



DEBATE PACK

Number CDP-2019-0171 , 28 June 2019

E-petition 239444 relating to online homophobia

Summary

The House of Commons Petitions Committee scheduled a debate in Westminster Hall on the motion “That this House has considered e-petition 239444 relating to online homophobia” on Monday 1 July at 4.30pm. Daniel Zeichner will open the debate.

The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

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1. Background

[Petition 239444](#) called for online homophobia to be made a specific criminal offence. The petition was started by a TV personality, Bobby Norris, and attracted media attention. The petition stated:

As a gay man I find it devastating how members of the LGBT community are still subjected to homophobic abuse online.

Just because I am on TV I don't think that makes it acceptable to be sent homophobic messages/ comments on social media platforms. Nobody should have to receive these comments.

I won't go into detail as to the various names I have been called, but this should not be acceptable and can have an impact on people's mental health and has certainly helped in making my anxiety and low self esteem worse by receiving them.

The Home Office responded to the petition on 28 March 2019 stating:

The Government has asked the independent Law Commission to review current hate crime legislation to ensure it is effective and consistent. This would include within its scope the issue of protections offered against hostility towards someone's sexual orientation whether that hostility manifests online or offline. We look forward to seeing the results of the review.

The internet provides a wealth of opportunities for people globally. It is a platform for everyone to share experiences and creativity, and it encourages rich discussion. It has allowed people to create communities and interact in ways that were not previously possible. The Government recognises, however, that some people exploit these opportunities to spread harmful messages which would not be tolerated offline. Protecting people online is a top priority for Government.

As part of our efforts to make the UK the safest place online in the world, the Prime Minister announced in February 2018 that the Law Commission was to review the current law around abusive and offensive online communications and highlight any gaps in the criminal law which cause problems in tackling this abuse. The Commission was asked specifically to consider the applicable criminal law, identifying any deficiencies, focusing on whether the criminal law provides equivalent protection both online and offline. The Law Commission produced a scoping report in November 2018, Chapter 9 of which is devoted to hate crime online. You may wish to read the report at https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/lawcom-prod-storage-11jxou24uy7q/uploads/2018/10/6_5039_LC_Online_Comms_Report_FINAL_291018_WEB.pdf.

As the Law Commission sets out, a range of offences are already available to prosecute hate crime, including crime which is motivated by hostility or demonstrates hostility towards a victim based on sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation. There are specific offences, such as stirring up hatred on the basis of sexual orientation, as well as enhanced sentencing when an offence is aggravated by hostility on the grounds of sexual orientation. The offences and enhanced sentencing will apply to online abuse as well as other abuse.

The Law Commission recommended reform and consolidation of existing criminal laws dealing with offensive and abusive

communications online; a specific review considering how the law can more effectively protect victims who are subject to a campaign of online harassment; and a review of how effectively the criminal law protects personal privacy online.

The Government has asked the Law Commission for a specific review looking at hate crime legislation and whether it is working effectively and consistently. It will include whether the hate crime occurs online or offline. We look forward to seeing the results of the review.

In addition, the Government is taking significant steps to tackle hateful activity online:

We are funding a National Online Hate Crime Hub which uses specially trained police officers and staff to investigate reports.

- We supported the European Commission Code of Conduct for Countering Illegal Hate Speech which has been signed by key companies including Facebook, YouTube, Microsoft, Twitter and Instagram. A key aim is to ensure that requests to remove content are reviewed in less than 24 hours, and content is removed if necessary.
- More widely, a joint Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS)-Home Office White Paper will be published this year, setting out a range of legislative and non-legislative measures detailing how we will tackle online harms and set clear responsibilities for tech companies to keep UK citizens safe.

Homophobic abuse can have potentially devastating impacts on victims and we are working to challenge inequality beyond a law enforcement approach alone. In July 2018, the Government Equalities Office (GEO) launched the National LGBT Survey to understand LGBT people's experiences of accessing services. Over 108,000 people completed the survey. In response to the findings, GEO launched an LGBT Action Plan setting out 75 commitments to improve outcomes for LGBT people. The Action Plan includes a £4.5 million fund to address inequality and support the delivery of commitments cross-sector.

