'good' or 'excellent' are considered to have confidence in the police

In the five years of data examined here, about 87,000 people were surveyed, a little under 650 of who identified themselves as LGBT (0.7%). This low figure might be influenced by the fact most participants give their answers verbally to researchers on their doorstep, which may inhibit people disclosing their gender or sexual identities

[1] Hate crime standard operating procedures, Metropolitan Police, 2011

Do those who report get a good service?

Answer: Many people who report homophobia are dissatisfied with the police handling of it. This probably contributes to low hate crime reporting

1 in 4 people are dissatisfied with police response to their homophobia report

Only 1 in 6 who report another type of crime are dissatisfied

Why measure satisfaction with the police

The police are a public service and we all deserve the right to be treated in a fair and respectful way by them. Positive and negative experiences of dealing with the police are likely to influence whether someone supports police investigation or reports next time.

The Metropolitan Police measure satisfaction with their service by commissioning a research company to do regular telephone surveys with people who have reported a crime in London. They call this the User Satisfaction Survey. Galop has analysed the answers given by LGB people within the survey and the results are made available to the community here for the first time

What do the numbers say?

General levels of victim satisfaction with the Metropolitan Police are the lowest of any police force in the UK. In 2012, 76% of Londoners who reported a crime were satisfied with the response to their crime report, compared with the UK average of 84%, or the top scoring police force, Northumbria with 92% [1]

LGB and non-LGB Londoners have about the same average level of satisfaction with the police when they report something other than hate crime. Roughly 76% of people who report a crime are satisfied each year and roughly 15% are dissatisfied. That has remained fairly constant for the past four years.

However, 67% of Londoners who report a homophobic crime are happy with their experience of the police, compared with 76% Londoners who report another type of crime. 25% of those who report a homophobic crime are dissatisfied compared with only 16% of those who report something else

Low satisfaction among those who report anti-LGBT hate crime seems likely to be a factor in the decreasing number of hate crime reports as repeat victims are deterred from reporting again

About the figures

The raw data is available from the UK Data Archive. The survey is conducted by Opinion Research Services. The question used to measure confidence in the police across London is "Taking the whole experience into account, are you satisfied, dissatisfied or neither with the service provided by the police in this case?". Those who answer 'fairly', 'very' or 'completely satisfied' are considered to be satisfied.

The above figures are from data aggregated over the 2008/09 to 2011/12 period. This includes a sample of over 50,000 people, a little under 2000 of who identified themselves as LGB (3.5%) and over 350 of who identified that the crime they reported was homophobic (0.6%)

The survey does not ask about the gender identity/history of people surveyed. It does ask if the crime they reported was motivated by one of a list of types of hate crime, including 'gender' hate crime. Due to the large number of responses in this category it appears a large portion of these are from cisgender people who mistakenly understand this to mean crime which is an attack on their gender such as sexual or domestic abuse, rather than transphobia. Therefore this data can not tell us about the experiences of trans people

[1] Figures for Jan to Dec 2012; sourced from HMIC Crime & Policing Comparator

How well do the police and courts perform?

Answer: The police consistently get good outcomes from homophobic crime investigations. The outcome from transphobic crimes tend to be very poor. Homophobia and transphobia trials in London courts have worse results than the national average

Just under 1 in 2 recorded homophobic crimes have a successful outcome

Only 1 in 17 recorded transphobic crimes have a successful outcome

1 in 7 recorded homophobic or transphobic crimes go to court

3 in 4 of those court cases are successful

The police

A 'sanction detection' is where the police 'solve' a crime by charging someone, cautioning them, giving a fine etc. The percentage of crimes dealt with in this way is used as an indication of how well the police perform, but we recognise that people who report crime often have other needs and priorities

43% of the 1008 homophobic crimes recorded in London were detected in 2012/13. Over the four previous years, the homophobic detection rate was between 45% and 54%

However, only 6% of the 51 transphobic crimes recorded in London were detected in 2012/13. That is extremely poor and has never been so low since records began. In the four previous years it wavered between 16% and 28%

'Violence against the person' is how the police categorise crimes involving violence and harassment. It can be a useful comparator with hate crime as it involves similar types of behaviour. In 2012/13 its detection rate was 32%. That is higher than transphobia but lower than homophobia.

We believe the Metropolitan Police should be proud of their excellent detection rate for homophobia but need to urgently address the poor outcomes of transphobic crime investigations

The courts

Most homophobia and transphobia cases which reach court are successful, however, trials heard in London courts are less likely to be successful (find someone guilty) than those heard in other parts of the UK.

79% of homophobia and transphobia trials in UK courts were successful in 2011/12, but only 72% were successful in London courts

Homophobia and transphobia trials are less likely to be successful than those about other types of crime. The average success rate for all UK criminal trials was 86% for Crown Courts and 81% for Magistrates Courts in 2011/12. That compares with a 79% success rate for UK homophobia and transphobia trials in the same period

How is my borough doing?

This chart ranks boroughs according to numbers of hate crime reports, detections and trials over the past three years. It uses a traffic light system of green (excellent), amber (mid-range) and red (poor). It focuses on police and court performance data but we recognise the excellent work happening in many boroughs which may not be reflected in the statistics. However, we hope it will aid police, councils and local people to reflect on whether local services are doing well or need to improve and what may be driving performance up or down. It was calculated using the assumption that boroughs with higher reporting and more cases reaching court are performing better.

Borough	Homophobia reporting	Homophobia detections	Transphobia reporting	Transphobia detections	Number of homophobia & transphobia trials	Court success rate
1 Westminster	Green	Green	Amber	Green	Red	Green
2 Islington	Green	Green	Green	Red	Green	Amber
3 Camden	Green	Green	Amber	Red	Green	Green
4 Tower Hamlets	Green	Green	Amber	Red	Green	Green
5 Hackney	Amber	Green	Amber	Amber	Amber	Amber
6 Brent	Amber	Green	Amber	Red	Amber	Red
7 Lambeth	Green	Green	Red	Red	Green	Amber
8 Southwark	Green	Amber	Red	Red	Amber	Amber
9 Wandsworth	Amber	Green	Red	Amber	Amber	Amber
10 Bromley	Amber	Green	Red	Red	Amber	Green
11 Lewisham	Amber	Green	Red	Red	Amber	Green
12 Ealing	Amber	Green	Red	Amber	Red	Yellow
13 Greenwich	Amber	Green	Red	Red	Amber	Green
14 H'smith & Fulham	Amber	Green	Red	Red	Amber	Green
15 Hillingdon	Amber	Green	Red	Red	Amber	Green
16 Ken & Chelsea	Amber	Green	Red	Red	Amber	Amber
17 Waltham Forest	Red	Amber	Red	Amber	Amber	Amber
18 Haringey	Amber	Amber	Red	Red	Red	Amber
19 Newham	Red	Green	Red	Green	Red	Green
20 Richmond	Red	Green	Red	Green	Red	Green
21 Croydon	Red	Green	Red	Green	Amber	Amber
22 Redbridge	Red	Green	Red	Green	Red	Amber
23 Hounslow	Red	Green	Red	Red	Amber	Amber
24 Barnet	Red	Green	Red	Amber	Red	Green
25 Sutton	Red	Green	Red	Red	Green	Amber
26 Enfield	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red	Green
27 Harrow	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red	Amber
28 Bexley	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red
29 Havering	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red
30 Merton	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red
31 Kingston	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red
32 Barking & Dagenham	Red	Amber	Red	Red	Red	Red