

What is/are...

A Hate Incident?

A hate motivated incident is **any non-criminal action or behaviour that is motivated by hate** against an identifiable group. These incidents can be very harmful and lead to emotional and psychological stress.

Examples include using racial slurs, or insulting a person because of their ethnic or religious dress or how they identify.

A Hate Crime?

A hate motivated crime is **a criminal offence** committed against a person or property motivated in whole or in part by hate, bias or prejudice against an identifiable group.

An identifiable group may be distinguished by race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression.

Examples include assault, hitting or spitting on someone, damage to property, uttering threats, and harassment or hate propaganda (pamphlets or online distribution of hate material).

The Constitutional Rights?

The Charter of Rights and Freedoms, through Section 2, protects Canadians' freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression. **Hate Speech is not protected by the Charter.**

Resources/Supports

sh/ft

Shift BC

shift@gov.bc.ca

For violence prevention when working with perpetrators, consultations and advice for professionals, and therapeutic interventions for perpetrators.



Victim Link BC

1-800-563-0808 / VictimLinkBC@bc211.ca

For 24/7 information and referral services for all victims of crime and immediate crisis support.



Racist Incidents Help Line

1-833-457-5463

Call to speak with a trained professional who will help you navigate resources available to you in your community.



BC Human Rights Tribunal

<https://www.bchrt.bc.ca/>

Accepts, screens, mediates, and adjudicates human rights complaints.



The BC Human Rights Clinic

<https://bchrc.net/>

Provides free legal advice to people who make human rights complaints to the BC Human Rights Tribunal.



Office of the Human Rights

Commissioner (BCOHR)

<https://bchumanrights.ca/>

For information about rights, workshops and trainings, and informational resources.



HELP PREVENT HATE CRIME

Information for Professionals

“How Can I Tell if it is a Hate Crime?”

CRIMINAL OFFENCE + HATE = HATE CRIME

CRIMINAL OFFENCE - HATE = CRIMINAL OFFENCE

HATE - CRIMINAL OFFENCE = HATE INCIDENT

REPORT

Reporting is a key step to ending the cycle of hate. By reaching out to police, the incident can be addressed immediately and people can be connected to the services and supports they need to feel safe.

Reporting can prevent escalation and future offences.

In an Emergency:

- Call 9-1-1, if there is an immediate threat to life or property.
- Stay calm and provide specific details.

In a Non-Emergency:

- Report to your local police authority.
- If your community or organization has any questions about reporting hate incidents, reach out to:

BC_HATE_CRIMES@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

Dealing with Hate in Front-Facing Roles

Front-facing professionals play a key role in creating safe, inclusive spaces. Effectively addressing hate fosters a supportive environment and prevents further harm. When handling these cases, it's important to remember **the three R's**:

RECOGNIZE

- Identify hate when it occurs.
- Know the difference between a hate crime and a hate incident.
- This includes verbal abuse, discriminatory behavior, graffiti, and online hate.
 - Importantly, some hateful behaviors may not be illegal but can still cause harm.

RESPOND

- Ensure safety first. If there is an immediate threat, call for help.
- Intervene if it is safe to do so (e.g., de-escalate, support the targeted person, address harmful behavior).
- **If dealing with the perpetrator:**
 - Address their behavior calmly and firmly.
 - Avoid attempts to directly challenge or “correct” their beliefs, as this can entrench harmful ideologies. Set clear expectations for respectful behavior and reinforce community values.
 - Encourage accountability through structured, evidence-based interventions rather than informal educational efforts.

REFER

- **If a crime occurred**, report to law enforcement.
- **If harm was done**, refer the individual to counseling or support services.
- **If it happened in a school or workplace**, escalate to leadership or the relevant departments.
- **If engaging with the perpetrator**, consider restorative approaches, conflict resolution resources, or therapeutic interventions where applicable.