
New challenges in tackling hate crime in UK

Dr Roxana Barbulescu

School of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Leeds

r.Barbulescu@leeds.ac.uk

Presentation delivered for the second working session of the Commission on Diversity in the North Hate Crime, 23rd of January 2018



Outline

- Defining hate crime
- Methodologies to monitor and to measure hate crime
- Statistics on hate crime
- Online hate crime: is it different from traditional hate crime?
- Brexit and hate crime
- Geographical trends in hate crime: ***the North***

Definitions and measures of hate crime

Hate crime is monitored by the Police under 5 central strands (not all protected categories are monitored with most notable absences hate crime by age and gender).

- *race or ethnicity*
- *religion or beliefs*
- sexual orientation
- disability
- transgender identity

Race hate crime can include any group defined by race, colour, nationality or ethnic or national origin, including countries within the UK, and Gypsy or Irish Travellers. It automatically includes a person who is targeted because they are an asylum seeker or refugee as this is intrinsically linked to their ethnicity and origins.

Measures of hate crime

(1) National statistics:

- Regular reports for England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland
- In 2014, the data collected by the police on hate crime was reviewed and deemed of lower than required standard for designation as National statistics. UK Statistics Authority has publish a list of requirement to regain National Statistics accreditation. Home Office Data Hub is part of this process.
- New code of practice to collect this data implemented in the last two years, this lead to an increase in stats.

(2) Population surveys/Crime Survey in England and Wales

(3) Charities -> for example Stop Hate UK -> app

*However, these measures do worst in measuring (and indeed monitoring) **hate crime online**...which is also currently redefined as a penalty. The former UK Justice Secretary Chris Grayling announced plans to increase the maximum sentence for online abusive and hateful content from 6 to 24 months.*

Statistical trends for England and Wales

- Increase in hate crime compared with previous years and across all monitored stands

62,685 (78%) were race crimes,

11% sexual orientation,

7% disability,

7% religious

2% transgender crime.

It is possible for a hate crime offence to have more than one motivating factor which is why the above numbers sum to more than 80,393 and 100 per cent.

*Numbers and percentages***England and Wales, recorded crime**

Hate crime strand	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	% change 2015/16 to 2016/17
Race	35,944	35,845	37,575	42,862	49,419	62,685	27
Religion	1,618	1,572	2,264	3,293	4,400	5,949	35
Sexual orientation	4,345	4,241	4,588	5,591	7,194	9,157	27
Disability	1,748	1,911	2,020	2,515	3,629	5,558	53
Transgender	313	364	559	607	858	1,248	45
Total number of motivating factors	43,968	43,933	47,006	54,868	65,500	84,597	29
Total number of offences	N/A	42,255	44,577	52,465	62,518	80,393	29

Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office.

See Bulletin Table 2 for detailed footnotes.

Table B1: Online hate crimes recorded by the police, by monitored strand, 2016/17

<i>Numbers and percentages</i>	England and Wales, recorded crime	
	Number of online hate crimes	% of all hate crimes
Hate crime strand		
Race	671	2
Religion	132	3
Sexual orientation	199	3
Disability	140	4
Transgender	29	4
Total number of motivating factors ²	1,171	2
Total number of offences	1,067	2

Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

Notes: Figures are based on data from 23 police forces.

Table B2: Breakdown of online hate crimes and overall hate crime by monitored hate crime strand, 2016/17

