

HACKNEY IS

**NO
PLACE
FOR
HATE**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Joint Statement.....	Page 1
Hackney’s Vision: No Place for Hate.....	Page 2
False Information Online.....	Page 3 - 4
Disinformation vs Misinformation.....	Page 5 - 6
How Online Misinformation Fuelled Violence...	Page 7 - 8
How to Spot False Information.....	Page 9
Useful Resources.....	Page 10
Reporting Hate Crime.....	Page 11
Reporting Mechanisms.....	Page 12
The Journey of Hate Crime Reporting.....	Page 13 - 14
Victim Help & Support.....	Page 15
General Help & Support.....	Page 16
Key Contacts.....	Page 17

JOINT STATEMENT CAROLINE WOODLEY - MAYOR & DAWN CARTER-MCDONALD - CHIEF EXECUTIVE

“In Southport on Monday 29 July, three children attending a summer dance class tragically lost their lives, along with a number of other children and adults suffering serious injuries as a result of a senseless and vicious attack. We have all been affected by this horrendous incident and share our deep sympathy for the families and friends of the victims as well as the wider community.

These events were made all the more distressing when a peaceful vigil was disrupted by violence and the targeting of a local Mosque. Since then we have seen further disorder, Islamophobia and racist intimidation across the country.

In Hackney, we celebrate communities of different faiths and backgrounds, and take pride that we live peacefully side by side.

We are committed to visiting local faith communities in Hackney to discuss any concerns, and conducting patrols around the borough to provide a visible and reassuring presence.

We will continue to do everything we can with our communities, the police and partners to tackle Islamophobia and all forms of hate crime.

Hackney is no place for hate.”

HACKNEY'S VISION: NO PLACE FOR HATE

The prevention of Hate Crime in Hackney is a priority and we are committed to working with partners, including our communities, to ensure that Hackney is “No Place for Hate” and that survivors receive a response that is first class, first time, every time.

Hackney’s Hate Crime Champions are an integral part to delivering our priority to make Hackney safer. The role, together with Hackney’s “No Place for Hate Strategy” goes a long way to ensuring, that our response to Hate Crime is integrated, community focused and is able to make a real positive difference to people’s lives by taking a firm stance in making Hackney No Place for Hate.

Cllr Susan Fajana-Thomas OBE
Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Regulatory Services



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan'.

Cllr Susan
Fajana-Thomas OBE



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph'.

Cllr Joseph
Ogundemuren

FALSE INFORMATION ONLINE

Following the tragic incident in Southport false information fuelled national tensions resulting in unrest across the UK. This was spread largely by online platforms and social media, which is why it's important to be able to recognise false information, think critically and fact check.

What is False Information?

Lots of things you read online especially in your social media feeds may appear to be true, often is not. False information is news, stories or hoaxes created to deliberately misinform or deceive readers. Usually, these stories are created to either influence people's views, push a political agenda or cause confusion and can often be a profitable business for online publishers. False information can deceive people by looking like trusted websites or using similar names and web addresses to reputable news organisations.

The Rise of False Information

False information is not new, however it has become a hot topic since 2017. Traditionally we got our news from trusted sources, journalists and media outlets that are required to follow strict codes of practice. However, the internet has enabled a whole new way to publish, share and consume information and news with very little regulation or editorial standards. Many people now get news from social media sites and networks and often it can be difficult to tell whether stories are credible or not. Information overload and a general lack of understanding about how the internet works by people has also contributed to an increase in fake news or hoax stories. Social media sites can play a big part in increasing the reach of these type of stories.

FALSE INFORMATION ONLINE CONT.

Types of false information:

When it comes to evaluating content online there are various types of false or misleading news we need to be aware of. These include:

- Clickbait
- Propaganda
- Sloppy Journalism
- Deep Fakes/Visual Deception
- Misleading headings
- Biased/Slanted News
- Imposter Content
- Manipulated Content

The False Information Business Model

The internet and social media have made it very easy for anyone to publish content on a website, blog or social media profile and potentially reach large audiences. With so many people now getting news from social media sites, many content creators/publishers have used this to their advantage. False information can be a profitable business, generating large sums of advertising revenue for publishers who create and publish stories that go viral. The more clicks a story gets, the more money online publishers make through advertising revenue.

False Information, Social Media, and the Filter Bubble

When we go online or login to a social network we are generally presented with news, articles and content based on our own searches online. This type of content tends to reflect our own likes, views and beliefs and therefore isolating us from differing views and opinions. This is often referred to as a filter bubble.

What can we do about False Information?

