

**NORTHERN IRELAND  
HATE CRIME CAMPAIGN**



**WE STAND TOGETHER**

**MINI -  
MANIFESTO  
ADDRESSING HATE CRIME  
IN MID-ULSTER**



# INTRODUCTION

## **ADDRESSING HATE CRIME IN MID-ULSTER**

Hate crime continues to affect the lives of many across Mid-Ulster. Factors include a lack of understanding, limited representation, service gaps and mistrust. To address, we need a united, grassroots-led approach that recognises the value and dignity of all people.

This Mini-Manifesto was developed from workshops and conversations led by Victim Support NI and local partners through the We Stand Together OCN Level 3 Pilot Training in March–April 2025. The issues, asks and commitments included in this mini-manifesto reflect the views and experiences of the training participants.

It is a living document, intended as a contribution to addressing hate crime in Mid Ulster. Other voices and solutions are welcomed.



# INTRODUCTION

Mid-Ulster is a district marked by richness in heritage and growing diversity — yet significant challenges remain:

- Poor social cohesion, fueled by language and cultural barriers
- Lack of education on prejudice and hate crime
- Disinformation and harmful narratives online and in the media
- Delays in justice processes and lack of trust in reporting pathways
- A leadership and policymaking gap that fails to reflect local demographics
- Disconnection between services and community needs
- Inadequate early intervention strategies, particularly for children and families
- A benefits system that traps people in cycles rather than offering ways out
- Gaps in addressing gender-based violence, domestic abuse and age-related vulnerabilities

A decorative border at the top of the page consisting of various colored puzzle pieces (pink, yellow, blue, grey) arranged in a circular pattern around the title.

# THE ISSUES

**Several recurring themes were identified in Mid-Ulster:**

## **Social Cohesion & Cultural Understanding**

Community divisions are reinforced by cultural, religious and language barriers. There is a lack of understanding of both one's own and others' backgrounds — leading to mistrust, stereotyping and hate crimes.

## **Representation & Accountability**


Local government, public services and leadership do not reflect the area's demographic reality, with ethnic minorities underrepresented across decision-making spaces.

## **Delays in Justice & Reporting**

Hate crime victims face long waits from incident to resolution, discouraging reporting. There is also a gap in disability and cognitive-awareness training for key frontline services and across the criminal justice system.

## **Misinformation & Media Narratives**

Harmful and false narratives, both local and global, shape public attitudes and increase prejudice. A lack of positive storytelling and myth-busting worsens the divide.

A decorative border at the bottom of the page consisting of various colored puzzle pieces (pink, yellow, blue, grey) arranged in a circular pattern around the text.



# THE ISSUES

## **Failing Systems & Services**

From patchy public service delivery to a rigid benefits system, many residents feel let down. Vulnerable groups are left unsupported — especially in cases of domestic abuse, gender-based violence and age-related issues.

## **Empathy Fatigue & Apathy in Services**

A pervasive public service culture of ‘passing the buck’ often leaves hate crime and community safety issues unresolved, with responsibility bouncing between departments.





# OUR ASKS

(WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE HAPPEN...)

- **Health & Justice Collaboration**

Work with the health sector to improve support for vulnerable people — including better communication with families and more transparency.

- **Policing & Disability Awareness**

Build deeper PSNI understanding of cognitive and neurodivergent conditions.

- **Shared Responsibility for Integration**

Migrant and local communities should be supported to learn from each other. Integration must be two-way, respectful and grounded in empathy.

- **Dialogue & Difficult Conversations**

Break down the discomfort that has blocked conversations around difference. Focus on shared interests, not just identity.

- **Early Intervention & Education**

Promote anti-prejudice learning from nursery age. Evaluate impact via qualitative feedback and curriculum change.

- **Family & Community Engagement**

Involve parents — especially those outside typical community schemes — in anti-hate initiatives to tackle root causes at home.

- **Better Media & Messaging**

Champion responsible journalism and community-led storytelling that highlights positive examples and promotes resilience.

- **Community-Led Support & Reporting**

Empower local organisations to support third-party hate crime referrals and connect people to justice pathways

- **Inclusive Public Services**

Improve service standards. Train public bodies in cultural competence and ensure accountability.

- **Addressing Vulnerabilities**

Tackle gender-based violence, domestic abuse, and age-related marginalisation through holistic, intersectional policies.

