

Prevention of Bias/Hate Crimes Starts with You!



What is a Hate Crime?

**How Do I Report
a Hate Crime?**

**Why Should Hate Crimes
Be Reported?**

**Report Bias/Hate Crimes to:
D.C. Hate Crimes Hotline
202-727-0500**

WHAT IS A HATE CRIME?

A hate crime is a crime that is committed against a person because of prejudice or bias. Victims of hate crimes are singled out simply because of their perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, family responsibility, physical handicap, matriculation, or political affiliation. Examples of hate crimes include:

- Destruction of Property
- Cross Burnings
- Arson
- Vandalism
- Cemetery Desecration
- Physical Attack
- Verbal Abuse/Racial Slurs When Accompanied by Assaultive Behavior
- Painting of Swastikas and Other Hate Symbols
- Firebombing of Residences, Businesses and Houses of Worship



WHY HATE CRIMES MUST BE STOPPED



Unlike other crimes that target individuals, Bias-Related Acts have a tremendous effect on an entire community. When one person is targeted because of his race, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, or other characteristic, others in the community who were not the direct targets of the hate crime may also feel at risk. Tensions between different communities can also arise as a result of a hate crime.

**D.C. HATE CRIMES
HOTLINE**

202-727-0500

HOW DO I REPORT A HATE CRIME?

If you have been the victim of a hate crime, know of, or have witnessed a hate crime:

1. Call 911 or visit your local Metropolitan Police Department district station. Even if you do not have any information on the suspects or there is no physical injury or property damage, your report is important.
2. Call the Hate Crimes Hotline at (202) 727-0500, which has been established by the Metropolitan Police Department to assist victims of hate crimes. ***Callers can report incidents without having to give their names, addresses or other personal information.***
3. Contact local victim assistance agencies and human relations commissions, which are here to help you. A list of local victim service providers is on the back of this brochure.
4. Contact school security and the school administration if you are a student.
5. Preserve any evidence relating to the crime. Do not clean up any vandalism until the police arrive. Keep any letters, e-mails, answering machine tapes, hate literature, spray paint cans or symbolic objects used by hate groups.

WHY HATE CRIMES SHOULD BE REPORTED

Reporting the crime is an important step in stopping hate crimes and keeping them from escalating. A person who commits a hate crime cannot be brought to justice and held accountable for his or her acts if the crime is not reported. In addition, collecting accurate data on the number of hate crimes is one of the only ways in which police, prosecutors, elected officials and community organizations can determine the extent of the problem of hate crimes in the District of Columbia.



D.C. Hate Crimes Hotline

202-727-0500

Resources for Victims of Hate Crimes

<u>American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee</u> <i>legal@adc.org</i>	202-244-2990
<u>Anti-Defamation League</u> <i>www.adl.org/report_antisemitic.asirpt.asp</i>	202-452-8310
<u>Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center</u> <i>hotline@apalrc.org</i>	202-393-3572
<u>Crime Victim Compensation Program</u> <i>www.mpdc.dc.gov/serv/victims</i>	202-879-4216
<u>DC Office of Human Rights</u> <i>www.ohr@dc.gov</i>	202-727-4559
<u>FBI Civil Rights Squad</u>	202-278-2000
<u>MPD Asian Liaison Unit</u> <i>ktmsupa@mpdc.org</i>	202-535-2653
<u>MPD Latino Liaison Unit</u>	202-673-4445
<u>MPD Deaf & Hard of Hearing Unit TTY</u>	202-671-3350 202-671-2864
<u>MPD Gay & Lesbian Liaison Unit</u> <i>www.gaydc.net/gllu</i>	202-727-5427
<u>Office of the Attorney Gen. for DC, Neighborhood & Victim Services</u> <i>www.occ.dc.gov</i>	202-727-3500
<u>Sikh American Legal Defense & Education Fund (SALDEF)</u> <i>info@sikhmediawatch.org</i>	202-393-2700
<u>U.S. Park Police</u>	202-619-7105
<u>Victim Witness Assistance Unit U.S. Attorney's Office</u> <i>dc.outreach@usdoj.gov</i>	202-514-7130
<u>Washington Lawyer's Committee (Spanish Speaking)</u>	202-319-1000 Ext.121