



Hate Crime Awareness Course

There have been concerns at growing levels of hate crimes. These are crimes perpetrated against people who are perceived to belong to a certain social group. These groups are race, religion/belief, sexual orientation, transgender identity and disability.

Due to this concern this course has been designed with three main aims;

1. To raise awareness of hate crime
2. To encourage empathy with the victims of hate crime
3. To encourage the reporting of hate crimes.

The course has been designed for use in the RME curriculum but can be easily adaptable in a youth group setting. It includes activities, discussion questions, printed and video case study material highlighting examples of different hate crimes and how people have been affected by them. It has a focus on religious hate crimes but includes hate crimes against all protected groups.

The course is estimated to take around 5 periods and includes individual lesson plans and materials. It is in line with RME outcomes 3 and 4. They are set out in the learning outcomes document attached. In summary students are expected to develop an understanding of what constitutes a hate crime, to analyse its potential impact on society and evaluate responses to hate crimes. Students also learn to differentiate between hate speech and free speech. They are encouraged to reflect on the impact of the media on hate crimes and to consider appropriate solutions to hate crimes. In measuring the level 3 learning of students the success criteria includes student's ability to analyse the reasons as to why people react to a moral issue, the impact of the responses on society and are able to give their opinion on the link between actions and values. Level 4 learning measures student's ability to judge the best way to respond to a moral issue and to give developed opinions on the link between actions and values.

Course Outline

Lesson 1

What is a hate crime?

Learning Intention: to understand the definition, forms and reasons for hate crimes.

Success Criteria:

- I can describe what a hate crime is and what forms it can take.
- I can explain what protected characteristics are and why they are necessary.
- I can analyse why hate crime occurs in our society and what effect it has on its victims.

Lesson 2

Hate Speech v Freedom of Speech

Learning Intention: to understand how language influences behaviour, and to recognise hate speech.

Success Criteria:

- I can describe what hate speech is and recognise it when I am confronted with it.
- I can explain how prejudiced language can influence our behaviour towards a social group.
- I can evaluate from examples whether they should be considered hate speech or not.

Lesson 3

Cyber Hate and Hate Crime Prevention

Learning Intention: to understand the devastating effect of online bullying, and ways to prevent hate crime.

Success Criteria:

- I can describe and identify examples of online hate speech.
- I can explain why hate speech is more likely to occur online than in person.
- I can analyse the effects online hate speech has on people's lives.

Lesson 4

Case Studies

Learning Intention: to understand the scale of Hate Crimes in our society.

Success Criteria:

- I have increased knowledge of the extent of hate crimes in our society and the link to extreme examples of hate crime from history including the holocaust.
- I am able to analyse their potential impact on society and possible ways to help to tackle them.

Lesson 5

Campaign

Learning Intention: to be able to analyse various case studies, identify causes and consequences, and to develop strategies to try and prevent similar situations from happening in the future.

Success Criteria:

- I can design a hate crime campaign dedicated to protect the group characteristic identified in a designated case study.
- I can think of solutions as to how to tackle this particular form of hate crime and develop ideas for awareness raising and encouraging reporting.