Welcome to the Disability Hate Crime conference: Known harms and future directions

This event is taking place in person and on Teams

Thursday 16th June 2022
House Keeping

If the fire alarm sounds it will give directions on what to do (e.g. Fire alert, please wait for further instructions).
The lift next to this lecture theatre is an evacuation lift which can be used in case of a fire.
The refuge area is just outside the lift where an intercom is placed.
The fire evacuation point is at the front of the Fielding Johnson Building on the grass. Volunteers will direct attendees.
Aims of BSC Hate Crime Network

- Share information about hate crime with a view to developing critical analysis and debate across research, policy, and practice;

- Advance understanding of hate crime both nationally and internationally;

- Foster opportunities for collaborative projects

- Encourage networking

Network Events/Activities

- Conferences (e.g. Misogyny as Hate Crime in 2019; Hate Crime in Football in 2021)

- Researching within hate studies: A discussion group for PGRs and ECRs

- Hate Crime Series Podcast

- BSC Hate Crime Network Article Prize (Sponsored by Palgrave)
Stay in touch! Membership to the Network is open to anyone with an interest in the field of hate crime

- You can follow us on twitter @BscHcn

- We have a JISCmail list which provides information about forthcoming events, news, and facilitates discussion among network members

- You can subscribe to this here: https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin?A0=HATEGIRME

- We are looking for 3 new members to join our steering group! If you are interested in applying, please submit a statement (no more than 300 words) to irene.zempi@ntu.ac.uk outlining how you can contribute to this role by Friday 15 July 2022
Further information


British Society of Criminology website: https://www.britsoccrim.org

Contact the Network

Chair: Dr Irene Zempi (Nottingham Trent University)

Vice Chair: Rachel Keighley (University of Leicester)
The purpose of this conference is to bring together, for the first time ever, victims, academics, support organisations and elements of the criminal justice system to discuss the impacts of disability hate crime.

Learn from one another with a focus on how we can work together to raise awareness of, and challenge, disability hate crime.

Over 300 people booked on, both in-person and virtually.
Programme - morning

09:30-09:50 Welcome and Introduction
10:10-10:30 Hate Crime and Specifically Disability: Dr David Wilkin.
10:30-11:00 Break

Panel 1: The Impacts of DHC
11:00-11:20 The Impacts of Disability Hate Crime: Dr Leah Burch
11:20-11:40 Spread Love Not Hate: Susan Hanley & Amanda Haigh
11:40-12:00 Keeping Sefton Safe - My Hate Crime Journey: Phil Hume
12:00-12:20 Panel 1 Q&A: The Impacts of DHC - chaired by Dr David Wilkin
12:20-13:30 Lunch break
Afternoon
Panel 2: Fighting DHC and Intersectional Hate

13:30-13:50 Progress and the Future of Policing Disability Hate Offences: Isla Dixon
13:50-14:10 Prosecuting Disability Hate Crimes and Overcoming Difficulties: Mick Conboy,
14:10-14:30 Perceptions of Disability, Sexuality and Hate Crime: Joshua Hepple
14:30-14:45 Panel 2 Q&A: Fighting DHC and Intersectional Hate - chaired by Dr Leah Burch
14:45-15:10 Break

Panel 3: Hope for the Future and including Violence Against Women and Girls

15:10-15:30 Changing the Law, Safeguarding Victims of Disability Hate: Professor Mark Walters
15:30-15:50 Countering Disability Hate Crime in the UK: Bethany Bale
15:50-16:10 Disabled Women's Experiences of Unwanted Touching: Dr Hannah Mason-Bish
16:10-16:25 Panel 3 Q&A: Hope for the Future chaired by Dr Irene Zempi
Hidden Hate, Hidden Harms: Learning the Lessons from Research Evidence

Professor Neil Chakraborti
Director, Centre for Hate Studies

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Making sense of hate crime

- 124,091 hate offences were recorded by the police across England and Wales in 2020/21 (excluding Greater Manchester Police) – a rise of 9% from the previous year (Home Office, 2021)
  - 92,052 (72%) were racist hate crimes (+12% from previous year’s total)
  - 18,596 (15%) were homophobic hate crimes (+7%)
  - 9,943 (8%) were disability hate crimes (+9%)
  - 6,377 (6%) were religiously motivated hate crimes (-18%)
  - 2,799 (2%) were transphobic hate crimes (+3%)

