



## Why do we have hate crime laws?

The impact of hate bias crimes is far reaching, extending beyond the physical and emotional trauma to the victim. These crimes can heighten the isolation and vulnerability of the victim's group and cause stress for all members of the community. If unchecked, these crimes can result in an escalation in social tensions between different groups that can destroy communities. Reporting hate crimes and incidents is an important step in stopping the cycle of hatred and preventing others from being victimized.

## How do I report a hate crime?



If it's an emergency or crime in progress, call 911.

For non-emergencies, call 905-546-4925



**Report Hate Crime Online** at [www.hamiltonpolice.on.ca](http://www.hamiltonpolice.on.ca)



**In person at:**  
Central Station  
155 King William Street

East End Station  
2825 King Street East

Mountain Station  
400 Rymal Road East

## Who can I call for information?

Hate Crime Unit: 905-546-5678

Community Relations Coordinator:  
905-546-4910

Victim Services: 905-546-4904

Human Rights Commission:  
905-521-7870



**Together. Stronger. Safer**

130729-B FEB20

**YOU** *Belong* **HERE**  
**Hate Doesn't**

**Helping Make  
Hamilton  
Hate Free**



**Together. Stronger. Safer**

## What is a hate crime?

A hate crime is a criminal offence committed against a person or property which is motivated by hate/bias or prejudice based on race, national or ethnic origin, language, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, or any other similar factor.

## What is a hate/bias motivated incident?

A hate/bias incident may be motivated by the same factors as a hate crime but does not reach the threshold of a criminal offence. These incidents may include name calling, racial insults, or the distribution of material containing hateful language.

## Why are victims of hate crimes reluctant to report?

Victims are often reluctant to report because of:

- fear of re-victimization or retaliation
- fear of having privacy compromised
- fear of law enforcement and its response
- cultural and language barriers
- fear of immigration services

## Why should I report?

Reporting hate crimes and incidents is an important step in stopping the cycle of hatred and preventing others from being victimized. It is also important for police to be aware of hate crimes so an analysis can be done to ensure actions are taken, including assigning appropriate resources to make our community safer.

## What happens when I talk to the police?

The call taker will ask you for basic information about yourself, such as your name, address, date of birth and the best way to contact you. A report will be completed and forwarded to a police officer for investigation. The report is forwarded to the Hate Crime section for review. If suspects can be identified, a resolution will be sought. This can vary from criminal charges to mediation, depending on the offence and persons involved.

## Do I have to use my name in the report?

No, you can report what happened for use as a statistic. You can even have a friend call for you.

We recognize some community members may not be comfortable attending a police station or reporting directly to a police officer.

The new online hate/bias reporting tool allows citizens to report incidents without having to attend a station.