

English

Are you a victim of racial harassment?

If you have been attacked, intimidated, or insulted because of your colour, race, ethnicity or national origin, then you are a victim of racial harassment. Racial harassment is a serious criminal offence and can take many different forms, such as:

- Verbal:** Offensive remarks, comments, jokes or threats;
Name calling or swearing;
- Molestation:** Abusive or obscene telephone calls or letters;
Dumping of rubbish outside your home or through your letterbox; Creating persistent noise;
Malicious complaints about you especially to those in authority;
- Physical violence:** Actual grievous bodily harm or threat of such;
Damaging your home or property by, for example smashing windows or doors;
- Racist graffiti:** Written or drawn slogans.

Racial harassment is illegal. People who do these sorts of things can be prosecuted in the courts. Everyone has the right to live without fear of attack against themselves or his or her home and property. Authorities such as the police, local authorities and schools have a duty to protect you and your family from racial harassment and to take action against the attackers. People who attack others because of their race can be evicted from their homes, fined or put in prison.

If you are attacked then you should contact the police immediately. You can go to the nearest police station or dial 999 – tell the police that the attack was racially motivated. You should also report the incident to your Landlord. Your local One Stop Service, Racial Equality Council, Citizens Advice Bureau, law centre, community centre or refugee group can also be contacted for help.

There are practical steps that both the local authority and police should take to help challenge harassment and support victims of racial harassment. They can:

- arrange for surveillance equipment to be fitted;
- recommend that additional security measures are fitted by landlords;
- inform the education department or school where a child is being bullied;
- involve social service departments if additional support and counselling is required.

Remember – any of the above mentioned organisations can offer advice. Your local library and the telephone directory will have their contact details.