

## Who Can You Contact for Help?

***In an Emergency Call Your Local  
Police Department or 911***

OC Human Relations	(714) 480-6570
American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)	(213) 977-9500
Anti-Defamation League (ADL)	(949) 679-3737
Asian American Advancing Justice OC	(888) 349-9695
CA Conference for Equality and Justice	(562) 435-8184
CA Dept. of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH)	(800) 884-1684
CA Sikh Council	(877) 225-7454
CSP—Victims Assistance	(949) 250-4058
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)	(714) 776-1847
Dayle McIntosh Center	(714) 621-3300
Japanese-American Citizens League	(213) 626-4471
NAACP of Orange County	(714) 543-3637
Orange County District Attorney	(714) 834-3600
OC Asian & Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA)	(714) 636-9095
OC LULAC Foundation	(714) 638-8332
Office of Victims Services CA Attorney General's Office	(877) 433-9069
Orange County District Attorney	(714) 834-3600
Parents, Families, & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)	(714) 997-8047
The LGBT Center OC	(714) 953-5428

To report a hate incident or hate crime  
please call **(714) 480-6570**  
or fill out a report online at  
**[ochumanrelations.org/hatecrime](http://ochumanrelations.org/hatecrime)**

**KNOW  
HATE  
#HATEFREEOC**



1801 E. Edinger Ave., Suite 115, Santa Ana, CA 92705  
(714) 480-6570 • Fax (714) 567-7474  
**[www.ochumanrelations.org/hatecrime](http://www.ochumanrelations.org/hatecrime)**

Don Han, Program Coordinator  
(714) 480-6576 • [don@ochumanrelations.org](mailto:don@ochumanrelations.org)

OC Human Relations works to build mutual  
understanding among residents to eliminate prejudice,  
intolerance, and discrimination.

# Hate Crimes

## A Guide for Victims



*"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice  
everywhere."*

- Martin Luther King, Jr.



**Orange County  
Human Relations  
Commission**

## What is a Hate Crime?

In California, **hate crime** is defined as being a criminal act committed, in whole or in part, because of one or more of the following actual or perceived characteristics of the victim: Disability, Gender, Nationality, Race or Ethnicity, Religion, Sexual Orientation, or association with a person or group of persons with one or more of the preceding actual or perceived characteristics.

Examples of **hate crime** are:

- ◆ Painting racist, homophobic, and/or religious graffiti on private property.
- ◆ Burning a cross on an individual's lawn.
- ◆ An assault.
- ◆ A criminal threat of violence against an individual or a group.

A **hate incident** is behavior that is motivated by hate or bias towards a person's actual or perceived disability, gender, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation but that it is not criminal in nature. Typically these behaviors are protected by the First Amendment right to freedom of expression.

If this type of activity escalates to threats being made or carried out against a person or property, or becomes an incitement to commit violence, it would be classified as a **hate crime**.

Examples of a **hate incident** are:

- ◆ Distribution of non-threatening racist flyers in a public place.
- ◆ Anti-gay or lesbian placards at a parade or a funeral.
- ◆ Writing a letter to the editor ridiculing people with disabilities.



## What Should I Do if I'm Victimized?

1. Call the police immediately and make a report.
2. Obtain medical attention, if needed. Be sure to keep all medical documentation.
3. Leave all evidence in place. Do not touch, remove and/or clean up anything.
4. Document what happened. Take photographs of evidence, write down exactly what was said, etc.
5. Get the name(s), address(es) and phone number(s) of other victims and witnesses.
6. If possible, write down a description of the perpetrator and the perpetrator's vehicle.
7. Report the occurrence to OC Human Relations at **(714) 480-6570** or online at [www.ochumanrelations.org/hatecrime](http://www.ochumanrelations.org/hatecrime).

## Victim Assistance

Help is available in the form of:

- ◆ Translation for non-English speakers
- ◆ Information resources and referrals
- ◆ Crisis intervention and counseling
- ◆ Emergency financial assistance
- ◆ Orientation to the criminal justice system
- ◆ Support in communicating with the police, the court, and other authorities
- ◆ Assistance with writing a victim impact statement obtaining restitution assistance and filing Office or Victims of Crime Claims. ([www.ovc.gov](http://www.ovc.gov))

## Criminal Enforcement

Your local police or sheriff's department enforce criminal laws and are the first responders. Criminal prosecution of your case can be pursued by the Orange County District Attorney's Office, the Office of the California State Attorney General or the U.S. State Attorney, depending on the nature of the case. The Federal Bureau of Investigation may also assist in your case if appropriate. ([www.ocgov.com/da](http://www.ocgov.com/da))

## About the Orange County Human Relations Commission

The Orange County Human Relations Commission was founded in 1971 as an official governmental commission by the Board of Supervisors in collaboration with the Orange County Division of the League of California Cities. Its mission is to seek out the causes of tension and conflict, discrimination and intolerance, and attempt to eliminate those causes.