

Reporting a Hate Crime or Incident

If you believe that you are a victim of a hate crime, that you witnessed a hate crime, or you have information regarding a hate crime:

(1) Report the crime to your local police. **CALL 911.**

(2) Report the crime to the FBI by calling **1-800-CALL-FBI (1-800-225-5324)** or submitting a tip at **tips.fbi.gov**. You may remain anonymous.

Contact the U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Attorney's Office

Not every hate incident involves a crime. You can report any incident to the Civil Rights Division at <https://civilrights.justice.gov/report/>

Call the Civil Rights Division:
202-514-3847
1-855-856-1247 (toll-free)
202-514-0716 (TTY)

Submit a written complaint:
U.S. Attorney's Office
Southern District of Florida
Attn: Citizen Complaints
99 N.E. 4th Street
Miami, FL 33132

USAFLS.CitizenComplaints@usdoj.gov
Hotline: (305) 961-9173

Resources

The U.S. Attorney's Office and our partners investigate and prosecute hate crimes.

For emergencies, always call 911.

For further assistance, please call the U.S. Attorney's Office, the FBI, or a local partner including:

Miami-Dade County
Hate Crimes Hotline
(786) 687-2566

Broward County
(954) 831-8059

hatecrimesunit@sao17.state.fl.us

FBI Hate Crimes Hotline
1-800-CALL-FBI
(24 hours a day)
tips.fbi.gov

For more information, visit:
<https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdfl>
<https://www.justice.gov/hatecrimes>
<http://www.fbi.gov>


United States Attorney's Office
Southern District of Florida

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE HATE CRIMES ENFORCEMENT



Markenzy Lapointe
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT
OF FLORIDA

James L. King Federal Building
99 N.E. 4th Street, Miami, FL 33132
(305) 961-9001
justice.gov/usao/fls

- What is a Hate Crime?
A hate crime must include both "hate" and a "crime."
- When used in a hate crime law, "hate" does not mean anger, but means bias against people with specific characteristics defined by the law.
- At the federal level hate crimes include crimes committed on the basis of the victim's perceived or actual race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or disability.
- The "crime" in hate crime is often a violent crime, like assault, murder, arson, or threats to commit such crimes. It may also cover asking another person to commit such crimes, even if the crime was never carried out.
- Under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, people cannot be prosecuted simply for their beliefs. People may be offended or upset about beliefs that are untrue or based upon false stereotypes, but it is not a crime to express offensive beliefs, or to join with others who share such views. However, the First Amendment does not protect against committing a crime, just because the conduct is rooted in philosophical beliefs.

Hate Crimes Resources

Why have hate crimes laws?

Hate crimes have a broader effect than most other kinds of crime. Hate crime victims include not only the crime's immediate target but also others like them. Hate crimes affect families, communities, and at times, the entire nation.

Why report hate crimes?

It is critical to report hate crimes not only to show support and get help for victims, but also to send a clear message that the community will not tolerate these kinds of crimes. Reporting hate crimes allows communities and law enforcement to fully understand the scope of the problem in a community and put resources toward preventing and addressing attacks based on bias and hate

State Hate Crimes Laws

Most states and U.S. territories have hate crime statutes that are enforced by state and local law enforcement in state and local courts. Hate crime laws in states and territories vary widely across jurisdictions. For a listing of state hate crimes laws visit:

<https://www.justice.gov/hatecrimes/laws-and-policies>

<https://www.justice.gov/hatecrimes/state-specific-information>

Federal Hate Crimes Laws

- Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009, 18 U.S.C. § 249
- Criminal Interference with Right to Fair Housing, 42 U.S.C. § 3631
- Damage to Religious Property, Church Arson Prevention Act, 18 U.S.C. § 247
- The COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act, 34 U.S.C. § 30501
- Khalid Jabara and Heather Heyer National Opposition to Hate, Assault, and Threats to Equality Act of 2021, 34 U.S.C. § 30507
- Violent Interference with Federally Protected Rights, 18 U.S.C. § 245
- Conspiracy Against Rights, 18 U.S.C. § 241

Even if a state or territory does not have a hate crimes law, hate crimes should be reported to the FBI at:

1-800-CALL-FBI or submit a tip at tips@fbi.gov.