



Marie Rimmer CBE, MP
Member of Parliament for St. Helens
South & Whiston
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
Tel: 020 7219 4847/01744 752075

LGBT+ and Hate Crime:

I appreciate the thoughts that have been shared on this important issue. I am appalled that there were over 4,700 hate crimes committed against transgender people in the year leading to March 2023, a worrying 11% increase on the year before. While some have argued that the rising numbers are a result of better recording of hate crime, I do not believe that this accounts for the scale of the increase. In my view, there is a clear issue here, and reporting alone cannot explain it.

In December 2021, the Law Commission published its report on hate crimes. It highlighted that all five of the protected characteristics are not currently protected equally. Aggravated offences only apply in respect of racial and religious hostility, which can impact sentencing. The report recommended that all protected characteristics should be viewed equally by the law.

I want to see this recommendation accepted, strengthening and equalising the law so that anti-LGBT+ and disability hate crimes are also treated as aggravated offences. Every victim of a hate crime must be treated equally.

I also remain committed to the hiring of an additional 13,000 neighbourhood police officers. This will get police back on our streets and in our communities, so that they can build local relationships to combat hate crime and deter it through their visible presence. Our streets need to be safe, with a police and justice system fit for the future and that the LGBT+ community can trust to combat hate crime and bring the perpetrators of it to justice.

Furthermore, I note the concerns that constituents have raised regarding the rhetoric surrounding transgender people. The Home Office has acknowledged that the discussion of transgender issues by politicians, the media and social media may have led to an increase in hate crimes.

I believe that all LGBT+ people must be treated fairly, with dignity and with respect. Responsible politicians should take care when discussing these issues and should understand that this is not a debate to exploit, but rather people's lives.

Marie Rimmer CBE, MP

Constituency Office:

Marie Rimmer CBE, MP, 2nd Floor, Century House, Hardshaw Street, St. Helens WA10 1QU, 01744 752075,
marie.rimmer.mp@parliament.uk
Website: www.marierimmer.co.uk