

## Why report hate crimes and incidents?

All hate crimes and hate incidents should be reported to law enforcement. There is a significant gap between the number of hate crimes that occur and the number that are reported.

It is critical to report hate crimes not only to show support and get help for victims, but also to send a clear message that the community will not tolerate these kinds of crimes.

Reporting also allows communities and law enforcement to understand the scope of the problem in the community and put resources toward preventing and addressing attacks based on bias and hate.

## How do I report a hate crime?

When a hate crime occurs:

- Get immediate help. Dial 911.
- Report the hate crime to local law enforcement or the FBI.
  - FBI Greensboro: 336-855-7770
- Submit tips to [www.fbi.gov/tips](http://www.fbi.gov/tips)

## How do I report discrimination?

Instances of discrimination should be reported to the Department of Justice and/or the U.S. Attorney's Office.

- Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division:
  - 202-514-3847, or online at: [www.civilrights.justice.gov/report](http://www.civilrights.justice.gov/report)
- U.S. Attorney's Office:
  - [USANCM.CivilRights@usdoj.gov](mailto:USANCM.CivilRights@usdoj.gov)

## Online Resources

### Department of Justice

#### DOJ Hate Crimes Website

[www.justice.gov/hatecrimes](http://www.justice.gov/hatecrimes)



#### DOJ Civil Rights Website

[www.civilrights.justice.gov](http://www.civilrights.justice.gov)



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### U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of North Carolina

#### Civil Rights Program

[www.justice.gov/usao-mdnc/civil-rights](http://www.justice.gov/usao-mdnc/civil-rights)



#### Victim Witness Assistance

[www.justice.gov/usao-mdnc/victim-witness-assistance-program](http://www.justice.gov/usao-mdnc/victim-witness-assistance-program)



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### Hate Crime Prevention

#### Stop Hate Project

[www.8449NoHate.org](http://www.8449NoHate.org)



#### Victim Connect Resource Center

[www.victimconnect.org](http://www.victimconnect.org)



# Preventing Hate Crimes and Protecting Civil Rights



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## United States Attorney's Office Middle District of North Carolina

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Greensboro, NC 27401

**Branch Office**  
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Suite 726  
Winston, Salem, NC 27101

**(336) 333-5351**

## What is a hate crime?

A crime + motivation for committing the crime based on bias = hate crime.

**Hate:** When used in hate crime law, “hate” does not mean rage, anger, or general dislike. It means bias against people or groups with specific characteristics that are defined by law.

**Crime:** “Crime” is often a violent crime, such as assault, murder, arson, vandalism, or threats to commit such crimes.

### Hate crime indicators

- Victim is part of a protected class
- Comments, written statements, or gestures
- Drawings, markings, symbols or graffiti
- Membership in hate groups
- Previous hate crimes or incidents
- Location of incidents (church, temple, etc.)

### Federally protected classes

- Race, color, national origin
- Religion
- Disability
- Sexual orientation
- Familial status
- Sex or gender
- Gender identity

## What is a hate incident?

A bias or hate incident is an act of prejudice that is not a crime and does not involve violence, threats or property damage.

## What about discrimination?

Federal law also protects you from illegal discrimination based on protected class.

## How does the U.S. Attorney’s Office deal with hate crimes?

The United States Attorney for the Middle District of North Carolina is the chief federal law enforcement officer for the District. We prosecute criminal cases brought by the United States government, including hate crimes. Some of the hate crimes statutes we enforce:

**Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, 18 U.S.C. § 249:** Makes it a crime to willfully cause bodily injury based on actual or perceived race, color, religion, or national origin of any person.

**Damage to Religious Real Property (Church Arson Prevention Act), 18 U.S.C. § 247:** Makes it a crime to intentionally deface, damage, or destroy any religious real property because of the race, color, or ethnic characteristics of any individual associated with the property.

**Violent Interference with Federally Protected Activities, 18 U.S.C. § 245(b)(2):** Makes it a crime to violently interfere with enrolling in public school or college, participating in a service of a state or local government, applying for employment, serving as a juror, or traveling or using a public accommodation.

**Criminal Interference with Housing Rights, 42 U.S.C. § 3631:** Protects sale, purchase, or rental of dwelling, occupation of dwelling, and financing of dwelling from interference based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin.

**Law Enforcement Misconduct:** The Department of Justice can prosecute law enforcement misconduct under 18 U.S.C. § 241 and 18 U.S.C. § 242; felony sexual assault under color of law, 18 U.S.C. § 250.



## How does the U.S. Attorney’s Office protect civil rights?

Our office brings civil actions on behalf of the government, including to enforce civil rights laws. We work closely with the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division to investigate potential civil rights violations, including discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, disability, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, familial status, and national origin. Some of the civil rights states we enforce:

**Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000, et seq.:** Prohibits employment discrimination on basis of race, color, religion, sex, and national origin. The Department of Justice only has enforcement authority over state and local employers; contact the EEOC for private employers.

**Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12101, et seq.:** Prohibits discrimination based on disability in employment, access to state and local governmental services, and public accommodations.

**Fair Housing Act, 42 U.S.C. § 3601, et seq.:** Prohibits discrimination by landlords, realtors, and others on basis of race, color, religion, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), familial status, and national origin.

**Voting Rights Act, 52 U.S.C. § 10301, et seq.:** Protects the right of all to vote.

**Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, 42 U.S.C. § 2000cc-1 et seq.:** Protects the religious exercise of persons confined to institutions such as prisons and detention centers. The land use provisions protect individuals, houses of worship, and other religious institutions from discrimination in zoning laws.