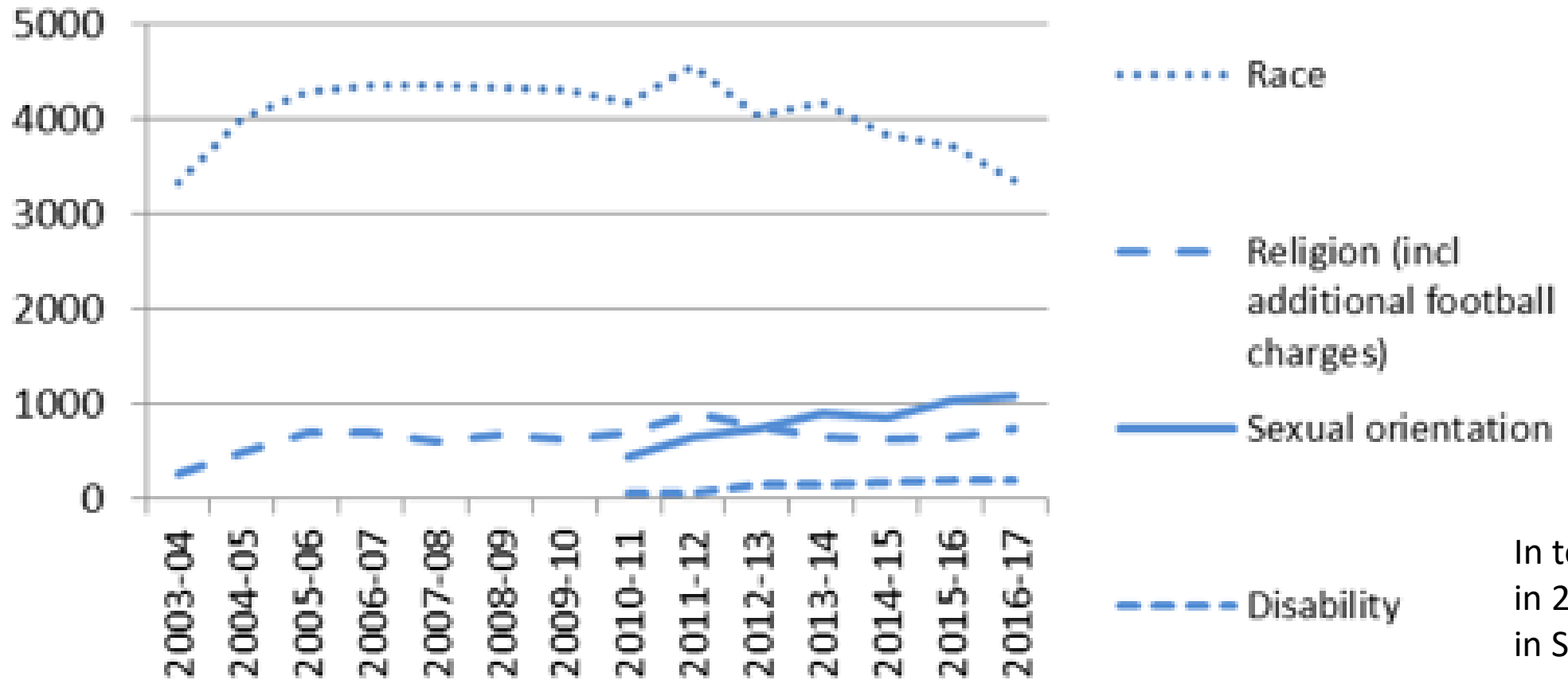
<i>Percentages</i>	England and Wales, recorded crime	
	Online hate crime	All hate crime
Racial	63	79
Sexual Orientation	19	11
Disability	13	6
Religion	12	8
Transgender	3	1

Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

Notes: Figures are based on data from 23 police forces.

Hate crime in Scotland

Source: Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) Operational Database 2010-2017



In total 3,349 in 2016/2017 in Scotland.

