

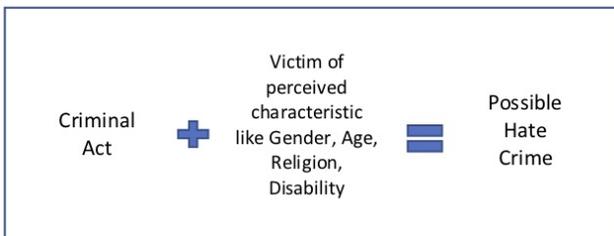
Hate Crimes in my Community



<https://pixabay.com/en/no-hate-word-letters-scrabble-2019922/>

What is a hate crime?

A hate crime is any crime or *attempted* crime against a person based on the person's race, nationality, religion, gender, disability, or sexual orientation. (1) (3)



Some examples include:

- Someone painted a racial slur on your home
- Someone hit you and said something about your religion or nationality
- Someone threatened you because of your sexual orientation (1)

What is the difference between a hate crime and a hate incident?

A hate incident has all of the same characteristics of a hate crime but does not include a criminal act. (1)

What do I do if I or someone I know has been impacted by a hate crime or incident?

If you believe you or someone you know has been the victim of a hate crime or a hate incident, there are steps you should take as soon as possible following the event.

1. Get medical help immediately if you are hurt.
2. If you need help from the police or the hospital, call 911.
3. Write down important details about the crime including the location, time, what occurred, and as many details as possible about the attacker.
 - a. Take special note of any words or symbols used by the perpetrator. These can provide details about any group affiliations the perpetrator may have.
 - b. What, if any, were the exact words used by the perpetrator? These may be words that don't make sense to you but they can provide important information to the police.
 - c. If possible, take pictures of yourself, your attacker, or anything else you think is important to show what happened.
4. File a police report.
 - a. As soon as you are able, contact the police to file a report about what happened.

- b. When you talk to the police, write down the responding police officer's name and badge number.
 - c. Make sure that the police officer files an incident report and ask for a copy of it.
 - d. If you believe the crime was because of discrimination, ask the officer to report it as such.
5. File a report with a civil rights group in your area. (1) (2)

Filing a police report can feel difficult, but doing so is an important step in making your community safer. Filing a report helps police officers make your community more secure and inclusive for everyone. You can ask for help from a community group you trust.

How can I access additional support for myself or a friend/family member?

Hate crimes and hate incidents can cause long-term trauma and distrust within a community. Reaching out for additional support is important. Mental health services from a local clinic or therapist may also help.

Contact the *Stop Hate Hotline* at 1-844-966-4283 for more information about reporting an incident or learning about support available in your community. After you hear the English message, stay on the line to hear information in Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean, Punjabi, and Vietnamese. If you speak a language not listed here, call the hotline with an interpreter and they will refer you to a partner agency that fits your needs.

Other Places to Report

- Communities Against Hate <https://communitiesagainsthate.org/report>.
- Southern Poverty Law Center <https://www.splcenter.org/report-hate>
- Anti-Defamation League <https://www.adl.org/take-action/report-an-incident>

Your report can help agencies track hate crimes and incidents in order to address trends and concerns around the country.

Learn More

- Anti-Defamation League <https://www.adl.org/what-we-do>
- Stop Hate Project <https://8449nohate.org/>
- Southern Poverty Law Center - Hatewatch <https://www.splcenter.org/hatewatch>
- Nebraska Appleseed Neappleseed.org
- ACLU of Nebraska Aclunebraska.org

Sources

1. "Responding to Hate: Information and Resources." *Anti-Defamation League*. New York, NY. 2017. Print.
2. "What to do if You've Been the Victim of a Hate Crime." *Human Rights Campaign*. <https://www.hrc.org/resources/what-to-do-if-youve-been-the-victim-of-a-hate-crime>. Accessed 2 April 2018.
3. "An Introduction to Hate Crime Laws." *Anti-Defamation League Plains States Region*. Omaha, NE. Print.