

*These notes refer to the Racial and Religious Hatred Act  
2006 (c.1) which received Royal Assent on 16 February 2006*

# **RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS HATRED ACT 2006**

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## **EXPLANATORY NOTES**

### **SUMMARY**

3. The Act amends the Public Order Act 1986 (“the 1986 Act”) by creating new offences of stirring up hatred against persons on religious grounds and amends section 24A of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 so that the powers of citizens arrest do not apply to the offences of stirring up religious and racial hatred.
4. The new offences apply to the use of words or behaviour or display of written material (new section 29B), publishing or distributing written material (new section 29C), the public performance of a play (new section 29D), distributing, showing or playing a recording (new section 29E), broadcasting or including a programme in a programme service (new section 29F) and the possession of written materials or recordings with a view to display, publication, distribution or inclusion in a programme service (new section 29G). For each offence the words, behaviour, written material, recordings or programmes must be threatening and intended to stir up religious hatred. Religious hatred is defined as hatred against a group of persons defined by reference to religious belief or lack of religious belief.