

Distribution of non-threatening racist fliers in a public place:  
Hate Incident

Attempted murder or murder because of someone's race, gender, sexual orientation, nationality, religion, etc:  
Hate Crime

Anti-gay or lesbian placards at a parade or a funeral:  
Hate Incident

A criminal threat of violence against an individual or a group:  
Hate Crime

Writing a letter to the editor ridiculing people with disabilities:  
Hate Incident

Yelling racial slurs at someone:  
Hate Incident

Assaulting someone because of their perceived sexual orientation:  
Hate Crime

Burning a cross on an individual's lawn:  
Hate Crime



In Partnership:

Orange County Human Relations Commission

## 2017 Hate Crimes Report

*Mission: Seek out the causes of tension and conflict, discrimination and intolerance, and attempt to eliminate those causes.*

# What's the Difference?

## A Message from the Commission

We believe that ALL people should live free from harassment, discrimination and violence based on race, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, disability or any other arbitrary aspect of their being. Over the last 47 years, OC Human Relations Commission has helped people who have faced prejudice, intolerance and discrimination and sought to educate all residents about bigotry.

In publishing this 28th annual report on Hate Crime, a picture emerges in which life in our community is experienced differently by some such as:

- A car or a park bench being defaced with swastikas;
- An African American man on the sidewalk assaulted while being called a “n---r”;
- A Muslim woman who was followed while taking her morning walk, her hijab torn from her head as she was struck with a metal water bottle. She has bruising and as a result of the assault, she has removed her hijab out of fear for her safety;
- An Asian family who found multiple derogatory/racist remarks against Asians on the driveway of their home;
- And a Latino man assaulted at a park who was verbally assaulted as he was punched in the head and kicked in his side and ribs.

Hate crimes cause more lasting trauma than similar but non-bias motivated crimes because not only is it an attack on a person physically, it is also an attack on someone’s very identity. The underlying intent of a hate crime is to intimidate and subordinate both the victim and the entire community to which they belong. The underlying message is that because they are different - they don’t belong. It is imperative that we learn of these occurrences when our society falls so far short of equality for all and that we document when people resort to criminal behavior as an expression of their hate. We must take action to look out for our neighbors, who, because of their differences, are singled out and attacked in an effort to drive them from our communities.

As you look at the 2017 hate crime numbers gathered through our work with local police and community organizations, remember that each incident is about an individual or family for whom the promise of our community was denied based on their race, religion, sexual orientation or other aspect of their being.

For the Commission, I am,



Rabbi Rick Steinberg, Chair  
Orange County Human Relations Commission



*2017-2018 Distinguished BRIDGES School Newport Harbor High School, honored for their tireless efforts in promoting unity on campus.*

# What Are Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents and How Can YOU Stop Them?

## What is a Hate Crime?

In California, **hate crime** is defined as: a criminal act committed, in whole or in part, because of one or more of the following actual or perceived characteristics of the victim: Disability, Gender, Nationality, Race or Ethnicity, Religion, Sexual Orientation, or association with a person or group of persons with one or more of the preceding actual or perceived characteristics.

### Examples of hate crimes are:

- Painting racist, homophobic, and/or religious graffiti on private property.
- Burning a cross on an individual's lawn.
- An assault.
- A criminal threat of violence against an individual or a group.
- Attempted murder or murder.

## What is a Hate Incident?

A **hate incident** is behavior that is motivated by hate or bias towards a person's actual or perceived disability, gender, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation but is not criminal in nature. Typically, these behaviors are protected by the First Amendment right to freedom of expression.

If this type of behavior escalates to threats being made or carried out against a person or property, or becomes an incitement to commit violence, it would be classified as a hate crime.

### Examples of a hate incident are:

- Distribution of non-threatening racist flyers in a public place.
- Anti-gay or lesbian placards at a parade or a funeral.
- Writing a letter to the editor ridiculing people with disabilities.
- Painting racist graffiti on a freeway overpass.

### A hate crime or incident may have occurred if any of the following were present:

- There was evidence that the victim was targeted because of their race, gender, sexual orientation, nationality, religion, etc.
- The perpetrator wrote or spoke in a manner that indicated bias.
- The date of the incident or crime coincides with a date that is of significance to the victim's religion, nationality, ethnicity, etc.

