

# IS THIS A HATE CRIME?

EXERCISE

3

## FACILITATOR'S NOTES

**Time Required:** 20 Minutes

**Objectives:** Generate insight into what constitutes a Hate Crime

**Description:** Group activity and discussion

**Resources required:** Two sheets of paper with **YES** and **NO**

1. Each person in the group selects a scenario to read out and discuss. The person has to decide if it is a hate crime or not.
2. The group discuss whether they agree or not. Some answers may realistically lie in between Yes and No.

## QUESTIONS TO ASK

1. Give a reason for your answer
2. Does everyone else agree?
3. Is the victim targeted because of a particular characteristic?
4. What should the victim do to report the crime?
5. What could the victim do to ensure their safety in the future?
6. What would you do if you witnessed the incident/crime? **Refer to the Speak Up booklet**

## ANSWERS

**Mark**

1

**HATE CRIME** Cyberbullying is a serious offense. Ask the young people if they know they can report online material to the provider and ask for it to be removed. Refer to the SPEAK UP booklet on online hate.

**Catherine**

2

**PROBABLY NOT A HATE CRIME** It seems the mugger was after Catherine's money rather than targeting her because of her race (although it is impossible to know for sure).

**Charlie**

3

**HATE CRIME** Even if he is not actually gay, as the law covers perception too.

**Aisha**

4

**HATE CRIME** Even though there is no physical harm, the graffiti is vandalism and could cause psychological harm.

**David**

5

**HATE CRIME** It's highly probable that David's caravan was targeted because of hate directed towards the gypsy traveller community.

**Faisal**

6

**HATE CRIME** Because the letters were written about Faisal's nationality and perceived religion. If they had been written purely about his ability to perform the job, then this would not be considered a hate crime.

**Andrew**

7

**NOT A HATE CRIME** It seems likely the crime was not targeted at Andrew personally. Some young people may be confused by the reference to refugees/asylum seekers – point out that if the car had been stolen by people who knew Andrew and objected to his work, then it would probably have been perceived as a hate crime.

**Sally**

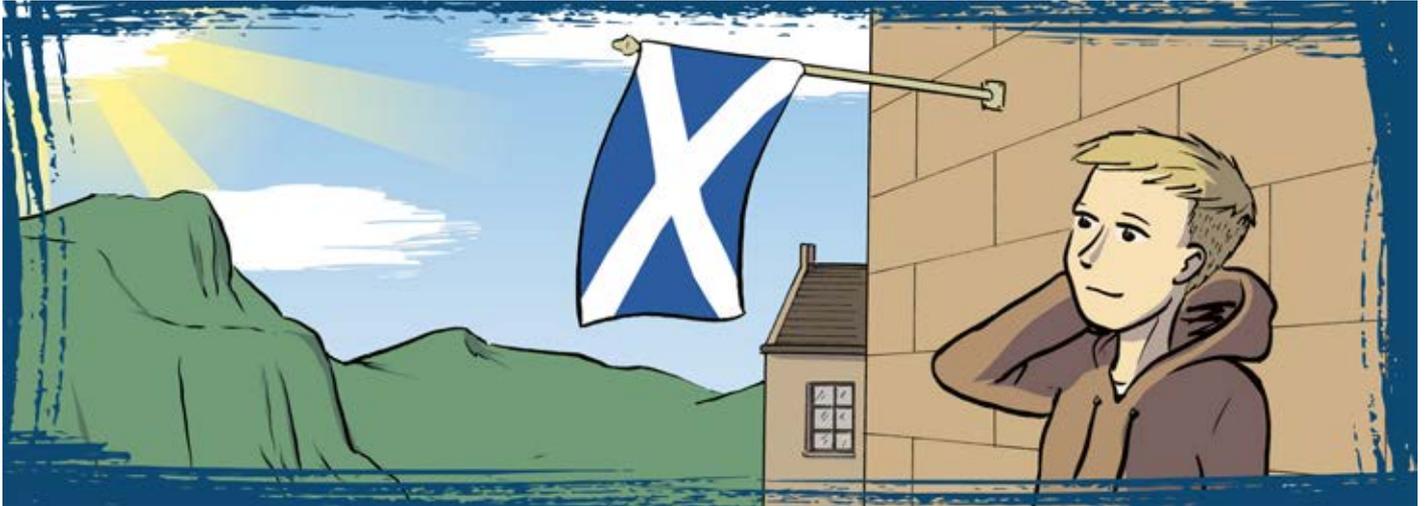
8

**HATE CRIME** Sally has been specifically targeted due to her nationality which falls under race and ethnicity.

# HATE CRIME YES/NO SCENARIOS

EXERCISE

3



## Mark

1

Mark has Downs Syndrome. When walking through the park one day with his brother, some teenagers filmed them on their mobile phones and uploaded the films to YouTube. Other people, unknown to either the teenagers or Mark started making abusive comments on the film.

## Catherine

2

Catherine who is Afro-Caribbean was mugged on her way home from work. The mugger took her phone and purse but didn't make any comments about her race.

## Charlie

3

Charlie is 15 and has lots of female friends but has never had a girlfriend. A group of boys at school have been calling him names because they think he is gay, and have threatened to beat him up.

## Aisha

4

Aisha is from a Muslim family. She wears a Hijab when out in public, as do her mum and sisters. Recently, the family have had anti-Muslim slogans graffitied on their house but haven't suffered any physical violence.

## David

5

David is part of the gypsy traveller community and lives on the outskirts of a town in a caravan. He comes home and finds that rocks have been thrown through the windows of the caravan. A neighbour says he saw the boys that did it. David believes this has happened because the local community are not happy with him living in the area and they think he should leave.

## Faisal

6

Faisal moved to Scotland from Syria three months ago to find work. He got a job as a waiter in a café but a few customers were upset that a Syrian person was working in their café and have written letters of complaint to his boss, calling for him to be sacked. Some of the letters were very abusive and used derogatory words about Faisal calling him a terrorist.

## Andrew

7

Andrew is a bank manager who is involved in a lot of community work helping refugees and asylum seekers. Last month, his car was stolen by thieves who had never met Andrew before and didn't know he was the owner of the car.

## Sally

8

Sally an English Literature student from Sussex is attacked by a group of Scottish girls who call her abusive names repeatedly telling her to go back home to England.