Review of: "Understanding the Patterns of Hate Incidents and Reporting Attitudes at a UK University"

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The research topic is of great interest and timely.

I do have some methodological and statistical concerns. One can only wonder about the questions in the survey and whether the questions are sufficient to address the intended research questions. A copy of the questionnaire (perhaps as supplementary material) would help the reader understand this manuscript better but could also benefit the wider community.

The authors quite rightly exercise caution with limitations of inference due to the study design, which is quite inherent in studies of this type. However, they do take a controversial stance, citing Gorard 2016, and stating that the sample will not be analysed statistically, and p-values will not be used at all in helping to interpret the data. There is a substantial literature on this controversy, and for that reason, I will keep this comment brief. The authors claim, "any test of significance is not appropriate here because the sample is not representative". If that is the case, are they saying that all of the simple percentages given in the paper are not representative? (i.e., biased?). The authors do make comparisons and hence inferences subjectively, but it is not clear if other analysts would make the same subjective appraisals.

The authors also use logistic regression modelling. There is no indication of how good these models are (the predictive statements given do not indicate goodness-of-fit). The two models given use all available data. The model on the likelihood of reporting a hate incident appears particularly problematic; this model includes the data on those (the majority) who have not experienced a hate incident and therefore presumably are not in a position to report any such incident. Should this second model be confined to those who have experienced a hate incident? (and only to those).

The authors write, "in this study, the analysis will take into account the missing data," but it is not clear how this was done and whether this presents a problem.

I would recommend that the team reconsider the framework and the analysis of the data, especially given the importance of the work.