## What Should I do if I'm Victimized?

- 1** Call the police or sheriff's department immediately and make a report.
- 2** Obtain medical attention, if needed. Be sure to keep all medical documentation.
- 3** Leave all evidence in place. Do not touch, remove and/or clean up anything.
- 4** Document what happened by taking photographs of the evidence, writing down exactly what was said, particularly any words that indicate bias, motivation, and other information that may be valuable.
- 5** Get the name(s), address(es) and phone number(s) of other victims and witnesses.
- 6** If possible, write down a description of the perpetrator and the perpetrator's vehicle.
- 7** Report the occurrence to OC Human Relations at **(714) 480-6570** or submit a hate crime report online at: [www.ochumanrelations.org/hatecrime/](http://www.ochumanrelations.org/hatecrime/)

## What can YOU do to Stop Hate?

- Learn to recognize hate crimes and incidents.
- Report suspected hate crimes and incidents to your local police department and OC Human Relations.
- Maintain a respectful, inclusive climate in your school, community, neighborhood, work, and/or business.
- Create diverse teams to encourage people to work together on common goals.
- Model respect and inclusion towards others, especially when you are around children.
- Offer support and assist victims to let them know they are not alone.
- Speak out against acts of prejudice, discrimination, and hate in your community.

To report a hate crime, please call 714-480-6570.

For more information, visit us at [www.ochumanrelations.org/hatecrime](http://www.ochumanrelations.org/hatecrime)

Don Han, Hate Crimes Program Coordinator ~ [don@ochumanrelations.org](mailto:don@ochumanrelations.org)

# Analysis: Hate Crimes Continue to Increase in 2017

## Methodology

The 2017 Hate Crimes Report provides a statistical snapshot of reported hate crimes intended to inform efforts to combat bias-motivated activity. This type of data collection and analysis provides community organizations, policy-makers and practitioners insight into the urgent issues and greatest needs for education, prevention, intervention, victim assistance and advocacy.

The Orange County Human Relations Commission receives reports from law enforcement, school districts and universities, community-based organizations, and directly from victims. We carefully eliminate any duplicates, such as a hate crime submitted by both a law enforcement agency and a victim. Every case counted in this report has been reviewed to ensure it meets the criteria of the legal definition of hate crime in the California penal code. Those that do not meet that standard are not counted as hate crimes. Nevertheless, we encourage law enforcement and community organizations to report hate incidents because they can be early indicators of intergroup tension and conflict.

## Orange County's Diversity<sup>1</sup>

Orange County is home to 3,181,371 people, per recent census estimates.

### These are some general facts that demonstrate the diverse make-up of our County:

- The largest race/ethnic groups represented in Orange County are: Whites (41%), Latinos (34.3%), and Asian (19.9%). The remaining 4.8% of the population is distributed across African Americans, Native Americans, Hawaiians, other races and those of multiple races.
- 31% of Orange County's population is foreign born – approximately 51% of those foreign born are U.S. citizens.
- 46% of the County's residents speak a language other than English at home.
- There are over 80 faiths practiced in Orange County

## Hate Crimes Increased in 2017

Orange County experienced 56 reported hate crimes and 94 hate incidents in 2017. This is a continuation of year-by-year increases since 2015, when Orange County experienced 44 hate crimes and 43 hate incidents. Orange County's increase in reported hate crime numbers paralleled a national increase in reported hate groups. According to the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), there were 917 such groups active in 2017, a rise from 829 in 2015.

