

Equality and Human Rights Commission
Questionnaire

Disability-Related Harassment Inquiry

Questionnaire for disabled
people, their friends, family
and associates

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Thank you for completing this questionnaire. The information you provide will help us to improve the responses of public authorities and public transport operators to disability-related harassment. Please refer to the enclosed Terms of Reference and explanatory notes for definitions of disability-related harassment, public authorities and public transport operators.

Personal information will be treated as confidential and will not be used except for the purposes of the Inquiry. We may refer to your evidence in our final report or may publish extracts from it. Information will be anonymised unless you consent to being identified. If we propose to publish evidence identifying you, we will contact you beforehand to discuss this. Please highlight any aspect of your submission that you would not wish to be published. More information on our approach to confidentiality is set out at the end of this questionnaire.

You may complete this questionnaire online, by email or via our helpline. If you require any reasonable adjustments that are not met by the above methods, please contact us and we will discuss with you how best to receive your evidence. Contact details are given on page 13.

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Phone number:

Email:

Preferred contact method:

1. Are you providing information about something that happened:
 - a) to you?
 - b) to someone you know?

If (b) what is your relationship to that person?

1. relative
2. partner
3. friend
4. support organisation
5. other (please specify)

Note: If you are writing about someone else's experiences, please tell us in the questions below what happened to them.

2. How many times have you experienced disability-related harassment?
 1. once
 2. between one and five times
 3. between six and ten times
 4. more than ten times
 5. too many to remember

If you have experienced disability-related harassment more than once, you can tell us about as many experiences as you wish. Please answer questions 3–11 below for each experience that you wish to tell us about. If there is more than one incident, please number each experience of harassment in the questions below or just leave spaces between each incident in your answers. If you need more space, please continue on a separate sheet, numbering the question you are answering.

3. Please describe what happened (What was said/done? When did it happen? Who was involved? What, if anything, led up to it? Did it happen once or more often? How long did it go on for?)

4. Do you feel this incident was motivated by hostility or prejudice based on your disability, long term health condition or impairment? What makes you think so?

5. Do you feel your experience was influenced by other aspects of your identity such as your race, religion or belief, sex, age, transgender status or sexual orientation? What makes you think so?

6. Did you tell anyone about the harassment? If so, who did you tell? (as well as public authorities, we are interested in whether you told friends, family or voluntary organisations)

If you did not report the harassment to a public authority, public transport provider or voluntary organisation, please go to question 12.

7. Please tell us about the response of each of the organisations that you reported the harassment to. How easy was it to report? How long did they take to respond? What did they do?

8. Were you satisfied with the response of each of the organisations you reported to? (Did they help? Did they make it worse? Did they take your views into account? What else would you have wanted them to do?)

9. If you were not satisfied with the response, did you complain to anyone? If so, who? What was the outcome?

10. If you reported the harassment to the police, did they record it as disability-related?

11. If you reported the harassment to more than one organisation, did they work together in dealing with the incident, finding a solution and/or addressing the cause?

12. If you did not report the harassment, why not? What might have made it easier to report it?

13. What impact have these experiences had on your life?

14. Are you willing for us to contact you as part of our Inquiry?

We appreciate you taking the time to tell us about your experience.
We are aware that this subject can be very upsetting.
We have provided links to advice and support agencies on page 16
if you would like further help.

Background information:

It would be helpful if you could complete the following sections, as they will help us obtain a clearer picture of the range of people who are experiencing problems.

Are you likely to be covered by the definition of disability in the Disability Discrimination Act?

(You are likely to be covered if you have a physical or mental impairment which has an effect on your ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. This would include sensory impairments, mental health conditions, long-term health conditions and hidden impairments such as dyslexia or diabetes).

Yes

No

If yes, please state the type or types of impairment that apply to you

Physical impairment

Sensory impairment

Reduced physical capacity

Mental health condition, such as depression or schizophrenia

Learning disability

Long-standing illness or health condition such as cancer, HIV, diabetes, chronic heart disease or epilepsy

Other, such as disfigurement (please specify)

What was your age last birthday?

