

Prosecuting Hate Crimes

The Division enforces the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which makes it a crime for a person to cause bodily injury (or attempt to do so with a dangerous weapon) when motivated by a person's actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability (including HIV). The Division also enforces laws that prohibit the use of force, threat of force, or intimidation with someone's housing rights because of that person's sexual orientation or gender identity. To report a hate crime, contact your local Federal Bureau of Investigation field office:

[fbi.gov/contact-us/field/field-offices](https://www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field/field-offices).

Protecting the Rights of Persons Living with HIV

The Division enforces the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which guarantees equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities, including persons with HIV (with or without symptoms). The ADA covers private providers of goods and services to the public, employment, transportation, and state and local government services. These protections ensure that those with HIV live free from stigma and discrimination. For more information or to file a complaint, visit [ada.gov/HIV](https://www.ada.gov/HIV).

Information About the LGBTQI+ Working Group

The Division's LGBTQI+ Working Group advises the Division's leadership on legal and policy issues relating to sexual orientation, gender identity, and discrimination based on HIV. The group explores how existing civil rights laws might address discrimination experienced by LGBTQI+ individuals; provides assistance to other Department components, to other federal agencies, and to relevant stakeholders; and assists the Department with various diversity, education, and outreach initiatives.

Contact Information and Additional Resources

To contact the Division's LGBTQI+ Working Group, send an email to CRT-LGBTQI@usdoj.gov. To report acts of violence or discrimination described in this brochure, visit [civilrights.justice.gov](https://www.civilrights.justice.gov). You also may file complaints with the other agencies mentioned in this brochure that have responsibility for investigating particular claims. For more information, case documents, news, and other resources, including a copy of this brochure, please visit www.justice.gov/crt/about/wg/lgbtqi/.



**Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division
Protecting the Rights of
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual,
Transgender, Queer, and
Intersex (LGBTQI+)
Individuals**



Fighting Discrimination

The Division enforces laws that prohibit discrimination, including **sex discrimination**, in education, employment, housing, police practices, and certain Department-funded programs. These laws protect all people (**including LGBTQI+ people**) from sex-based discrimination.

Education

The Division enforces Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which authorizes the Department of Justice to investigate and resolve complaints that a school is depriving students of equal protection based on sex (among other bases) and to bring civil actions in federal court under certain circumstances. The Division, in partnership with the Department of Education, also enforces Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which prohibits sex discrimination in federally funded educational programs and activities. Both laws protect students from discrimination, including harassment, based on sexual orientation, gender identity/transgender status, and nonconformity with sex stereotypes.

Employment

The Division enforces Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 against state and local government employers. Title VII prohibits, among other

things, sex discrimination, which includes treating a person less favorably because of their sexual orientation or gender identity, or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. Sex discrimination also includes treating a person unfavorably because of their association with someone or some group generally associated with a particular sex, and may also include treating a person unfavorably because they are pregnant, or based on gender stereotypes, including a person's failure to conform to gender stereotypes. It also prohibits sex-based harassment and retaliation for complaining about discrimination. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) investigates employment discrimination. To file a complaint, contact the EEOC at 1-800-669-4000 or 1-800-669-6820 (TTY) or visit www.eeoc.gov.

Housing

The Division enforces the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, which prohibit discrimination, including sex discrimination, in the sale or rental of housing and in other residential real-estate transactions, and in credit and lending transactions. To file a housing discrimination complaint, contact the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity at 1-800-669-9777 or 1-800-927-9275

(TTY), or visit

www.hud.gov/fairhousing.

To file a lending discrimination complaint, call 1-855-411-2372 or 1-855-729-2372 (TTY), or visit consumerfinance.gov/fair-lending.

Police Practices

The Division enforces laws that prohibit discrimination and other misconduct by police. Prohibited practices include, among other things, anti-LGBTQI+ harassment or abuse by police officers and bias in police investigations, including the failure or refusal to investigate certain kinds of crimes or to respond to complaints by LGBTQI+ victims.

Defending the Rights of People in Institutions

The Division, under the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (CRIPA), seeks to remedy a pattern or practice that deprives people of their constitutional or statutory rights in state or local jails and prisons, juvenile detention centers, and other institutions. CRIPA violations could include the failure to protect LGBTQI+ inmates from violence, the denial of certain kinds of medical treatment to individuals diagnosed with gender dysphoria and unjustified segregation of LGBTQI+ individuals.