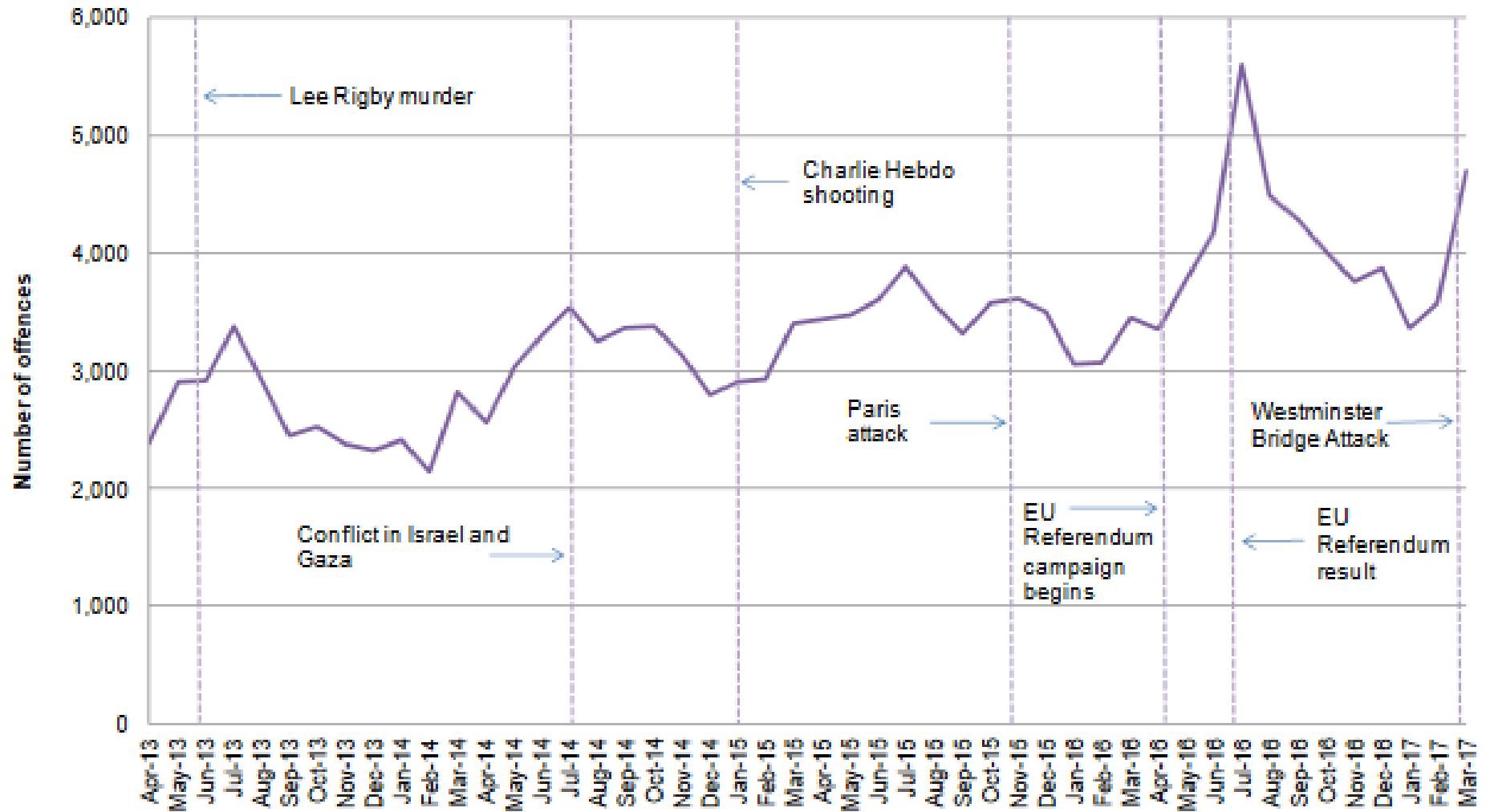
Hate motivated statistics in Northern Ireland

- Within NI there are six strands of hate motivation that are monitored; Race, Homophobia (sexual orientation), **Sectarianism**, Faith/religion (non sectarian), Disability and Transphobia.
- In 2017 the number of hate motivated crimes based on race surpassed for the first time the number of sectarianism.

