

Identifying and Reporting

HATE CRIME

AND INCIDENTS

The San Diego Police Department takes reports of hate crimes very seriously and works swiftly to investigate and hold individuals who are committing these acts of violence accountable. SDPD works collaboratively with local, state and community partners to educate and prevent these crimes from happening in San Diego.



Report a Hate Crime

In an emergency, call 9-1-1.

Otherwise, dial the non-emergency line at **619- 531-2000** to report a hate crime.

ACTIONS TO TAKE:

- Obtain medical attention if needed. Be sure to keep all medical documentation.
- Write down the hate language.
- Leave all evidence in place. Do not touch, remove or clean up anything.
- Document what happened. Take photographs of the evidence, writing down exactly what was said, particularly any words that indicate biased motivation and other information that may be valuable.
- Get the names, addresses and phone numbers of other victims and witnesses.

What is a Hate Crime?

A hate crime is a **criminal act** committed against another person that is motivated by prejudice against certain characteristics of that person. The California Penal Code outlines the following characteristics that may be considered in hate crime acts:

- Disability
- Gender
- Nationality
- Race or Ethnicity
- Religion
- Sexual Orientation
- Association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics

HATE CRIME

What is a Hate Incident?

Generally, speech is not enough to charge a hate crime. **To charge a hate crime, speech must threaten violence, target a specific person or group, and the offender must have the apparent ability to carry out the threat.** Speech that does not meet these criteria, however ugly, intimidating, and upsetting, still does not meet criminal behavior. **Behavior that may cause an individual to feel like a victim of a hate crime can be documented as a "Hate Incident."**

CONSIDERATIONS:

- Not all expressions of hate or group bias rise to the level of a hate crime.
- Derogatory words or epithets directed against a person or group, if not accompanied by a threat of harm with the ability to carry it out, are considered protected speech and NOT a hate crime.
- There must be a specific target (victim).
- Name-calling, when not accompanied by assault or threat with the ability to carry out, is NOT a hate crime.
- Racially motivated rallies, leafletting and recruiting are protected by free speech laws and are NOT hate crimes - unless accompanied by threats with the ability to carry them out or violent acts occur.





Resources:

LECC Suspicious Activity Report (SAR)

www.SDLECC.org

858-495-7200

California Attorney General, Victims' Services Unit

www.oag.ca.gov

877-433-9069

VictimServices@doj.ca.gov

San Diego County District Attorney's Office

www.SDCDA.org

Victim Services: **619-531-4041**

Hate Crime Reporting: **619-515-8805**

Or email: hatecrimes@sdcca.org

City of San Diego Human Relations Commission

SanDiego.gov/human-relations

619-236-6420

San Diego City Attorney's Office – Say No To Hate

SanDiego.gov/cityattorney/resources/say-no-to-hate



sandiego.gov/police/services/hate-crimes

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