



## Youth Commission Initial findings of Hate Crime responses to the Big Conversation

### Summary

In quarter one, January – March 2020, 194 young people have chosen hate crime as their top priority in the Big Conversation, which is 35% of the overall responses.

Age	No of respondents
12	14
13	15
14	35
15	23
16	29
17	20
18	10
19	7
20	7
21	3
22	3
23	1
24	2
25	2
Not given	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>194</b>

Area	No of respondents
Basingstoke and Deane	20
East Hants	7
Eastleigh	0
Fareham	34
Gosport	21
Hart	15
Havant	18
Isle of Wight	8
New Forest	1
Portsmouth	2
Rushmoor	2
Southampton	19
Test Valley	10
Winchester	1
Not specified	25
Out of county	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>194</b>

194 responses to the Big Conversation have indicated that Hate Crime is their top priority.

In the thoughts and experiences section, many people have described personal incidents of hate crime, with race and sexual identity-related incidents being the most common. Incidents around transgender identity and disability seem to be less common or highlighted much less.

However, there appears to be a lack of understanding around what constitutes a “hate crime”, or a “hate incident”, as there have been examples of people suggesting that others bullying them due to their appearance counts as a “hate crime”. “Appearance”, in terms of people bullying others for the clothes that they wear, or other related insults, is not a protected characteristic in itself. Incidents involving bullying over skin colour, visible disabilities and expression of sexuality in your appearance are much more relevant to being a “hate crime”.

“I was bullied because of my disability in primary school and the beginning of secondary school. No child or adult should be treated badly due to a characteristic they cannot change. Discrimination exists in many forms and on many scales and is the root of much hate and larger crime. Everyone witnesses it”.

Most responses in the thoughts and experiences section focused on the importance of stopping hate crime, with some elaborating that this was due to its impact on mental health. Some identified experiences where hate crime had escalated to serious violence.



In terms of the top ideas to tackle hate crime, education was by far the most popular. Some responses were vague, through listing “more education” as a solution, but many gave specific details about conferences, campaigns and events that they would like to happen.

The more general “raising awareness” was the second most popular idea to tackle hate crime, although this could be achieved through increased education.

“I believe if groups are more widely educated on this matter, people are more likely to understand and accept people’s differences”.

Many responses also involved wanting tougher legislation and punishments for hate crime and suggested calling the emergency services to help those affected.

As a “softer” alternative for tackling hate crime, many recommended simply being more courteous to those around us.

Worryingly, only a small proportion of responses indicated that they would report a hate crime, although many suggested that “more support” could be a way to tackle hate crime. It could be that people are unaware of where to report hate crimes, and are unaware that support currently exists for those who have been affected.

In this case, more education and awareness, through targeted campaigns to those of school age, is needed.



Here are the themes we coded from the responses to our Big Conversation:

Phrase/theme
Thoughts and experiences:
RAC = Experiences with racism
LGB = Experiences with homophobia
GEN = Experiences with transgender
DIS = Experiences with disability
APP Appearance
MEN = Effect on mental health
VIO = Violence
STO = Importance of stopping hate crime
VER = Verbal abuse



Top idea to tackle issue:

EDU = Educating people

LAW = New regulation / laws to stop hate crime

POL = Police

CON = Awareness of the consequences

PUN = More punishments

AWA = Awareness and understanding

TEL = Tell a trusted person

REP = Report

SUP = Support

IS- Increase surveillance (eg. CCTV)

Sarah Arnold

**Hate Crime Mentor**

Hampshire and IOW Youth Commission