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## Risk control

### Taking Pride in Zebra Crossings



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# Taking Pride in Zebra Crossings

## Overview

According to the BBC, homophobic hate crimes in London increased by 55% between 2015 and 2019, with 3,111 hate crimes based upon sexual orientation recorded for London in the twelve months to October 2019.<sup>1</sup>

If we then consider Stonewall's estimation that four in five anti-LGBT+ hate crimes and incidents go unreported then the true reality for LGBT+ people is even more challenging than the official statistics may suggest.<sup>2</sup>

It may be correct that significant progress has been made within the UK over the past two decades in addressing anti-LGBT+ discrimination and bullying, however, the rather sobering statistics presented suggest that there is still a long way to go.

## Committing to the Cause

Organisations around the world have found many ways to demonstrate their commitment to inclusiveness and the LGBT+ cause, including:

- Taking part in local Pride parades and LGBT+ events throughout the year
- Giving LGBT+ employees a platform to share their stories with the broader workforce
- Highlighting the accomplishments of LGBT+ employees
- Including Pride colours in organisational branding
- Ensuring strong LGBT+ representation on management teams
- Displaying the Pride colours in social and public-facing areas

A method that some Local Authorities have chosen to adopt to visibly demonstrate their commitment to inclusiveness is through the repainting of zebra crossings in the rainbow colours of the Pride Flag or Progress Pride Flag. The Progress Pride Flag also includes black and brown stripes to represent the marginalised LGBT+ communities of colour, along with the colours pink, light blue and white, which are used on the Trans Pride Flag.

A quick internet search can identify a rising number of these initiatives being implemented globally, including across the UK. Some of these initiatives install temporary colour schemes to celebrate the annual Pride Month, whereas others are more permanent in nature

Promoting LGBT+ equality and inclusiveness is without doubt the responsibility of every person and every organisation. However, this guidance note seeks to present factors for consideration to any Local Authority currently contemplating the installation of zebra crossings in the rainbow colours of the Pride flag or one of the many variations.

## Regulation

One of the principal regulations to consider in respect of the installation of zebra crossings on the public highway is The Zebra, Pelican and Puffin Pedestrian Crossings Regulations and General Directions 1997 (the Regulations).<sup>3</sup>

In summary, the Regulations seek to prescribe standards for the construction and use of road crossings within the UK, specifying standards for traffic and warning signs, road markings, crossing dimensions, lighting and the behaviour of both motorists and pedestrians when approaching or using a crossing.

For example, Regulation 25 states: "Every pedestrian, if he is on the carriageway within the limits of a Zebra crossing, which is not for the time being controlled by a constable in uniform or traffic warden, before any part of a vehicle has entered those limits, shall have precedence within those limits over that vehicle and the driver of the vehicle shall accord such precedence to any such pedestrian."

This point is endorsed within the Highway Code which states that motorists "MUST give way when a pedestrian has moved onto a crossing."<sup>4</sup>

Of course, for a driver to give way in accordance with expectations, they must first be paying attention, recognise that they are approaching a designated crossing and also identify pedestrians who are either exhibiting an intention to use the crossing or who are indeed in the act of using it.

Sadly, there are still a high number of road traffic collisions involving pedestrians and vehicles on the UK's roads.

According to statistics published by the Department of Transport there were 12,972 reported casualties associated with pedestrians being struck by vehicles in the UK in 2019<sup>5</sup>. Of these incidents, there were 5,814 serious injuries and 470 fatalities.



## References

- 1 BBC, 2020. Call for law change over increase in homophobic hate crimes in London. Accessed 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021.  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-51049336>
- 2 Stonewall, 2017. LGBT in Britain: Hate Crime and Discrimination. Accessed 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021.  
[https://www.stonewall.org.uk/system/files/lgbt\\_in\\_britain\\_hate\\_crime.pdf](https://www.stonewall.org.uk/system/files/lgbt_in_britain_hate_crime.pdf)
- 3 The Zebra, Pelican and Puffin Pedestrian Crossings Regulations and General Directions 1997.  
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1997/2400/contents/made>
- 4 The Highway Code. Rules for Pedestrians (19). Accessed 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021.  
<https://www.highwaycodeuk.co.uk/pedestrian-crossings.html>
- 5 Department of Transport, Reported Road Accidents Great Britain Annual Report 2019. RAS40004. Reported accidents, vehicle user and pedestrian casualties by severity and combination of vehicles involved. Accessed 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021.  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/ras40-reported-accidents-vehicles-and-casualties>
- 6 The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016.  
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2016/362/contents/made>
- 7 Local Transport Note 2/95 The Design of Pedestrian Crossings. Accessed 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021.  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/330214/ltn-2-95\\_pedestrian-crossings.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/330214/ltn-2-95_pedestrian-crossings.pdf)

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## Get in touch

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