

# COMMUNITY RESPONSE TOOLKIT

WHEN HATE GROUPS  
COME TO TOWN

Stop  
Hate  
Project



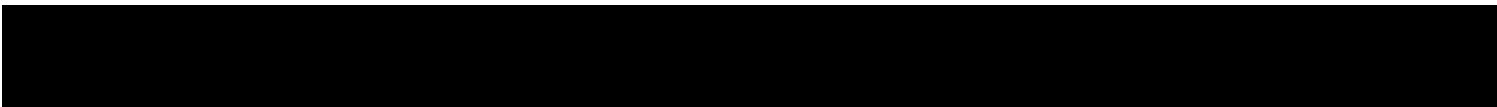
LAWYERS' COMMITTEE FOR  
CIVIL RIGHTS  
U N D E R L A W



## About Us

The Stop Hate Project works to strengthen the capacity of community leaders, law enforcement, and organizations around the country to combat hate by connecting these groups with established legal and social services resources. We also work with organizations and community members to create new resources to fill identified gaps. The Stop Hate Project operates the No Hate Hotline at 844-9-No-Hate (844-966-4283), where individuals and organizations can call to report an incident and obtain resources.

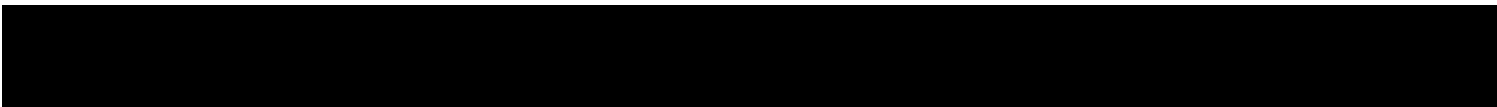
The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law's principal mission is to secure equal justice for all through the rule of law, targeting in particular the inequities confronting African Americans and other racial and ethnic minorities. The Lawyers' Committee is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization, formed in 1963 at the request of President John F. Kennedy to enlist the private bar's leadership and resources in combating racial discrimination and the resulting inequality of opportunity - work that continues to be vital today.





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## Introduction

Hate can affect every aspect of someone's life.

From homes being vandalized with racial slurs, to individuals being harassed on commutes and bullied in schools, to armed protestors hurling insults at worshipers on their way to pray, and individuals being violently attacked and even killed – hate is an everyday occurrence.

As we have seen an increase in hate crimes, we have also seen an increase in the number of active hate groups. Organizing at the grassroots level and on social media, hate groups have taken to recruiting on college campuses, hosting coordinated rallies across the country and organizing protests to object to progress made in removing hurtful relics of the past. These rallies come with messages of hate and exclusion that are aimed at provoking fear.

Despite the fact that this increase in hate activity is compounding the impact of ongoing discrimination in front-line communities, we have also seen a remarkable response to this increase in hate – the mobilization and outpouring of support from people across different communities.

This resource kit provides information on how communities can respond when hate groups host rallies in their towns, and leaflet their campuses or neighborhoods. It provides an overview of hate crime laws, background information on hate groups, the First Amendment, as well as action items for concerned citizens, and steps an individual or institution should take if they experience hate.

The toolkit is designed to complement and aid in your local work; it is for informational purposes only and does not contain legal advice. For additional information, you may call the No Hate Hotline at 844-9-No-Hate (844-966-4283) or visit [www.8449NoHate.org](http://www.8449NoHate.org).

## **Hate Crime Data Overview**

Statistics from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR) show that law enforcement reported a nearly five percent increase in reported hate crimes from 2015 to 2016 –the second consecutive increase since 2014.

Law enforcement's reporting of hate crimes the FBI is not mandatory, and the rates of agencies reporting hate crimes is notoriously low. Comparisons made by the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) reveal that an estimated over 250,000 hate crime victimizations occur every year in the United States. Demonstrating that nearly 2/3rd of hate crimes go unreported to law enforcement, highlighting that many communities may not feel comfortable reporting hate crimes to law enforcement.