- Under 16
- 16 – 24
- 25 – 34
- 35 – 44
- 45 – 54
- 55 – 64
- 65 – 74
- 75 or over

Are you?

- Male
- Female

Which of the following options best describes how you think of yourself?

- Straight
- Gay / Lesbian
- Bisexual
- Other

Is your gender identity the same as the gender you were originally assigned at birth?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

What is your ethnic group?

Please indicate your ethnic origin in the relevant section below.

White

British

English

Scottish

Welsh

Irish

Any other White background (please state)

Asian, Asian British, Asian English, Asian Scottish or Asian Welsh

Asian Indian

Asian Pakistani

Asian Bangladeshi

Any other Asian background (please state)

Mixed

White and Asian

White and Black African

White and Black Caribbean

Any other Mixed background (please state)

Black, Black British, Black English, Black Scottish or Black Welsh

- Black Caribbean
- Black African

Any other Black background (please state)

Chinese, Chinese British, Chinese English, Chinese Scottish or Chinese Welsh

- Chinese

Any other Ethnic Group

Any other background (please state)

Religion and belief

Please indicate below which religion you follow, if at all

- Christianity
- Islam
- Judaism
- Sikhism
- Hinduism
- Buddhism
- No Religion

Other (please specify)

Where to respond to:

Thank you very much for completing this questionnaire.
Your information will be extremely valuable. Please return it to us:

- by email to: disabilityharassmentfi@equalityhumanrights.com
- by fax to: 0161 829 8110 clearly marked for the attention of the Disability Harassment Inquiry
- by post to the following freepost address:

Disability Harassment Inquiry
Equality and Human Rights Commission
FREEPOST RLLL-GHUX-CTRX
Arndale House, Arndale Centre
Manchester, M4 3AQ

- by telephone or textphone via our helplines (for individuals only):

England Telephone: 08456 046 610
Textphone: 08456 046 620

Wales Telephone: 08456 048 810
Textphone: 08456 048 820

Scotland Telephone: 08456 045 510
Textphone: 08456 045 520

Data handling and confidentiality

All information will be handled carefully and treated with sensitivity.

Individuals and organisations giving evidence do so on the understanding that it will be used by the Commission for the purposes of the Inquiry. The Commission is aware of its obligations in relation to personal information and privacy under the Data Protection Act and the Human Rights Act. Personal information will be treated as confidential and will not be used except for the purposes of the Inquiry.

Specific legal rules apply to evidence given to Inquiries. These mean that evidence which identifies an individual or organisation can only be disclosed by the Commission in limited circumstances. The Commission will only publish extracts from the evidence it receives where necessary for the purposes of the Inquiry. If we propose to publish evidence identifying you or your organisation, we will contact you beforehand to discuss this. Please highlight any aspect of your submission that you would not wish to be published.

More information about the Commission's position on confidentiality and disclosure of information is set out below.

If you still have concerns after reading this page and want to discuss these in confidence, please email the Inquiry team at disabilityharassmentfi@equalityhumanrights.com

The Equality Act 2006 sets out specific rules relating to information received by the Equality and Human Rights Commission when carrying out an inquiry under section 16 of the Act:

- section 6 of the Equality Act says that information acquired by the Equality and Human Rights Commission in the course of an inquiry must not be disclosed by the Equality and Human Rights Commission except where any of the following apply:
 - with the consent of each person to whom the information relates
 - in the report of the inquiry
 - for the purposes of carrying out the Equality and Human Rights Commission's functions in relation to its enforcement powers
 - in pursuance of an order of a court or tribunal
 - if the information is anonymised so that no one to whom the information relates can be identified
 - for the purposes of civil or criminal proceedings to which the Equality and Human Rights Commission is party

- if the information was acquired by the Equality and Human Rights Commission more than 70 years before the date of disclosure.
- section 16 of the Equality Act sets out the rules which apply when the Equality and Human Rights Commission wants to record in its report of an inquiry evidence or findings of an adverse nature about the activities of a specified or identifiable person. These rules include giving that person the right to make written representations on the draft report.

