

Clothes crimes.

Clothes can be comfortable and casual, smart and stylish, or colourful and eccentric. That's fine, but beware if what you're wearing is too different or daring. It isn't your personality or opinions,

but your appearance that can cause disapproval. Clothes, it seems, can sometimes provoke a strong reaction.

There are many examples of clothes which have attracted the attention of the law. The inventor of the top hat, for example, was arrested in London in 1797 for wearing a tall structure calculated to frighten timid people. People screamed and panicked when they saw it. Women have also caused controversy with their clothes. In 1926, the actress Marlene Dietrich wore a man's suit and tie in Paris and was warned that her clothes were causing offence. It wasn't until the sixties that trousers were accepted as part of a woman's wardrobe, even though women of all ages wear trousers these days. Miniskirts caused similar shock waves in the sixties because some people thought they were "immoral."



You may think that people are more open-minded now. But that isn't always true. Recent clothes 'criminals' were teenagers wearing fairly standard clothes. In Britain, young people wearing hooded sweatshirts were banned from some shopping centres because 'hoodies' are sometimes worn by criminals who want to hide their faces. But does that mean that all people who wear hoodies are criminals? It seems unfair and irresponsible to persecute people if they simply want to wear practical, comfortable clothes. And in the United States, it was baggy jeans that shocked the public. A popular fashion with hip hop fans is to wear very baggy jeans and show their underwear-an 'outrage' which was banned and became illegal in some American towns.

This probably wasn't because the clothes were indecent or immoral, but because some people thought that clothes style was typical of the disrespectful or criminal nature of some hip hop fans. Maybe the day will come when people will be judged on who they are and not on the clothes that they wear.