## **Hate Group Overview**

In addition to a surge in hate crime across the country, the number of active hate groups have also increased. The Southern Poverty Law Center documented active hate groups in the United States increased from 917 in 2016 to 954 in 2017.

Emboldened by divisive political rhetoric, many hate groups have taken to openly recruiting and rallying in towns and campuses across the country. From white nationalist organizations flyering on college campuses to "alt-right" leaders speaking on campus – hate groups have been more visibly organizing on the grassroots level.

When a hate group rallies in your town or visits your campus, it can make community members feel uneasy, alienated, and fearful. This historic violence committed by organized hate groups in the United States weighs on the significance of their presence.

## Know Your Rights

Knowledge is a powerful tool. It is more imperative than ever during times of heightened sensitivities that community members know their rights, and now know to respond to incidents of hate.

A **hate crime** is a criminal offense against a person or property that is motivated in whole or part by an offender's bias against race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.

A **hate incident** is an incident which may or may not constitute a criminal offense, but is perceived as being motivated by prejudice or hate.

## Hate Crime Laws

In 2009, President Obama signed into law the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act. This Act made it a federal crime to willfully cause bodily injury (or attempt to do so with a firearm or dangerous weapon) when the crime is committed because of the actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. This act protected a wider class of victims targeted by hate than previously covered under federal law.

Additionally, prosecutors may pursue criminal convictions for hate related activity under other federal statutes, including other hate crime laws (e.g. Civil Rights Act of 1968, 18 U.S.C. Section 245, willful use of force or threat of force because of a victim's protected characteristic and because the victim was engaged in a federally-protected activity; Civil Rights Conspiracy, 18 U.S.C. Section 241, conspiracy to interfere with the victim's federally-protected rights) or statutes targeting specific acts such as the criminal interference with the right to fair housing (42 U.S.C. Section 3631) or damage to religious property (18 U.S.C. Section 247). On top of these laws, prosecutors may secure charges for hate related incidents under relevant federal laws.

## Hate crime laws (continued)

Add a little bit of State hate crime laws can vary significantly – from covering all of the same classes as the federal law, to excluding protections for various classes including gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, and disability, or having no state hate crime law. There are currently five states with no hate crime laws: Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, South Carolina, and Wyoming. For a summary of state hate crime laws, visit [8449NoHate.org](http://8449NoHate.org). body text

## Free Speech Overview

The First Amendment protects a broad range of speech – including speech that individuals may find repulsive and hateful. Generally, the content of speech cannot be restricted by the government, however, not all speech is protected. Speech which incites or encourages people to take illegal action (e.g., speech encouraging murder or assault), and “fighting words” (i.e. speech which is intended to provoke a physical or verbal confrontation), as well as certain other forms of speech, may not receive protection.

In determining if speech is protected or meets an exception, the courts conduct extensive analysis based on the specific facts and context of the situation in which the speech arose. Below are examples of instances that the court found speech was not protected.

### “Incitement to imminent lawless action”

In 1969, the case of Brandenburg v. Ohio went before the Supreme Court. Brandenburg was a member of the Ku Klux Klan and spoke at a rally in Ohio where he made a reference to “revengeance” against minority communities. He was charged under an Ohio statute that criminalized the advocacy of violence. In this case, the Supreme Court reversed Brandenburg’s conviction and held that the government cannot punish “abstract” advocacy of violence. The Court found that a state cannot prohibit “advocacy of the use of force or of law violation except where such advocacy is directed to inciting or producing imminent lawless action and is likely to incite or produce such action.” Brandenburg v. Ohio, 395 U.S. 444 (1969).

### “Fighting words”

“Fighting words” are not protected by the First Amendment and are words that “which by their very utterance inflict injury or tend to incite an immediate breach of peace.” Chaplinsky v. State of New Hampshire, 315 U.S. 568 (1942).

## Free Speech Overview (continued)

### “True threats”

True threats are statements “where the speaker means to communicate a serious expression of an intent to commit an act of unlawful violence to a particular individual or group of individuals.” Virginia v. Black, 538 U.S. 343 (2003). There is also no requirement to intend to carry out the threat. *Id.* Intimidation is a type of true threat. *Id.* In Virginia v. Black, the Supreme Court concluded that some cross-burnings fall within the meaning of true threat. *Id.* State courts applying this precedent have addressed situations in which nooses were used.

