

Effects of hate crime

Victims of hate crimes suffer more than just the physical and emotional effect of the crime. Hate crimes send a message to the victim and the victim's community that they are threatened, inferior, unwanted and less than human. This leads to victims and communities feeling anxiety, stress, fear and isolation. Attitudes can become hardened which may lead to distrust and retaliation. Peaceful coexistence is put in jeopardy, and community fracture can occur.

People who commit hate and bias crimes want to instill fear in their victims and in the victim's community. If people who commit such crimes are not charged they might believe that society agrees with them. This is not true. Hate crimes are against the law. If people are not charged it may lead to more crimes or incidents.

I am a victim of a hate and bias crime, but I'm afraid to report it.

What if reporting the crime makes me a victim again?

Everyone in Canadian society is considered equal in dignity and rights. Equality is written into our Charter of Rights and Freedoms. That includes the right to safety and protection by the police — for everyone.

If the police don't know that a crime has been committed, they can't help you. Please report hate and bias crimes.

If you are worried that the report will be made public, and that you will be a target again, you should know that your privacy will be protected to the utmost. All police reports are confidential until the offender is in

court. If an offender is charged and a trial is set, the report can be disclosed to the defense.

If you have a problem with language when talking with the police, take someone from your community with you, or ask for an interpreter.

The officers in the Edmonton Police Service's Hate and Bias Crimes Section have special experience and training to deal with hate and bias crimes. This is how we sum up the Edmonton Police Service's intent:

"We advocate for a safe and inclusive environment for our diverse and multicultural society. We have a commitment to a framework to manage issues and prevent occurrences involving hate and bias."

Responding to and preventing hate and bias crime is a priority for Edmonton Police Service. Crimes committed against people based on their differences are offensive, and strike at the heart of our communities by threatening the rights and freedoms of society.

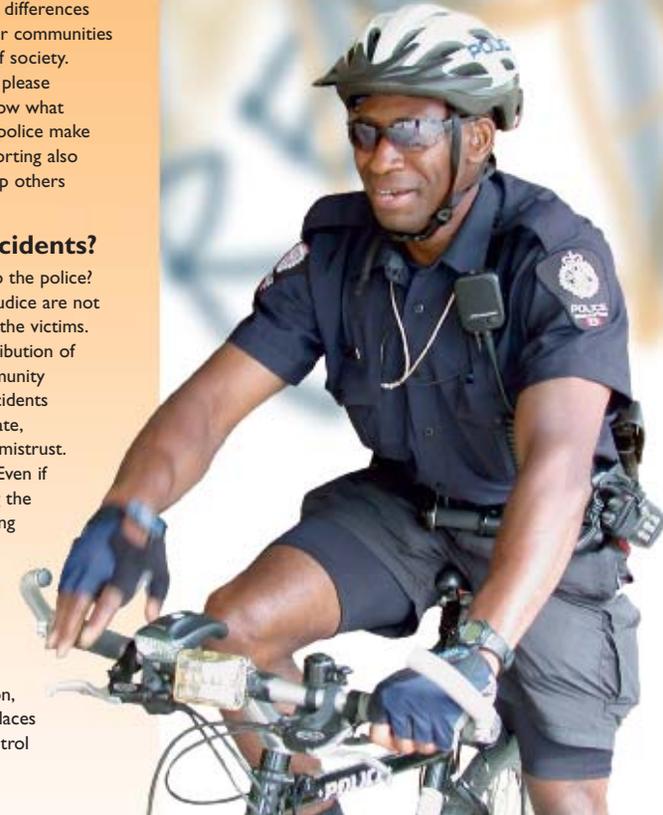
Even if you are afraid to press charges, please report the crime. This helps the police know what threats exist in the community, and helps police make plans to protect you and your group. Reporting also helps stop the cycle of hate, and helps stop others from being victimized too.

What are hate and bias incidents?

Should I report a hate and bias incident to the police? Some acts motivated by hate, bias or prejudice are not against the law, even if they are hurtful to the victims. Examples are racial slurs/remarks, or distribution of material offensive towards a specific community (but not classified as hate propaganda). Incidents of hate have similar effects to crimes of hate, creating fear, anxiety, societal division and mistrust.

