

## WHAT IS A HATE CRIME

A hate crime is a criminal act committed against another person that is motivated by prejudice against certain characteristics of that person.

## VICTIM OF A HATE CRIME

You may be a victim of a hate crime if you were targeted because of your:

- Race or ethnicity
- Nationality, religion
- Gender, sexual orientation
- Physical or mental disability
- Your association with a person or group with one or more of these “actual” or “perceived” characteristics.

## WITNESS OF A HATE CRIME

Report the crime to your local police or sheriff's department. If hate crimes are not reported, the hate crimes may continue.

**SEE SOMETHING  
SAY SOMETHING**



TO REPORT A HATE CRIME IN PROGRESS,  
OR AN EMERGENCY, CALL **9-1-1**  
FOR NON-EMERGENCIES CALL  
**858-565-5200**

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

LECC SAR/Report Terrorism Threat or  
Suspicious Activity  
(858) 495-7200  
[info@sd-lecc.org](mailto:info@sd-lecc.org)

California Attorney General's Victims'  
Services Unit  
(877) 433-9069 TTY: (800) 735-2929  
[www.oag.ca.gov/victimservices](http://www.oag.ca.gov/victimservices)

California Department of Fair Employment  
and Housing  
(800) 884-1684  
TTY: (800) 700-2320  
[www.dfeh.ca.gov](http://www.dfeh.ca.gov)

San Diego Anti-Defamation League (ADL)  
[www.sandiego@adl.org](http://www.sandiego@adl.org)

San Diego County District Attorney's  
Office Hate Crime Unit  
[www.hatecrimes@sdca.org](http://www.hatecrimes@sdca.org)

Southern Poverty Law Center  
[www.splcenter.org](http://www.splcenter.org)

Teaching Tolerance  
[www.tolerance.org](http://www.tolerance.org)

San Diego Regional Hate Crime Coalition  
<https://sdnohate.org>

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# IDENTIFYING AND REPORTING HATE CRIME AND INCIDENTS



**SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

## WHAT IS A HATE INCIDENT?

Hate incidents are acts directed against a person(s) based on the victim's actual or perceived race, nationality, religion, sexual orientation, disability or gender. Hate incidents also include hate crimes, which violate criminal laws and lead to a police investigation. All hate incidents should be reported.

## EXAMPLES OF HATE INCIDENTS:

- Racist stickers, drawings or writings on objects.
- Threats made by any means to hurt someone because of their race, sex, sexual orientation, religion, etc.
- Making derogatory comments about another person(s) because of their protected characteristics.
- Cyberbullying and targeting a gay teenager.
- Throwing rocks or spitting at a university student while telling them to "go home."
- Distributing hate material in public places or displaying on private property.

## IF YOU WERE A VICTIM, YOU SHOULD:

- In an emergency, call 9-1-1. Otherwise, call your local law enforcement agency or the San Diego Sheriff's Department Communication Center at (858) 565-5200 to make a report.
- Obtain medical attention, if needed. Be sure to keep all medical documentation.
- Write down any hate language that was said, particularly any words that indicate bias motivation and other information that may be valuable.
- Take notes about any other facts so you don't forget them.
- Leave all evidence in place. Do not touch, remove or clean up anything.
- Take photos of the evidence.
- Document what happened and get a description of the suspect(s) and/or their vehicle.
- Get the names, addresses, and phone numbers of other victims or witnesses.



## WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS?

### THE RALPH ACT - CIVIL REMEDIES

The Ralph Act protects individuals from violence or intimidation by threat of violence because of a victim's protected characteristics, such as actual or perceived race, national origin, immigration status, religion, gender, or sexual orientation. The act also protects you if you are associated with an individual or group with one of these characteristics. Remedies for Ralph Act violations include restraining orders, money to compensate the victim and punish the perpetrator, and attorneys' fees.

### HATE CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS

Victims of hate crimes are eligible for compensation to help pay for expenses related to a crime, such as medical treatment, mental health services, home security, or income loss. California Victim Compensation Board website: [vcgcb.ca.gov/victims/](http://vcgcb.ca.gov/victims/)

### WHAT IF I AM AN IMMIGRANT?

Protection from hate attacks extends to everyone, regardless of immigration status. Government agencies like the San Diego County Sheriff's Department will not collect your immigration status if you report a hate crime. An undocumented immigrant may be eligible for a U-visa if they are a victim of certain crimes and is willing to help with the investigation or prosecution.