## Types of Criminal Offenses Reported as Hate Crimes in 2017

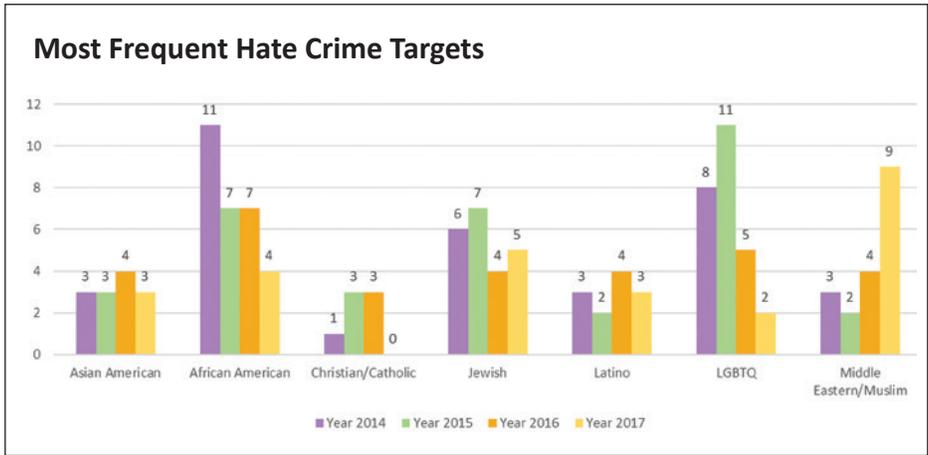
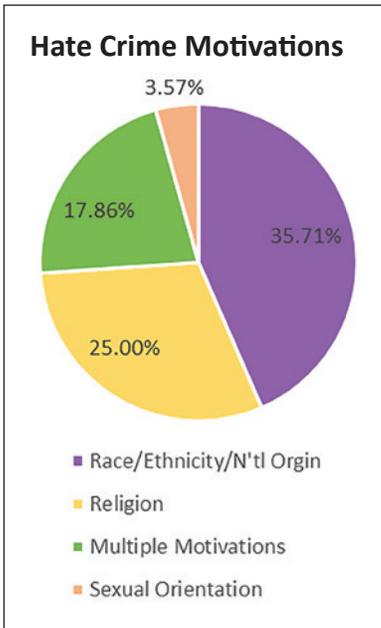
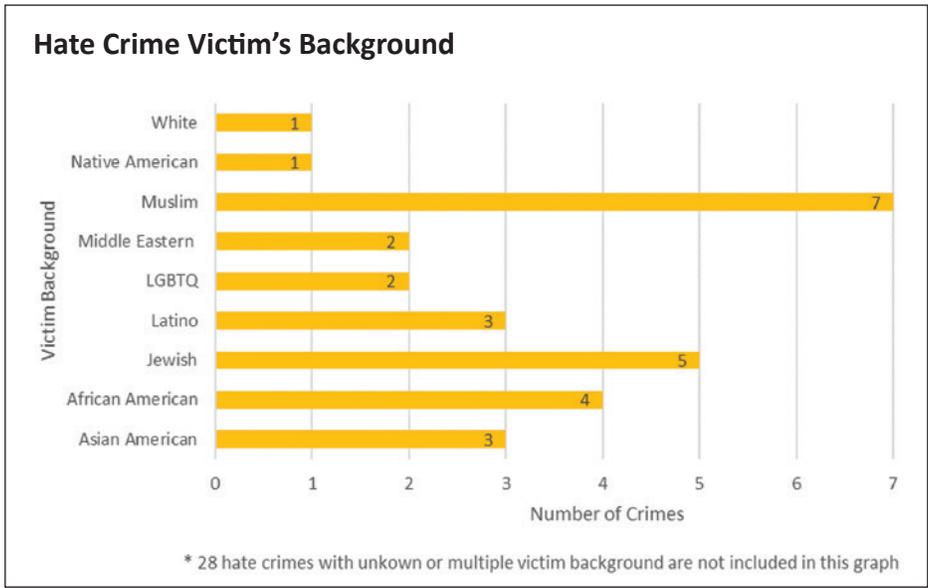
The most commonly reported hate-based criminal offense was vandalism (34%) followed by simple assaults (13%), criminal threats (9%), and aggravated assaults (7%). These four offenses comprised 63% of all reported hate crimes. 61% of the vandalism-related crimes involved graffiti prominently displaying a swastika. The overall rate of violence-related hate crimes (30%), in which victims were attacked or threatened with physical harm, continued to be the second highest for the last three years.

## Targets of Hate Crimes (See graphs page 5)

Hate crimes were most frequently motivated by the target's race, ethnicity and/or national origin (36% of the total); hate crime motivated by religious intolerance (25%) and hate crimes with multiple types of motivation (18%) were the next in frequency.

