



Support and advice through health system for hate crimes victims

WHAT IS SHELTER?

SHELTER, "Support and advice through health system for hate crimes victims", is an international project funded by the European Union through the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Program. It seeks to improve the protection of victims of hate crimes and their access to resources and networks that can facilitate their assistance, protection, specialized support and the reporting of such acts. The project, led by the University of Castilla - La Mancha, brings together universities and NGOs from 4 European countries: Hungary, Malta, Cyprus and Spain.

OUR WORK

The core work of this project is divided into four types of activities:

- Research to find out how victims are cared when they access to the health system.
- Training of health system professionals to learn how to detect potential hate crime victims, and to help improve their care and the reporting of hate aggression and incidents.
- Creation of an international network of health institutions and Government bodies committed to provide special support to hate crime victims. This network will be united under the quality seal "Stop hate damages".
- Awareness raising activities.

WHAT ARE VIOLENCE AND HATE CRIMES?

Hate crimes have been defined as "criminal acts motivated by bias or prejudice towards particular groups of people". This definition is given by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR).

To be considered a hate crime, the offence must meet two criteria.

The first is that the act constitutes an offence under criminal law. Secondly, the act must have been motivated by bias.

According to the OSCE, bias motivations can be broadly defined as preconceived negative opinions, stereotypical assumptions, intolerance or hatred directed to a particular group

that shares a common characteristic, such as "race", ethnicity, language, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, gender or any other fundamental characteristic. People with disabilities may also be victims of hate crimes.

However, in the field of health, use has given a particular meaning to the concept of "hate violence" which would now be understood as described by the WHO "the deliberate use of physical force or power against a person or a group of people, which causes or may cause injury, death, psychological damage, developmental disorders or deprivation, immediately or in the long term, based on the victim connection or belonging, real or alleged, to a group or community".

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE SUFFERED AN AGGRESSION FOR HATRED REASONS?

- Go immediately to a medical centre.
- Request the medical report of injuries and highlight that it must be detailed, in order to incorporate it in the police report.
Make sure that it includes the names and contact information of any witnesses, a detailed description of the crime, and gather all medical evidence.
- It is important to report to the police. You can get in touch with public professionals (social workers, legal aid lawyers...) as well as NGOs that assist victims in these procedures.

Contact the National Police: **See national flyers**

Contact Emergency: **See national flyers**

Victim Support Centre: **See national flyers**

NGOs to contact in case of crimes related to:

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| ✓ LGBTQ: See national flyers | ✓ Pregnancy: See national flyers |
| ✓ Homeless people: See national flyers | ✓ Ethnicity/Colour: See national flyers |
| ✓ Age: See national flyers | ✓ Religion: See national flyers |
| ✓ Disability: See national flyers | ✓ Retaliation: See national flyers |
| ✓ National Origin: See national flyers | ✓ Sex: See national flyers |

PARTNER(S)

CONTACT US

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