The LGBT Action Plan includes commitments to ensure LGBT people feel safe online beyond the actions above:

- The Home Office is supporting the police to improve how they respond to hate crime and raise awareness of local support agencies for LGBT victims. The 2018 refresh of the Hate Crime Action Plan is supporting police training that is tailored to the needs of victims, such as those of homophobic, biphobic and transphobic hate crimes.
- The National Crime Agency (NCA) will ensure LGBT people can access educational online safety interventions that are informed by their experiences. The NCA will develop effective and appropriate education interventions to ensure LGBT people can be full, equal and safe participants in online activity.

This was a revised response. The Petitions Committee requested a revised response that more directly addressed the request of the petition. The original response was provided on 28 February 2019 and can be found on the webpage for the petition under '[Other parliamentary business](#)'.

1.1 Current offences

In 2014 the House of Lords Select Committee on Communications published a report on '[Social media and criminal offences](#)' (see below).¹

The report provides a helpful summary of the types of offences that might be committed through online communications:

(a) credible threats of violence to the person or damage to property:

- (i) Offences Against the Person Act 1861, s 16 (threat to kill)
- (ii) Protection From Harassment Act 1997, s 4 (fear of violence)
- (iii) Malicious Communications Act 1988, s 1 (threat)
- (iv) Communications Act 2003, s 127 (of a menacing character)
- (v) together with legislation related to racial, religious, disability, sexual orientation or transgender aggravation

(b) communications targeting specific individuals:

- (i) Protection from Harassment Act 1997, s 2 (harassment)
- (ii) Protection from Harassment Act 1997, s 2 (stalking)
- (iii) Protection from Harassment Act 1997, s 4 (fear of violence)
- (iv) Protection from Harassment Act 1997, s 4A (stalking involving fear of violence, serious alarm or distress)

(c) breach of court order, e.g. as to anonymity:

- (i) Contempt of Court Act 1981
- (ii) Sexual Offences Amendment Act 1992, s 5 (identification of a victim of a sexual offence)
- (iii) restraining orders, conditions of bail

(d) communications which are grossly offensive, indecent, obscene or false:

- (i) Malicious Communications Act 1988, s 1 (electronic communications which are indecent or grossly offensive, convey a threat false, provided that there is an intention to cause distress or anxiety to the victim)
- (ii) Communications Act 2003, s 127 (electronic communications which are grossly offensive or indecent, obscene or menacing, or false, for the purpose of causing annoyance, inconvenience or needless anxiety to another)²

¹ House of Lords Select Committee on Communications, 1st Report of Session 2014–15, Social media and criminal offences , HL Paper 37, 29 July 2014

² House of Lords Select Committee on Communications, 1st Report of Session 2014–15, Social media and criminal offences , HL Paper 37, 29 July 2014, pp8-9

1.2 Online Harms White Paper

The discussion of creating a specific offence to target online homophobia occurs against a backdrop of broader debate about tackling online harms. On 8 April 2019 the Government published its [‘Online Harms White Paper’](#).

The principal measures proposed in the paper include the creation of a new statutory duty of care for companies, intended to encourage them to “take more responsibility for the safety of their users and tackle harm caused by content or activity on their services”.³ The duty would be overseen by a new regulator.

On the subject of criminal law, the White Paper reiterated the Government’s position that criminal law should apply the same way online as it does offline:

For illegal harms, **it is also important to make sure that criminal law applies online in the same way as it applies offline.** In February 2018 the Prime Minister announced a review by the Law Commission of the law in relation to abusive and offensive online communications, to highlight any gaps in the criminal law which cause problems in tackling this abuse. In its scoping report last year, the Law Commission concluded that behaviour is broadly criminalised to the same extent online as offline and recommended a clarification of existing communication offences. The government is now finalising the details of the second phase of the Law Commission work.⁴

The White Paper did however propose that companies could play a larger part in the enforcement of criminal law, through working with law enforcement and other government agencies. To this end, the Government indicated that the new regulator should include in its code of practice guidance for companies on how they should work with law enforcement and report content. Such reporting would be one of the ways in which companies would fulfil their duty of care.

