

## 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  
Beth Hartmann, Co-Chair  
Tracy Dennis  
Eli Mertens  
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