

Template Letter to MP Support for Scrapping Non-Crime Hate Incidents (NCHIs)

[Your Name]
[Your Address]
[City, Postcode]
[Email Address]

[Date]

[MP's Name]
House of Commons
London, SW1A 0AA

Dear [MP's Name],

Subject: Support for Scrapping Non-Crime Hate Incidents (NCHIs)

I am writing to urge your support for the Opposition's amendment to the Crime and Policing Bill, which seeks to abolish the recording of non-crime hate incidents (NCHIs). This practice, introduced by the College of Policing in 2014, has not only strained police resources but has disproportionately harmed women advocating for women's rights, particularly in high-profile legal battles over the definition of "woman."

The Free Speech Union, through Freedom of Information (FOI) requests, revealed that over 250,000 NCHIs have been recorded in England and Wales since 2014—an average of 62 per day (Free Speech Union, 2023). This diverts police attention from solving actual crimes, with data from the Home Office showing that only 6.7% of recorded crimes in 2022/23 resulted in a charge or summons (Home Office, 2023). Investigating "hurty words" instead of serious offenses undermines public safety and police efficacy.

NCHIs are recorded when someone is accused of a "hate crime" without evidence of criminality. Examples include trivial cases, such as a Bedfordshire man reported for whistling the Bob the Builder theme tune at his neighbour (The Telegraph, 2021). Such records can appear on enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks, potentially barring individuals from jobs like teaching or volunteering with organisations like the Samaritans. Alarming, NCHIs recorded against children persist into adulthood, unlike cautions for actual crimes, which are typically expunged at 18 (College of Policing, 2014). Women defending women's rights have been particularly targeted by NCHIs, especially amid debates over the definition of "woman" in cases like *For Women Scotland v. Scottish Ministers* (2022), which reached the UK Supreme

Court. Transgender rights activists have frequently reported women's rights advocates, such as J.K. Rowling and Allison Bailey, for expressing gender-critical views, leading to NCHI records.

For instance, Allison Bailey, a barrister, faced an NCHI investigation after tweeting about biological sex, which she claimed harmed her professional reputation (The Times, 2022). Similarly, Maya Forstater, a prominent gender-critical feminist, faced employment repercussions partly due to NCHI-related scrutiny of her public statements (Forstater v. CGD Europe, 2021). These cases illustrate how NCHIs can silence women advocating for sex-based rights, chilling free speech on issues central to legal and societal debates.

In 2023, then-Home Secretary Suella Braverman introduced a statutory instrument to encourage police to apply "common sense" in recording NCHIs, discouraging the logging of trivial incidents (Home Office, 2023). However, FOI data from the Free Speech Union shows this guidance has been widely ignored, with Staffordshire Police recording a 140% increase in NCHIs since 2023 (Free Speech Union, 2024). This suggests the current framework is ineffective and ripe for reform.

Defenders of NCHIs argue they provide intelligence to prevent escalating community tensions. Yet, a 2023 investigation by The Telegraph found that major police forces, including the Metropolitan Police, Greater Manchester Police, and West Midlands Police, conduct no meaningful analysis of NCHI data (The Telegraph, 2023). The Opposition's amendment addresses this by allowing police to record hate-related reports only when they aid crime detection or prevention, subject to approval by a Superintendent or above. Crucially, these records would not be labeled NCHIs and would not appear on enhanced DBS checks, protecting individuals' livelihoods and free expression. The impact on women's rights advocates underscores the urgency of reform. NCHIs have been weaponised to intimidate women like Rowling, Bailey, and Forstater, who face harassment and professional penalties for defending sex-based rights in court and public discourse. This not only stifles debate but undermines the democratic process surrounding landmark cases on the legal definition of "woman."

As my MP, I urge you to support this amendment. The NCHI regime wastes police resources and unfairly penalises free speech, particularly for women defending their rights. Let us redirect police efforts to tackling crime and protecting our communities.

Yours sincerely,

[Your Full Name]

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