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**Hate Crime Awareness Week**

**11th to 15th October 2021**

As part of **National Hate Crime Awareness Week 2021**, Barnet will be hosting events online and across the borough. Hate crime is an issue that affects the entire community. No one deserves to be targeted with abuse because of their disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, faith, race, religion or national origin. The **Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime Project** aims to show people that we will not let hate crime escalate in Barnet.

This year we are focusing on making **Barnet a SAFE COMMUNITY** for all and we are launching the **Barnet Safe Places Scheme**. This is a network of safe places across the borough where people can get help if they feel unsafe, anxious or threatened when out in the community. We will also be raising awareness of the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Lanyard which disabled people and people with medical or health conditions can wear to indicate that they might need some support, space or additional time when accessing services and facilities.

Research has shown that hate crime can escalate and spread if it is left unchecked within a community. Hate crime can be targeted against its victims on the grounds of disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, faith, race, religion, ethnicity or national origin. It can include offences such as verbal abuse, criminal damage, bullying, physical assault, harassment, offensive graffiti and online abuse.

Barnet’s Hate Crime Awareness Campaign: **“Barnet – Say No to Hate Crime: Speak Up, Get Support, Report It!”** ties in with the Barnet 2024 Corporate Plan outcome aimed at *“Building Safe and Strong Communities where people get along well”.* One of the priorities under this outcome is *“taking a zero-tolerance approach to hate crime”*. The campaign encourages and supports residents to speak up and report hate crime if they encounter it.

Barnet operates a network of third party **Hate Crime Reporting Centres** where victims and witnesses of hate crime, in particular our more vulnerable members, can access support to report offences to the Police and be referred or signposted to local community organisations for ongoing support. Our Hate Crime Reporting Centres are selected to represent a diverse cross-section of the community and are in accessible locations across the borough.

This year we are delighted to welcome **Middlesex University** to the **Barnet Network of Hate Crime Reporting Centres**. Following on from the work of the University’s *Changing the Culture Initiative* which focused on encouraging reporting of hate crime on campus, the University and its Students’ Union are now able to facilitate reporting of hate crime for the local community. Using the University's online reporting function **'Report.It.To.Stop.It'**, any member of the Barnet community can access information, advice and guidance and report a hate crime, either with contact details or anonymously.  “If you experience or witness a hate crime **REPORT IT TO STOP IT**.”

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**Hate Crime Awareness Week**

**11th to 15th October 2021**

The **Barnet Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime Project** will be hosting the following events during **Hate Crime Awareness Week** to encourage people to become **Hate Crime Reporting Champions**, pledging to report hate crime if they witness it. Reporting Champions continue to receive regular Hate Crime Bulletins and opportunities to attend workshops for information and training.

Expertise will be shared by the Metropolitan Police and community organisations including Barnet Mencap to spread public awareness and understanding of hate crime, and the effect it has on its victims. Come and visit our **Hate Crime Reporting and Information Stands** at the following locations:

**Monday 11th October**

**Finchley Central 10am-1pm**

Albert Place, Finchley N3 1XP

**Wednesday 13th October**

**Middlesex University 10am-2pm**

The Burroughs, London NW4 4BT

**Thursday 14th October**

**Edgware Bus Station 10am-1pm**

Station Road, Edgware HA8 7BG

**Friday 15th October**

**Golders Green Bus Station 10am-1pm**

1 Golders Green Road, NW11 8DY

**Barnet Hate Crime Awareness Week 2021** focuses on making **Barnet a SAFE COMMUNITY** for all. Join us to learn more about becoming a member of the Barnet Safe Places Scheme and collect your free Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Lanyard.

On **Tuesday 12th October** **at 11.30am** Barnet Mencap will be hosting an online workshop and discussion for Barnet Professionals, Key Workers and Carers:

**Disability Hate Crime: *“Supporting Disabled People to Report Hate Crime”.***

If you would like further information or would like to register for this or any of the week’s events, please contact: Barnet’s Hate Crime Reporting Co-ordinator, Reshma Hirani at: [reshma.hirani@barnetmencap.org.uk](mailto:reshma.hirani@barnetmencap.org.uk)

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