

# HATE CRIME

**ASSAULT  
MISCHIEF  
INTIMIDATION  
HARASSMENT  
THREATENING  
EXTORTION  
GRAFFITI  
FLYERS**



**Hamilton Police Service  
Hate Crime Unit**

## The Hate Crime Unit's mandate includes:

*To investigate, enforce and maintain intelligence files on all incidents of Hate / Bias Crime and Hate Propaganda in our community or produced locally on the Internet.*

**What is a Hate Crime?** "A criminal offence committed against a person or property which is motivated solely, or in part, by the suspect's hate / bias against a race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability group, age or gender."

**What is Hate Propaganda?** Hate propaganda manifests itself in many different forms, such as:

- A derogatory pamphlet, flyer or leaflet distributed door-to-door.
- Racial graffiti defacing walls, buildings, sidewalks, etc.
- Recorded telephone messages expressing hatred against an identifiable group.

**Examples of crimes that may be hate motivated are:** Harassment / Threatening, Assault, Intimidation, Mischief, Extortion.

**When should I report a Hate Crime?** When you feel threatened or have been harassed or hurt, or your property has been vandalized by someone, and you feel these attacks were based on prejudice or bias.

**Is the Hate Crime Unit open 24-hours?** No. Call 911 in an emergency. Immediate assistance will be provided by a patrol officer. Call 905-546-4925 in a non-emergency.

**Are the officers trained in recognizing a Hate / Bias Crime?** HPS Patrol Officers have received training in identifying Hate Crimes through annual training. The Hate Crime Unit investigator acts as a resource for frontline Officers. Today, we have an improved understanding of the needs of our diverse communities. Officers are knowledgeable and will respond sensitively to Hate incidents.

**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.

**What should I do if I see hate propaganda, posters or graffiti that promote hatred?**

- Record all relevant information regarding the incident (name and description of those responsible, when and where the incident occurred, etc.).
- Incidents involving printed material such as posters / letters, should be kept and handled as little as possible.
- In cases where there is graffiti in public view, ensure the police attend or a photograph has been taken before removal.
- If the hate propaganda is in the form of an answering machine message, do not erase the message.
- If hate propaganda is hand-delivered, record a description of the suspect for the police. If a vehicle is involved, note the licence plate number. **Do not confront the suspect!**

**IN AN EMERGENCY  
CALL 911**

**In any of these circumstances, call the police to have the incident investigated thoroughly.**

# Role of the Police

- **Educational & Proactive Intervention**
- **Regulatory & Legislated Mandate**
- **Enforcement**

Hate Crime Unit.....905-546-5678

Community Relations Co-ordinator  
(Anti-racism & Anti-discrimination  
Liaison) .....905-546-4910

Victim Services .....905-546-4904

Human Rights Commission..905-521-7870

## Hate Crime is often:

- more assaultive •
- more traumatic to the victim •
  - an offence that terrorizes an entire community •
- a threat to community stability •
- prone to increase in severity •
  - more violent •

**FOR MORE  
INFORMATION  
please call the**

**HATE CRIME UNIT  
905-546-5678**



**HAMILTON POLICE SERVICE**  
*Leading the Way Together*  
www.hamiltonpolice.on.ca

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*"We must remember that when one person or group is threatened by racism, we are all threatened. It is vital that we work together to fight racism wherever it rears its ugly head."*

McMaster University President,  
Peter George

*"Hate is a slick on the world, polluting thoughts, running underground, where it wells up and threatens to drown love and understanding."*

Hamilton Spectator May 10/97  
Wade Hemsworth

*"Being gay or lesbian isn't the problem... hatred and ignorance is."*

Education Co-ordinator  
Hamilton Aids Network, Rui Pires

*"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."*

Martin Luther King, Jr.

*"Racism, like all forms of violence, has a devastating and long-term impact on the lives of its victims. It should not be considered outside of the context of hate crime, rather, this form of violence is the very heart of hate crime."*

Executive Director, Hamilton Urban Core  
Community Health Centre, Denise Brooks

*"An offence which is intentionally directed against a specific racial, religious or other identifiable group is sinister since it attacks the very fibre that binds our community together."*

Assistant Crown Attorney,  
Timothy K. Power

*"People of colour are the prime targets of hate-related incidents and crimes. The needs in the community call for an anti-racist, sensitive and effective police service response."*

Director of Anti-Racism Organizational Development,  
United Way of Burlington, Hamilton-Wentworth  
Ahmad Saidullah

sexual orientation  
ethnic origin  
age  
religion  
colour  
language  
mental/physical disability  
race  
sex  
Hate Propaganda