

Tackling Prejudice and Hate Crimes in Cumbria

Cumbria is one of the most beautiful places in England with an increasing diverse population. There are over 40 languages spoken in Cumbrian schools and 4.9% of its population is from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) heritage. One of the Districts in Cumbria: South Lakeland has the highest proportion of people from BME groups in Cumbria at **6.3%**.¹

Black and minority ethnic people’s connections and presence within Cumbria dates back to the 16th century, working and contributing equally to the economy, culture and heritage of Cumbria. There is a significant gap in available information and awareness among general public about the contributions of Black and Minority Ethnic people in the cultural heritage, economy, social capital and civil society within Cumbria.

Hate crimes and prejudice against minority communities are one of the biggest barriers in advancing equality, developing community cohesion and celebrating diversity in our society.

Analysis of Race hate crime figures (2011) suggests that there is a rising rate of racial violence, racial damage and hate crime in Carlisle and north of the county, and is highest in Cumbria.

Hate Crimes in Cumbria January 2011- December 2011² Total – 282

Hate Crimes				
Hate Crime Type	Jan - Mar 11	Apr - Jun 11	Jul - Sep 11	Oct - Dec 11
All Hate Crime	64	81	71	50
Racist	51	56	50	35
Homophobic	7	14	14	10
Religion	5	6	5	2
Disability	3	8	4	2
Transgender	0	4	3	3

Racist Incidents Satisfaction Levels				
Satisfaction	2010	2011	2012	2013
Number Of Surveys Carried out	12	10		
% Satisfied with whole experience	91.7%	90.0%		

Racially / Religiously Aggravated offences				
Offence Type	Jan - Mar 11	Apr - Jun 11	Jul - Sep 11	Oct - Dec 11
Racially / Religiously Aggravated Criminal Damage	4	6	0	1
Racially / Religiously Aggravated Violent Crime	7	6	9	2
Racially / Religiously Aggravated Harrassment	27	32	36	26

Hate Crimes in North Cumbria 2011:

Total = 116 - **Racist 76**, Religious 5 homophobic 23, Transgender 4, and Disability 8

Hate Crimes in South Cumbria 2011:

Total = 95 - **Racist 66**, Religious 5 homophobic 13, Transgender 4, and Disability 7

Hate Crimes in West Cumbria 2011:

Total = 71 - **Racist 50**, Religious 8 homophobic 9, Transgender 2, and Disability 2

¹ Source: ONS Population estimates by Ethnic Groups 2009. (<http://www.cumbriaobservatory.org.uk/Population/ethnicity.asp>)

² Cumbria Constabulary: <http://www.cumbria.police.uk/about-us/area-structure-services/equality-and-diversity>

Racist Incidents – Victims Satisfaction level – Although the satisfaction level from the figures presented by Cumbria constabulary (31st Jan 2012)³ on the percentage of victims satisfied with the experience of service they received looks high but an analysis of the number of victims surveyed reveals that only 10 out of 192 victims of racist hate crime have been surveyed showing 90 % satisfaction level. AWAZ Cumbria has concerns that this information may lead to misinterpretation of satisfaction level on the experience of victims of race hate crime.

At no point my hate crime report investigating Police Officer has asked me about my well-being or offered me any signposting to speak to anybody who could help with any emotional concern. (Views of a recent Hate Crime Victim in Carlisle)

AWAZ's works with BME communities suggest that there is a no specific initiative or focus on tackling prejudice and race hate crime in Cumbria.

There is no information available on the number of race hate crime victims provided with support from 'Victim Support'. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the police officers investigating hate crimes are not referring victims for additional support from other agencies, such as victim support.

The level of support available or provided to victims of hate crimes across North, West and South Cumbria from various agencies is limited and there is no consistency in the quality and level of support provided either.

We are working with partners in seeking further information in the following areas:

- The number of Victims of Hate crimes who have given consent or no consent for support from other agencies e.g. Victim Support? And how is this monitored within the Criminal Justice System?
- Number of hate crime victims provided with the support from community/family liaison officers?
- Number of race hate crimes classed as No Further Action (NFA)?
- The attrition rate between reported incidents/recorded crimes and sanctioned detections in 2011?
- How many Victims of Hate crimes have been provided with the opportunity to record their Victim Personal Statement (VPS)? How many VPS from Victims of Hate crimes have been used in Court cases?
- Satisfaction levels among victims with the experience, action taken in the Criminal justice system?

For further information please contact;

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³ Cumbria Constabulary: <http://www.cumbria.police.uk/about-us/area-structure-services/equality-and-diversity>
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