



## UK LAWS, RULES AND CUSTOMS

Here are some UK laws, rules and customs you need to know about.

We have included some things because they are serious and important. We have included other less important things because they are mistakes that people often make that can easily cause you problems if you don't know about them.

### VERY IMPORTANT THINGS

#### Domestic abuse

Domestic abuse means any mistreatment in a couple or a family.

It includes emotional abuse, threats, physical abuse and sexual abuse.

A person does NOT have a duty to obey their partner. Controlling a partner's behaviour is a form of domestic abuse.

Domestic abuse is ILLEGAL. It is a crime.

Perpetrators may be sent to prison.

Victims can get help: Helpline for women: 0808 2000 247, Helpline for men: 0808 8010 327, more information here: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/getting-help-for-domestic-violence/>

#### Sexual relationships and marriage

Sexual abuse is any sexual touching without the other person's consent.

Forcing someone to have sex when they do not want sex is rape.

A husband forcing their wife to have sex without consent, is also rape.

Sexual touching of any child under 16 is abuse, even if the child consents.

Sexual abuse is ILLEGAL. It is a crime.

Perpetrators may be sent to prison.

## Sexual harassment

Sexual harassment includes: staring at women, calling out or whistling, following them, making sexual comments, or comments on their appearance. This is still true when women are wearing tight or scanty clothes.

Sexual harassment is always offensive. It may also cause distress or fear. In some cases it is also ILLEGAL, and a crime.

## Men and children

An adult man talking to a child not known to them may be seen as behaviour which is suspicious or offensive.

Sexual behavior with any child under 16 is ILLEGAL, even if the child consents.

Watching any pornography that includes images of someone under 18 (or who looks like they might be under 18) is ILLEGAL in the UK. It is a crime. Prison sentences are often long.

## Hate crime

A hate crime is harmful behaviour, verbal, physical, or online, that targets a person because of characteristics like race, religion, nationality, disability, gender identity. This is ILLEGAL.

Please read our information sheet about hate crime.

[https://www.rmsg.co.uk/\\_files/ugd/78478d\\_9b962b194ac84b798d570652c46b3936.pdf](https://www.rmsg.co.uk/_files/ugd/78478d_9b962b194ac84b798d570652c46b3936.pdf)

## SOME COMMON MINOR MISTAKES

### Cigarette ends and litter

Dropping cigarette ends and litter in the street: ILLEGAL.

Many people are fined for this.

### TVs

Watching live TV channels or BBC iPlayer without a licence: ILLEGAL.

A licence costs £174.50. Fine: up to £1,000

Detector drive round the streets to find people watching without a licence.

### Trains

Getting on a train without a valid ticket is ILLEGAL.

Many people are fined for this.

## Drop-in sessions at Haslingden Community Link

Smoking in Community Link car park is not allowed.

If you persist in doing this, you will be asked to leave.

## Saying please and thank you

In the UK, it is usual to say please whenever you ask for anything, even something small (e.g. 'Please may I have...' NOT 'I want...')

It is usual to say thank you for any things someone gives you, even if just some small information.

If you forget please or thank you, people may sometimes feel you are being disrespectful.



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