

NEGATE THE HATE

If you have witnessed hate speech online or experienced it yourself in connection to your university, you may be wondering what steps you can take to report it.



What is hate speech?

Hate speech is any language that promotes offensive stereotypes or encourages violence against a group of people based on their collective identity. It can include abuse, threats and repetitive bullying/harassment.

Reporting hate speech online

One off incidents can be reported to social media. You can visit Report Harmful Content for help and advice on how to report abuse across multiple platforms:

reportharmfulcontent.com
You can report hate crime to the police on 101 (non-emergency number), 999 (for emergencies) and online: report-it.org.uk

Call it out

If you feel it's safe to do so, speak out and challenge misinformation online where possible.

Ongoing and larger issues

In cases where abuse or harassment is ongoing, you should turn to your university for help. Most universities have anonymous reporting routes that can be found on their websites. You can also make a report in person to your students' union.

Not satisfied with how your report has been handled?

You have the right to complain. Follow your universities complaints procedure and if that doesn't work, raise with the OIA: oiahe.org.uk

Not satisfied with a Police response?

This can be reported to the IOPC: policeconduct.gov.uk

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Things to remember

- If you have been the victim of a crime, it's never your fault. Make sure you seek emotional support, speak to a friend and take care of yourself.
- Document (via screenshots etc) both the harassment and your communication with the university.
- Your university has a duty of care towards you and should adopt a zero-tolerance policy towards hate speech.
- You have the right to choose which course of action you wish to take.
- When challenging misinformation, counter-speech can help to influence discourse and change attitudes for the better.

Further advice and support

Contact your university welfare department, chaplaincy service or the NUS for further support: nus.org.uk

True Vision provide advice about online hate crime and a route for reporting this to the police: report-it.org.uk/reporting_internet_hate_crime

RHC provide specific advice about how to report hate on social networking sites: reportharmfulcontent.com/advice/other/hate-crime

In an emergency, contact the police on 999. If you have recently been sexually assaulted, you can get help from your local SARC.

The Revenge Porn Helpline can support you with the removal of private sexual images which have been shared without consent:
revengepornhelpline.org.uk

The Professionals Online Safety Helpline can help students who are training to work with young people with online issues they're facing:
swgfl.org.uk/services/professionals-online-safety-helpline