

Frequently Asked Questions

“**What is a Hate Crime?** A crime committed based on the victim’s perceived or actual race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or disability.”

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What is the difference between a “hate crime” and a “hate incident”

Hate crimes must involve a “crime” and it often involves harassment and/or a violent crime, such as assault, murder, arson, vandalism, or threats to commit such crimes. It may also cover conspiring or asking another person to commit such crimes, even if the crime was never carried out.

Hate incidents are acts of prejudice that are not crimes and do not involve violence, threats, or property damage. The most common examples are isolated forms of speech in the form of racial slurs.

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Why should I report a “hate crime”

There is a significant disparity between hate crimes that actually occur and those reported to law enforcement. 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 hate crimes allows communities and law enforcement to fully understand the scope of the problem in a community and put resources toward preventing and addressing attacks based on bias and hate. Regardless of whether an incident amounts to a hate crime or a hate incident, it should be reported so that an investigation can occur.

Resources for more information on...

Legal aid, working with law enforcement, mental health and more, visit the National Asian Pacific Bar Association’s (NAPABA) Hate Crime Resources at: www.napaba.org/page/HateCrimeResources

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How is a hate crime different from a “regular” crime

Hate crimes have a broader effect than most other kinds of crime. Hate crime victims include not only the crime’s immediate target but also others like them. Hate crimes affect families, communities, and at times, the entire nation.

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How is the prosecution of a hate crime different from a regular crime

Hate crime laws vary from state-to-state. Most hate crime laws provide for enhanced penalties if there is sufficient evidence that an offender has committed a crime with bias motivation. Moreover, hate crime laws sometimes provide increased financial, technical, and forensic support to state and local law enforcement involved in prosecuting hate crime cases. Even if a state or territory does not have a hate crimes law, hate crimes can still be reported.

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How do I report a hate crime or a hate incident

You should report a hate crime or hate incident to local law enforcement and the FBI. You can also report to community organizations that are collecting data on these incidences, such as [AAAJ](http://www.aaaaj.org) or [Stop AAPI Hate](http://www.stopaapihate.org)

COVID-19, visit the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum’s website at: www.apiahf.org/