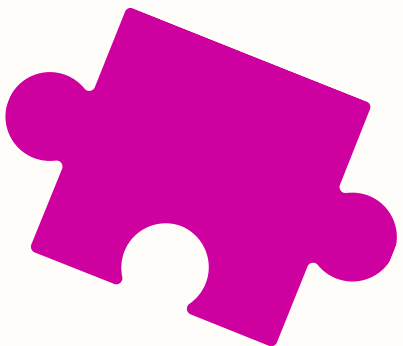
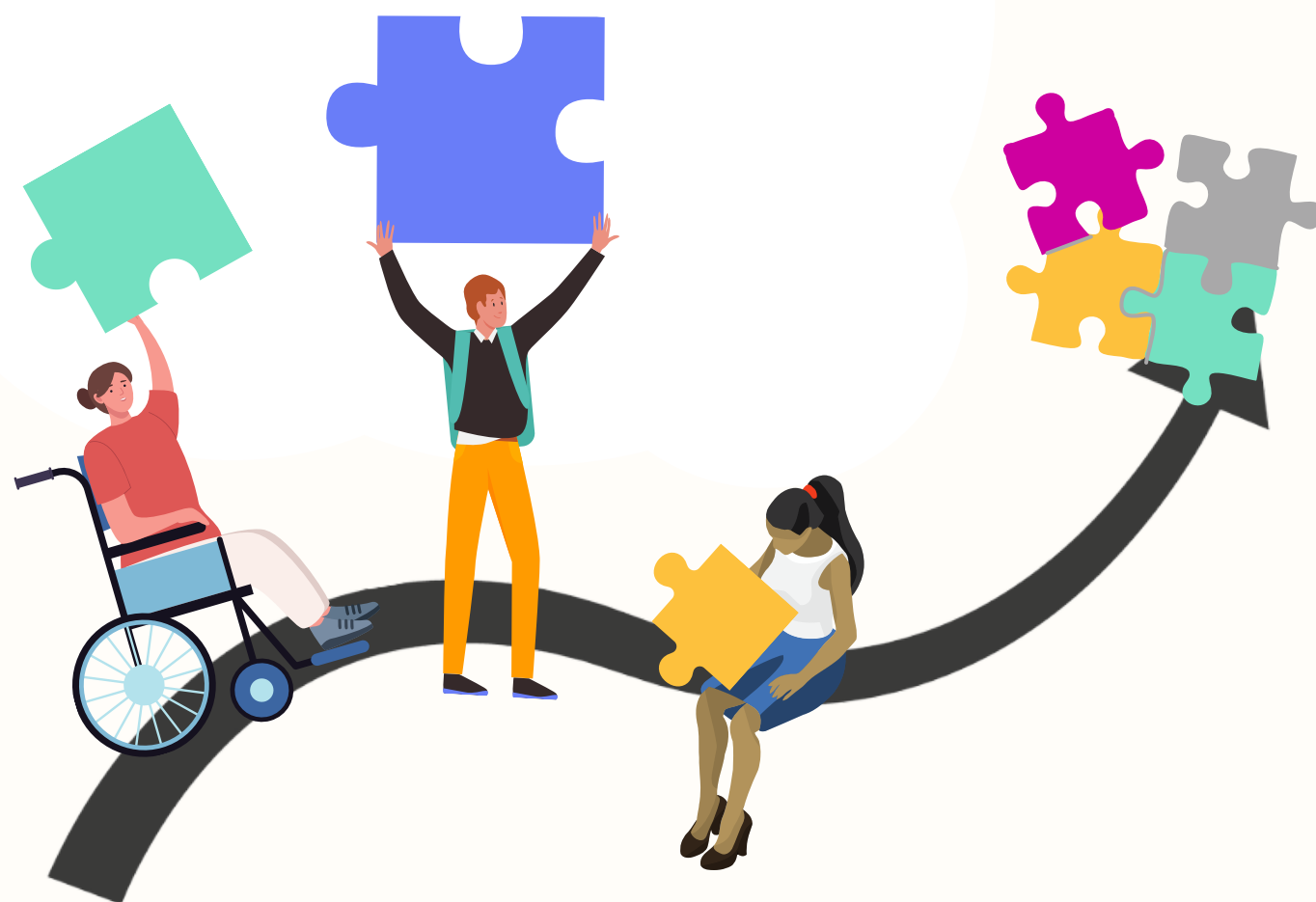




NORTHERN IRELAND HATE CRIME CAMPAIGN



WE STAND TOGETHER

MINI-MANIFESTO

**ADDRESSING HATE CRIME
IN CAUSEWAY COAST & GLENS**

“Meeting people where they’re at”



INTRODUCTION

Hate crime affects lives right across Causeway Coast & Glens, in its towns and across its many rural and coastal communities. Tackling it calls for a united, grassroots-led approach that recognises the value and dignity of every person, and that meets people where they are.