Please report hate and bias incidents! Even if the police cannot act right away, reporting the incident keeps police aware of what is going on in the community. You will be safer if someone else knows what has happened. Some incidents may lead to crimes.

You may have other options you don't know about. The incident may be in the jurisdiction of the Human Rights Commission, landlord and tenant legislation, or other laws. Schools, universities, workplaces and other institutions have policies to control harassment.

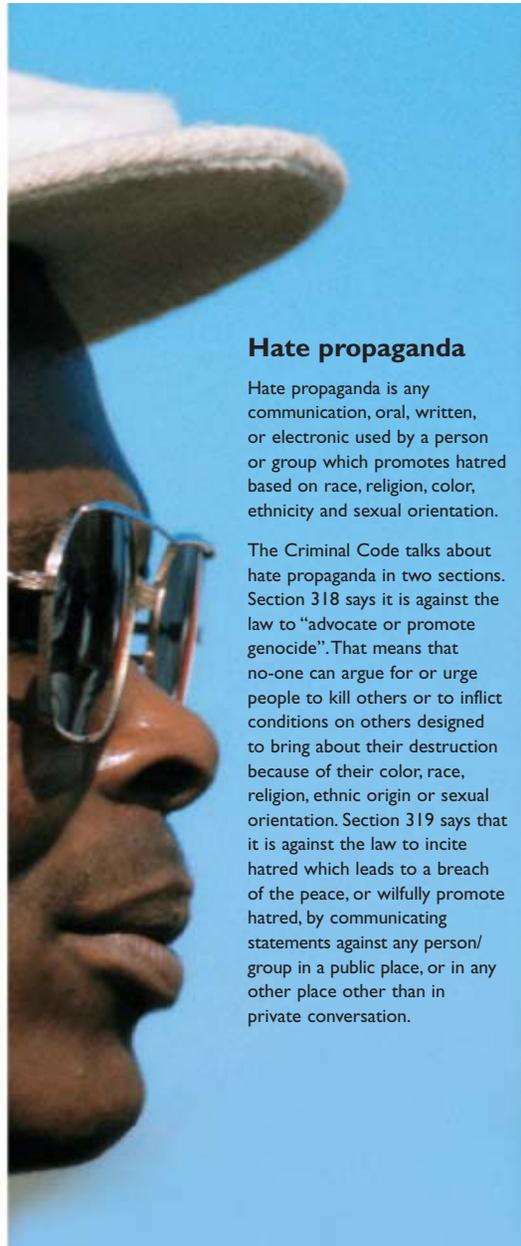


What is a hate and bias crime?

The Edmonton Police Service defines a hate and bias crime as an offense committed against a person or property, which is motivated, in whole or in part, by the suspects hate, bias or prejudice towards an identifiable group based on, real or perceived, race, national or ethnic origin, language, color, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation or any other similar factor.

Examples of hate and bias crime

- Assault
- Mischief / Vandalism
- Graffiti
- Uttering threats in person or by telephone
- Destruction of religious property
- Arson
- Fire bombings
- Threatening letters and e-mails
- Hate propaganda



Hate propaganda

Hate propaganda is any communication, oral, written, or electronic used by a person or group which promotes hatred based on race, religion, color, ethnicity and sexual orientation.

The Criminal Code talks about hate propaganda in two sections. Section 318 says it is against the law to "advocate or promote genocide". That means that no-one can argue for or urge people to kill others or to inflict conditions on others designed to bring about their destruction because of their color, race, religion, ethnic origin or sexual orientation. Section 319 says that it is against the law to incite hatred which leads to a breach of the peace, or wilfully promote hatred, by communicating statements against any person/group in a public place, or in any other place other than in private conversation.



- If it is a crime in progress phone 911
- If it is not a crime in progress, but requires police attendance, phone the Edmonton Police Service complaint line at **423-4567**
- Alert the Hate/Bias Crimes Unit at **426-8116** or **426-8141**
- Preserve the crime scene
- Do not remove graffiti until Police have attended the scene and photographed it
- Try not to handle written exhibits, such as letters or manuscripts
- Do not delete e-mails
- Capture, save or print any chat or website text



The Edmonton Police Service
Hate and Bias Coordinators
Office can be reached at
426-8116 or **426-8141**

Report Hate Crime