We will not disclose information received from you or your organisation during the inquiry unless it falls within the limited circumstances set out in section 6 (3) of the Equality Act. However, we may include it in the report of the inquiry and this may be in a way which means that you or your organisation will be identifiable. If you do not wish us to include information about you or your organisation in the report of the inquiry then please contact us to discuss this. We will be sensitive to any concerns you have about disclosure and we hope that you will feel confident in reporting any issues to us, including sensitive human rights issues you might have experienced or know about.

Support organisations:

Domestic Violence

Women's Aid - Women's Aid is the key national charity working to end domestic violence against women and children.

Telephone:

England: 0808 2000 247

Scotland: 0800 027 1234

Wales: 0808 80 10 800

email: helpline@womensaid.org.uk

Web: www.womensaid.org.uk

Welsh Women's Aid - This does not offer a Helpline service but provides referrals to local support groups.

Telephone: 029 2039 0874

Housing

Shelter – Housing and Homelessness charity.

Telephone:

England and Scotland: 0808 800 444

Wales: 0845 075 5005

Web: www.shelter.org.uk

Mental Health Organisations

Mind - Information and support on mental health issues, including how to get help.

Telephone: 0845 766 0163

email: info@mind.org.uk

Web: www.mind.org.uk

Mind Cymru

Web: www.mind.org.uk/mind_cymru

Scottish Association for Mental Health - Scotland's main mental health charity.

Telephone: 0141 568 7000

email: enquire@samh.org.uk

Web: www.samh.org.uk

Learning Disability

Mencap - support thousands of parents, carers and people with a learning disability to lead a full and valued life.

Telephone: 0808 808 1111

email: help@mencap.org.uk

Web: www.mencap.org.uk

Mencap Cymru - runs the Wales Learning Disability Helpline which offers information and support on a range of issues.

Telephone: 0808 808 1111

Victim and Survivors

Victim Support - Is a national charity giving free and confidential help to victims of crime, witnesses, their family, friends and anyone else affected, across England and Wales.

Telephone: 0845 30 30 900

email: supportline@victimsupport.org.uk

Web: www.victimsupport.org.uk

Victim Support Scotland is the lead voluntary organisation in Scotland helping people affected by crime. It provides emotional support, practical help and essential information to victims, witnesses and others affected by crime.

Telephone: 0131 668 4486

email: info@victimsupportsco.org.uk

Web: www.victimsupportsco.org.uk

Victim Support Cymru

Telephone: 0845 612 1900

Education

ACE advisory centre for education is a national charity that provides advice and information to parents and carers on a wide range of school based issues including exclusion, admissions, special education needs, bullying and attendance.

Telephone: 0808 800 5793

Web: www.ace-ed.org.uk

Children and Young People's Organisations

Children in Scotland is the national agency for voluntary, statutory and professional organisations and individuals working with children and their families in Scotland.

Telephone: 0131 228 8484

email: info@childreninscotland.org.uk

Web: www.childreninscotland.org.uk

Children in Wales - is the national umbrella organisation for those working with children and young people in Wales. Their aims are to promote the interests of these groups and take action to meet their needs.

Telephone: (029) 2034 2434
(01286) 677570 (North Wales)

email: info@childreninwales.org.uk

Web: www.childreninwales.org.uk

NSPCC - National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children is the UK's leading charity specialising in child protection.

Telephone: 0808 800 5000

email: help@nspcc.org.uk

Text phone: 0800 056 0566

Web: www.nspcc.org.uk

NSPCC Cymru/Wales Child Protection Helpline

Telephone: 0808 100 2524

email: helplinecymru@nspcc.org.uk in English or Welsh

Textphone: 0808 100 1033

Older People

Age UK is the new name for the merged charities Help the Aged and Age Concern. Info and advice for the general public, including factsheets about elder abuse and where to get help.

Telephone: 0800 169 6565

Web: www.ageuk.org.uk

Age Cymru is a national charity working to improve the lives of older people in Wales.

Telephone: **029 20 431555**

Web: www.ageuk.org.uk/cymru

www.equalityhumanrights.com/disabilityharassmentfi