- Year on year increases attributable to numerous factors, including:
  - improvements in police recording practices
  - trigger events such as terrorist attacks, the EU referendum, the Black Lives Matters protests and far-right counter-protests, and the pandemic
  - the mainstreaming of hostile attitudes
Making sense of hate crime

- 9,943
  - The total number of disability hate crimes recorded by the police in 2020/21

- 24%
  - The proportion of victims likely to report any of their experiences of hate crime to the police

- 360
  - The total number of prosecutions brought against perpetrators of disability hate crime in 2020

- 33,546
  - The number of people who reported a hate crime to the police in 2020 but then withdrew from proceedings (i.e. an abandonment rate of 32%, three times higher than in 2015)
Making sense of hate crime

• An ‘invisible’ set of problems?
  – Commonly includes micro-crimes and -aggressions which might not be recorded or reported but which routinely affect victims from different backgrounds and walks of life

• An ‘invisible’ set of victims
  – Commonly includes people who find themselves on the margins of mainstream society and who are less likely to tell anyone about their experiences of victimisation

• An ‘invisible’ set of harms
  – Commonly causes harms to mental health and emotional well-being, and to families and wider communities
I’ve been called all sorts of names because I’ve got disabilities. It makes you feel like a lesser form of human being and makes you feel empty, angry, upset, confused, all of the above. And it just leaves you feeling hollow for so long. (Tony, targeted on the basis of his learning difficulties)

People have said things like you should die, you should be sterilised, you should be shot if you want children, stuff like that, we don’t want your dirty genes in the gene pool. (Lou, targeted on the basis of her disability and gender identity)

I was walking through an estate on a sunny day and I simply looked at them. They didn’t like the look of me, so they ran up to me and they chased me and I fell and I couldn’t get up because I’d broken my knee, and they kicked me in the face, and they kept doing that repeatedly. (Will, targeted on the basis of his mental ill-health)

I often preferred to sit in darkness and pretend I wasn’t in … It was torture and I just didn’t understand why they were doing it. (Michael, targeted on the basis of his physical disabilities)

It starts at school, and we call it bullying. Those are hate incidents. And then it goes right through your life. So for people with learning difficulties, it’s normal. And then somewhere down the line, someone actually tells us, no, that’s not normal, that shouldn’t actually happen. But it’s too late. (Jas, targeted on the basis of her learning difficulties and ethnicity)
Barriers to justice

• Limited take up of alternative reporting options due to widespread lack of awareness and/or perceived inaccessibility of existing options

• Minimal engagement with more localised, tailored support services as a result of widespread closures or significant cuts to resources

• High levels of anxiety relating to not being taken seriously, not being treated with empathy and being accused of wasting police time

• Evidence of a perceived hierarchy of protected characteristics whereby race (and to a lesser extent sexual orientation and religious identity) are privileged within victims’ interpretations of what ‘matters’ to the criminal justice system
Barriers to justice

- Problems encountered at the initial response stages are often compounded by a slow, intimidating and incomprehensible criminal justice system.

- Widespread frustrations amongst hate crime victims in relation to:
  - low numbers of prosecutions
  - high evidential threshold
  - lack of communication through the stages of the criminal justice process

- Only 44% of victims referred to extended sentences as their preferred response to hate crime (Hardy and Chakraborti, 2019)
  - 82% called for greater use of tailored programmes of education within prisons, schools and local communities
  - 55% wanted to see more use of community ‘payback’ orders for hate crime perpetrators
  - 32% were in favour of more facilitated dialogue between the victim and the offender
I WANT PEOPLE TO STOP MAKING FUN OF ME.... THEY DON'T REALISE THE DAMAGE IT DOES TO ME.
What can we do?

