

## **Misogynistic Harassment: The Sixth Monitored Strand of Hate Crime?**

**By: Luna Davey**

### **Abstract:**

Hate crime consistently continues to be a widespread problem throughout society, with a 10% increase in reported hate crime incidences in 2018/19, signifying an upward trend in its prevalence. Currently, the Crown Prosecution Service (2017) define 'hate crime' as the motivation of hostility towards one of five centrally monitored strands consisting of race, religion, sexual orientation, disability and transgender identity. However, the College of Policing (2014) recognise that hate crime incidences can occur beyond these categories, targeting alternative groups which do not fall into those covered by existing legislation. Consequently, women, whom are routinely targeted with gender hostility and misogyny, slip under the radar of legislation leaving them neglected of appropriate protection against discrimination and prejudice.

The Nottinghamshire police were the first authority to recommend and implement the monitoring of crime motivated by misogynistic intent. Through the introduction of a Misogyny Hate Crime policy in 2016, the true extent of the issue has been exposed in terms of its wide prevalence and severity for victims. For instance, 93.7% of research respondents stated they had experienced or witnessed misogynistic street harassment (Nottinghamshire Report, 2018). In response, this dissertation aims to gather public perceptions on whether or not misogyny should be included as a sub-category of current UK hate crime legislation, through the use of a self-completion questionnaire. The Nottinghamshire Report (2018) was also used as a research template in an attempt to build upon their existing findings with an alternative sample of respondents. The findings show that the majority of respondents were supportive of a misogyny policy introduction, advocated for through personal experience.

The intention of this study is to highlight the need for further research and recognition of hate crime, and in particular, acts of misogyny, as a significant issue within the UK. By improving the public's awareness of current hate crime legislation and the significance of

misogyny as a societal issue, an attempt to drive behavioural change and legislative reform to combat gender hostility, can materialise.