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Hate Crime

It's Your Right and Your Responsibility



Why should you report forms of hate activity?

Hate threatens our community and society. It leads to individuals and groups feeling isolated or excluded. It is important that people who experience or witness hate activity report these incidents to the police.

What kinds of incidents should you report?

- incidents involving racism or bigotry
- hate crimes such as violence or encouraging bias because of a person's ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation or perceived disability

Examples of Hate Crime include:

- violence, threats of violence, vandalism
- distribution or production of hate literature, hate graffiti
- individuals spreading hate or organized hate groups in your community

What is the B.C. Hate Crime Victim Information Line?

The information line is a toll-free line provided by the Province of British Columbia for victims and witnesses of all crime. As part of B.C.'s fight against hate crime, trained staff track incidents of hate, and provide information and referrals on hate crime. This toll-free line is confidential and, if you wish, anonymous.

If you have been a victim of Hate Crime:

- Call the police so they can investigate. They will refer you to their victim service program, if they have one, or direct you to a local community agency.
- And you want more information, or if victim services are not available through your local police, call 1 800 563-0808. It's free from anywhere in British Columbia.

Take action against Hate Crime

The Ministry of Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, police agencies and community groups recognize the importance of responding vigorously to crimes motivated by hate and bias.

These offences are committed against individuals or groups because of personal characteristics such as race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation or disability.

Hate crimes are offences that strike at the very cohesiveness of society. While all crimes are abhorrent, a hate crime is specifically committed to harm and terrify not only a particular victim but the entire group of which the victim is a member.

A unique characteristic of hate crimes is that often individuals and groups are targeted solely on the basis of who they are, not because of anything they have done.

Implementing normal crime prevention measures is often not an effective tool because victims of hate crimes cannot prevent or change who they are.

The impact of these crimes extends beyond the initial victims and creates fear in the broader communities. These crimes can lead to social tensions between individuals, groups, the police and other government agencies, thereby furthering the destructive aims and objectives of those who encourage and promote hate.

Fighting hate and bias crime effectively relies on partnerships. The response to this growing problem cannot be made by law enforcement agencies alone. Government, police, community organizations and individuals must be committed to working together to stem hatred in society.

Call the B.C. Hate Crime Victim Information Line at:

1 800 563-0808

