

## WHAT TO DO IF FACED WITH HATE CRIME

Hate crimes are unique. Victims of hate crimes are targeted because of one or more core characteristics of their identity. Victims often feel degraded, frightened, vulnerable and suspicious. This may be one of the most traumatic experiences of their lives.

Victims of hate/bias motivated criminal occurrences may feel that they are expected to solve this problem on their own. This is not the case. The police are committed to working with and assisting victims in responding to this form of harassment.



If you are a victim of, or are a witness to a hate/bias motivated criminal occurrence, take these steps to help police respond promptly:

- Call **9-1-1** immediately if it's an emergency, such as fire, serious injury or a crime in progress. Call the police at **675-9171** to report the incident if it is not an emergency.
- Keep the material or literature, if any.
- Take notes of what you have seen or heard.
- Photograph any vandalism.

In an effort to proactively deter the occurrence of hate and bias motivated crime in our community, the **Advisory Committee to the Greater Sudbury Police Services Board on Racial and Multicultural Relations and the Greater Sudbury Police Service** are committed to developing and encouraging initiatives that will make Greater Sudbury a community citizens can feel safe and secure and free from this type of criminal activity.

Information and referrals are available through:

**HATE/BIAS CRIME INVESTIGATOR**  
**(705) 675-9171 EXTENSION 2300**

**VICTIM ASSISTANCE UNIT**  
**(705) 675-9171 EXTENSION 2637**

If you are a victim of, or witness a hate/bias crime, please call the police:

**9 - 1 - 1**  
**EMERGENCIES ONLY**

**(705) 675-9171**  
**FOR NON EMERGENCIES**

To anonymously report a crime, call Crime Stoppers at (705) 675-8477.



**For more help, contact  
Kid's Help Phone  
(under 18)  
1-800-668-6868**

# RESPONDING TO HATE CRIME!



*Our Community ~ Our Commitment*



## POLICE AND THE COMMUNITY WORKING TOGETHER

The impact of hate/bias motivated crime is far reaching, extending beyond the physical and emotional trauma suffered by the victim, to encompass other members of the targeted group. Such crimes often heighten the isolation and vulnerability of the victim group and can cause severe stress for all members of the community.

The Greater Sudbury Police Service is committed to partnering with the community to address and reduce hate crime. Everyone can help prevent hate crime by reporting crimes and incidents motivated by hate or bias to the police.

To address hate/bias motivated crime, the **Greater Sudbury Police Service** strives to:

- Assume a leadership role in our community to prevent hate incidents and crimes
- Raise awareness of the issues in our diverse communities
- Reduce the occurrence of hate/bias crime
- Support victims of hate crime/incidents
- Work with the citizens of Greater Sudbury to find solutions that address the reduction of hate/bias crime in our community
- Provide support and encourage positive interactions within our diverse community by sponsoring and participating in community events that promote acceptance, diversity and bias reduction

# ANYONE CAN BE A VICTIM!

## WHAT IS HATE CRIME?

Hate Crime means a criminal occurrence 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.

Hate crimes differ from other crimes in the terms of the impact on the individual victim(s) and on the communities to which they belong.

- Hate crimes are often especially brutal or injurious
- Victim(s) usually feel traumatized and terrified
- Families of victims often feel frustrated and powerless
- Others in the community who share the victim's characteristics may feel victimized and vulnerable

An immediate and effective response by the police can help stabilize and calm the community as well as aid in a victim's recovery.

## EXAMPLES OF HATE CRIME

### INCLUDE:

- Threats of violence
- Physical assault
- Arson
- Vandalism, Graffiti
- Hate mail
- Religious mischief



## WHAT ARE HATE INCIDENTS?

Hate incidents involve behaviours that, though motivated by bias against a victim's race, religion, ethnic/national origin, gender, age, disability or sexual orientation, are not criminal acts. Hostile speech or other disrespectful/discriminatory behaviour may be motivated by bias but is not necessarily criminal in nature. These incidents become crimes only when they directly incite others to commit violence against identifiable groups, or if they place a potential victim/group in fear of their safety.

In order for the Greater Sudbury Police Service to better address hate and bias in Greater Sudbury, all suspected hate/bias motivated criminal occurrences must be reported to police.

In addition to responding front-line police officers, a hate/bias investigator in the **Criminal Investigation Division** monitors hate/bias motivated crime and is responsible for investigating all suspected occurrences.

By investigating the occurrence efficiently and thoroughly, police can reinforce the message that hate crimes will not be tolerated and the likelihood of a successful prosecution will be enhanced. In addition, this conveys our respect for, and commitment to, a diverse society.

Upon sentencing, the provisions of Section 718.2 of the *Criminal Code* call for an increased sentence when hate is determined to be an aggravating circumstance. Penalties can range from fines to incarceration.