1.3 Law Commission

Abusive and Offensive Online Communications

In November 2018 the Law Commission published a [‘Scoping Report on Abusive and Offensive Online Communications’](#). The report contained an analysis of the current state of the relevant criminal law, concluding that there is scope for improving the law:

While we have identified a number of gaps and inconsistencies in the applicable law, we have concluded that in most cases abusive online communications are, at least theoretically, criminalised to the same or even a greater degree than equivalent offline behaviour.

In practice, however, it appears that practical and cultural barriers mean that not all harmful online conduct is pursued in terms of criminal law enforcement to the same extent that it might be in an offline context.

³ HM Government, Online Harms White Paper, CP 57, April 2019, page 10

⁴ HM Government, Online Harms White Paper, CP 57, April 2019, page 34

Further, our analysis has revealed that many of the applicable offences are not constructed and targeted in a way that adequately reflects the nature of offending behaviour in the online environment, and the degree of harm that it causes in certain contexts.

Therefore, **while we do not consider there to be major gaps in the current state of the criminal law concerning abusive and offensive online communications, there is considerable scope to improve the criminal law in this area.** In particular, we consider that reform could help ensure that the most harmful conduct is punished appropriately, while maintaining and enhancing protection for freedom of expression. It is towards these goals that we focus our recommendations for future law reform.⁵

The Commission noted several practical and cultural barriers to enforcing criminal law in this area:

- the sheer scale of abusive and offensive communications, and the limited resources that law enforcement agencies and prosecutors have available to pursue these;
- a persistent cultural tolerance of online abuse, which means that even when reported, it is not always treated as seriously as offline conduct;
- the difficult balance that must be struck between protecting individuals and the community generally from harm, and maintaining everyone's fundamental human rights to freedom of expression;
- technical barriers to the pursuit of online offenders, such as tracing and proving the identity of perpetrators, and the cost of doing so; and
- jurisdictional and enforcement barriers to prosecution: the online environment is highly globalised, and even when overseas-based offenders have committed an offence in England and Wales, pursuing them may prove practically impossible or prohibitively expensive.⁶

The Commission's recommendations included reforming offences relating to grossly offensive, indecent, obscene or false communications:

The communications offences in section 1 of the Malicious Communications Act 1988 and section 127 of the Communications Act 2003 should be reformed to ensure that they are clear and understandable and provide certainty to online users and law enforcement agencies...

As part of the reform of communications offences, the meaning of "obscene" and "indecent" should be reviewed, and further consideration should be given to the meaning of the terms "publish", "display", "possession" and "public place" under the applicable offences...

In addition to a reform of the communications offences, there should be a review to consider whether coordinated harassment

⁵ Law Commission, *Abusive and Offensive Online Communications: A Scoping Report*, HC 1682, Law Com No 381, 1 November 2018, page 328

⁶ Law Commission, *Abusive and Offensive Online Communications: A Scoping Report*, HC 1682, Law Com No 381, 1 November 2018, pages 328-329

by groups of people online could be more effectively addressed by the criminal law...

The criminal law's response to online privacy abuses should be reviewed...

As part of the reform of communications offences the threshold at which malicious and "false" communications are criminalised should be reviewed...

The glorification of violent crime online and the encouragement of self-harm online are issues which should be considered in the context of the review of communications offences.⁷

Second phase

On 26 June 2019 the Government announced it has asked the Law Commission to undertake [phase 2](#) of the Abusive and Offensive Online Communications project.⁸

The second phase of the project takes forward the recommendations of the Scoping Report, and will reportedly cover:

1. Reform of the communications offences (in section 1 of the Malicious Communications Act 1988 and section 127 of the Communications Act 2003) to ensure that they are clear and understandable and provide greater certainty to online users and law enforcement agencies. In addition, the glorification of violent crime online and the encouragement of self-harm online are issues which will be considered in the context of the review of communications offences.
2. The review will consider whether coordinated harassment by groups of people online could be more effectively addressed by the criminal law.⁹

The Law Commission has stated it aims to publish a consultation paper, inviting views on any recommendations for law reform, in Spring 2020.¹⁰

Hate Crime

The Law Commission is also [reviewing hate crime laws](#) in England and Wales and intends to publish a comprehensive consultation paper in early 2020.¹¹ The review will reportedly address the following points:

- Reviewing the current range of specific offences and aggravating factors in sentencing, and making recommendations on the most appropriate models to ensure that the criminal law provides consistent and effective protection from conduct motivated by hatred of protected groups or characteristics.