Google and Facebook have announced new measures to tackle fake news with the introduction of reporting and flagging tools. Media organisations like the BBC and Channel 4 have also established fact checking sites. While these are welcome developments, digital media literacy and developing skills to critically evaluate information are essential skills for anyone navigating the internet and especially for young people.

DISINFORMATION VS MISINFORMATION

There has always been fake news, some hoax news can even be funny. It is so exaggerated and pointed that it is easily recognisable as what it is intended to be. Misinformation is false or inaccurate information mistakenly shared, but disinformation is a false information which is deliberately intended to mislead.

Disinformation can be deceptively real

It is not easy to identify targeted disinformation for what it is: sometimes things are completely made up, sometimes intentionally taken out of context, exaggerated or with essential information omitted, all giving a false impression. And it does not always involve text: images and videos are now also increasingly easy to manipulate (so-called deep fakes). There are also attempts to portray reality in a fundamentally distorted manner – for example, by taking figures or quotations out of context, presenting a minority opinion as a majority one or by artificially manipulating the scope of individual articles.

It is also useful to remember that as individuals we are considered 'reliable sources' of information for others we connect with. Family and personal friends are predisposed to believe information shared with them by another family member or friend. Contacts in social media accounts are called 'friends' for this reason - it creates a bond of sorts, even between followers who don't know each other. That bond lends credence to information they share. Often, truth, facts and accuracy play second fiddle to the trustworthiness of the person sharing the information, meaning a trusted source can be the reason information is believed and/or passed on again.

DISINFORMATION VS MISINFORMATION CONT.

Recently there have been targeted disinformation campaigns originating from abroad. Right-wing extremist groups are also using the coronavirus pandemic in order to spread conspiracy theories. This type of disinformation is dangerous because its objective is to divide our society. Its aim is to cause damage, intensify existing conflicts and debates, undermine trust in state-run institutions and stir up anger and emotions in general.

Each and every one of us can do something to combat disinformation. Disinformation is spread much more quickly and uncontrollably online than it was in the analogue age. On social media, everything can be forwarded, liked and commented on within seconds. And it is so much easier and cheaper for individuals to spread disinformation themselves: almost everyone now has a social media account and therefore has the opportunity (at least in theory) to create disinformation and make it accessible to a broad public.

It is all the more important therefore to avoid contributing to the spread of misleading information by forwarding it without thinking. For those who do not want to mislead or disinform their friends (and social media followers), it is crucial to stop, examine the information being presented, consider where it came from, think about any emotional response it evokes, find alternative points of view, and then decide whether it is something that should or should not be shared.

Disinformation is only one of the problems associated with "The Media" today. It is, however, a big part of what causes divisions between people, and it is also something that individuals can help control. In a world where so many things are beyond our control, here is a place where each of us can make a difference.

HOW ONLINE MISINFORMATION FUELLED VIOLENCE

The false rumour that the Southport stabbing was perpetrated by a Muslim terror suspect ripped across online platforms, before morphing into broader anti-migrate hate.

Context

In the aftermath of a mass stabbing in Southport, UK, misinformation about the identity of the attacker, who is a minor and therefore cannot be named until criminal prosecution is complete, spread quickly across social media.

The following evening, a community-organised vigil for the victims was hijacked by far-right rioting, mobilised through anti-Muslim and anti-migrant narratives with no factual basis. Messaging app Telegram became a key conduit for openly extremist channels filled with white nationalists calls to arms. Total system collapse - inciting violence on Telegram.

The wave of hate which spread across the UK in early August revealed the changing landscape of British far-right extremism.

Telegram – which is largely unmoderated – served as a hub for domestic and international far-right communities to:

- Stir anti-Muslim and anti-migrant hate;
- Distribute locations and targets for further action;
- Disseminate practical advice for would-be rioters;
- Encourage extremist violence, including arson and accelerationist disorder.
- Telegram
- The modern far-right comprises various – at times contradictory – movements, unified by xenophobia and nativism. These groups connect through loose networks across social media platforms, with Telegram being a core outlet

HOW ONLINE MISINFORMATION FUELLED VIOLENCE CONT.

Tactics: Narratives and Mobilisation

Far-right channels used Telegram to deploy various tactics targeting migrant populations, including:

- Amplifying false and inflammatory narratives;
- Organising offline events;
- Sharing operational advice for would-be rioters.

Migration

Far-right influencers use blame migration of horrific events to generate conflict while stoking tension. The Southport incident is an example, misinformation widely-shared messaging forwarded by a number of channels stated that “the conflict is the result of tensions where ethnic Britons believe they are being replaced in their home.”

Algorithms amplify false information

The false name attributed to the attacker was circulated organically, but also recommended to users by platform algorithms.