For example, in Turner v. Commonwealth, 792 S.E.2d 299 (Va. Ct. App. 2016), the Virginia Court of Appeals upheld a conviction for displaying a black, life size dummy hanging by a noose in a tree when that conviction was challenged on First Amendment grounds. *Id.* The Turner Court applied Virginia v. Black and held that the statute prohibiting a display of nooses with intent to intimidate any person or group of persons was constitutionally proscribed conduct that constituted a “true threat.” *Id.* The Court took into consideration the history of what the noose represents: specifically, violence against black Americans.

For more information on free speech, visit [www.8449NoHate.org](http://www.8449NoHate.org) for a Frequently Asked Questions guide on Free Speech.





## What to do if you experience hate?



### Reach Out

If you are injured or fear for your safety, seek emergency services. If you feel comfortable doing so, call 911.



### Document

Preserve and photograph any physical evidence.



### Get Support

Call the Stop Hate Hotline at 844-9-No-Hate (844-966-4283) or visit [8449nohate.org](http://8449nohate.org) for information pertaining to legal and social services resources to help you combat hate.



### Share Your Story

If you are comfortable doing so, sharing your story can help educate the public and empower others. Go to [communitiesagainsthate.org/report](http://communitiesagainsthate.org/report).

## What to do if you witness hate?

Many community members and allies have asked what can they do when they witness someone being targeted for hate. Advocates, including the Montgomery County Civil Rights Coalition developed Bystander Intervention Trainings to help address the rise in hate and harassment. The trainings are grounded in the principles of nonviolence and compassion for others.

The Stop Hate Project and Hate Hurts of CAIR Arizona partnered to launch a video series titled "Not Alone" that examine the experiences of those who have been targeted by hate and highlight ways in which allies can provide support.

To learn more about the video series, and bystander intervention trainings visit: [www.8449nohate.org/not-alone](http://www.8449nohate.org/not-alone).

## Communicating With Law Enforcement

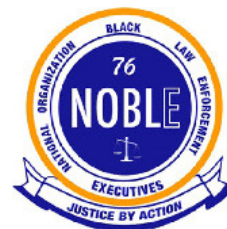
When a hate group is coming to your town, it is important to be aware of law enforcement's planned response. Understanding that many may not be comfortable communicating with law enforcement, one approach that has seen success is appointing a community liaison to communicate with law enforcement on behalf of local community members.

When a hate group rallies in a town, they often target specific communities, including hosting armed protests outside of houses of worship. When there is advance notice of such events, it is important to contact law enforcement and local government officials with requests.

Below are examples of questions that should be asked:

- Who is the point of contact in the law enforcement agency for response?
- What steps are being taken to ensure the safety of the community targeted?
- Is law enforcement available to brief the community prior to the event?
- Will law enforcement be monitoring the site of the protest before, during, and after the scheduled event?
- How many law enforcement officers will be present during the scheduled protest?
- What steps should community members take when they feel threatened by the presence of the protesters?
- If community members want to hold unity rallies or other demonstrations of support for targeted communities, what steps should they take to keep those rallies safe?
- Are there opportunities for community members to meet with law enforcement and other government officials outside the context of this scheduled event to identify ways to open lines of communication to improve the response to hate groups going forward?

The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law partnered with The National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) to create a list of tips for effective engagement with law enforcement before, during, and after actions responding to hate and bias motivated protests. These tips include:



- Contact the local law enforcement agency to open a line of communication in advance of counter protests.
- Designate a point of contact and request that the local law enforcement agency identify a point of contact for counter-demonstrators and take affirmative steps to facilitate dialogue before, during and after counter-protest activity.
- Meet with law enforcement in advance of counter-protests to plan safe routes, dispersal plans, and answer any questions you might have about police response.
- Maintain communication with officers throughout the event day and inform law enforcement about how to identify and contact organizers/monitors at the event (hats, shirts, armbands).
- Do not engage officers standing in a police line. If you need to communicate with an officer, go to the end of the police line (away from the center of the crowd) and ask to speak to a supervisor or the designated point of contact.

