

You also need to have reported the crime to the police as soon as reasonably possible, but you don't need anyone to have been convicted. People with certain unspent criminal convictions cannot receive an award. To work out if a conviction is unspent you can visit:

www.unlock.org.uk.

Hardship fund

There is a Government fund for people in low paid work who need time off because they've experienced a violent crime. It is available if you have had to take at least seven days off work because of the crime and cannot get sick pay. To apply, you normally need to have reported the crime to police within 48 hours. You then need to apply for financial help within eight weeks of the crime happening. People with unspent convictions cannot usually get an award. You can apply through Victim Support at:

www.victimsupport.org.uk/help-victims/practical-information/hardship-fund.

Help in Wales

The Discretionary Assistance Fund can give an Emergency Assistance Payment to help cover the costs of replacing stolen or damaged items or general living costs that you can't afford after an emergency or disaster. It can also provide an Individual Assistance Payment to help people on certain types of welfare benefit with costs in order to ease exceptional pressures, such as moving home after a period of abuse. For details visit:

<http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/communities/debt/discretionary-assistance-fund/?lang=en>.

Help in Scotland

The Scottish Welfare Fund allows councils to offer a Crisis Grant to anyone facing a disaster or emergency situation. It can also offer a Community Care Grant to help people under exceptional pressure with one-off costs, such as getting a cooker or washing machine if they have had to move after a period of abuse. For details visit:

www.gov.scot/Topics/People/fairerscotland/scottishwelfarefund.

Help in England

In England, the type of help available varies according to where you live. Check with your local council to see if there is any assistance they can offer you.

Support from charities

There are hundreds of small charities that give money to people in need. Each has different rules about who it can help, for instance, people who have done a certain job, live in a certain area or have a specific health need. To look for grants you might be eligible for, visit:

www.turn2us.org.uk/Find-Benefits-Grants.

Many areas have foodbanks to help people who are struggling financially. You usually need a voucher to go to one. These are given out by GPs, social workers and charities such as Citizens Advice. Most of them are run by the Trussell Trust. You can use their website to find out if there is one near you: www.trusselltrust.org.

This information sheet was produced by Galop, an LGBT anti-violence charity providing support, advice and advocacy to people facing hate crime, domestic abuse or sexual violence. It is a part of a series of 17 resources on hate crime for LGBT people and service providers, created on behalf of the National LGBT Hate Crime Partnership. Other useful information sheets include:

1. Glossary of Terms Relating to Hate Crime
2. Diary Sheets and Guidance on Keeping a Written Record of Hate Crime
3. Hate Crime Laws: A Guide for LGBT People
4. LGBT Hate Crime and Emergency Accommodation
5. Non-Emergency Housing Options for LGBT People Facing Hate Crime
7. Talking to your Children about Bullying and Hate Crime: Advice for LGBT Parents
10. Tackling Biphobia: A Guide for Safety Services
11. Tackling Transphobia: A Guide for Safety Services
12. Complaints to Statutory Agencies: A Guide for Advice Workers

Find out about our work at www.galop.org.uk and www.lgbthatecrime.org.uk

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