

# What is a Hate Crime?

“ ... A crime committed based on the victim’s perceived or actual race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or disability. ”

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## Ensure Your Safety & Seek Help

**Your first and foremost priority should be to ensure your physical safety!**

- + Seek medical attention immediately, if necessary.
- + Talk to someone you trust about the experience.
- + Remember that hate crimes can happen to anyone. You are not to blame!

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## Record Details About The Incident

**After the initial shock of the incident has passed, write down exactly what happened.**

- + Include as many specific details as possible.
- + Keep and make copies of all documentation (e.g., hate mail or recordings of hate calls).
- + Photograph any physical injuries, offensive graffiti, and/or evidence of vandalism.

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## Report The Incident

- + If you experience hate, you should report it. Contact local law enforcement and provide them with detailed information. Secure the names, contact information, and badge numbers of the investigating officers.
- + **Report a suspected hate crime to the FBI at 1-800-225-5324.** You can state your preferred language for translation services.
- + Consider reporting the incident to a community organization that is tracking hate crimes. This is only for data collection purposes. You should also report to local law enforcement and the FBI.
- + If you are concerned about your immigration status, consider seeking legal advice. U.S. immigration law provides several protections for immigrants who are victims of crime.

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## Contact A Community Organization

Contact a local community organization for assistance and support. Community organizations may be able to assist with dealing with law enforcement, language translation, seeking medical care or psychological counseling, locating an attorney, handling media, fundraising, and identifying a support network.

### Resources for more information on...

Legal aid, working with law enforcement, mental health and more, visit the National Asian Pacific Bar Association’s (NAPABA) Hate Crime Resources at: [www.napaba.org/page/HateCrimeResources](http://www.napaba.org/page/HateCrimeResources)

COVID-19, visit the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum’s website at: [www.apiahf.org/](http://www.apiahf.org/)

# Working With...

## Law Enforcement



### *The Preliminary Investigation*

Law enforcement officials will first conduct a preliminary investigation at the scene of the crime.

### *The Follow-Up Investigation*

There may be a follow-up investigation. Officers may conduct interviews, document the incident and apparent motives, arrest suspects, **notify the FBI.**

### *Hate Crime Indicators*

Law enforcement officials will consider the following bias indicators: racial, ethnic, gender and/or cultural differences; comments, written statements, or gestures; drawings, markings, symbols, or graffiti; organized hate groups; previous bias crimes or incident.

### *FBI Involvement*

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is the lead agency for enforcing federal civil rights law. The Hate Crimes Unit of the FBI's Civil Rights Division investigates crimes motivated by bias toward race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or gender.

### *Resources for more information on...*

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## The Media



### *Develop Talking Points*

Identify a specific target audience and create messages that will achieve your goals. Specify what you want people to do, how they should do it, and why.

### *Issue A Press Release*

If the topic is newsworthy, consider answering these questions in a press release: Who? What? When? Where? Why? And how? Keep the press release short and include your contact information.

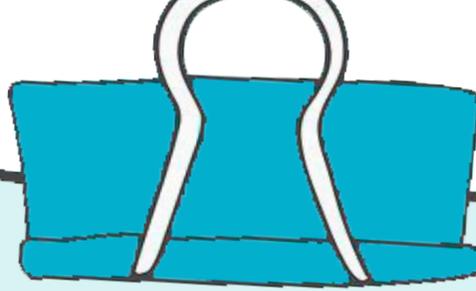
Example: <http://bit.ly/3IGgIJD>

### *Write Blog / Social Media Post*

Summarize your main points, establish your credibility, and use evidence. Be as concise and to the point as possible. For social media, be sure to use the hashtag **#StopAAPIHate** to maximize visibility.

“ **Note:** Before speaking with the media, consider the victim's concerns regarding publicity. You may want to seek legal advice. ”

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# Checklist for Community Organizations

## ✔ Offer Assistance to Hate Crime Victims

Assess and provide for the particular needs of the victim(s). These needs can be filing a police report, working with police and prosecutors, seeking medical care or psychological counseling, locating an attorney, finding a language translator, handling media inquiries, obtaining financial assistance, and offering a support network.

## ✔ Reporting Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents

Determine whether the victim wants law enforcement involvement. Reporting to law enforcement will prompt further investigation. Reporting to community organizations that track hate incidents will only record the incident.

### **Reporting to Law Enforcement**

+ Contact local law enforcement and provide them with detailed information. Secure the names, contact information, and badge numbers of the investigating officers.

+ **Report a suspected hate crime to the FBI at 1-800-225-5324.** You can state your preferred language for translation services.

### **Reporting to Community Organizations**

Report the incident to a community organization that is tracking hate crimes, like **Stop AAPI Hate**. This is only for data collection purposes.

## ✔ Speak out Against Acts of Hate

Hate crimes must be denounced swiftly in order to provide a message to the public that hate will not be tolerated. Here are some things you can do to speak out against hate crimes:

**Communication:** Issue a press release; contact local media; coordinate a press conference

**Community:** Work with local leaders; organize community events

**Government:** Facilitate meetings with law enforcement and local, state, and federal officials to address your community's concerns.

## ✔ Educate and Mobilize the Community

Raise community awareness regarding hate crimes and violence by providing workshops, holding community briefings, facilitating town hall meetings, organizing conferences or panel discussions, and translating community education materials.

## ✔ Create an Anti-Hate Crime Task Force

As a longer-term solution, create or take part in an anti-hate crime task force that meets on a regular basis and is involved with local and national organizations.

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# Frequently Asked Questions

**“ What is a Hate Crime? A crime committed based on the victim’s perceived or actual race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or disability. ”**

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***What is the difference between a “hate crime” and a “hate incident”***

**Hate crimes** must involve a “crime” and it often involves harassment and/or a violent crime, such as assault, murder, arson, vandalism, or threats to commit such crimes. It may also cover conspiring or asking another person to commit such crimes, even if the crime was never carried out.

**Hate incidents** are acts of prejudice that are not crimes and do not involve violence, threats, or property damage. The most common examples are isolated forms of speech in the form of racial slurs.

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***Why should I report a “hate crime”***

There is a significant disparity between hate crimes that actually occur and those reported to law enforcement. It is critical to report hate crimes not only to show support and get help for victims, but also to send a clear message that the community will not tolerate these kinds of crimes. Reporting hate crimes allows communities and law enforcement to fully understand the scope of the problem in a community and put resources toward preventing and addressing attacks based on bias and hate. Regardless of whether an incident amounts to a hate crime or a hate incident, it should be reported so that an investigation can occur.

***Resources for more information on...***

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***How is a hate crime different from a “regular” crime***

Hate crimes have a broader effect than most other kinds of crime. Hate crime victims include not only the crime’s immediate target but also others like them. Hate crimes affect families, communities, and at times, the entire nation.

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***How is the prosecution of a hate crime different from a regular crime***

Hate crime laws vary from state-to-state. Most hate crime laws provide for enhanced penalties if there is sufficient evidence that an offender has committed a crime with bias motivation. Moreover, hate crime laws sometimes provide increased financial, technical, and forensic support to state and local law enforcement involved in prosecuting hate crime cases. Even if a state or territory does not have a hate crimes law, hate crimes can still be reported.

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***How do I report a hate crime or a hate incident***

You should report a hate crime or hate incident to local law enforcement and the FBI. You can also report to community organizations that are collecting data on these incidences, such as [AAAJ](http://www.aaaaj.org) or [Stop AAPI Hate](http://www.stopaapihate.org)

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