

Press release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Number of people seeking help for hate crimes more than doubles**

There's been an increase in the number of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) people reporting hate crimes across England and Wales in recent months, according to the National LGBT Hate Crime Partnership.

In the last three months, Galop, a specialist LGBT anti-violence charity, says the number of people seeking help has more than doubled. Other LGBT groups across the country have also reported a large increase in those reporting experiences of hate crimes.

The news comes as the Partnership launches the second phase of its campaign during the national Hate Crime Awareness Week (10-17 October). The campaign, funded by the Equality and Human Rights Commission, aims to raise awareness of the LGBT hate crime and encourage people to 'Talk, Report and Get Support'.

The increase has been welcomed by charity leaders as a sign that people are increasingly willing to come forward.

The Partnership is a network of 35 organisations across the country that work to empower LGBT people to stand up against hate crime through education and training as well as establishing local partnerships. It is also carrying out over 400 anti-hate crime training sessions, forming 230 inter -agency cooperative relationships to tackle hate crime and creating over 30 information resources.

Nik Noone, Chief Executive of Galop, put the increase into context saying:

"We've seen the number of people getting in touch with our hate crime advocacy service more than double in recent months. Though one person facing hate crime is one too many, we see this rise in people getting in touch as a cause for optimism and are proud of our part in

helping empower people to speak up about their experiences and access assistance.”

Paul Roberts, Chief Executive of the LGBT Consortium, confirms the trend:

“From what our members are telling us, it seems that this picture is being mirrored across other parts of the UK. The message is getting out that LGBT people don’t have to put up with being targeted. We know, however, that service provision is patchy across the UK and so not everyone can access the help they need, particularly in rural communities.”

“It’s important that these crimes are reported so that the police have a clear picture and can tackle the issue. There are a number of ways in which people can do that anonymously, if they don’t feel able to approach the police directly, for whatever reason.”

Evelyn Asante–Mensah, Equality and Human Rights Commissioner, said:

“We know that there are thousands of unreported hate crimes committed against people because of their sexual orientation or gender identity every year. Whilst it is encouraging to hear more people are coming forward for help, all LGBT people experiencing hate crime should feel empowered to report it.”

## **Ends**

For more press information and interviews contact Richard Smith at LGBT Consortium: [richard.smith@lgbtconsortium.org.uk](mailto:richard.smith@lgbtconsortium.org.uk), 020 7064 6506.

## **Notes to Editors**

- x Services offering assistance with anti-LGBT hate crime can be found at [www.lgbthatecrime.org.uk](http://www.lgbthatecrime.org.uk)
- x The number of individuals contacting Galop for in-depth support, advice and advocacy in relation to anti-LGBT hate crime increase by 104% between quarters one and two of this year. That includes an increase from 52 service users during March, April and May of 2015 to 106 during June, July and August of 2015.

- x Other charities that have seen a large rise include; The Intercom Trust, METRO, LGBT Youth North West, Unity Group Wales, Proud2Be Project, The LGBT Federation and Yorkshire MESMAC.
- x Galop is an LGBT anti-violence & abuse charity. It provides advice, support and advocacy to people who have experienced biphobia, homophobia, transphobia, sexual violence or domestic abuse.
- x LGBT Consortium is the umbrella body for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Voluntary and Community Organisations in the United Kingdom. It provides support for organisations so they are able to deliver services to LGBT individuals.
- x The Equality and Human Rights Commission is a statutory body established under the Equality Act 2006. It is an independent body responsible for protecting and promoting equality and human rights in Great Britain. It aims to encourage equality and diversity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, and protect and promote human rights.
- x National LGBT Hate Crime Partnership consists of 35 organisations across England, Wales and Scotland and is funded from February 2015 through to March 2016 by the Equality and Human Rights Commission and supported by GB governments.
- x Further details of the National LGBT Hate Crime Partnership's work can be found at: [www.lgbthatecrime.org.uk/#project-overview](http://www.lgbthatecrime.org.uk/#project-overview)
- x National Hate Crime Awareness Week (10<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> October 2015) takes place every year and is organised by '17-24-30 No to Hate Crime Campaign' in partnership with 'Stop Hate UK'. The core focus of the week is to get as many people as possible to raise awareness of local hate crime issues and start discussing ideas to eliminate it in all its forms. More details can be found here: <https://172430nohatecrime.wordpress.com/vigil/>
- x Approximately 35,000 sexual orientation related hate crimes go unreported in England and Wales based on the difference between Crime Survey data and Police data. This figure excludes unreported gender identity related hate crimes and unreported crimes committed in Scotland (and Northern Ireland).

**Local contact for Lancashire: Lancashire LGBT 01772 717461**



**If you have experienced or witnessed LGBT hate crime**

**call 101**

**In an emergency call 999**