Ten improvements that hate crime victims would like to see:

• To be treated with empathy and warmth
• To see frontline practitioners adopt a less hostile manner
• To understand the purpose of reporting hate incidents
• To know that they are being dealt with by a professional with specialist training
• To be reassured that ‘everyday’ microaggressions will be taken seriously
• To understand why prosecution rates are so low
• To feel safer on public transport
• To see more support for bystander interventions
• To see tailored programmes of education embedded within schools and prisons
• To see meaningful examples of systemic change
Thank you for listening!

Professor Neil Chakraborti
Director, Centre for Hate Studies

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Hate Crime

Specifically:
Hostility against Disabled People
Dr David Wilkin
The impacts of disability hate crime

Dr Leah Burch,
Liverpool Hope University

@LeahFBurch
Everyday space and affect theory

• Attending to the ‘everyday’ requires an engagement with the way in which ordinary spaces and encounters are shaped by the movement of emotions and signs between bodies.

• A focus upon space within the public domain asks questions about those bodies that are not perceived to fit in, and what this feels like (Fanghanel, 2020).

• To ask these questions attends to the affective capacity of bodies; how our capacity to be and to do is shaped by the spaces that we move within.
The research project

- University of Leeds, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council
- Six organizations (DPOs, peer-support groups and a charity/day centre)
- Stage 1: Arts-based workshops
- Stage 2: Interviews
- Stage 3: Reflective workshops
Affective Possibility

• A turn to affect theory explores how bodies are shaped by their surrounding space, as well as how they shape and distort the make-up of that space’ (Burch, 2021)
• ‘We make a world out of the shattered pieces, even when we shatter the pieces or even when we are the shattered pieces’ (Ahmed, 2017, p. 261)
Long-lasting harms

- *It never leaves me* (Alex) ; *it still haunts me* (Robbie)
- *Flashbacks* (Rose) ; *Nightmares* (Aaron Presley)
- *They say sticks and stones may break your bones but words will never hurt me. But breaking your bones, your bones will health and stuff but sometimes words don’t always leave’* (Francis Emerson)
- *Grief* (Sabrina, Caitlin)
Remaking identity

- You used to be proud of yourself, now you’re more in yourself … hiding away (Beater)
- Am I a bad person? I didn’t choose to be like this, am I going to burn in hell? (Francis Emerson)
- I wear my make-up because I feel like putting on a character is better. When I don’t wear make-up I don’t feel confident. The make-up is my character, to hide all the insecurities’ (Sapphire)
Negotiating space

- It makes you feel like a flat battery (Lynn)
- Every time we go out it would be like, we’re probably gonna have to deal with it [throwaway comments]... so you don’t end up going somewhere. Implicitly or explicitly, it drives you out of those spaces (Harry)
- Your stress level goes up, your blood pressure goes up, every time you start looking around. Everything’s oh ah, and you’re a bit scared talking to other people because you stress out day in and day out (Dr Who)
Navigating hate

• ‘Me and my friend spend all our time considering well where can we go to have a drink, where can we go to eat, where do we know that people have been that are really good. So in the city we’re developing a bit of an accessibility plan around this … a plan of the city and what spaces are accessible, based on users’ (Doria Skadinski)

• We have the knowledge, we have the experience (Robbie)
Collective resistance

• *There’s so much power in what you would call a DPO because it’s like we’re so different in so many ways but what we have is this shared experience of oppression* (Harry)

• *We can talk to each other. We’re different ages, but we can understand each. You can muck in and be yourself’* (Sapphire)

• *I like coming because I can tell my stories with no judgement, and I can voice my opinion* (AD)
Working collaboratively

• This needs to be put in a booklet and all this information needs to be put online so that we can help somebody in the same situation … instead of sitting around a table we should be doing something (Alex)

• As researchers, what ‘doing something’ do we do?

