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Glasgow Hate Crime Working Group Report

Purpose of Report:

To update the partnership on:

- The work of the Hate Crime Working Group.
- Glasgow Partners' Conference – 2 June 2026.
- Community tensions / cohesion update.

Recommendations:

- To note the work of the Hate Crime Working Group.
- To note Glasgow Partners Conference feedback.
- To note current community cohesion challenges.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides the Safe Glasgow Partnership with a progress update on delivery of the Hate Crime Working Group's thematic Action Plan: Preventing, Reporting, and Responding.

1.2 Safe Partnership Group Action Update

A new Hate Crime Policy Officer (HCPO), located within NRS, was appointed in September 2025.

Hate Crime Working Group (HCWG) Terms of Reference and Action Plan have been reviewed, alongside membership, finalised and approved by the HCWG (meeting on 03.03.2026).

- 1.3 Glasgow Hate Crime Working Group (HCWG) is a multi-agency group that is embedded within Glasgow Community Planning Partnership structures and reports to the Safe Glasgow Partnership. Its purpose is to encourage and coordinate partnership approaches to hate crime and hate related matters.

1.4 The HCWG aims are:

- To take a strategic overview of activity to address hate crime citywide.
- Hold partners accountable for delivery.
- Develop a co-ordinated approach to hate crime and hate related matters.

1.5 The current, expanded, HCWG's membership includes:

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| • Glasgow City Council (GCC) | • Wheatley Group |
| • Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability (NRS) | • West of Scotland Regional Equality Council (WSREC) |
| • GCC Education Services | • Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights (CRER) |
| • GCC Social Work/ Adult Protection Committee | • Scottish Refugee Council |
| • GCC Corporate Policy | • Equality Network/Scottish Trans |
| • Police Scotland | • Glasgow Disability Alliance |
| • British Transport Police (Glasgow) | • The Advocacy Project |
| • Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Services (COPFS) | • The Advisory Group |
| • Scottish Fire and Rescue Service | • Scotrail |
| | • Health and Social Care Partnership |

- 1.6 The HCWG has been chaired by Cllr Elaine McSporran since January 2023.

2 Hate Crime Awareness Week – 10 – 17 October 2026

- 2.1 Planning and delivery of the campaign will commence following initial conversations with Police Scotland and partners, with latest discussions with HCWG members at meeting of 25 August. The current landscape, including

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the frequency and intensity of ongoing protests, heightened public discourse, and broader issues affecting community cohesion, will require a careful and proportionate approach. The campaign will balance the need to raise awareness of hate-related issues with the need to avoid inadvertently inflaming tensions or contributing to further polarisation.

2.2 The 2026 programme will aim to prioritise:

- Positive narratives that promote inclusion and belonging
- Stronger partnership delivery and community co-production
- Visible improvements to reporting pathways and support for victims.

3 **Glasgow Partners' Conference. Building Resilience: Communities, Cohesion and Shared Responsibility.**

3.1 On 2 June 2026, over 100 representatives from more than 40 organisations across statutory, public, third, and community sectors attended the Glasgow Hate Crime Working Group conference at the Glasgow International Arena, focusing on strengthening community cohesion and collective responses to hate and prejudice.

The event combined expert input with practitioner led workshops, providing a robust evidence base, on current challenges affecting communities across Glasgow.

3.2 **Key findings from the conference highlight that:**

- **Perceptions of safety are declining for some communities**, shaped by media narratives, online environments, and wider societal events, often leading to changes in behaviour such as avoiding some public spaces and transport.
- **Hate incidents are significantly underreported**, particularly where they fall below the criminal threshold, but still have a cumulative impact on individuals and communities.
- **Trust in institutions is fragile**, with concerns around limited visible outcomes, inconsistent engagement, and lack of feedback following reporting.
- **Public transport and public spaces are key areas of concern**, identified as common settings for incidents and environments where individuals feel unsafe.
- **Online hate and misinformation are increasing**, shaping perceptions, amplifying division, and influencing behaviour negatively.
- The conference reinforced the need for coordinated, prevention focused and partnership led approaches, underpinned by community co-production,

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improved reporting and coordinated communication, and sustained investment in building trust and confidence.

The findings provide a strong evidence base to inform the next phase of HCWG delivery and support targeted, coordinated action across the Council and wider partnership.

4 Assessment of Community Cohesion Risk and Current Status

- 4.1 Community cohesion in Glasgow is currently under increased and sustained pressure, with a heightened risk of further deterioration if emerging tensions are not addressed early and collectively. The June Partners' Conference identified declining perceptions of safety, fragile trust in institutions, underreporting of hate-related incidents, and the growing influence of online hate, misinformation, and wider societal events.
- 4.2 More recent anti-Muslim and anti-immigration protests, reports of intimidation and targeted hostility, and concerns raised by community and partner organisations indicate that some of these risks are becoming more visible and localised. While there is no apparent evidence at present of wider breakdown in community relations across Glasgow, there is a credible risk that repeated protests, intimidation, misinformation, and perceived inconsistency in institutional responses could increase fear, reinforce division and reduce trust and confidence amongst affected communities.
- 4.3 The current position should therefore be regarded as **heightened but manageable**, requiring continued monitoring, proactive reassurance, early intervention, clear and coordinated communications, and partnership action to prevent localised tensions from developing into sustained community division.
- 4.4 In order to positively contribute to community cohesion, the Hate Crime Working Group will aim to focus on the following.
 - Deliver a positive and inclusive Hate Crime Awareness Week 2026 campaign.
 - Progress meaningful actions within the HCWG Action Plan.
 - Aim to strengthen community engagement in identified areas of tension.
 - Improve reporting pathways and victim support, with partner coordination.
 - Continue monitoring community tension indicators and emerging risks.
- 4.5 Partners will continue to work collectively through existing community safety, cohesion, and community engagement arrangements. Activity includes monitoring tensions, sharing information, providing reassurance to affected communities, and coordinating communications where appropriate.

5 Recommendations

- To note the work of the Hate Crime Working Group.
- To note Glasgow Partners Conference feedback.
- To note current community cohesion challenges.

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