

Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents

Hate crimes tear at the fabric of our communities and our city, where respect for and appreciation of the diverse cultures that make up Chicago is a critical component for thriving neighborhoods.

The City of Chicago has taken a firm stand against hate and bigotry, and with the help of all of its residents, we can reduce the incidence of hate crimes.



What is a hate crime?

A criminal act motivated by bias against someone's race, color, gender identity, age, religion, disability, national origin, ancestry, or sexual orientation.



What is a hate incident?

A non-criminal act motivated by bias against someone's race, color, gender identity, age, religion, disability, national origin, ancestry, or sexual orientation.

How can the CCHR help?



Victim Advocacy

The CCHR, in conjunction with the Civil Rights Unit of the Chicago Police Department and the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, provides support to hate crime victims. CCHR staff and concerned community volunteers are available to accompany victims to court hearings, visit hate crime victims, and provide referrals for support services. Services may include referrals to pro bono (free) legal assistance to sue hate crime offenders in civil court for damages for psychological and physical injuries.



What should I do if I become victim of a hate crime?

If you believe you have been a victim of a Hate Crime, call 911 immediately and report the incident to the Chicago Police Department. Tell them specifically that you believe you have been a victim of a hate crime. This is very important! Once a hate incident is reported to the Police, they will determine if it was a Hate Crime. The Police Department will then notify the CCHR of the incident. CCHR staff will reach out to the victim to provide information and support through the investigation and prosecution of the case.



Community Tension Intervention

The Commission has skilled staff trained in mediation that can offer this method of conflict resolution to address tensions that may arise due to racial, ethnic, religious, and other forms of differences.

