



Public Order Act 1986

1986 CHAPTER 64

[^{F1}PART 3A

HATRED AGAINST PERSONS ON RELIGIOUS GROUNDS [^{F1}OR GROUNDS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION]

Acts intended to stir up religious hatred [^{F1}or hatred on the grounds of sexual orientation]

[^{F1}29B Use of words or behaviour or display of written material

- (1) A person who uses threatening words or behaviour, or displays any written material which is threatening, is guilty of an offence if he intends thereby to stir up religious hatred [^{F2}or hatred on the grounds of sexual orientation].
- (2) An offence under this section may be committed in a public or a private place, except that no offence is committed where the words or behaviour are used, or the written material is displayed, by a person inside a dwelling and are not heard or seen except by other persons in that or another dwelling.
- (3) ^{F3}
- (4) In proceedings for an offence under this section it is a defence for the accused to prove that he was inside a dwelling and had no reason to believe that the words or behaviour used, or the written material displayed, would be heard or seen by a person outside that or any other dwelling.
- (5) This section does not apply to words or behaviour used, or written material displayed, solely for the purpose of being included in a programme service.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** Pt. 3A inserted (E.W.) (1.10.2007 except so far as relating to the insertion of ss. 29B(3), 29H(2), 29I(2) (b)(4)) by [Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006 \(c. 1\), ss. 1, 3\(2\), Sch.](#); S.I. 2007/2490, [art. 2](#)
- F2** Words in s. 29B(1) inserted (23.3.2010) by [Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 \(c. 4\), ss. 74, 153\(7\), Sch. 16 para. 6\(2\)](#); S.I. 2010/712, [art. 2\(d\)](#)

Changes to legislation: Public Order Act 1986, Section 29B is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) [View outstanding changes](#)

F3 S. 29B(3) repealed (8.5.2008) by Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 (c. 4), ss. 74, 149, 153(1)(j), Sch. 16 para. 6(3), **Sch. 28 Pt. 5**

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 4B inserted by [2023 c. 47 s. 1](#)