• ‘We (within both hate studies and disability studies) need to hold ourselves accountable and invest more energy into “doing something” outside of academia. Or to “doing something” collectively, engaging with and learning from disabled people, and making our resources within the university more readily available.’ (Burch, 2021, p. 235)
Don't Dis my Ability

HATE CRIME

Susan Hanley and Amanda Haigh
The story about Clare
We listened to what people with learning disabilities told us.
Raising Awareness
Hate and Mate Crime - Rap
Tackling Hate Crime in Schools
Invisible disabilities

Mixed race
Curriculum

Disability Awareness Training by people with lived experience
Sit on strategic boards

Stronger links to identify problem areas

Not as a token gesture but so it is purposeful and on all levels there is valid input from people who have suffered disability hate crimes
Thank you
Keeping Sefton Safe – My Hate Crime Journey

Phil Hume - Director of People First Merseyside
My passion for raising awareness of Disability Hate Crime in Sefton and what I have achieved as a result.
Being a Victim

- My first Experience
- Punched in the face for a cigarette
- Someone else called the police
- Never heard of disability hate crime before.
- Giving a statement
- Nothing happened to the man
Being a Victim

• My Second Experience
• More aware of what hate crime was
• Talked their way into my flat
• Took my laptop
• This time I knew what I had to do.
• Wrote everything I could remember down
• Again there was not enough evidence
Being a Victim

• It happened to me again!
• The same people as last time
• Dragged me to the ground
• Took my phone and my loose change
• Reported it
• They were both arrested had to identify them
• The man went to jail for other crimes
Being a Victim

• No longer Felt Safe
• Asked to be moved
• Given priority
• Live in my dream home where I feel safe
Witness

- I witnessed my friend become a victim
- Pretended to be his girlfriend
- Different ways to get money out of him
- They even got engaged!!
- Paying for a taxi that was her real boyfriend in his car!
- Said she had epilepsy to pretend she was like him.
- I was suspicious…. I did my own investigation
Witness

• She would take him to the bank
• Gave him a false address I went there it didn’t exist
• I knew something was wrong
• I told staff at People First Merseyside
• We went to the police
Witness

- David didn’t think anything was wrong
- Gerrie believed what I was telling her
- She began an investigation
- Her name was Leanne not Joanna!
- She was arrested and sent to prison for 17 months
- My friend had lost all his savings
- It was hard but I knew it was the right thing to do

People First
Speaking out in Merseyside
My work

• I have been at People First Merseyside for 15 years
• Lots of opportunities
• Giving people with learning disabilities a voice
• My experiences gave me a passion for Hate Crime
• Thanks to People First I have been able to follow this passion.
My work

• Chairing the Get Involved Group

• Raising Awareness of Disability Hate Crime to other people with learning disabilities across Sefton

• Developing Projects to help people understand about hate crime and recognise when they may be a victim
My work – Be aware Be Safe

Training to recognise the different types of abuse

- Psychological Abuse
- Domestic Abuse
- Physical Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Financial Abuse
- Modern Slavery
- Mate Crime
- Bullying
- Discrimination

Any one can be a victim anyone can be an abuser
My work – working in partnership

- Working alongside Merseyside police and Sefton Council
- Hate Crime awareness training to Staff
- Recognising the signs
- Sharing my story and my experiences
- Always get good feedback

People First
Speaking out in Merseyside
My work – working in partnership

People First
Speaking out in Merseyside
Being a Victim

- Anthony Walker Foundation Award
- The Community First award
- Sefton 4 Good Award
My message to you

It is important that people have:
• The confidence to tell someone this could be family or a friend.
• Know how to report a hate crime.
• Understand what a hate crime is so they understand if it is happening to them
• People understand how to keep themselves safe.
• Understand who to contact if it happens like 101 if it not an emergency and 999 if it is

I want everyone to understand about hate crime wherever they live.

But most of all I don’t want anyone else to become a victim themselves

People First
Speaking out in Merseyside
Thank you for listening to me today
If you would like to know more about us or find out what is happening you can find us in these different ways:

Search for us

www.peoplefirstmerseyside.co.uk

People First Merseyside

@PFMerseyside

If you would like sign up for our E newsletter, be on our mailing list or even come for a visit please contact us at this address

People First Merseyside, The Investment Centre, 375 Stanley Road, Bootle L20 3EF
End of the morning session. Please use the afternoon session link to join us for part two.