- In 2017, 13% of the county's reported hate crimes targeted Muslims, the most frequent victims. When the percentage of Muslim and Middle Eastern targets is combined, they equal 16% of the reported hate crimes (9 victims). This is more than double the number of the past few years and appears to be part of a national trend that also shows an increase of hate crimes targeting Muslim and people who appear to be Middle Eastern.
- Members of the Jewish community were the second most frequently targeted group, being 9% of the county's total hate crime victims. Most of the hate crimes against the Jewish community were vandalism that displayed the swastika symbol.
- In comparison to 2016, the number of African American victims fell from 7 to 4 in 2017.
- The number of LGBT victims also continued to drop, from 11 in 2015, to 5 in 2016, to 2 reported hate crimes in 2017.
- The number of Latino victims dropped from 4 in 2016 to 3 in 2017.
- Hate Crimes targeting the Asian community also dropped from 4 in 2016 to 3 in 2017.
- Native American and White community members were each targeted once.

Hate crimes occurred most frequently in public areas such as parks, shopping centers, streets, etc. (40%), followed by neighborhood residences (23%). Schools, disturbingly, were the most common location for hate incidents to occur, at (23%) of reported hate incidents. The second most frequent locations for hate incidents were in public areas (17%).



community is welcomed. When a Latina teen is told to “go home,” all Latinos are meant to feel like they don’t belong in Orange County. If one Jewish school is tagged with swastikas, all people of the Jewish faith are being told they’re under threat. When diversity is not respected, no one is safe from discrimination or hate. Together, we can create an inclusive place for all of us to live, go to school, work and play.

**Hate Incidents**

Reports of Hate Incidents have increased dramatically in the last two years (2016 & 2017). In 2017, there were 94 Hate Incidents reported in Orange County. This is a second year of a concerning increase - from 43 Hate Incidents reported in 2015, to 72 in 2016.

**Examples of Hate Incidents include:**

- A high school coach bullied a student with anti-Latino rhetoric.
- A Muslim community organization continued to receive harassing and threatening phone calls that featured xenophobic and Islamophobic language.
- An African American man was approached and called the N-word while walking on a bike path at the beach.

**The Impact of Hate Crimes and Incidents:**

- The *American Psychological Association* recognizes that “this kind of attack takes place on two levels; not only is it an attack on one’s physical self, but it is also an attack on one’s very identity.”<sup>2</sup>

When hate activity occurs, it’s not only an act against one individual, but a message that no one from that

**Short Term Impact of Hate Crimes and Incidents**

**Damaging psycho-emotional effects on victims may include but are not limited to: <sup>2</sup>**

- A sense of anger, which is a very common response to being the victim of a hate crime. It arises from a deep sense of personal hurt and betrayal. Victims experience feelings of powerlessness, isolation, sadness, and suspicion.
- Persistent fear as a response to victimization. Victims fear for their own safety and for their family’s safety.
- Fear can take on paranoid qualities and drastically disrupt the lives of some victims. One of the most common reactions is a sense of injustice, and a corresponding loss of faith in law enforcement and the whole criminal justice system, which is often perceived to be disinterested and insensitive.
- Most victims report changes in their lifestyle such as where they walk, how they answer the phone, reaction to strangers, increase suspicion of co-workers, and other such changes.

*Hate Crimes Analysis continues on page 6*

# Orange County Human Relations Commission

## Preventing and Responding to Hate Crimes in partnership with OC Human Relations Council

The Commission partners with OC Human Relations Council to address, prevent and respond to human relations needs in the county, via the following programs:

### 1 Hate Crime Response and Education

- Assist and support victims of hate crime and, in collaboration with law enforcement agencies, document hate crimes and incidents.
- Educate law enforcement agencies and community members about hate crimes and incidents.

### 2 Promote Positive Police/Community Relations

- Offer Police-Community Reconciliation Program to mediate resident disputes and complaints with law enforcement.
- Work with law enforcement agencies to enhance and build positive relationships with OC residents and students through dialogues.

