



Sentencing Act 2020

2020 CHAPTER 17

SECOND GROUP OF PARTS Provisions applying to sentencing courts generally

PART 4

EXERCISE OF COURT'S DISCRETION

CHAPTER 3

SERIOUSNESS AND DETERMINING SENTENCE

Aggravating factors

66 Hostility

- (1) This section applies where a court is considering the seriousness of an offence which is aggravated by—
- racial hostility,
 - religious hostility,
 - hostility related to disability,
 - hostility related to sexual orientation, or
 - hostility related to transgender identity.

This is subject to subsection (3).

- (2) The court—
- must treat the fact that the offence is aggravated by hostility of any of those types as an aggravating factor, and
 - must state in open court that the offence is so aggravated.
- (3) So far as it relates to racial and religious hostility, this section does not apply in relation to an offence under sections 29 to 32 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (racially or religiously aggravated offences).

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

- (4) For the purposes of this section, an offence is aggravated by hostility of one of the kinds mentioned in subsection (1) if—
- (a) at the time of committing the offence, or immediately before or after doing so, the offender demonstrated towards the victim of the offence hostility based on—
 - (i) the victim's membership (or presumed membership) of a racial group,
 - (ii) the victim's membership (or presumed membership) of a religious group,
 - (iii) a disability (or presumed disability) of the victim,
 - (iv) the sexual orientation (or presumed sexual orientation) of the victim, or (as the case may be)
 - (v) the victim being (or being presumed to be) transgender, or
 - (b) the offence was motivated (wholly or partly) by—
 - (i) hostility towards members of a racial group based on their membership of that group,
 - (ii) hostility towards members of a religious group based on their membership of that group,
 - (iii) hostility towards persons who have a disability or a particular disability,
 - (iv) hostility towards persons who are of a particular sexual orientation, or (as the case may be)
 - (v) hostility towards persons who are transgender.
- (5) For the purposes of paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (4), it is immaterial whether or not the offender's hostility is also based, to any extent, on any other factor not mentioned in that paragraph.
- (6) In this section—
- (a) references to a racial group are to a group of persons defined by reference to race, colour, nationality (including citizenship) or ethnic or national origins;
 - (b) references to a religious group are to a group of persons defined by reference to religious belief or lack of religious belief;
 - (c) "membership" in relation to a racial or religious group, includes association with members of that group;
 - (d) "disability" means any physical or mental impairment;
 - (e) references to being transgender include references to being transsexual, or undergoing, proposing to undergo or having undergone a process or part of a process of gender reassignment;
 - (f) "presumed" means presumed by the offender.