⁷ Law Commission, Abusive and Offensive Online Communications: A Scoping Report, HC 1682, Law Com No 381, 1 November 2018, pages 329-334

⁸ Law Commission, Law Commission to undertake phase 2 of the Abusive and Offensive Online Communications project, 2 June 2019

⁹ Law Commission, Law Commission to undertake phase 2 of the Abusive and Offensive Online Communications project, 2 June 2019

¹⁰ Law Commission, Law Commission to undertake phase 2 of the Abusive and Offensive Online Communications project, 2 June 2019

¹¹ Law Commission, Hate Crime: Background to our Review, 2019

- Reviewing the existing range of protected characteristics, identifying gaps in the scope of the protection currently offered and making recommendations to promote a consistent approach.¹²

The Law Commission's '[information paper](#)' regarding the review provides some background information:

The law currently offers enhanced criminal protection, in different forms, for race, religion, disability, sexual orientation and transgender identity. Crimes committed against people who have these characteristics are considered to be particularly serious and can often have a disproportionate impact on the victim.

Hate crime laws have developed in several phases over recent decades. Since 1998, three different legal responses have been introduced to tackle hate crime: aggravated offences, enhanced sentencing powers, and "stirring up" hatred offences. However, **while hate crime laws have now been in place for some time, there remains concern that they do not always work as effectively as they could.**¹³

The paper also includes information on the existing hate crime framework:

There are three ways in which the criminal law addresses hate crime.

1. Aggravated offences allow for the offender to be prosecuted and convicted of a specified hate crime.
2. Enhanced sentencing powers require judges to reflect the hate element of a crime in the sentence imposed.
3. There are offences prohibiting stirring up hatred against people with particular characteristics.¹⁴

1.4 Select Committee reports

Culture, Media and Sport Committee

In 2014, the Culture, Media and Sport Committee published the report of its inquiry into '[Online Safety](#)'.¹⁵ In respect of online abuse and bullying, it noted:

The most recent research from the NSPCC shows that 28% of young people who have a social networking profile have experienced something that has upset them in the last year. These experiences include cyber-stalking, being subjected to aggressive or offensive language, being sent sexually explicit pictures and being asked to provide personal or private information. However, the greatest proportion of the group (37%) had experienced "trolling". Alongside this evidence that online bullying is clearly a problem for young people, the latest Childline statistics show an 87% increase in 2012/13 in the number of young people contacting the NSPCC for support and advice about being bullied

¹² Law Commission, Hate Crime, Current project status, 2019

¹³ Law Commission, Hate Crime: Background to our Review, 2019, page 2

¹⁴ Law Commission, Hate Crime: Background to our Review, 2019, page 3

¹⁵ House of Commons Culture, Media and Sport Committee, Online safety Sixth Report of Session 2013–14, HC 729, 19 March 2014

via social networking sites, chat rooms, online gaming sites, or via their mobile phones. The NSPCC attributes this trend in part to the increasing ownership by young people of smartphones and tablets.¹⁶

The Committee commented that:

changes to legislation, including consolidation of current laws, which clarify the status of bullying, whether off-line or online, would be welcome. At the same time, much could be achieved by the timely introduction of improved guidance on the interpretation of existing laws.¹⁷

House of Lords Select Committee on Communications

As noted above, in July 2014 the House of Lords Select Committee on Communications published a report on '[Social media and criminal offences](#).' The Committee concluded that the current laws are appropriate, based partly on the view that offences committed on social media are not new acts, but existing criminal acts committed in a new forum:

the criminal law in this area, almost entirely enacted before the invention of social media, is generally appropriate for the prosecution of offences committed using the social media;

there are aspects of the current statute law which might appropriately be adjusted and certain gaps which might be filled. We are not however persuaded that it is necessary to create a new set of offences specifically for acts committed using the social media and other information technology;

...

what is not an offence off-line should not be an offence online. There is no specific criminal offence of bullying. We consider that the current range of offences, notably those found in the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, is sufficient to prosecute bullying conducted using social media. Similarly, sending a communication which is grossly offensive and has the purpose of causing distress or anxiety is an offence under section 1 of the Malicious Communications Act 1988. Although we understand that "trolling" causes offence, we do not see a need to create a specific and more severely punished offence for this behaviour.¹⁸

