

What You Need To Know About...

Hate Crimes

"Hate crimes contribute to disunity in society, compromise democratic values, and maintain inequality. They send an explicit message that entire groups of citizens are unworthy of respect, lack redeeming characteristics and are worthy of contempt. In extreme cases they promote the corrosive concept that 'to be different is to be dangerous'".

(Canadian Race Relations Foundation, 2020)

Hate Crime:

A criminal act that is motivated by hate of a group distinguished by race, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression.

Examples: vandalism, threats, physical assaults, theft, destruction of property, or arson can all be charged as a hate-motivated crime if hate towards one of the above groups is determined to be the motivation.



Anti-Asian hate crimes: 29 cases in Vancouver so far this year, compared to 4 last year (Global News, May 22/2020)

Graffiti attacks on Calgary Chinese consulate reflects rising racism against Asians, say activists (Calgary Herald, May 28/2020)

What is the difference between a hate crime and a hate incident?

Hate Incident:

Incidents that are motivated by hate of a distinguished group, but not a criminal act in itself. A hate incident can be a precursor to hate crime if it increasingly escalates in violence.

Examples: name-calling, racial slurs, racist or offensive emails. While motivated by racism or hate, these incidences are not considered criminal offences.

Some recent headlines:

"I didn't want to leave the house": COVID-19 fueling anti-Asian hate crimes in Canada (Rappler, May 14/2020)

"It happened because I'm Asian": Toronto ER nurse says she was spit on, verbally assaulted (Newstalk 610 CKTB, April 9/2020)

Anti-Asian racism "disturbingly common" in Canada's largest cities amid COVID-19: poll (Richmond News, April 28/2020)

How does this impact...

The Victim:

- Increased fear of repeated attacks
- PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder)
- Mental and/or physical health issues
- Shock, disbelief, identity crisis
- Anger
- Fear and distrust of offending group

According to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, hate crimes are 'more likely to involve excessive violence, multiple offenders, serial attacks, greater psychological trauma to victims [and] a heightened risk of social disorder' (Stop the Hate, 2016)

The Community:

- Community-wide insecurity, fear and unrest
- Families feel frustrated and powerless
- Potential to prompt retaliation
- Normalization leads to under-reporting
- Creates an "us versus them" attitude
- Loss of trust in police and the system

(Coalitions Creating Equity, 2020)

"When a crime or incident motivated by hate occurs, it hurts not only the victim but the whole community. These crimes and incidents are more than just individual issues; they are done to send a 'message'" (Coalitions Creating Equity, 2020)

Reporting a Hate Crime:

You are encouraged to report hate crimes and incidences as reporting may help to reduce potential trauma:

1. Contact police (9-1-1 for emergencies or the local non-emergency line). Depending where you live, the police department may have a hate crimes unit devoted to investigating hate-based crime.
2. Contact the appropriate Human Rights Commission to file a complaint. For a list of provincial or territorial commissions, please see <https://www.chrc-ccdp.gc.ca/eng/content/provincial-territorial-human-rights-agencies>
3. Report online through ACT2endracism's website at www.act2endracism.ca or text their virtual helper, Mei, at 1-587-507-3838. This reporting line is available in multiple languages!

Know Your Rights:

Criminal Code of Canada

- 318(1) Advocating Genocide (intent to destroy in whole or part of an identifiable group)
- 319(1) Public Incitement of Hatred (public communication that would likely lead to breach of the peace)
- 319(2) Wilful Promotion of Hatred (public communication that promotes hate - can include writings, symbols, spoken words)
- 430(4.1) Mischief to Religious Property (damage to a property primarily used for religious worship)
- 718.2(a)(i) A sentence can be increased if there is evidence of motivation by bias, prejudice or hate based on race, national or ethnic origin, language, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression, or any other similar factor.

Sources

Alberta Hate Crimes Committee. (2009, December 10). *Hate crimes: What you should know and what you can do* https://cfrac.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/hcknowdo_final09dec10.pdf
Anti-Racism Resource Centre. (year unknown). *Discrimination and hate crime*. <http://www.anti-racism.ca/node/25.html>
Canadian Race Relations Foundation. (2020, March 2). *Hate crimes in Canada*. <https://www.crrf-fcrr.ca/en/news-a-events/articles/item/26823-hate-crime-in-canada>
Coalitions Creating Equity. (2020). *Understanding & reporting hate crimes & incidents* [PowerPoint slides].