On X, the false name of the attacker “Ali al-Shakati” featured as a ‘Trending in the UK’ topic, being suggested to users under the “What’s happening” sidebar

Exit Hate UK



Exit Hate UK work to counter far right extremism. Founded by former members of far-right organisations who have rejected violence and far-right narratives, they are now committed to exposing and eradicating far-right extremism in the UK. Using their first-hand experience they aim to empower by raising awareness of the far-right, the dangers of this extremism and racism. Read their [blog here](#) about the unrest.

HOW TO SPOT FALSE INFORMATION

Anyone can fall for false information online. There are a number of things to watch out for when evaluating content online.

1. Who is sharing the story?

Check if the the social media account sharing the post is verified. Most public figures and media outlets display a “blue badge or check mark” which means the account has been authenticated. This can mean the content of the post is more likely to be reliable, although not always.

2. Take a closer look

Check the source of the story, do you recognise the website? Is it a credible/reliable source? If you are unfamiliar with the site, look in the about section or find out more information about the author.

3. Look beyond the headline

Check the entire article, many fake news stories use sensationalist or shocking headlines to grab attention. Often the headlines of fake new stories are in all caps and use exclamation points.

4. Check other sources

Are other reputable news/media outlets reporting on the story? Are there any sources in the story? If so, check they are reliable or if they even exist!

5. Check the facts

Stories with false information often contain incorrect dates or altered timelines. It is also a good idea to check when the article was published, is it current or an old news story?

6. Check your biases

Are your own views or beliefs affecting your judgement of a news feature or report?

7. Is it a joke?

Satirical sites are popular online and sometimes it is not always clear whether a story is just a joke or parody... Check the website, is it known for satire or creating funny stories?

USEFUL RESOURCES

BE MEDIA SMART

Be Media Smart offers useful tips and guidance on how to tell the difference between reliable and accurate information and or deliberately false or misleading information.

ll for false information online. There are a number of things to watch out for when evaluating content online.

MEDIA LITERACY IRELAND

MLI is a network of volunteer members coming from a large number of sectors, working together to empower people to make informed media choices about the media content and services that they consume, create, and disseminate across all platforms. The MLI offers useful media literacy resources, research, and news.

Fact checking sites

- Snopes: snopes.com/
- PolitiFact: politifact.com
- Fact Check: factcheck.org/
- BBC Reality Check: bbc.com/news/reality-check
- Channel 4 Fact Check: channel4.com/news/factcheck

Reverse image search from Google: google.com/reverse-image-search

HATE HOPE

Hope Not Hate

At HOPE not hate, work tirelessly to expose and oppose far-right extremism. They focus on the organised far right, the communities who are susceptible to them and the issues and policies which give rise to them. They build skills and resilience across communities and civil society organisations, creating an alternative narrative of togetherness and unity. Click [here](#) for their guide on how to stay safe during the recent unrest.

REPORTING HATE CRIME

What is a hate crime?

The legal definition is as follows:

'Any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice, based on a person's disability or perceived disability, race or perceived race, religion or perceived religion, sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation, or transgender identity or perceived transgender identity.'

In reality, this might mean a verbal or physical assault on someone. Telling them to 'go back to their country' or using a derogatory or disrespectful term about someone's sexuality would be classed as hate crimes.

What happens when you report a hate crime?

Reporting hate crime makes a difference. You can help prevent a hate crime from happening to someone else in your community and other communities, and you can help the Police better understand hate crime and improve their responses to it, including the arrest and conviction of offenders.

Hackney is no place for hate

We want communities and individuals to have the confidence to come forward and report these offences, no matter how minor they may appear.

We believe everyone deserves to live free of fear and abuse but to act against those responsible, the police rely on reports from the public. This is the first step towards ensuring that the offender is caught and stopped from committing a crime again. Unfortunately, many hate crimes are not reported. If more people make reports, we can gain a better understanding of the problem and how we can prevent it. And by reporting a hate crime, you can access support to help you to recover from the experience. You can also report a hate crime as a witness, even if you do not know the victim.

REPORTING MECHANISMS

How to report to the Police:



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

Emergency Phone: 999

Non-emergency Phone: 101

Textphone: 18000

Visit a Station: 33 Stoke Newington High St, London, N16 8DS

BSL: download the 999 BSL app

Online: www.report-it.org.uk

CrimeStoppers Anonymous Report: 0800 555 111

How to report to Stop Hate UK:



Phone: 0800 138 1625

Text: 07717 989 025

Text Relay: 18001 0113 293 5100

BSL: via www.stophateuk.org

Email: talk@stophateuk.org

Chat: www.stophateuk.org/talk

Online: www.stophateuk.org/tell

Reporting forms in alternative languages:

Select from the following: Arabic, Farsi, French, Kurdish, Mandarin, Polish, Pushto, Romanian, Russian, Somali.

