



To learn more about your rights and options:

Sacramento County District Attorney's
Victim & Witness Assistance Program (916) 874-5701
Human Rights / Fair Housing (916) 444-6903



To report a crime that has occurred in your community:

Please contact your local law enforcement agency:

- Any Emergency 911
- Sacramento Sheriff's Department (916) 874-5115
- Sacramento Police Department (916) 264-5471
- TDD Device (800) 952-5548

When reporting a crime, please remember to calmly provide the following information in detail:

- Date, time, and location of incident
- Names, addresses, and telephone numbers of victim(s), witnesses, and suspects (if you have them)
- Description of any vehicle involved in the incident
- Any other related information

For additional information regarding special units in the Sacramento area, please refer to the list below.

Sacramento Police Department bias/hate line:
(916) 454-2427

Sacramento Sheriff's Department Bias Crimes Unit:
(916) 874-7119

Sacramento County District Attorney
www.da.saccounty.net

Sacramento Police Department
www.sacpd.org

Sacramento Sheriff's Department
www.sacsheriff.com

HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Other Agencies That Investigate and Report Hate Crimes

Anti-Defamation League (ADL):	800-600-1133
Asian Pacific Community Counseling	(916) 383-6783
California Attorney General: If you use a TDD device:	(800) 952-5225 (800) 952-5548
Human Rights/Fair Housing:	(916) 444-6903
Japanese American Citizens League:	(916) 447-0231
Jewish Federation Sacramento region:	(916) 486-0906
La Familia Counseling Center:	(916) 452-3601
LAMBDA Community Center:	(916) 442-0185
Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF):	(916) 443-7531
Mexican American Political Association:	(916) 454-9842
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP):	(916) 733-0430
National Organization for Women (NOW):	(916) 443-3470
Sacramento County District Attorney's Victim/Witness Assistance Program:	(916) 874-5701
Sacramento Urban Indian Health Project, Inc.:	(916) 441-1095
Southeast Asian Assistance Center (refugees from other nationalities also served):	(916) 421-1036

Sacramento County
District Attorney
P.O. Box 749
Sacramento, CA 95814



Hate Crimes

A Problem to be Challenged



A Joint Partnership With:
Sacramento County District Attorney's Office
The Sacramento Police Department
& The Sacramento County Sheriff's Department



"Intolerance and bigotry are the core of hate crimes. These contemptible crimes violate the most basic civil liberties cherished by all Americans. They are an affront to the community's conscience. As the chief law enforcement officer of this county, I pledge to strictly enforce the laws against these acts and assist the unfortunate victims of these cowardly crimes."

Jan Scully
District Attorney



"The County of Sacramento contains a unique and culturally diverse population. Unfortunately, many individuals and groups have become targets of hate-motivated offenders. I am committed to maintaining a hard stance against these and all types of criminals. I will continue to strive for the day when tolerance prevails and Hate Crime is no longer an issue."



"Hate crimes attack our human essence and our dignity. It's not about attacking a person for property or wealth, it's about attacking a human being for what he or she is, looks like or believes in. A hate crime is an attack against our constitutional protection of human dignity and freedom; and an attack on one of our citizens is an attack against our entire society."

Chief Arturo Venegas, Jr.
Sacramento Police Department

Sheriff
Lou Blanas
Sacramento
County
Sheriff's
Department

What Is A "Bias Motivated Crime?"

Bias motivated crimes are defined as "any criminal acts or attempted criminal acts that cause physical injury, emotional suffering, or property damage where there is reasonable cause to believe that the crime was motivated in whole, or in part by the victim's race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability."



What Is A "Bias Motivated Incident?"

This is any non-criminal act, including words directed against another person, based on the person's actual or perceived membership in a protected class. They include, but are not limited to, racial slurs and epithets, distribution of hate material in a public place, posting of hate material that does not result in property damage, and the display of offensive material on one's own property.



Victims Of Acts Of Bigotry Suffer Emotionally, Psychologically, Physically And Financially.

The effects of bias motivated crimes are devastating. Not only do the victims suffer, but also families and entire communities are made to feel more singled out, more vulnerable, more threatened. Bias crimes also breed bitterness, which can ultimately lead to violence between the various groups that compose and contribute to our society.

Hate Crimes Are Against The Law

The District Attorney's office or the California Attorney General's office can prosecute bias motivated crimes. Laws that specifically apply to hate crimes include the following:

- To damage a person's property because of his or her race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sexual orientation, or physical or mental disability (misdemeanor).
- To maliciously slander any social, fraternal, or religious association or organization (misdemeanor).
- To willfully disturb groups of people meeting to worship (misdemeanor).
- To knowingly vandalize a place of worship (felony or misdemeanor).
- To interfere by force or threat of force with a persons constitutional rights because of his/her race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sexual orientation, or physical or mental disability (misdemeanor).
- To cause a person fear for his/her safety by burning a cross or by displaying racist signs (felony or misdemeanor).
- To attempt to discourage religious activities by threats of violence (felony or misdemeanor).
- To use a bomb against or set fire to a place of worship (felony).
- To murder someone because of his/her race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sexual orientation, or physical or mental disability (special circumstances).

It is important to report bias motivated crimes to your local law enforcement agency. Although a crime may be categorized as a "misdemeanor," it is possible the crime will be enhanced to a felony status due to the hate crime element involved.

How Do These Laws Help?

These laws help by punishing the people who have violated the rights of others. There are also civil remedies available where the victim may recover money for damages from acts or threats of violence.

Criminal and Civil Remedies Include:

- **Restraining orders:** Once a restraining order is obtained from a court, persons upon whom it is served can be fined or jailed if they continue to threaten you or if they harm you or your property.
- **Actual damages:** These may include the cost of medical treatment, lost wages, repairing property or in civil cases, payment for emotional suffering and distress.
- **Additional damages:** In a civil case a court may order an additional payment of up to three times whatever actual damages can be proven.
- **Civil penalties:** A court ordered fine of up to \$10,000.
- **Attorney fees:** In a civil case a court may order that you be paid the attorney fees you owe for suing the person who violated your civil rights

Compensation:

You may be eligible for compensation from the California Victim Compensation Board if;

- You are injured as a result of a crime
- You depend on the victim for support
- You pay the medical or burial expenses of a victim who dies as a result of the crime
- You are a member of the family of a victim who is murdered or injured, and you need medical treatment or counseling as a result of the crime.