### 3 Diverse Community Outreach and Relationship Building

- Establish relations with diverse communities within the County of Orange to understand their issues and concerns, and communicate those to the Commission and public.

### 4 Utilize Advanced Human Relations Tools to Accomplish the Commission's mission

- Organize Listening Sessions for the Commission to hear from diverse communities and facilitate Community Forums to build understanding about important human relations issues.



Tustin Police Department received the Community Policing Award for participating in a Police and Youth Dialogue to build understanding amongst youth and police.

### 5 Create Safe Inclusive Schools

- Partner with schools to provide comprehensive BRIDGES school intergroup relations and violence prevention programs and conduct two human relations student symposiums annually.

### 6 Mediate Conflicts

- Partner with the OC Courts to provide comprehensive mediation services in the courts and community.

OC Human Relations Commission and Council have a goal of developing and implementing proactive human relations programs to help eliminate hate in Orange County. This takes form in teaching inclusion and acceptance to youth, building trust between the community and law enforcement, and producing reports, like this one, to educate the community.

## Hate Crimes Analysis continued from page 5

### Underreporting of Hate Crimes and Incidents:

Hate crimes and incidents are underreported, often for valid reasons as outlined below. Because of this, we are certain the numbers contained in this report represent only a fraction of the hate crimes and incidents occurring in the county. According to the U.S. Justice Department National Crime Victim Survey, hate crimes and incidents potentially occur 24-28 times more often than reported.

### Common Reasons for Underreporting:

- Victims of hate are often traumatized after the incident and feel that reporting to law enforcement will further victimize and traumatize them.

- People are often fearful the perpetrator will return and harass them further if they make a report.
- People often have little faith the perpetrators will be caught and successfully prosecuted.
- Hate crimes and especially incidents are often normalized in target communities.
- Immigration status, linguistic or cultural barriers, and lack of knowledge about the criminal justice system also contribute to underreporting.

- Orange County 2017 Community Indicators Report. [http://www.ochhealthiertogether.org/content/sites/ochca/Local\\_Reports/OC\\_Community\\_Indicators\\_2017.pdf](http://www.ochhealthiertogether.org/content/sites/ochca/Local_Reports/OC_Community_Indicators_2017.pdf)
- Psychological Effects of Hate Crime-Individual Experience and Impact on Community-Latvian Centre for Human Rights 2008.

# #HATEFREEOC

#HateFreeOC is a public education and awareness campaign designed to cultivate a hate-free environment, bring diverse communities together, and promote a safe, peaceful, respectful, and inclusive community for ALL

*Over the past year the campaign gained traction as follows:*

**230** Facebook Followers    **83** Instagram Followers    **20** Twitter Followers

**1,115,236** Impressions    **1,215** Engagements    **7,180** Link Clicks

Orange County residents to live, work, go to school and do business. The campaign was launched across Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to coordinate with the release of the 2016 Hate Crimes Report.

#HateFreeOC was intended to engage Orange County youth between the ages of 14 –24 in a conversation focused on taking a stand against hate while identifying **what** hate is, **who** is targeted, **why** they're targeted and **how** to stop hate in its tracks.

## OC District Attorney Summary of Hate Cases for 2017

Each year, the Orange County District Attorney's Office ("OCDA") is responsible for reviewing possible hate crimes to determine whether any criminal charges, hate crime or otherwise, should be filed. These cases are submitted to the OCDA by local law enforcement agencies after investigation by the agency and the identification of a possible suspect. All prosecutors are instructed to proactively look for hate crime elements in submitted cases and alert the Special Prosecutions Unit, where specially assigned deputy district attorneys review these cases. The filing decision is guided by the state of the evidence and the standard of whether criminal charges can be proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

In 2017, the OCDA received 17 such cases for consideration and filed charges in 15 of them. Eight of the filed cases included hate crime charges. The cases referred for filing consideration included crimes motivated by bias against race and sexual orientation. In all but one of the filed cases, the charged defendant was convicted of or still faces hate crime charges. There is no "standard" sentence for a hate crime, as each case is reviewed on its own merits for a variety of factors including victim input. In 2017, convicted hate crime defendants received sentences ranging from probation to state prison.

