

WHAT IS A HATE CRIME?

In accordance with the New York State Penal Law, the New York City Police Department uses the following guideline: *"A bias incident is any offense or unlawful act that is motivated in whole or substantial part by a person's, a group's or a place's identification with a particular race, color, religion, ethnicity, gender, age, disability, ancestry, national origin or sexual orientation (including gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, and transgender) as determined by the Commanding Officer of the Hate Crime Task Force."*

Hate crimes go far beyond the criminal act itself. Becoming the victim of a crime is traumatic in itself. However, if the act was committed because of who you are or what you believe in, the violation is even more senseless and causes a deep emotional impact.

All hate crimes are serious incidents and are treated as such by the Police Department. Crimes that are motivated by hate are vigorously investigated by the Hate Crime Task Force.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH VS. HATE CRIME...

Freedom of speech is protected by our constitution. Anyone has the right to express their likes, dislikes and opinions, no matter how offensive it may be to others.

This freedom of expression however, can cause some confusion as to where free speech ends and a hate crime begins. Although the line may appear to be blurred, ultimately... offensive or hateful *speech* is still just speech and is protected. However, a hate crime is a *criminal act* that is motivated in whole or substantial part by the perceived identify of the victim.

For example, a person who calls another person an insulting name... it is just a name and not a crime. Although you may feel the name is hateful and offensive... it is considered freedom of speech. However, if someone calls a person a hateful name because of their race alone... and then assaults them, it then becomes a hate crime.

HOW DO YOU REPORT A HATE CRIME?

A person reports a hate crime in the same manner as they would report any other crime. If it is a serious crime in progress, call 911. If it is a non-serious crime or a crime that occurred in the past, call your local precinct. The responding Police Officers will provide whatever immediate assistance is needed, and start the reporting process. If the situation is deemed to be a possible bias motivated incident, the Hate Crime Task Force will be notified.

Upon notification of a possible hate crime, Detectives from the Hate Crime Task Force will respond and will conduct a thorough investigation.

Victims of hate crimes can be assured that they will be provided the appropriate assistance, by the local precinct Community Affairs and the Hate Crime Task Force. A person's immigration status does not by any means prevent them from reporting a Hate Crime or being provided with essential services.

The NYPD Hate Crime Task Force is committed to investigating any Hate Crime incident that occurs within the city.

Deputy Inspector Mark Magrone
Commanding Officer,
Hate Crime Task Force

WHAT IS THE HATE CRIME TASK FORCE?

The Hate Crime Task Force is a dedicated citywide team of investigators who are responsible for investigating all hate crimes and related incidents.

The Unit is part of the Special Victims Division of the New York City Police Department.



**NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
HATE CRIME TASK FORCE
19½ PITT STREET 3RD FLOOR
NEW YORK, NY 10002**

**TELEPHONE:
1-888-440-HATE**

E-MAIL:

hctf@nypd.org

REMEMBER!

**TO REPORT A HATE CRIME IN
PROGRESS OR ANY EMERGENCY,
CALL 911**

**NON EMERGENCIES SHOULD BE
REPORTED TO THE LOCAL PRECINCT**

NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT



**Hate Crime
Task Force**



DETECTIVE BUREAU



KEEPERS OF THE PEACE