## How to Report a Hate Incident to Law Enforcement

Nearly two-thirds of hate crimes go unreported to law enforcement. This demonstrates that many communities targeted by hate crimes may be uncomfortable reporting an incident to their local and federal agencies. The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) is among organizations that assist community members with responding and preventing hate crimes. Should you choose to report an incident to law enforcement; HRC provides several factors that should be considered [1] :

- File a police report with your local law enforcement agency, either in person, by phone, or with law enforcement where the incident transpired. Please note that in order to make an official report you must file it either in person or over the phone. Any correspondence with law enforcement informally or on social media platforms does not constitute filing a formal report.
- In the report, tell the responding officer any and all of the details of the crime you recorded or remember. Including the perpetrator's gender, age, height, race, weight, clothes or other distinguishing characteristics. If any threats or biased comments were made, such as racial slurs, include them in the report, as well as any damage to property.

[1]<https://www.hrc.org/resources/what-to-do-if-youve-been-the-victim-of-a-hate-crime>

- Ask for the responding officer's name and badge number. Keep a record of this information along with your record of the incident.
- Make sure the officer files the incident report form and assigns a case number. If a police report was not taken at the time of your conversation, go to the police station and ask for one. Always get your own copy, even of the preliminary report.
- If you believe the incident was bias-motivated, urge the officer to check the "hate/bias-motivation" or "hate crime/incident" box on the police report.
- In addition to contacting your local law enforcement agency, individuals or institutions that experience hate should also contact their local FBI field office and provide the same information. For a list of FBI field offices, visit: <https://www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field-offices>.



- The Stop Hate Projects works with community organizations and law enforcement agencies across the country to host trainings. Each training is catered to meet the specific needs of the audience and attendees. The Stop Hate Project also works to bring together law enforcement and community representatives outside of crisis situations. To learn more about these trainings and roundtables, visit [8449nohate.org](http://8449nohate.org) or call 844-9-No-Hate.

## Take Action: What you can do to help combat hate and strengthen your community.

When a hate crime or hate incident is committed, or when a hate group actively organizes in your community, it can leave many feeling isolated, uneasy, and fearful. It is important that individuals across diverse communities continue to be vocal in their support. This section provides examples of ways that you can take action and support your local community.

**Contact Local Media Outlets.** Submit a letter to the editor or an opinion editorial to your local paper. This is a great opportunity to express the values of your community and condemn hateful acts. Messages of support by fellow community members and public officials can go a long way in making a targeted community feel less alone.

**Contact Local Community Organizations.** Contact local community organizations directly. Hundreds of organizations across the country work to provide direct services and support to those in need. Working across diverse societies, community organizations are often an individuals' first place to turn when they experience hate. Visiting a local community organization to learn more about their work, and to express support and appreciation sends a message to the entire community that individuals of diverse backgrounds are welcome. For a list of over 700 local organizations, visit [www.8449NoHate.org](http://www.8449NoHate.org).

**Host a Community Event.** When Jewish cemeteries were targeted and vandalized, community members raised funds to help restore the dignity of the burial grounds. When a neighbor's garage was vandalized with messages of hate, neighbors painted over the garage with messages of love and inclusion. When hateful flyers were distributed in a community in the Midwest, organizers planned a community dinner in a local public park to proudly display the diversity of their town. Hate wins when it divides communities. A powerful way to demonstrate our strength is by giving back to our communities, and showing visible signs of unity.

**Hold Public Officials Accountable.** Hate crimes, hate incidents, and hate groups do not represent our communities. As such, it is imperative that public officials (1) are made aware of hate activity in their communities, (2) hear from concerned citizens, and (3) respond timely and appropriately to community concerns. The next section includes sample template letters that can be sent to your public officials. If you need assistance in drafting your letter you may contact the Stop Hate Project at 844-9-No-Hate.





