

Law Enforcement Standing Against Hate

Presented by Not In Our Town and the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

STOP HATE PROJECT A Communities Against Hate Partner



This brochure is a collaboration between Not In Our Town and the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. The Lawyers' Committee is a partner in Communities Against Hate, a national coalition of organizations working to document hate and demand action.



Support for Victims: Raising effectively with victims and referring them for additional services, including applying for U Visas, as well as local community organizations and national support organizations such as the Lawyers' Committee's Stop Hate Project

Bias Motivation: Understanding the different burdens of prosecution, and promoting cooperation between agencies and prosecutors



Hate Crimes: Characteristics of a hate crime and updates on hate crime laws

Investigation: Investigative techniques and documentation procedures that empower prosecutors to consider hate crimes charges

Language: Communicating with diverse local communities



Commit to Robust Training

A broad, ongoing training curriculum can ensure officers are knowledgeable and prepared to respond to hate incidents and crimes and carry out preventive strategies. Research trainers in advance, to ensure they emphasize cultural competency and don't perpetuate stereotypes and misinformation. Important training topics include:

HATE CRIME

A criminal act motivated by hate or bias on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, or disability.

HATE CRIME STATUTES

Generally, hate crime laws create standalone criminal charges for hate crimes or penalty enhancements to existing crimes. Statutes require the prosecutor to prove that an underlying bias against a person's race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, or disability motivated the crime.

HATE CRIMES REPORTING GAP

The discrepancy between the number of actual hate crimes committed, the number of hate crimes reported to law enforcement, and the number of hate crimes officially reported to the FBI.

HATE CRIME LAWS

State hate crime laws provide authority to state and local law enforcement officials and prosecutors to investigate and prosecute hate crimes. Federal hate crimes laws provide authority to the FBI and federal prosecutors to investigate and prosecute hate crimes.

Improve Hate Crime Reporting

► The Hate Crimes Reporting Gap poses urgent challenges:

- Hate and bias crimes can escalate if not identified and addressed and
- Inadequate response to hate crimes can lead targeted populations to distrust law enforcement and civic institutions.

- Officers and prosecutors may need training to identify, investigate, and accurately report hate crimes and bias incidents.
 - **Establish** a culture, from top leadership to rank-and-file, that prioritizes a clear, decisive response to hate crimes, and invests in training and community outreach.
 - **Communicate** to officers, investigators, and the public that increased reporting can not only bring justice to victims and communities, but it can also strengthen community trust in law enforcement.

IN 2016

13,478

Law Enforcement Agencies

(88%) REPORTED

ZERO hate crimes

—FBI 2016 UCR Hate Crime Statistics

► Factors related to law enforcement reporting include:

- **UCR reporting to the federal government is voluntary.**
- Public officials may fear increased numbers reflect poorly on the community.

The Hate Crimes Reporting Gap



In 2015, the National Crime Victimization Survey conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics estimated that **207,880 hate crimes occurred** in the U.S. In the same year, the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Hate Crime Statistics show that only **5,850 were reported** by local law enforcement agencies.

Learn more at [Not In Our Town/NIOT.org](http://NotInOurTown/NIOT.org)

- **Most hate crimes are never reported to law enforcement.**
- Communities targeted for hate may not feel safe or comfortable reporting hate crimes.
- Long-standing distrust among some communities leads victims to believe law enforcement will be unwilling or unable to help.
- Immigrant communities may fear deportation or other consequences if they step forward.
- Victims who speak different languages or have disabilities may not report due to cumbersome, inaccessible hate crime reporting procedures.
- Individuals and targeted communities may fear retaliation if they report incidents.
 - **Demonstrate** a consistent commitment to protecting all members of the community, and communicate to the public that you take hate incidents and hate crimes seriously.
 - **Conduct** outreach to build trust with diverse populations and create partnerships with organizations that represent communities targeted for hate.
 - **Accept** reports of hate incidents as well as hate crimes.
 - **Promote** accessible and multi-lingual reporting procedures.



RESPOND VIGOROUSLY to hate and bias incidents

The message of a hate crime is that “people like you” are not welcome or safe here. Acts of vandalism or threats of violence send shockwaves of fear and uncertainty through the targeted community. A strong, consistent response:

- demonstrates support for victims and all members of the community;
- increases public safety; and
- helps prevent future hate crimes.

Easy, transparent reporting procedures encourage victims and other residents to reach out after an incident.

- Create and publicize a telephone hotline and online information about reporting.

► **FOR MORE TIPS AND RESOURCES GO TO: stophateaction.org**

FIVE THINGS LAW ENFORCEMENT CAN DO

1 Be Proactive in Community Outreach

Establish relationships with **communities likely to experience hate**. Recent statistics indicate that hate crimes are **most often motivated by race**, followed by religion and sexual orientation. Appoint liaisons to communities affected by hate, and partner with diverse organizations to build trust.

Engage **youth**. Promote appreciation for the diversity in the community, and make it clear that bullying, racial slurs, and vandalism are hate-fueled incidents with consequences.

2 Establish a Specialized Hate Crimes Unit

Designate at least one representative to work hand-in-hand with the District Attorney and the public to spot trends, serve as a friendly point of contact, and conduct outreach.

3 Form a Law Enforcement-Community Hate Crimes Task Force

A law enforcement-community coalition encourages the entire community to build trust outside of crisis situations and to work together to improve public safety and crime prevention.

4 Work closely with Victim Witness Units

Even when no perpetrator is identified, make referrals to victim witness units and community groups to make sure victims’ needs are addressed.

5 Support Officers in Recognizing and Reporting Hate Crimes

Law enforcement agencies can work with organizations like the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law to identify free or low cost training options to help law enforcement identify and accurately report hate crimes.

ONGOING Community Engagement

Hate crimes are not just a criminal justice problem, they are a community issue. All residents, including civic leaders, educators, faith leaders, labor groups, media, and people of every age can help – and law enforcement can play a vital role in educating and guiding the community forward.

Make a plan to promote a safe, inclusive community:

- **Implement** community policing strategies that emphasize partnerships and outreach;
- **Convene** with residents and community leaders on a regular basis;
- **Create** a public affairs campaign that reinforces the values of the community.

NOT IN OUR TOWN offers training and community engagement resources: www.niot.org

THE STOP HATE PROJECT offers free legal information and resources: www.8449nohate.org 1-844-NO-HATE

