

Take Action To Combat Hate Crimes



A “hate crime” is a criminal offense (e.g. vandalism, threats, assault, and murder) that is motivated by prejudice or bias and is directed at people because of their real or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender, or disability.

Here are some of the many ways you can act to stop hate:

Action: See something say something

- **Reporting & monitoring.** When an incident occurs, contact local, state, and federal law enforcement. Hate crimes are particularly serious and law enforcement on all levels should be made aware when it occurs. By reporting hate crimes information is collected on violent hate groups and lawful hate activity. Since increased lawful hate activity has been associated with subsequent hate crimes, documenting this activity can help inform police. Also, recording lawful hate activity may help police prevent illegal activity by hate-group opponents.
- **Hotline.** If your area does not have a hotline to report hate anonymously, urge your local police and or DA’s office to establish a hate crimes hotline. This strategy has shown success as victims feel more confident to report these crimes.
- **Unite.** Call a friend or co-worker. Organize allies from churches, schools, clubs and other civic sources. Create a diverse coalition that includes youth, police and the news media.
- **Coordinate across agencies.** Establish an interagency hate crimes task force. Task forces coordinate across agencies (government, police, prosecutor’s offices) and community partners to facilitate the sharing of information and prevent inter-group tension and hate crimes. It’s especially important to communicate with police and community. Work to create a healthy relationship with local police; working together, human rights groups and law enforcement officials can track early warning signs of hate brewing in a community, allowing for a rapid and unified response.
- **Organize for faster response.** Establish a civil rights rapid response team to respond to community emergencies. This can be an interdisciplinary group that includes civil rights leaders from government agencies, law enforcement, the school district, and advocacy groups. The team also functions to educate stakeholders about a range of topics.

Get Involved: Participate in the change

- **Lobby leaders.** If your state and/or local municipality does not have an up-to-date hate crimes law, petition your elected officials to introduce one. Be sure the law includes all protected categories, including sexual orientation, gender identity and disability.
- **Attend events.** Take advantage of the opportunity to participate in civil rights meetings, town halls, workshops, conferences and events. These are great opportunities for group action, to learn strategies, stay motivated and meet others.
- **Engage.** Contact civil rights organizations. Follow them on social media. Stay informed about current social justice issues. Interact with civil rights agency outreach staff and respond to social media notifications.

Prevention: It starts with you

- **Commit.** Confront hate and intolerance at home, at school, in the workplace, and in faith communities. Acceptance comes from an attitude that is learnable, a belief that every voice matters, that all people are valuable, that no one is “less than” any other.
- **Teach acceptance.** At every opportunity, promote and teach acceptance and address bias before another hate crime can occur.
- **Dig deeper.** Look inside yourself for biases and stereotypes. We all grow up with prejudices. Acknowledge them and work through them. We all possess the power to overcome our fears.
- **Reach outside of your comfort zone.** Dialogue with people of different viewpoints, faiths and cultural backgrounds. Listen to their opinions carefully and without judgment.
- **Be a role model.** Our living example has the power to influence our children, peers, and communities.

Resources:

Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations

<http://www.phila.gov/humanrelations/pages/default.aspx>



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Philadelphia Code: Chapter 10-200. Ethnic Intimidation and Institutional Vandalism.
Chapter 10-2200. Hate Crimes.

Philadelphia Fair Practices Ordinance:

https://www.phila.gov/HumanRelations/PDF/FPO%20Ch9-1100%20-9-2016_%20nc.pdf
