



England Fan Jailed for Racial Abuse of Players Online

An England fan who took to social media to racially abuse three England footballers has been sent to prison.

As you may be aware, earlier this year, England got to the final of Euro 2020.

Unfortunately for England fans, the final was lost to Italy on penalties. Both the players and the fans were disappointed with the result.



Illustration: Sancho, Saka and Rashford.

their actions.

Chief Constable Mark Roberts of the NPCC said, "There are people out there who believe they can hide behind a social media profile... They need to think again".

Now, an individual has been **convicted** of racially abusing the players on social media. They will spend ten weeks in prison for the crime.

Elaine Cousins works for the CPS. She said, "There is absolutely no room in the game, nor elsewhere, for racism."

She went on to say, "I would like to thank the individual who reported this appalling hate crime". She

added, "I hope this prosecution goes some way in educating and **detering** people from posting hate on social media."

What is the CPS?

- **CPS stands for the Crown Prosecution Service. They look at evidence and decide if a case should go to court.**
- **They use information gathered by the police to **prosecute** criminals and work to make sure that the right person is prosecuted for a crime.**

Black players Jadon Sancho, Marcus Rashford and Bukayo Saka missed penalties. After the game, they started to receive **racial abuse** online.

All three players released statements shortly after the game. In response to the abuse, Saka said, "by driving out the hate by being kind to one another, we will win. Love always wins."

Other England footballers expressed support for their teammates.

Captain Harry Kane said on social media, "If you abuse anyone on social media you're not an England fan and we don't want you."

At the time, the UK Football Policing Unit received around 600 reports of racial abuse aimed at the three players. In August, the National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) announced that 11 people were arrested for

Glossary

prosecute	To take legal action against someone or something.
racial abuse	Offensive words or actions aimed at a person because of their skin colour or ethnicity.
convicted	To be found guilty of carrying out a crime.
detering	To stop others from doing the same thing.