



## Support to Report – Encouraging the Reporting of Disability Hate Crime

Being a victim of crime is a horrible experience; being targeted because you have a disability is not only cruel, it can have a lasting impact on someone's confidence, physical and mental wellbeing and how they live their life.

Disability hate crime is currently under reported in Scotland. By reporting any hate crime incidents to the police you may be able to prevent these incidents from happening to someone else. It also allows the police to better understand the extent of hate crime in a particular area and respond to it.

A group of adults with a disability from Greater Glasgow and Lanarkshire have come together to challenge disability hate crime and encourage organisations to 'support to report'.

Police Scotland are working with a number of organisations across the country that have signed up to be Third Party Reporting Centres – this means somewhere that can offer assistance to report a hate crime using an online reporting form.

The group have delivered their presentation to 23 Third Party Reporting Centres in the Glasgow and Lanarkshire area including libraries, housing associations, First Stop Shops and Victims Support. They have been encouraging discussion about hate crime, Third Party Reporting and accessibility. They have also created a handy charter that lists the key things to remember when helping someone to report a disability hate crime.

We are currently in the planning stages of the second phase of our project which will be ready for roll out this summer. It will aim to raise awareness of the 'support to report' available to people with a disability within their communities and also raise awareness of Third Party Reporting to organisations who support disabled people.

If you want find out more about our project please contact: Ann at **The Advocacy Project** on **0141 420 0961**.