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 training delivered in January 2026. The issues, asks and commitments set out here reflect the views and lived experiences of the training participants — people who live and work across the district. It builds upon Victim Support NI’s ‘Northern Ireland Hate Crime Manifesto’ (launched in 2024) and applies its themes to the realities of Causeway Coast & Glens.

It is a living document, intended as a contribution to addressing hate crime across the district. Other voices and solutions are welcomed.

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

Causeway Coast & Glens is a district rich in heritage, landscape and community spirit , yet significant challenges were identified by participants:

- Gaps in disability awareness and support, including in how frontline services recognise and respond to different disabilities.
- Underreporting of hate crime, particularly in the disability and sectarian categories.
- Legacy divisions that continue to shape community relations and feed into newer tensions.
- Limited understanding between long-standing and newcomer communities.
- Misinformation online that hardens attitudes.
- Inconsistencies in how different estates are policed and investigated.
- Rural and coastal communities overlooked in wider strategies — including transport and the night-time economy.

- Difficulty reaching men and others not traditionally involved in community life.
- Short-term funding cycles that undermine confidence in public and community services.
- Gaps where health and justice needs intersect.



THE ISSUES:

Several recurring themes were identified:

Disability, Inclusion & Frontline Understanding

Across the district, people with disabilities, including non-visible and cognitive conditions, too often meet services that don't fully understand how their victimisation is experienced. There is a clear need for better disability and safeguarding awareness across the PSNI and other public services (PPS, NIHE and others), so victims are recognised, communicated with and supported appropriately.

Underreporting & Communication After Reporting

Many incidents go unreported, especially across the disability and sectarian categories. Where crimes are reported, victims describe too little communication and follow-up afterwards — which erodes the confidence needed to come forward again.

Legacy Divisions & Modern Tensions:

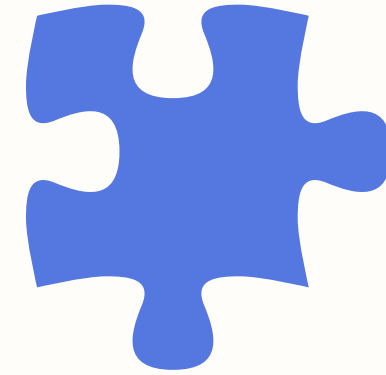
Traditional, legacy divisions continue to shape community relations and, by proxy, the experience of newcomers and others. Interface dynamics and older divisions feed into newer forms of hate, and need to be understood together rather than in isolation.

Consistency in Policing & Investigation:

Participants raised inconsistencies in how different estates are policed and how investigations are pursued — including where paramilitary influence is a factor. Victims and perpetrators should be treated the same regardless of geography, background or influence.

Misinformation and Online Narratives:

False and harmful narratives online shape attitudes and increase prejudice, often outpacing accurate local information.



Education & Schools:

There is a need for primary and secondary education and awareness-raising that explains the differences across protected characteristics, and for consistent handling of hate-motivated bullying in schools.

Rural Realities:

Rural and coastal communities are frequently overlooked in wider strategies, including the safety and security of transport and the night-time economy.

Reaching the ‘Unusual Suspects’:

Community projects and training tend to reach the same people. Getting men and others not traditionally involved to take part, and understanding the barriers that keep them away, is a recurring challenge, with real relevance to the demographics of perpetration.

Structural Gaps

Longer-term issues include housing gaps, short-term funding cycles that damage public confidence, the intersection of health and justice needs, and weak cross-departmental collaboration and communication.

OUR ASKS:

(what we would like to see happen)

Disability Awareness & Inclusion:

Build deeper understanding across the PSNI and public services of how different disabilities, including cognitive and non-visible conditions, manifest in real situations, and how victimisation is experienced. Support a community network on disability across the area (building on the ‘A Seat at the Table’ approach).

Safeguarding & Frontline Training:

Strengthen safeguarding training across the PSNI, PPS, NIHE and other public services.