Like any other type of case, hate crimes are occasionally filed and resolved in different calendar years. Although a case may not resolve in the same year it was filed, a look at a given calendar year's statistics may show trends of increased awareness and reporting from citizens in the community. In each of the last three years (2015-2017), the OCDA has seen an increase in the number of hate crimes reported to police agencies that were subsequently reviewed by prosecutors for filing of potential hate crime charges. A look at multi-year data helps to demonstrate the increased awareness and recognition of hate incidents by both the public who report these occurrences, and by the law enforcement agencies referring potential hate cases for prosecution.

The OCDA looks forward to continued successful prosecutions in 2018, with the help of Orange County's law enforcement agencies, outreach groups, and community members.



### Reporting Agencies

**Organizations:** Anti-Defamation League, Corbin Family Resource Center, Council on American Islamic Relations, Orange County District Attorney's Office, The LGBT Center OC, Waymakers, OC Human Relations, and Orange County Human Relations Commission.

**Educational Institutions:** California State University at Fullerton, Cypress School District, Fullerton School District, Laguna Beach Unified School District, Los Alamitos Unified School District, Newport Mesa Unified School District, Oceanview School District, Santa Ana Unified School District, and Tustin Unified School District.

**City Police Departments:** Anaheim, Brea; Buena Park, Costa Mesa, Cypress, Fountain Valley, Fullerton, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Irvine, La Habra, La Palma, Laguna Beach, Los Alamitos, Newport Beach, Orange, Santa Ana, Tustin and Westminster.

**Orange County Sheriff's Department Representing:** Aliso Viejo, Dana Point, Laguna Hills, Laguna Niguel, Laguna Woods, Lake Forest, Mission Viejo, Rancho Santa Margarita, San Clemente, San Juan Capistrano, Stanton, Villa Park, Yorba Linda, Unincorporated Areas of Orange County.

**Media:** online and print media such as the OC Register, OC Weekly magazine, Fullerton Observer, LA Times, and Voice of OC.

OC Human Relations Commission respects confidentiality while suggesting appropriate actions and connecting victims to the resources they need. Reporting hate crimes and hate incidents ensures that these instances of hate are not normalized and helps to create a community standard that discourages hate and bigotry. We encourage reporting of hate crimes and incidents to give a voice to those victims and recognize the rights of all individuals to live their lives with dignity, free of discrimination, violence, and harassment. Staff is available to deliver workshops or trainings for organizations and community groups about hate crime education, collection, and awareness.

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**This report was produced by Orange County Human Relations Commission in collaboration with OC Human Relations staff and volunteers**

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 Carla Alfonso        Alison Edwards  
 Jennifer Torres      Dave Southern  
 Irma Zamora

**Victim Assistance—help is available in the form of:**

- Support in communicating with the police, the court, and other authorities
- Translation services for non-English speakers
- Information resources and referrals
- Crisis intervention and counseling
- Orientation to the criminal justice system
- Emergency financial assistance

**Other organizations that support and defend victims of hate crimes**

- American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) .....(213) 977-9500
- Anti-Defamation League (ADL)...(949) 679-3737
- Asian American Center for Advancing Justice.....(213) 977-7500
- CA Conference for Equality and Justice .....(562) 435-8184
- CA Dept. of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) .....(800) 884-1684
- Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR).....(714) 776-1847
- Dayle McIntosh Center .....(714) 621-3300
- Japanese-American Citizens League .....(213) 626-4471
- Los Amigos of Orange County (meets 7:30am on Wednesdays @ Jagerhaus Restaurant, Anaheim)
- NAACP of Orange County .....(714) 543-3637
- OC Asian & Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA) .....(714) 636-9095
- Office of Victims Services  
 CA Attorney General’s Office ...(877) 433-9069
- Orange County District Attorney ..(714) 834-3600
- Parents, Families, & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) ....(714) 997-8047
- Sikh Council California .....(877) 225-7454
- The LGBT Center of Orange County .....(714) 953-5428
- Waymakers .....(949) 250-0488



**OC Human Relations**

*Building community by fostering respect, resolving conflict and pursuing equality*

Serving Orange County Since 1971

**“We believe ALL people should live free of violence and discrimination”**

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