**Sample 1: This sample letter is based off of rallies coordinated by the anti-Muslim hate group, ACT for America.** It can and should be modified in response to the incident you seek to bring to your public official's attention. It could be used to report incidents involving hate speech – such as flyering by white nationalist organizations, hate group rallies in your community, or anonymous threats based on a social identity (e.g., race, religion, sexual orientation) to your local officials. Depending on where you live, consider sending it to local officials such as your town's mayor, city or county council members, school board members, your local chief of police or sheriff, or any other office holders.

COUNTY/CITY OFFICIAL  
ADDRESS 1  
ADDRESS 2

DATE

Dear NAME:

**DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT.** Start your letter with a short description of the incident you are writing to your officials about. Include basic details such as the date an incident occurred or is planned to occur, who is targeted, why you think the incident is/was motivated by bias, and any responses from officials. For example:

“ACT for America is an organization that brands itself as fighting for the security and rights of Americans, but has functioned as an organization that promotes anti-Muslim sentiment and hatred. On June 10, 2017 the organization is planning rallies in communities across the country, including [town/city].”

**IF YOU REPRESENT AN ORGANIZATION.** If you represent an organization, you may wish to include a short description of your organization and its interest in the current matter. For example:

“At the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law we are dedicated to securing equal justice for all through the rule of law, targeting in particular the inequities confronting religious minorities. Acts of bigotry and xenophobia like this one are not isolated incidents. On a daily basis, reports are received from residents across the country who have experienced hate-motivated discrimination. We believe elected officials have a responsibility to respond and to keep everyone in [town/county] safe.”

**DISCUSSION OF FIRST AMENDMENT AND HATE SPEECH.** Given that many people believe hate speech is completely protected by the First Amendment, you may wish to help educate your reader about limits to the First Amendment. For example:

“ACT for America’s presence and activities in [town/county] should not be dismissed simply as a First Amendment issue that merits no government response. Given their history, their continued existence as an organization that promotes hate, and given the increase in anti-Muslim hate crimes across the country - the rally should be treated seriously. These rallies are designed to rob entire religious communities of their dignity and provoke fear. In the past organizers of anti-Muslim rallies have encouraged rally goers to openly carry firearms and at times protest with their weaponry outside houses of worship. While a broad range of speech is protected, the law allows for punishment of speech and activities that are intended to incite “imminent lawless action”. See, e.g., *Brandenburg v. Ohio*, 395 U.S. 444 (1969).

**IMPACT OF HATE SPEECH ON THE COMMUNITY.** You may wish to describe how the hate speech impacts the community. For example:

“ACT for America’s activities send a threatening and intimidating message, especially for Muslims in America who have been the targets of increased hate in recent months. There is a clear social and psychological impact on these communities caused by the vitriol and hate perpetrated by ACT for America’s actions and words. Their presence makes community members fearful of violence.

**YOUR “ASK” TO ELECTED OFFICIALS.** Specify what you want from the elected official. Do you want them to ask police to open an investigation? Do you want them to make a public statement? Do you want them to pass a resolution or hold a hearing? Example:

“We urge you to forcefully and publicly condemn the hateful messaging and intimidation that these rallies seek to promote. The immediate response from the legal, social and political community is critical to let those that seek to divide us know that hate is not welcome in [city/town]. We urge you to reinforce the critical message that hate crimes are not only unacceptable, but also illegal. See 18 U.S.C. § 249 (2009). As a concerned constituent, I ask that you heed to calls of our community and reaffirm our values of inclusivity and tolerance. Without such a swift response, perpetrators of hate crimes may be emboldened, and trust between [city/town] government and impacted communities could be strained.”

Sincerely,

NAME  
TITLE  
ORGANIZATION  
CONTACT INFORMATION

**Sample 2 : This sample letter is based on Ku Klux Klan (KKK) materials received by residents of a local community.** It can and should be modified in response to the incident you seek to bring to your public official's attention. It could be used to report incidents involving hate speech – such as flyering by white nationalist organizations, hate group rallies in your community, or anonymous threats based on a social identity (e.g., race, religion, sexual orientation) to your local officials. Depending on where you live, consider sending it to local officials such as your town's mayor, city or county council members, school board members, your local chief of police or sheriff, or any other office holders.