Race motivated crimes in 2016/2017 1714 slight increase 1400 in 2004

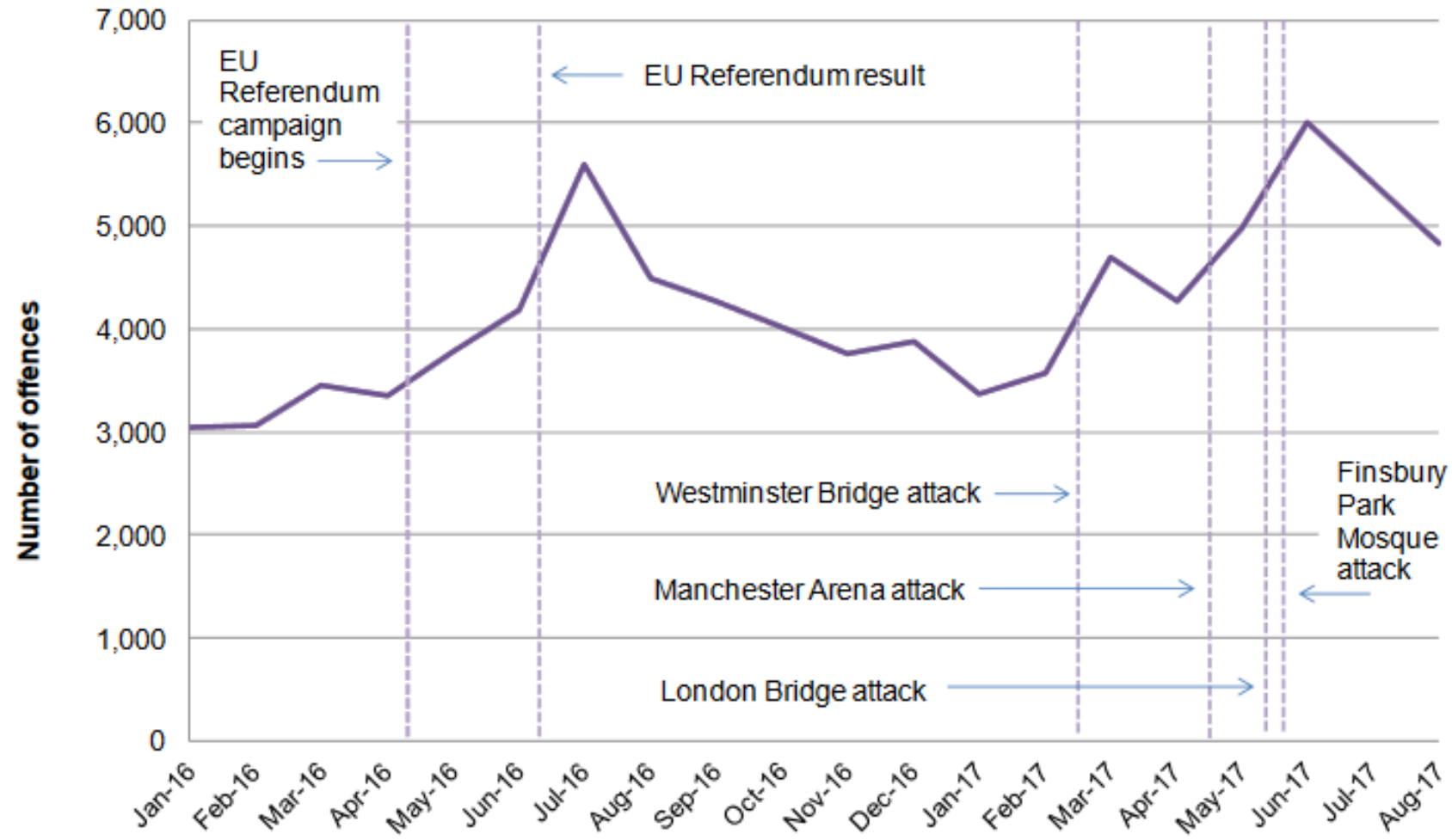
Sectarianism motivated crimes in the same year 1680 (reduced to half since 2004)

Brexit and hate crime (England and Wales)



Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

Number of racially or religiously aggravated offences recorded by the police, January 2016 to August 2017



Events as triggers for hate crime

- Research focuses on hate crime and terrorism.

In the United Kingdom, Hanes and Machin (2014) found significant increases in hate crimes reporting linked with particular event in specific following 9/11 and 7/7. Hanes and Machin (2014) looked at four police force areas in England with sizable Asian/Arab populations. They found significant increases in hate crimes against Asians and Arabs that occurred almost immediately in the wake of both terror attacks, which subsequently decayed, but remained at higher than pre-attack levels a year later.
- The EU referendum is unique as it has a distinctive effect before the actual voting day as it announced in February 2016, campaign started in April 2016, the results were announced on 24th of June 2016.
- Only 13 % of the offenders were charged summonsed, in 48% of the cases, the offender remains unidentified at the end of the investigation.

Geographical trends in hate crime: *the North*

West Yorkshire Police:

In 2016/17 (April 2016-March 2017) there were 5,899 hate reports to the police and of these 5,223 were recorded as hate crimes.

An overall increase from 2015/2016 of % and the annual increase is stable in recent years.

- 260 suspects had been involved in one or more other hate incidents in the previous twelve months.
- 16.0% outcomes resulting in a police action against the suspect

Police and Crime Commissioner: extraordinary Hate Crime grant in 2015/16 for Victim Support Services

Social profile of victims and suspects in West Yorkshire

The victim

male (60 %) under 50 years of age (85%), Asian (45%)

The suspect

Male (70%) under 30 years of age (55%) white British (50%).

Source: West Yorkshire Police Hate Crime Update 2017

https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/media/132098/07_hate_crime_update_august_2017.pdf



The Commission on Diversity in the North

work session two: Hate Crime

23rd January 2018