

What to Do if You Have Been the Victim of Hate

Hate-motivated activity is a virus that continues to spread. We all have a role in stopping it - whether it takes the form of insensitive jokes, acts of harassment or physical attacks. This pamphlet, prepared by the League for Human Rights of B'nai Brith Canada, will assist you in understanding how to recognize hate and what YOU can do to counter it.



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WHAT DOES HATE LOOK LIKE?

Vandalism - racist graffiti sprayed on the walls of a public school or house of worship; rocks hurled through the windows of a private home; a desecrated cemetery.

Harassment - emails suggesting that a member of an identifiable minority group has no right to hold public office; distribution at a school of derogatory caricatures of a minority group.

Violence - teenagers attacked by a group shouting racist slurs; rocks thrown at a religious leader as he leaves a house of worship.

WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY?

Hate-motivated acts are against the law in Canada.

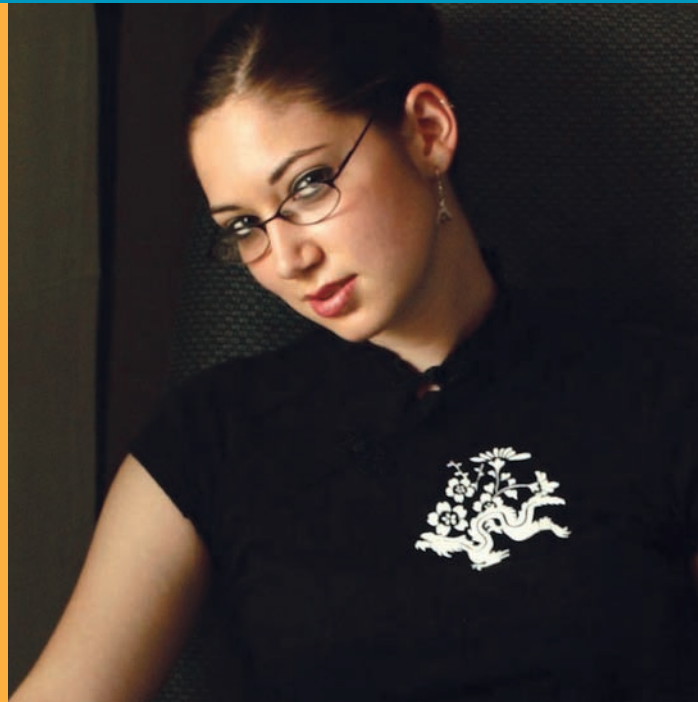
THE CRIMINAL CODE OF CANADA

There are two main offences outlawing acts of hate:

Advocating Genocide - It is a criminal offence to advocate or promote genocide, with intent to destroy in whole or in part any identifiable group. An identifiable group means individuals distinguished by colour, race, religion or ethnic origin

Public Incitement of Hatred - It is a criminal offence to communicate public statements that incite hatred against any identifiable group where they are likely to lead to a breach of the peace, or to communicate statements, other than in private conversation, that willfully promote hatred against any identifiable group. 'Communicating' is defined under the Code as communicating by "communicating by telephone, broadcasting or other audible or visible means" which would include, for example, written and verbal statements in person or over the internet. In addition to the above provisions, hatred against an identifiable group can result in an increased sentence for any criminal act.

Not all hate-related activity will be defined as a 'hate crime', but police still have a key role to play.



HUMAN RIGHTS LEGISLATION

Canada has a **Human Rights Code** that prohibits discrimination and harassment. Section 13 of the Code prohibits communicating messages telephonically which are likely to expose persons belonging to an identifiable group to hatred or contempt.

Each province has human rights legislation. **Human Rights Code of Ontario** provides that every person has a right to equal treatment with respect to services, goods and facilities, without discrimination because of race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, family status or handicap.

Other legislation can also be an important tool in fighting discrimination, for example, the *Landlord and Tenant Act*.

If you are a Victim – What should you do?

Document the facts: who, what, when, where

Preserve the evidence

Report the incident to police as soon as possible
- call 911 if this is an emergency

Report the incident to those in charge of the area where the incident took place, for example, your supervisor at work, property manager, internet service provider, etc.

Notify community organizations such as B'nai Brith's League for Human Rights

Create community networks to counter hate and provide training and education for people in your school, workplace or neighbourhood

Prejudice, hate and discrimination must be stopped.

