

Unit 1 Topic 1.6 Page 41

Activity: Discussion

Reasons for under-reporting crime

Learning objective

At the end of this activity you should be able to:

- assess the reasons for the under-reporting of crime and its impact on crime statistics.

A. Work in a small group.

1. Using the reasons given on page 41 of your textbook for the **under-reporting of crime by victims and/or witnesses**, plus any other reasons that you think might apply, decide why the following offences might not be reported to the police:

- soliciting for prostitution
- vandalism
- people trafficking
- possession of cannabis
- rape
- littering
- under-age sex
- burglary
- gang fights
- child abuse
- 'honour' crimes
- shopkeepers short-changing customers
- hacking bank accounts
- domestic violence.

2. Which of these offences do you think are least likely to be reported? Try to rank the crimes in order of their likelihood of being reported.

B. Working on your own, in your own words, briefly explain why under-reporting would make the crime statistics less valid.