## OUR ASKS

- **Rural Affairs**

Ensure that rural areas' affairs, related to hate crime and wider vulnerabilities – like those of relevance to many in Mid-Ulster – are sufficiently heard, represented and addressed at the NI-wide level, thus ensuring public policy avoids urban biases.

---



# OUR COMMITMENTS

## (WHAT WE WILL DO...)

- **Apply Global Solutions Locally**  
Learn from international models of best practice and adapt them to the Mid-Ulster context.
- **Root Actions in Community Voice**  
Use surveys and engagement tools to check whether our work reflects real community needs
- **Promote Empathy Over Apathy**  
Drive cultural change through active listening, intercultural dialogue and creative programmes.
- **Arts, Heritage & Sports as Connectors**  
Use cultural and community events to build trust — not just awareness campaigns.
- **Challenge Misinformation & Fear**  
Build confidence in communities to talk across divides — and counteract silence with strength.
- **Create Inclusive Spaces**  
Provide forums for exploration of difficult topics, with emotional support and mutual respect at the core.

# OUR COMMITMENTS

- **Regular Check-Ins & Evaluation**

Meet quarterly to track progress, adapt to lessons and stay accountable.

- **Encourage Responsible Citizenship**

Train more people in active bystanding, challenge entitlement cultures and support pathways back into employment.

- **Strengthen Local Capacity**

Identify and grow existing skills within ethnic minority communities and build leadership through tailored training.

- **Keep Asking: “Who's Not Here?”**

Commit to diversity of voices and bring underrepresented people into the fold — including those most affected by hate.

- **Address Benefits System Gaps**

Lobby local/national political leaders to instil a system that supports the most vulnerable while moving those ready and capable back into meaningful contribution to society. Develop a nuanced system that avoids ‘throwing money at the problem’ and strikes a balance between empathy, personal responsibility and balanced budgets.



# IMPACT

- **Greater Social Cohesion**

Communities will be safer, stronger and more connected — with hate crime reduced.

- **Informed, Empathetic Youth**

Children will grow up understanding difference, confident in themselves and prepared to live well with others.

- **Engaged Families & Parents**

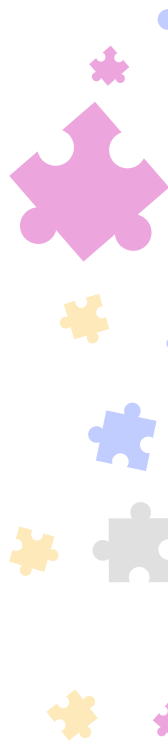
Intergenerational cycles of prejudice can be broken through family-led learning and participation.

- **Improved Trust in Authorities**

PSNI and public services will be more responsive, and victims more willing to report with confidence.


- **Greater Representation in Leadership and Civil Society**

More people from ethnic minority and underrepresented backgrounds will take up leadership roles, ensuring decisions reflect the reality of Mid-Ulster's communities.



A cluster of colorful puzzle pieces in shades of blue, pink, yellow, and grey is located in the top-left corner of the page.

# IMPACT

- **Cultural Understanding Normalised from a Young Age**  
Early education and anti-hate curriculum development will build long-term social resilience.
  - **Reduced Misinformation and Polarisation**  
Proactive myth-busting and positive storytelling will shift the narrative toward inclusion and understanding.
  - **Stronger Community Bonds Across Differences**  
Shared events and meaningful interaction will increase mutual respect and collective identity across all communities.
  - **“Making it Make Sense” – Everywhere**  
Instilling a socioeconomic system based in effective advocacy which is fluid, capable of self-reflection and learning, and able to target systemic issues with nuance, precision and haste, promoting community ownership of the Council’s future and fostering a culture in Mid-Ulster that others elsewhere seek to duplicate.
- 
- A cluster of colorful puzzle pieces in shades of pink, yellow, blue, and grey is located in the bottom-right corner of the page.

This Mini-Manifesto is a living document — shaped by and for the people of Mid-Ulster. We welcome further collaboration, feedback and action from anyone committed to building a safer, more inclusive community.

Contact:

[admin@hcasni.org.uk](mailto:admin@hcasni.org.uk)

[www.hcasni.com](http://www.hcasni.com)



## **HATE CRIME ADVOCACY SERVICE**

*Support for you each step of the way*

Published with funding from:



Published by Victim Support NI

@2025