

## What to do if you, or someone you know, has been affected?

**Speak up** – where you can, intervene, call out abusive speech/behaviour. Chances are others are keeping silent as well. Lead the way by being an active bystander. Don't 'like', respond or share. For more information on making bystander interventions, click [here](#).

**Get support** – talk to your family, a good friend or/and speak to Care and Concern about support available within the University and externally.

**Tell us about it** – contact the university's Care and Concern team on 020 8411 6200 or [careandconcern@mdx.ac.uk](mailto:careandconcern@mdx.ac.uk) to find out what the University can do to in terms of supporting you and ensuring the online hate stops. The University takes all forms of online hate very seriously and will respond either through the Student Conduct and Discipline rules (where the perpetrator is a Middlesex student) or the Complaints and Grievance Procedure (where the perpetrator is a member of staff). To find out more, see 'Reporting to the University', accessible via the home page of this document.

**Find out about your options** – click [here](#) to find out more about getting support and reporting online hate at the University.

**Report it to the police** - click [here](#) to find out how to report it to the police.

**Report online hate to a website, app or social media platform** - most apps and websites have built in reporting features or an email to enable you to contact the administrators to report a hate incident. Find out how to report, as well as how to keep your privacy settings updated and how to use the untag and block features on applications on the websites you use.

[Twitter](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Youtube](#)

[Google+](#)

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## **What is online hate?**

Online hate is the use of information and communication technologies (e.g. social media) by an individual or group to repeatedly cause harm to another person. It can take the form of racism, sexism, xenophobia and other forms of abuse. It can occur in public online spaces (e.g. on walls/stories) or privately (e.g. in group chats).

Online hate may occur solely in the digital realm or solely offline. Quite often the abuse may take place both on and offline. Indeed, as the use of technology develops, social network sites evolve, and online usage continues to enter every aspect of our lives, the line between on and offline hate becomes more and more merged.

## **What does the law say about online hate?**

The government adopts the legal principle that what is illegal offline is also therefore illegal online.

Abuse that targets a person because of their disability, race or ethnicity, religion or belief, sexual orientation or transgender identity is classified as a hate crime. Hate crimes, which includes hate speech, are against the law and those that are involved in perpetrating hate crimes could be prosecuted in the criminal justice process.

Reporting online hate incidents will be treated by the police in just the same way as hate incidents which occur in the physical world. For further information, see the [Crown Prosecution Services' guidelines](#) on prosecuting cases involving communications sent by social media.