A Clear Local Message:

A clear, visible local message that ‘hate crime won’t be tolerated’, with buy-in from the PSNI and the public, community and private sectors.

Tackle Underreporting:

Address underreporting generally, and specifically in the disability and sectarian categories.

Better Communication After Reporting:

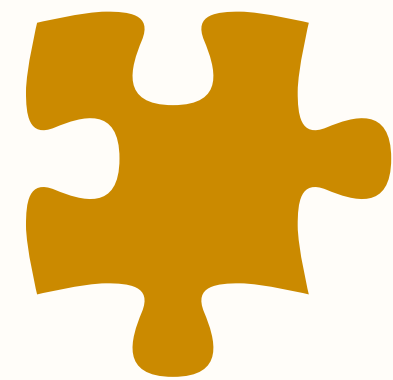
More consistent communication and follow-up with victims once a crime has been reported.

Refresher Training Across Sectors:

Refresher training for public, third and private sector organisations on hate crime and diversity, which, by proxy, also helps address workplace discrimination.

Tackle Risk Aversion & the ‘Elephant in the Room’:

Encourage public, third and private organisations to address — not avoid — difficult issues, and to be honest and transparent about them.



Practical Safety & Early Intervention

Promote practical safety mechanisms (such as the home-security model seen in Belfast) and early intervention, including restorative justice, that protects people and saves resources.

Safety in Rural Areas & the Night-Time Economy

Safety and security around transport and the night-time economy, including the rural areas so often overlooked.

Meeting People Where They’re At’

Find ways to involve men and others not traditionally engaged, and help people feel part of something greater than themselves through natural, organic involvement around the ‘common good’.

Protected Characteristics & Data

Ask public institutions to keep equality considerations and relevant Section 75 categories under review, and, where appropriate and lawful, to publish demographic breakdowns so that inequalities and emerging issues can be better understood and tracked.

Positive, Local Active Bystanding

Promote positive active bystanding at the most local level — effective without being confrontational.

OUR COMMITMENTS: (what we will do...)

Build Local Capacity - 'Train the Trainer'

Build capacity at the most local level so communities can carry this work themselves.

Promote Active Bystanding

Model and promote positive, non-confrontational active bystanding.

Tackle Misinformation

Take on misinformation and myths directly.

Have the Difficult Conversations

Create the conditions for honest conversations about difference.

Counter 'Othering'

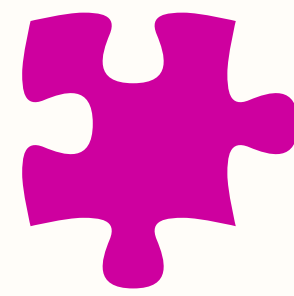
Challenge othering wherever it appears, recognising that it is a small minority who 'other', not whole communities, and stand with the wider community against it.

Promote Street-Level Responsibility

Promote local personal responsibility at 'street level' to call out issues and prevent the isolation of victims, supported by neighbourhood-watch-style deterrence against repeat perpetration and victimisation.

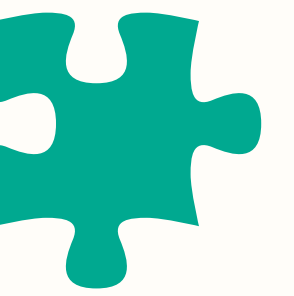
Safe Spaces & Local Reporting

Promote safe spaces through local reporting and training centres.



IMPACT

If we pursue the above, participants hope to see:



Stronger Disability Inclusion

People with disabilities will be better recognised, communicated with and supported across frontline services - and more confident to report.

More Reporting, More Trust

As communication after reporting improves and the local message lands, underreporting will fall and confidence in coming forward will grow.

Communities that Reach Everyone

Men and others are not traditionally involved and will find natural ways in, broadening who shapes community life.

Rural Voices Heard

The realities of rural and coastal communities, including transport and night-time safety, will be reflected in wider strategies

Legacy Divisions Loosened

Understanding legacy divisions alongside modern tensions will reduce how old fault lines feed new hate.

Local Ownership that Lasts

'Train the trainer' capacity-building and local reporting will leave the district able to sustain this work itself, a model others can learn from.

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

Contact: admin@hcasni.org.uk | www.hcasni.com



HATE CRIME ADVOCACY SERVICE

Support for you each step of the way

Published by Victim Support NI @2026