

# HATE CRIME

## **KNOWING THE FACTS: EMPOWER YOURSELF & YOUR COMMUNITY**

### **What is a hate crime?**

A criminal offence committed against a person or property that is based solely upon the victim's:

- Race
- Religion
- Nationality
- Ethnic Origin
- Sexual Orientation
- Gender
- Disability

### **What makes a hate crime different from any other crime?**

They cause emotional damage to a person or members of a target group. These crimes are more serious because Canada values our differences.

### ***If things like these happen...***

- You see or receive a hate flyer.
- A local community leader receives hate mail (Flyers, letters, email).
- Racist graffiti is spray-painted on a religious institution (mosque, temple, community center).
- Windows are smashed at a community center or place of business (e.g. grocery store, restaurant, cab).
- Students leaving school are attacked, shoved or beaten physically or verbally by a gang.
- Racist phrases are painted on or placed at a family home.

### ***...Here's how you respond***

- Stay calm
- Keep all evidence
- Record all information regarding the incident
- Call the police immediately

### **Be sure of the facts.**

When you first learn of the incident or experience it yourself, it is best to write down the basic details. Make sure you document the answer to: **who**, **when** and **where** of the incident.

### **Don't try to solve the problem by yourself.**

Write down all information that indicates that the attack was racially motivated. Fill out the *Incident Reporting Form* to document the details of the incident. This will provide you with some of the key questions an officer may ask. You should inform the community organization/group affected.

### **Be cautious if you decide to go public.**

Do not approach the media before a clear pattern of incidents has been established. Let experienced community leaders and organizations help you to develop a media strategy. If there are crimes being committed against your targeted group, it can be beneficial that others are made aware and can take caution.

### **Contact political and social leaders.**

Do not hesitate to call your community leaders and ask for help, they can mobilize public support for you. *Remember: statements by public figures condemning racism are important.* If there is a municipal race relations committee, immediately contact them. Don't forget to write to your MP and MPP.

### **The Police will take your complaint seriously.**

The Toronto Police Hate Crime Unit monitors hate motivated crime for the purpose of identifying criminals and gathering statistics. Where there is evidence that a hate crime has been committed, under Section 718 of the Criminal Code of Canada, criminals can receive increased sentences.

### **TO REPORT A HATE CRIME CONTACT...**

The **Toronto Police Hate Crime Unit**, they can be reached through Intelligence Services at:

**416-808-3500**

In case of an emergency call:

**911**

## HATE CRIME INCIDENT REPORTING FORM: PERSONAL CHECKLIST

1. Currently there is no standardized police form to report the details of a hate crime. If you have witnessed/experienced a hate crime you can use this form to record the most important details that may be used later in filing a police report. **IF YOU HAVE BEEN INJURED IN ANY WAY, SEEK MEDICAL HELP IMMEDIATELY AND THEN DOCUMENT WHAT HAPPENED.**

**Today's Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

2. **Date of Incident:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

3. **Location of Incident:** (address, if any) \_\_\_\_\_

- |                         |                    |               |
|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| • Religious institution | • Business         | • Workplace   |
| • Residence             | • Private building | • Other _____ |
| • Public building       | • Automobile       |               |
| • School                | • Cemetery         |               |

4. **Victim of Hate Crime:** (individual/group)

- |                     |                            |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| • Ethnicity _____   | • Religion _____           |
| • Race _____        | • Disability _____         |
| • Nationality _____ | • Sexual Orientation _____ |

**Gender:**      Male                  Female                  Transgendered

**Age:**    11 & under    12-17                  18-25                  26-40                  41-55                  56+

5. **Description of Suspect(s):** (individual/group)

Number of suspects: (if more than one, try to separate the individual characteristics) \_\_\_\_\_

**Gender:**      Male                  Female                  Transgendered

**Age:**    11 & under    12-17                  18-25                  26-40                  41-55                  56+

The face is one of the most valuable assets for recognizing a criminal, but not the only source for identification purposes. If you didn't see their face, here are other attributes to consider:

- |                        |                        |                                  |
|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Approx. Height _____ | • Approx. Weight _____ | • Hair Colour/Style _____        |
| • Accent _____         | • Skin Colour _____    | • Body Shape _____               |
| • Nationality _____    | • Clothing _____       | • Colour/Style of Clothing _____ |
- Were there other known distinguishing features? (Tattoos/Scars/Limp/Injury) \_\_\_\_\_

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6. **Details of Incident:** (hate crime can take many forms)

- Name calling
- Mockery
- Harassment
- Vandalism
- Threats
- Graffiti
- Hate
- Harassment
- Propaganda/Literature
- Verbal Abuse
- Physical Assault
- Negative Images in the Media (Electronic/Print)
- Discrimination in Employment
- Assault with a Weapon
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

7. **Facts of the Incident:** (here are a few important questions to answer in writing down the details)

Were there any witnesses?  
If you were verbally abused during the incident what did the suspect(s) say?  
Were you harassed or discriminated? Tell us How/Why?  
If you were injured, describe the injuries:  
Was anything stolen? Please describe:

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8. **Comments:**

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9. **Follow Up:** *After you know a hate crime occurred did you...*

- Report the Incident to Police
- Take Photos
- Collect Evidence
- Inform a Community Agency
- Were Suspects Identified and/or Apprehended
- Receive Press Coverage