COUNTY/CITY OFFICIAL  
ADDRESS 1  
ADDRESS 2

DATE

Dear NAME:

**DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT.** Start your letter with a short description of the incident you are writing to your officials about. Include basic details such as the date an incident occurred or is planned to occur, who is targeted, why you think the incident is/was motivated by bias, and any responses from officials. For example:

"On November 15, 2016, the Boston Globe reported that Milford residents have received unwanted Ku Klux Klan (KKK) materials over the past several weeks. Milford officials were quoted in the media saying that KKK activities are protected by the First Amendment."

**IF YOU REPRESENT AN ORGANIZATION.** If you represent an organization, you may wish to include a short description of your organization and its interest in the current matter. For example:

"At the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law we are dedicated to securing equal justice for all through the rule of law, targeting in particular the inequities confronting African Americans and other racial and ethnic minorities. Acts of racism and xenophobia like this one are not isolated incidents. On a daily basis, we receive reports from residents across the country who have experienced hate-motivated discrimination. We believe elected officials have a responsibility to respond and to keep everyone in [town/county] safe."

**DISCUSSION OF FIRST AMENDMENT AND HATE SPEECH.** Given that many people believe hate speech is completely protected by the First Amendment, you may wish to help educate your reader about limits to the First Amendment. For example:

"The KKK's presence and activities in Milford should not be dismissed simply as a First Amendment issue that merits no law enforcement response. Given the KKK's history and continued existence as a domestic terrorist organization, the distribution of the group's materials should be treated and investigated seriously. KKK activities are designed to rob people of their dignity and to foment hate crimes and violence. The law allows for punishment of speech and activities that are intended to incite imminent lawless action. See, e.g., *Brandenburg v. Ohio*, 395 U.S. 444 (1969)."

**IMPACT OF HATE SPEECH ON THE COMMUNITY.** You may wish to describe how the hate speech impacts the community. For example:

"KKK activities in Milford send a threatening and intimidating message, especially for racial, ethnic, linguistic, and religious minorities. There is clear social and psychological harm: KKK activities create a chilling effect because they signal to minorities that they are not valued as equal members of the community, and that their histories, experiences, perspectives and voices are not respected. Immediate responses from the legal, social and political community are critical to deter further threats of violence. We urge you to respond immediately to reinforce the critical message that identity-based harassment and intimidation are not welcome in Milford and that hate crimes are not only unacceptable, but also illegal. See 18 U.S.C. § 249 (2009). The failure to investigate the KKK—and to protect minority residents—is tantamount to discrimination and raises the specter of liability under federal and state constitutional law."

**YOUR "ASK" TO ELECTED OFFICIALS.** Specify what you want from the elected official. Do you want them to ask police to reopen an investigation? Do you want them to make a public statement? Do you want them to pass a resolution or hold a hearing? Example:

"We urge you to forcefully and publicly condemn the KKK's actions and to conduct a full scale investigation of KKK activities in Milford. Without such a response, perpetrators of hate crimes will be emboldened, and communities of color will grow even more doubtful of Milford's commitment to equal protection."

Sincerely,

NAME  
TITLE  
ORGANIZATION  
CONTACT INFORMATION

**Sample 3: This sample letter is an example of you how can report or follow up about a hate crime or hate incident with your local officials.** It can and should be modified in response to the specific incident you are reporting or following up on. Depending on where you live, consider sending it to local officials such as your town’s mayor, city or county council members, school board members, your local chief of police or sheriff, or any other office holders.

