

Homophobic and transphobic hate crimes surge in England and Wales

<p>Notes & Cues:</p>	<p>Article:</p> <p>Homophobic and transphobic hate crimes, including stalking, harassment and violent assault, have more than doubled in England and Wales over five years, a Guardian analysis has shown.</p> <p>The findings come after two women were attacked on a bus in London for refusing to kiss in front of a group of men. The incident sparked widespread condemnation.</p> <p>The rate of LGBT hate crime per capita rose by 144% between 2013-14 and 2017-18. In the most recent year of data, police recorded 11, 600 crimes, more than doubling from 4, 600 during this period.</p> <p>Campaigners said the rise could partly be down to better reporting but added that hatred was growing on British streets because of the rise of rightwing populism.</p> <p>Taz Edwards-White, an alliance manager at Metro, an equalities and diversity organisation, said the hate crime figures were likely to be “the tip of the iceberg”.</p> <p>“What we see in our services is lots of people experience day-to-day verbal attacks or violence and aggressive language and homophobic attitudes ... We do believe the political climate has had an impact: people feel unsafe. What is happening in central government and all the scapegoating has an effect. We saw a spike [in racist attacks] after Brexit and there has been a steady increase since then.”</p> <p>Laura Russell, the director of campaigns, policy and research at Stonewall, said the rise in hate crimes showed there was a long way to go before the LGBT community was accepted in British society. “We are still not living in a society where every LGBT person is able to achieve their potential and not have to live in fear of physical or verbal violence for being who they are, ” she said.</p>
<p>Summary:</p>	