

SENSITIVE AND RESPECTFUL TREATMENT OF HATE CRIME VICTIMS



SPECIALIST SUPPORT SERVICES FOR HATE CRIME VICTIMS



# HATE CRIME VICTIM SUPPORT BUILDING BLOCKS

HATE CRIME VICTIMS IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS AND THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

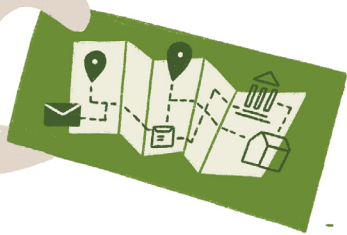


ASSESSING HATE CRIME VICTIMS' NEEDS AND REFERRALS



Establishing a robust hate crime victim support system is critical to ensuring that victims of hate crime have access to justice and the protection and support they need. This requires putting victim's needs and rights at the heart of any action

HATE CRIME VICTIM SUPPORT SYSTEM AND STRUCTURES



LEGAL & POLICY FRAMEWORKS



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## LEGAL & POLICY FRAMEWORKS

The very base for any hate crime victim support system is the law that defines the status of the hate crime victim and their rights. The legal framework should recognize hate crime victims as a distinct and vulnerable category of victims, establish specific protection and support measures, and provide victims with access to justice.

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## HATE CRIME VICTIM SUPPORT SYSTEM AND STRUCTURES

Offering comprehensive support to a victim of hate crime is a task that exceeds the responsibilities and capacities of any single institution. Building a coherent and well-functioning victim support system requires co-ordination between different government bodies and civil society in order to provide the full scope of services to hate crime victims.

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## SPECIALIST SUPPORT SERVICES FOR HATE CRIME VICTIMS

Owing to their particular vulnerability, hate crime victims often require enhanced protection and specialist support. In this regard, victims of all hate crimes should have access not only to general victims support services, but also to competent specialist service providers that understand hate crime victimization and the needs specific to hate crime victims.

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## ASSESSING HATE CRIME VICTIMS' NEEDS AND REFERRALS

To determine the relevant protection measures and assistance required, and to identify available providers of such services, the vulnerabilities and the needs of each hate crime victim should be determined through an Individual Needs Assessment (INA). Effective INA and referrals systems and guidance assists hate crime victims in their recovery by ensuring they receive the protection and support they need.

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## SENSITIVE AND RESPECTFUL TREATMENT OF HATE CRIME VICTIMS

Sensitive and respectful treatment of hate crime victims is a necessary condition for providing hate crime victim support as it contributes to trust in the criminal justice process, empowers victims and reduces potential space for secondary victimization when seeking support and accessing justice. Training, instructions and practical measures should be put in place for criminal justice professionals and all those coming into contact with hate crime victims to guide respectful and sensitive behaviours and actions.

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## HATE CRIME VICTIMS IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS AND THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Victims' active participation in criminal proceedings forms part of an official acknowledgement of the seriousness of hate crimes and allows the victim to regain their agency in the criminal process and throughout their recovery period. It can also help validate their experience whether by presenting an impact statement or seeking compensation. At any stage of the criminal process, the victim should have access to information necessary for the exercise of their rights.



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