COUNTY/CITY OFFICIAL  
ADDRESS 1  
ADDRESS 2

DATE

Dear NAME:

**DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT.** Start your letter with a short description of the incident you are writing to your officials about. Include basic details such as the date an incident occurred or is planned to occur, who is targeted, why you think the incident is/was motivated by bias, and any responses from officials. For example:

“On November 10, 2016, Mr. Joseph Sanchez woke to find his car vandalized, keyed on with the repeated message: “Go Home.” Mr. Sanchez and his family are the only Latino family on their street. This is a deeply disturbing hate crime. I am writing you, as an official elected to represent the people of your district, to ensure that all of the officials and agencies charged with protecting Mr. Sanchez and his family respond to this crime fully and appropriately. As detailed below when Mr. Sanchez reported the crime to [town/county] officials, and the officials [did not respond/diminished the incident/said that they could not help]. This event follows on the heels of [describe other recent hate motivated incidents in the town or county]. We know that this crime and this failure to respond do not represent [town/county], and we are asking you to take action to respond appropriately.”

**IF YOU REPRESENT AN ORGANIZATION.** If you represent an organization, you may wish to include a short description of your organization and its interest in the current matter. For example:

“At the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law we are dedicated to securing equal justice for all through the rule of law, targeting in particular the inequities confronting African Americans and other racial and ethnic minorities. Acts of racism and xenophobia like this one are not isolated incidents. On a daily basis, we receive reports from across the country who have experienced hate-motivated discrimination. We believe elected officials, such as yourselves, have a responsibility to respond and to keep everyone in [town/county] safe.”

**DESCRIPTION OF HOW OFFICIALS RESPONDED OR FAILED TO RESPOND.** Include a brief description of what happened when you or your client reported the incident to police or elected officials. For example:

“We understand that when Mr. Sanchez followed up with the [town/county] police regarding this incident, he was told that the act could not be classified as a hate crime without a suspect. He was also told that there was little the police could do, as there were no cameras in the area or witnesses to the event. To date, Mr. Sanchez’ calls to his city council member have gone unanswered and city officials have failed to make any public comments condemning this deeply disturbing hate crime.”

**YOUR “ASK” TO ELECTED OFFICIALS.** Specify what you want from the elected official. Do you want them to ask police to reopen an investigation? Do you want them to make a public statement? Do you want them to pass a resolution or hold a hearing? If you need assistance determining what your “ask” should be, please contact the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Stop Hate Project at 844-9-NO-HATE. Example:

“We urge you to respond immediately to this incident to reinforce the critical message that hate crimes are not only unacceptable, but also illegal. [cite to federal or state hate crimes law – contact 1- 844-9-No-Hate if you need assistance identifying relevant laws]. We ask that the city council hold a hearing on the recent rise of hate crimes and hate incidents in [town/county] and issue a press release condemning recent acts of hate motivated violence. Without such a response, perpetrators of hate crimes will be emboldened.”

Sincerely,

NAME  
TITLE  
ORGANIZATION  
CONTACT INFORMATION



## Resource List

Below is a list of resources available at [www.8449NoHate.org](http://www.8449NoHate.org). If you are interested in learning more about available resources or have an identified resource need, you may call 844-9-No-Hate (844-966-4283) or e-mail [NoHate@LawyersCommittee.org](mailto:NoHate@LawyersCommittee.org).

### Legal Overviews:

- Federal Hate Crime Laws
- State Hate Crime Laws
- Free Speech Overview
- Know Your Rights to Peaceful Protest and Counter protest
- Interference with Religious Worship

### Community Resources:

- Communities Against Hate Resource Map.
- Bystander Intervention Resources: Not Alone
- Stand Against Hate in Your Community

### School Resources:

- Bullying Prevention Portal: Resources for students, teachers, and parents.
- Schools Standing Up to Hate: Pamphlet for Schools
- Right to Public Schools

### Law Enforcement Resources:

- Enhancing the Response to Hate Crimes Advisory Committee
- Law Enforcement Standing Against Hate
- Tips for Law Enforcement: Advancing Public Safety Through Effective Response to Counter Protest Action in Response to Hate and Bias Motivated Protests

**Speak up. Report hate.**

**844-9-NO-HATE  
(844-966-4283)**

**[communitiesagainsthate.org/report](http://communitiesagainsthate.org/report)**



[www.8449nohate.org](http://www.8449nohate.org)