THE JOURNEY OF HATE CRIME REPORTING

A Hate Crime takes place

Unfortunately, hate crimes do take place in the borough, in many different forms. Support is immediately available to you – please see the end of this leaflet for a list of organisations that can help.



Reporting to the authorities

Report the incident to police

- Call 999 in an emergency
- Call 101 in a non-emergency visit www.report-it.org.uk
- Call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111
- Speak to a police officer or visit a police station directly

Victims may also report a hate crime to other authorities like their landlord or the council, but by reporting the incident to the police, victims will have a crime report created.



A crime report will be created

Crime reports are generated following an allegation of crime. This can either be in person to a police officer, at a police station or through third-party reporting sites online

- The victim can apply through the Freedom of Information Act if they wish to have a copy of the crime report
- The crime report will exist either in paper form or digitally
- Victims will be given a crime reference number which will help them follow up on their case.



THE JOURNEY OF HATE CRIME REPORTING CONT.

Further investigation

Following the creation of a crime report, it will be assessed and allocated to an officer who will make contact with the victim.

Contact by the police

A police officer will aim to contact the victim within 24 hours but this may not always be possible. They will ask you for more details about the event (where it took place, what happened, what the person looked like, were there any witnesses).

Follow Up

The police will then decide on the next steps and what additional information they may need. The police will gather all evidence available, including the victim's statement, to create a full overview of the incident. This may also include CCTV footage and statements from witnesses.

If there is enough evidence, the offender will be cautioned and arrested. The case could also be referred to the Crown Prosecution Service to be considered for court. Evidence will be presented at a trial, and the person will either be found guilty or not guilty. A range of outcomes is available for a guilty verdict. If the Crown Prosecution Service do not accept the case, it will unfortunately be closed. The police will keep their information on file, which may help them with future hate crime incidents.

At any point during the hate crime reporting journey, victims can reach out to the organisations listed in this pack that can help.

VICTIM HELP & SUPPORT

There is lots of support nationally and locally for victims of hate crime.



Stop Hate UK -
for all forms of hate crime



Catch
Communities Against Hate -
for all forms of hate crime



SHOMRIM Stamford Hill -
for Anti-Semitic incidents



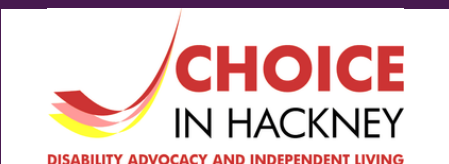
Tell MAMA -
for Anti-Muslim incidents



Galop -
confidential support for the
LGBT+ community



Friends, Families and Travellers
- support and advocacy
for Gypsies, Roma & Travellers



Choice in Hackney-
support and advocacy for
disabled communities

GENERAL HELP & SUPPORT

For general help, support and advice:



Victim Support -
support for victims and
witnesses of all types of crime



Age UK East London -
free advice and support
services for older people



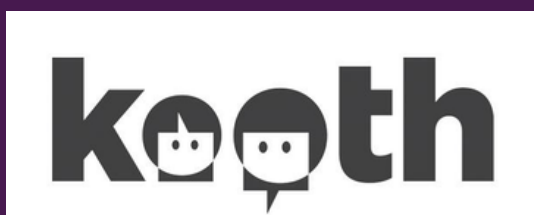
Citizens Advice - East End
free, confidential and
impartial advice



Mind -
counselling and emotional
wellbeing support



Shout -
free, confidential, 24/7 text
messaging support service



Kooth-
free support for children
and young people

KEY CONTACTS



in an emergency
call 999

Hate Crime Officer - Bennett Obong

Call: 077 7996 6226

Email: bennett.obong@hackney.gov.uk

Police Hate Crime Lead - PC Krzysztof Rycerz

Call:

Email: Krzysztof.Rycerz@met.police.uk

Anti-Social Behaviour

- streets, public spaces, parks:
email: asbteam@hackney.gov.uk
call: 020 8356 3310
- council estates or blocks:
phone: the police on 999 in an emergency
email: asb.housing@hackney.gov.uk
phone the 24-hour anti-social behaviour service 020 8356 3310 and press option 1
text: 07814 103 273

Community Safety, Business Regulation & Enforcement service

Call: 020 8356 4504

Email: enforcementsupport@hackney.gov.uk

Opening Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday – 9am to 5pm (telephone), Wednesday – 9am to 4pm (telephone)



**HACKNEY
IS NO
PLACE FOR**

HATE