

WHAT IS A HATE CRIME

A Hate/Bias crime is a crime committed against a person, property, or society which is motivated by the offender's bias against a race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender or ethnicity/national origin.

HATE FACTS

- ◆ In 2006, The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) documented 844 active hate groups/chapters (*8 in Kentucky*), a 40% increase since 2000.
- ◆ In 2006, the number of hate web sites increased to 566, up from 522 in 2005.
- ◆ During 2002, a total of 7,469 hate crime offenses were reported to the FBI.
- ◆ 67.5% of the documented hate crimes reported in 2001 were crimes against persons (*intimidation, simple assault, aggravated assault, rape, and murder*).
- ◆ 23 states, including Kentucky, and the District of Columbia recognize sexual orientation in hate/bias crime statutes.

CHARACTERISTICS OF A HATE/BIAS CRIME:

- Offender and victim were of a different race, religion, ethnicity, or sexual orientation.
- Bias-related comments, written statements, or gestures were made during the incident.
- Bias-related drawings, markings, symbols, or graffiti were left at the place of incident.
- Certain objects, items, or things which indicate a bias were used by the offender.
- The incident coincided with a holiday relating to, or a date of particular significance to the victim or the victim's class.
- The offender was previously involved in a similar hate crime or is a member of a hate group.
- The victim was engaged in activities promoting his/her group.

SAFETY TIPS

- ◆ Be aware of who is around you at all times.
- ◆ Do not walk alone, especially if your senses are impaired (*by emotions and/or alcohol or drugs*).
- ◆ Choose busy, well-lit streets
- ◆ If you feel threatened, cross the street, change directions, or run to a safe place.
- ◆ Do not wear headphones while walking or jogging
- ◆ Have your keys in your hand **BEFORE** you approach your home or car (*keys can also be used as a weapon if you are attacked*).
- ◆ Conceal your money and jewelry
- ◆ If you decide to take someone home, introduce them to a friend or acquaintance so someone sees the person you leave with.
- ◆ Carry a whistle or "screamer" to attract attention in the event of an attack.
- ◆ Do not respond to any form of verbal harassment—this often is a precipitator to a physical attack.

HOW DO WE BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND HATE/BIAS VIOLENCE?

- "Hate" is an emotion that is learned, from parents, grandparents, elders, friends, or any person who is respected by an individual.
- The emotion of "hate" can quickly turn into violent behavior such as assault, battery, rape, and even murder.
- While most of us cannot imagine the possibility of hating something to the point of causing physical harm, for some people it is what rules their lives.
- For this reason, it is important to report all incidents of hate violence, so that others may be protected from injury or even death.

SO, WHAT DOES THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION HAVE TO DO WITH HATE/BIAS?

The Human Rights Commission monitors and records hate/bias related incidents occurring in Lexington-Fayette County. The Commission collects data on these incidents for various reasons:

- ◆ To develop an understanding of the problem of racial, religious, ethnic, and youth violence in our community;
- ◆ To learn to target groups, settings in which violence occurs, and the types of violence occurring in our community;
- ◆ To research and develop strategies for the prevention of violence;
- ◆ To promote multicultural understanding through educational programs of communication, ethnic events, and cultural learning; and
- ◆ To monitor reports of hate/bias and make appropriate recommendations to policymakers as needed.

The LFUC Human Rights Commission staff is dedicated to investigating any claims made to us on a professional, confidential basis.

The Commission is available to offer assistance to any person who believes they have been a victim of a hate/bias related incident. The Commission is networked with other community agencies to provide referrals to meet the individual needs of the victim.

The Commission also has a resource library, including information regarding Hate/Bias issues. The resource library is open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Materials available to be checked out!

Lexington-Fayette Urban County Human Rights Commission

The Commission's Community Relations Committee is responsible for monitoring hate & bias reports made to the Commission, as well as directing the appropriate action regarding reports of hate/bias.

Community Relations Committee:

Melanie Tyner-Wilson, Chair

Eli Mertens

Gloria Rie

Jenny Sutton-Amr

Biby Tinajero

Alicia Vinson

If you would like to make a complaint regarding a Hate & Bias incident, please contact the Commission at:

Lexington-Fayette Urban County

Human Rights Commission

162 East Main Street, Suite 226

Lexington, KY 40507

Phone: (859) 252-4931

Fax & TDD: (859) 252-7057

Email: lfuchrc@qx.net

Web Site: WWW.LFUCHRC.ORG

LOCAL RESOURCES REGARDING HATE/BIAS:



Lexington-Fayette Urban County

Human Rights Commission

162 East Main Street, Suite 226

Lexington, KY 40507

Phone: (859) 252-4931

Fax & TDD: (859) 252-7057

Web Site: www.lfuchrc.org

Kentucky Commission on Human Rights

The Heyburn Building, 7th Floor

332 West Broadway, Louisville, KY 40202

Phone: (502) 595-4024

Fax: (502) 595-4801

E-Mail: kchr.mail@ky.gov

Web Site: www.kchr.ky.gov

State Government Reporting Agency

State Uniform Crime Report Program

Information Services Branch

Kentucky State Police

1250 Louisville Road

Frankfort, KY 40601

Phone: (502) 227-8783

Hate, Bias and Violence... Not In Our Community



A Guide to Recognizing and Understanding Hate/Bias Activities

**Lexington-Fayette Urban County
Human Rights Commission**