

Community Referral List

Organization	Area of Expertise
Anti-Defamation League (415) 981-3500	Anti-Semitism www.adl.org
Asian Law Caucus (415) 896-1701	Violence against Asians www.asianlawcaucus.org
Centro Legal de la Raza (510) 437-1554	Latino Community www.larazacrc.org
Chinese for Affirmative Action (415) 274.6750	Chinese American Community; LGBTQI people www.caasf.org
Community United Against Violence (415) 333-4357	Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered www.cuav.org
Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) (408) 986-9874	America's largest Islamic civil liberties group www.cair-california.org
Fair Employment and Housing (800) 884-1684 (510) 622-2941	All Communities www.dfeh.ca.gov
FBI Civil Rights Unit (415) 553-7400	All Communities www.fbi.gov
GLBT National Help Center 1-888-843-4564	Gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning www.glnh.org
Islamic Network Group (408) 296=7312	Islamic Communities www.ing.org
Japanese American Citizens League (415) 921-5225	Japanese American Community www.jacl.org
Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights (415) 543-9444	All Communities www.lccr.com
Muslim National Hate Crimes Hotline (800) 898-3558	Islamic Communities
Muslim Public Affairs Council (800) 898-3558	All Communities www.mpac.org
NAACP, Oakland Branch (510) 652-8493	African American Community www.naacpoakland.org
SF Human Rights Commission (415) 252-2500	All Communities www.sf-hrc.org
South Asian Bar Association of Northern California (888) 996-6428	South Asians & others www.southasianbar.org

- Write down exactly what was said to you by the offender. Taunts and racial or sexual slurs reveal motive.
- Save any evidence – phone calls, graffiti – that may assist in persecuting the person responsible. Take pictures. Do not erase phone messages.
- Note details about the assailant's car: make, model, color, license plate number.

What Can I Expect From the Police?

We take hate crimes seriously. We will investigate an alleged hate crime in a manner consistent with the offense.

- An officer will be dispatched to the scene.
- If the officer concludes that a hate crime has occurred, he or she will protect the crime scene and request a supervisor to respond to the scene.
- If the supervisor concurs in the officer's assessment, the Watch Commander will be notified.
- The supervisor at the scene will direct the preliminary investigation and request the immediate assignment of follow-up investigators, if appropriate.

Hate Crimes



Oakland Police Department

Oakland Police Department
455 - 7th Street
Oakland, CA 94607

TF-3352 (October 2011)

What Is a Hate Crime?

A hate crime is any criminal act or attempted criminal act directed against someone based on the victim's actual or perceived race, nationality, religion, sexual orientation, disability, or gender.

Hate crimes can also be committed against public agencies or private institutions.

Hate crimes add an element of bias to traditional crimes—and the mixture is toxic to our communities.

Hate crimes range in intensity from verbal intimidation and harassment to damage and desecration of property, all the way to physical violence and murder.

The person who commits a hate crime aims not only to terrify or harm one individual but to threaten and terrorize the entire group to which the victim belongs.

Oakland Police Department policy regards any incident believed to be a hate crime as serious and gives it priority attention

Hate crimes committed in California have included:

- A cross burning at the home of a black family in Brentwood
- A shooting at a Jewish synagogue in Los Angeles
- Death threats and racially abusive mail sent to the homes and offices of politicians and civil rights activists in Oakland and Alameda

- Smashed windows and graffiti at an Arab-American delicatessen in San Francisco
- Violent assaults on homosexual men in San Francisco
- Racial slurs painted on the residence of an Hispanic family in Oakland
- The murder of a transgender woman in Fremont.

While many crimes contain an element of malice, not all crimes are hate crimes.

The key element differentiating a hate crime from other crimes of a similar nature is **motive**. The perpetrator's perception of difference (whether accurate or not) motivating his or her criminal behavior is the hallmark of a hate crime.

For example, a brick thrown through a window may be a simple act of vandalism. A brick thrown through a window may be vandalism *and* a hate crime **if the deed is motivated by racial animosity**.

The following elements strongly indicate that an incident is a hate crime:

- Visible symbols of hate
- Expressions of hatred
- Absence of any other apparent motive.

Visible Symbols of Hate

Examples of "visible symbols" of hate sometimes constitute *prima facie* evidence and may include:

- Written racial slurs and graffiti
- A burning cross
- Nazi party insignia
- Desecration of venerated objects in a place of worship
- Damage or defacement of tombstones.

Expressions of Hatred

Within the specifications of the law, words, by themselves, can constitute a crime. Therefore, the account given by a victim and witnesses of what the perpetrators said may be critically important as evidence.

Absence of Any Other Apparent Motive

If there has been no previous contact, argument, or confrontation between the victim and offender, or the perpetrator seems to have made a random selection of victim(s), this suggests that the attack was launched solely on the basis of race, sex, or sexual preference.

What Should I Do If I Am the Victim of a Hate Crime?

Call the Police

- If you are being attacked or it is an emergency, call 911 (by cell phone, call 777-3211).
- To report a hate crime that has already occurred, call our non-emergency line at 777-3333. *Please be patient* if you must wait to make your report. By calling on this line, you ensure that your report is handled professionally.

Detailed and accurate information will help the police. They will want to know what was said, done, thrown; when and where the incident occurred; and what the assailant(s) looked like.