Home Affairs Select Committee

In April 2017 the Home Affairs Select Committee held an inquiry into hate crime and its consequences. Although the inquiry had a much broader scope than online abuse, it was cut short by the 2017 General

¹⁶ House of Commons Culture, Media and Sport Committee, Online safety Sixth Report of Session 2013–14, HC 729, 19 March 2014, page 34

¹⁷ House of Commons Culture, Media and Sport Committee, Online safety Sixth Report of Session 2013–14, HC 729, 19 March 2014, page 36

¹⁸ House of Lords Select Committee on Communications, 1st Report of Session 2014–15, Social media and criminal offences, HL Paper 37, 29 July 2014, p24

Election. As such, the Committee published a [short report](#), focusing on one aspect of the inquiry: the role of social media companies in addressing online abuse.¹⁹ The Committee's recommendations included commentary on the existing legal framework:

Most legal provisions in this field predate the era of mass social media use and some predate the internet itself. **The Government should review the entire legislative framework governing online hate speech, harassment and extremism and ensure that the law is up to date.**

It is essential that the principles of free speech and open public debate in democracy are maintained—but protecting democracy also means ensuring that some voices are not drowned out by harassment and persecution, by the promotion of violence against particular groups, or by terrorism and extremism.²⁰

In evidence to the Committee, the Law Commission commented that there “is a clear public interest in tackling online abuse and “trolling”, but this must be done through clear and predictable legal provisions”.²¹

In October 2017, the Committee [resumed the inquiry](#), which is currently ongoing.

¹⁹ House of Commons Home Affairs Committee, Hate crime: abuse, hate and extremism online Fourteenth Report of Session 2016–17, HC 609, 1 May 2017

²⁰ House of Commons Home Affairs Committee, Hate crime: abuse, hate and extremism online Fourteenth Report of Session 2016–17, HC 609, 1 May 2017, page 19

²¹ Law Commission, HCR0021, para 2.8

2. Media

2.1 Press releases

Law Commission

[Law Commission to undertake phase 2 of the Abusive and Offensive Online Communications project](#)

26 June 2019

Stonewall

[Stonewall statement on homophobic attack in London](#)

7 June 2019

Law Commission

[Law Commission review into hate crime announced](#)

18 October 2018

Government Equalities Office

[New Government Action Plan Pledges to Improve the Lives of LGBT People](#)

3 July 2018

Home Office

[Home Secretary announces new national online hate crime hub](#)

8 October 2017

2.2 Articles and blogs

Guardian

[Homophobic and transphobic hate crimes surge in England and Wales](#)

14 June 2019

Mail Online

[TOWIE's Bobby Norris snaps a selfie with Larry the cat as he arrives at 10 Downing Street with a petition to criminalise online homophobia](#)

30 April 2019

[Social media bosses could be liable for harmful content, leaked UK plan reveals](#)

4 April 2019

Fusion

[Law Commission review of hate crime legislation in 2019](#)

4 January 2019

BBC

[How LGBTQ+ hate crime is committed by young people against young people](#)

21 December 2018

Independent

[Online hate crime to be tackled by new national police hub, Home Secretary says](#)

8 October 2017

3. Parliamentary Business

3.1 Ministerial Statements

[Law Commission Review](#)

Made by Paul Maynard (The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice)

26 June 2019

[Relationships and Sex Education](#)

Made by: Damian Hinds (The Secretary of State for Education)

19 July 2018

3.2 Debates

[Statutory Sex and Relationships Education](#)

HC Deb, 2 February 2017 c1163

3.3 Parliamentary Questions

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports of a rise in the number of homophobic attacks.

26 June 2019 | Oral answers to questions | House of Lords |

Asked by Lord Scriven | Answered by: Baroness Williams of Trafford |

[Homophobia: Hate Crime](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department has taken to reduce homophobic hate crime.

21 June 2019 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 263681

Asked by: McCabe, Steve | Answered by: Victoria Atkins | Department: Home Office

[Hate Crime: Homophobic and Misogynistic Attacks](#)

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether current statute is a sufficient deterrent in preventing homophobic and misogynistic attacks.

