

# HOW YOU CAN HELP THIS CAMPAIGN

- **Sign and share the petition**  
<https://my.uplift.ie/p/love-not-hate>
- **Visit the campaign page:**  
[www.enarireland.org/hatecrime](http://www.enarireland.org/hatecrime)
- If you are from a Minority Ethnic background, **join Action Against Racism**.  
Contact: [aga@enarireland.org](mailto:aga@enarireland.org)
- **Report racist incidents** to [www.iReport.ie](http://www.iReport.ie) - these help show the need for hate crime legislation.
- **Write to your TDs and councillors**, urging them to introduce this Bill. You can find letter templates on ENAR Ireland's website.
- **Support our activities and spread the word** on Facebook, Twitter and by word of mouth. Give this leaflet to a friend. You can order more leaflets from us! **Use #LoveNotHate hashtag**.
- **Invite us** to give a talk in your community.

**CALL:** 01 889 7110 **EMAIL:** [info@enarireland.org](mailto:info@enarireland.org)

**VISIT:** [www.enarireland.org](http://www.enarireland.org) **REPORT RACISM:** [www.iReport.ie](http://www.iReport.ie)



## WHAT IS HATE CRIME?

A **hate crime** is, typically, a violent **crime** motivated by prejudice, when a perpetrator targets a victim because of their perceived membership of a certain social group.

**HATE CRIME has two important elements:**

### 1. Criminal act:

Hate crimes are acts which are treated as crimes in criminal law, such as assaults, theft, criminal damage, arson or murder.

### 2. Bias motive:

Hate crimes are motivated, at least in part, by hatred/bias/prejudice against someone's real or perceived identity or background.

People targeted by hate motivated crime in Ireland are usually:

- From an Ethnic Minority background (racist hate crimes)
- From a religious minority (religious hate crimes)
- Lesbian, gay or bisexual (homophobic hate crimes)
- Transgender (anti-transgender hate crimes)
- People with disabilities (disablist hate crime)



## THE PROPOSED HATE CRIME LEGISLATION

**Ireland, unlike most other EU countries, has no hate crime legislation.**

Criminal Law (Hate Crime) Bill was presented to the Government in 2015 by the Hate and Hostility Research Group following a recommendation from the NGO Working Group on Hate Crime. To date, the Government has failed to take steps to introduce it into law, leaving minorities in Ireland without protection.

**The proposed Criminal Law (Hate Crime) Bill would mean:**

**1 The creation of special new categories of aggravated offences:** crimes will be treated more seriously by the courts if they were motivated by racism or other forms of hatred. Those offences include:

- Murder.
- Assault, including Assault Causing Harm or Serious Harm.
- Harassment.
- Theft.
- Fraud.
- Criminal Damage to property or threat of criminal damage.
- Rape or Sexual Assault.
- Public Order Offences (disorderly conduct, threatening and abusive behaviour, affray, violent disorder).

**2 The provision of enhanced sentencing:** offenders will get a higher sentence for a crime committed with a bias element against named **protected categories such as the following:**

Race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, national minority, Travellers and Roma, disability, age, gender, gender expression, gender identity, sexual orientation, residence status, health, sex characteristics and ability to communicate.

# LOVE NOT HATE

UNITE TO LEGISLATE AGAINST HATE CRIME



## IRELAND HAS NO HATE CRIME LEGISLATION

to protect people against  
hate-motivated attacks

Help us to  
change this!



# WHO ARE WE?

**We are Action Against Racism**, a group of people from diverse Minority Ethnic backgrounds who are committed to justice, equality and an Ireland where racism and hate have no place. We are working with ENAR Ireland and its allies to fight racism, and to campaign for the introduction of Hate Crime Legislation, within the broader context of a renewed National Action Plan Against Racism.

**ENAR Ireland** is the Irish coordination of the European Network Against Racism which has 120 member groups in 30 countries. ENAR Ireland has over 50 member organisations working together against racism in our country. It runs **iReport.ie**, a national independent racist incident reporting system which is fully confidential.



## WHAT ARE WE CALLING FOR?

**We are calling for the government to enact the Criminal Law (Hate Crime) Bill immediately to protect minorities in Ireland.**

The YES Equality campaign was an amazing show of public support for equality in Ireland. We want our government to take the next step, and protect those among us who are perceived to be different because of our skin colour, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, different physical or mental abilities and so on.

Enacting Hate Crime Legislation would place us among the majority of countries in the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the European and common law countries. It would help Ireland meet its European Union and International obligations.

We need to send a clear message that racism and hate have no place in our communities and that our society should be inclusive of all. We must break the silence on hate crime, encourage people to report it, and find effective ways to address all forms of racism and prejudice.

## WHY DO WE NEED HATE CRIME LEGISLATION?

### To protect minorities

Everyone has a right to live safely and to participate fully, without fear, in all aspects of life in Ireland. Having hate crime legislation makes a strong statement that we value an inclusive society where crimes committed on the basis of a victim's identity are not tolerated.

### Hate crimes damage community relations

Hate crimes can lead to fear spreading through the community, especially when there is a poor response. People from the same and other minority groups often react as if the same crime has happened to them. Communities can become isolated and torn apart. Ultimately, racist and religious hate crimes can lead to divisions in society.

### Hate crimes hurt more

The psychological impact of hate crime is deeper than regular crime, with the distress and fear lasting longer. Hate crime dehumanises, goes to the heart of person's identity, damages dignity and forces people to change their behaviour. Having specific protection in law for victims of hate crime recognises the seriousness and greater damage done by those crimes.

### To make the State take racism seriously

In 2014 ENAR Ireland recorded 137 incidents meeting the criteria for racist hate crime, while An Garda Síochána recorded only 43. Having Hate Crime Legislation in place will help ensure that hate crimes are recorded and taken seriously in Ireland.

### Hate crime legislation works

In other countries, Hate Crime Legislation is effective in bringing people who commit hate crimes to justice, preventing others from committing them and restoring community confidence in the State.