

Who Can You Contact for Help?

In an Emergency Call Your Local Police Department or 911

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)	(213) 977-9500
Anti-Defamation League (ADL)	(949) 679-3737
Asian Pacific American Legal Center	(213) 202-6110
CA Dept. of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH)	(800) 884-1684
CCEJ Orange County	(562) 435-8184
The Center Orange County	(714) 953-5428
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)	(714) 776-1847
CSP—Victims Assistance	(949) 975-0244
Japanese-American Citizens League	(213) 626-4471
Los Amigos de Orange County	(714) 758-8090
NAACP of Orange County	(714) 543-3637
Orange County District Attorney	(714) 834-3600
OC Asian & Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA)	(714) 636-9095
OC Human Relations	(714) 480-6570
Parents, Families, & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)	(714) 647-6900
Office of Victims Services CA Attorney General's Office	(877) 433-9069
Sikh Council California	(877) 225-7454

What Can YOU Do to Stop Hate?

- ✓ Learn to recognize hate crimes and incidents.
- ✓ Report suspected hate crimes and incidents to your local police department and OC Human Relations.
- ✓ Maintain a respectful, inclusive climate in your school, community, neighborhood, work, and/or business.
- ✓ Create diverse teams to encourage people to work together on common goals.
- ✓ Model respect and inclusion towards others, especially when you are around children.
- ✓ Offer support and assist victims to let them know they are not alone.
- ✓ Speak out against acts of prejudice, discrimination, and hate in your community.

To report a hate crime or to learn more please call (714) 480-6570



OC Human Relations

1300 S. Grand Ave, Bldg. B, Santa Ana, CA 92705

(714) 480-6570 • Fax (714) 567-7474

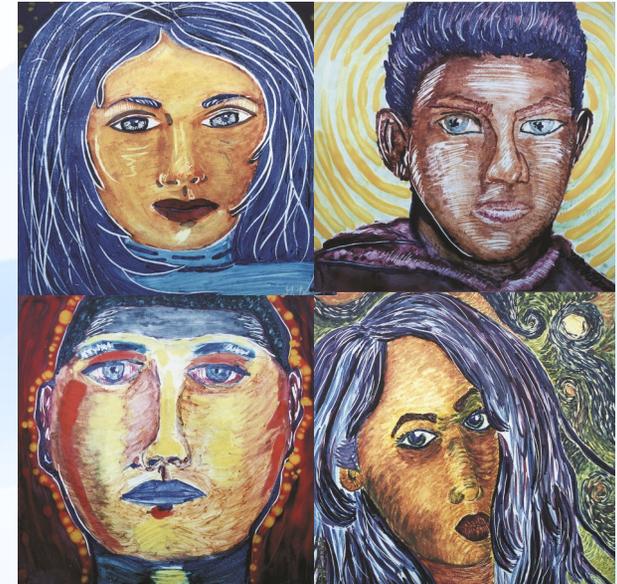
www.ochumanrelations.org/hatecrime

James Armendaris, Program Coordinator
(714) 480-6579 • james@ochumanrelations.org

OC Human Relations works to build mutual understanding among residents to eliminate prejudice, intolerance, and discrimination.

Hate Crimes

A Guide for Victims



"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

- Martin Luther King, Jr.



OC Human Relations

Building community by fostering respect,
resolving conflict and pursuing equality

What is a Hate Crime?

In California, **hate crime** is defined as being a criminal act committed, in whole or in part, because of one or more of the following actual or perceived characteristics of the victim: Disability, Gender, Nationality, Race or Ethnicity, Religion, Sexual Orientation, or association with a person or group of persons with one or more of the preceding actual or perceived characteristics.

Examples of **hate crime** are:

- ◆ Painting racist, homophobic, and/or religious graffiti on private property.
- ◆ Burning a cross on an individual's lawn.
- ◆ An assault.
- ◆ A criminal threat of violence against an individual or a group.
- ◆ Attempted murder or murder.

A **hate incident** is behavior that is motivated by hate or bias towards a person's actual or perceived disability, gender, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation but that it is not criminal in nature. Typically these behaviors are protected by the First Amendment right to freedom of expression.

If this type of activity escalates to threats being made or carried out against a person or property, or becomes an incitement to commit violence, it would be classified as a **hate crime**.

Examples of a **hate incident** are:

- ◆ Distribution of non-threatening racist flyers in a public place.
- ◆ Anti-gay or lesbian placards at a parade or a funeral.
- ◆ Writing a letter to the editor ridiculing people with disabilities.
- ◆ Painting racist graffiti on a freeway overpass.

A hate crime or incident may have occurred if any of the following were present:

- ◆ There was a perception that the victim was targeted because of their race, gender, sexual orientation, nationality, religion, etc.
- ◆ The perpetrator wrote or spoke in a manner that indicated bias.
- ◆ The date of the incident or crime coincides with a date that is of significance to the victim's religion, nationality, ethnicity, etc.

What Should I Do if I'm Victimized?

1. Call the police or sheriff's department immediately and make a report.
2. Obtain medical attention, if needed. Be sure to keep all medical documentation.
3. Leave all evidence in place. Do not touch, remove and/or clean up anything.
4. Document what happened by taking photographs of the evidence, writing down exactly what was said, particularly any words that indicate bias, motivation, and other information that may be valuable.
5. Get the name(s), address(es) and phone number(s) of other victims and witnesses.
6. If possible, write down a description of the perpetrator and the perpetrator's vehicle.
7. Report the occurrence to OC Human Relations at **(714) 480-6570** or to submit a hate crime report online you can do so at www.ochumanrelations.org/hatecrime.

What Are My Rights?

Civil Remedies

California Legislation gives the courts the ability to order the perpetrator to pay up to \$25,000.00 to compensate for the harm you have suffered and/or as punishment, and/or to deter future violations. The courts can issue a restraining order to protect you from further harm. If you decide to pursue a lawsuit against the perpetrator, your first options include hiring a private attorney or contracting the Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH). (www.dfeh.ca.gov)

Victim Assistance

Help is available in the form of:

- ◆ Translation for non-English speakers
- ◆ Information resources and referrals
- ◆ Crisis intervention and counseling
- ◆ Emergency financial assistance
- ◆ Orientation to the criminal justice system
- ◆ Support in communicating with the police, the court, and other authorities
- ◆ Assistance with writing a victim impact statement obtaining restitution assistance and filing Office of Victims of Crime Claims. (www.ovc.gov)

Criminal Enforcement

Your local police or sheriff's department enforce criminal laws and are the first responders. Criminal prosecution of your case can be pursued by the Orange County District Attorney's Office, the Office of the California State Attorney General or the U.S. State Attorney, depending on the nature of the case. The Federal Bureau of Investigation may also assist in your case if appropriate. (www.ocgov.com/da)