11 June 2019 | Oral questions | Answered | House of Lords |

Asked by: Lord Kennedy of Southwark | Answered by: The Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford)

[Homophobia: Minority Groups](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking to tackle homophobic bullying within ethnic minority communities.

08 Mar 2019 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 226624

Asked by: Rosindell, Andrew | Answered by: Anne Milton | Department: Department for Education

[Homophobic Hate Crime](#)

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they plan to take in response to the BBC investigation of homophobic hate crimes

22 Jan 2019 | Oral questions | Answered | House of Lords

Asked by: Lord Scriven | Answered by: The Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford)

[Pupils: LGBT People](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking to ensure there are adequate levels of support in schools for LGBT+ pupils.

25 Jul 2018 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 164841

Asked by: Burden, Richard | Answered by: Nick Gibb | Department: Department for Education

[LGBT People: Hate Crime](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government is taking to reduce the level of hate crime towards LGBT+ people.

20 Jun 2018 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 152683

Asked by: Butler, Dawn | Answered by: Victoria Atkins | Department: Home Office

[Schools: LGBT People](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that all schools teach awareness of LGBTQ issues in an age-appropriate manner.

13 Feb 2018 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 126715

Asked by: Blomfield, Paul | Answered by: Nick Gibb | Department: Department for Education

[Universities: Hate Crime](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many instances of (a) antisemitism, (b) homophobia and (c) islamophobia on university campuses have been reported to his Department in each of the past 12 months.

26 Jan 2018 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 123656

Asked by: Masterton, Paul | Answered by: Mr Sam Gyimah | Department: Department for Education

[Internet: Bullying](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what assessment his Department has made of the potential merits of the Royal Foundation's National Action Plan to Tackle Cyberbullying, published on 16 November 2017, to tackle on-line (a) Islamophobia, (b) homophobia and (c) antisemitism.

25 Jan 2018 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 123945

Asked by: Turley, Anna | Answered by: Margot James | Department: Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

[Pupils: Bullying](#)

To ask Her Majesty's Government what actions they are taking to assist society in tackling homophobic and transphobic bullying in schools.

27 Dec 2017 | Written questions | Answered | House of Lords | HL4144

Asked by: Lord Hunt of Kings Heath | Answered by: Lord Agnew of Oulton | Department: Department for Education

Attachment: Cyberbullying, Understand, Prevent and Respond

[Hate Crime: Gender Recognition](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to reduce hate crime against transgender people.

27 Jan 2017 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 61361

Asked by: Elmore, Chris | Answered by: Sarah Newton | Department: Home Office

3.4 Select Committees' material

Home Affairs Committee, [Hate crime: abuse, hate and extremism online](#), 1 May 2017, HC 609 2016-17

4. Organisations and further reading

HM Government, [Online Harms White Paper](#), April 2019

Law Commission, [Abusive and Offensive Online Communications: A Scoping Report](#), 31 October 2018, HC 1682 2017-19

Crown Prosecution Service, [Hate Crime Annual Report 2017-18](#), October 2018

WebRoots Democracy, [Kinder, Gentler Politics](#), October 2018

HM Government, [Update on the actions from the UK Governments 2016 'Action Against Hate' action plan](#), October 2018

Crown Prosecution, [Homophobic, Biphobic and Transphobic Hate Crime – Prosecution Guidance](#), 15 August 2018

Government Equalities Office, [LGBT Action Plan 2018: Improving the lives of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people](#), 3 July 2018

HM Government, [Government response to the Internet Safety Strategy Green Paper](#), May 2018

[Government Response to the 14th Report from the Home Affairs Select Committee Session 2016–17: Hate crime: abuse, hate and extremism online](#), Cm 9556, December 2017

University of Sussex, [Hate Crime and the Legal Process: options for law reform](#), October 2017

Stonewall, [LGBT in Britain: Hate Crime and Discrimination](#), September 2017

Galop, [Online Hate Crime Report 2017: Challenging online homophobia, biphobia and transphobia](#), August 2017

True Vision website, [Homophobic and Transphobic Hate Crime](#) [Accessed 26.06.2019]

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