

# Racially Motivated Hate Acts

## What is Racism?

An indiscriminate negative attitude towards ethnic and racial groups, rooted in the history of colonialism and slavery that defined the hierarchy structure of society. Racism is expressed as an exaggerated fear, hatred, and hostility toward individuals with less power or privilege. Racism is perpetuated by social structures that discriminate, marginalize, and exclude people from less privileged or powerful racial groups from social, political, and civic life resulting in inequity.

## What is a racist hate incident?

A noncriminal act motivated in whole or in part by prejudice, bias, or hate towards people from less privileged or powerful racial or ethnic groups.

In other words, when someone in a more powerful or privileged position does something hurtful or offensive towards an identifiable person or group because of hostility about the characteristics given by their race. Hatred can take the form of derogatory language, symbols, or actions that affect the sense of safety of the person or community targeted.

In some cases, a person can be targeted not just because of their race, but because of a combination between their race and other identifiable characteristics such as age, country of origin, language, religion, ancestry, sexual orientation, gender, disability, etc.

## Examples

- High school classmates use social media to make offensive jokes against a group of international students that come from India.
- A law enforcement officer stops and searches a vehicle driven by a young indigenous group of males, the officer questions the people in their car and makes remarks that indicate that he has no other apparent reason for the search than their race and age because of the assumption that young indigenous males are more likely to be engaged in criminal activity.
- A couple makes racist remarks to a black woman saying “You immigrants are taking all our jobs, you should go home”.

## What is a racist hate crime?

A criminal offence motivated in whole or in part by prejudice, bias, or hate towards people because of their race. In other words, a criminal act that can involve intimidation, harassment, vandalism, physical force, or threat and that its motive is resentment or a negative opinion for the characteristics of a person given by their race.

In 2018, hate crimes motivated by hatred of race or ethnicity represented 44% of all hate crimes (Moreau, 2020)



## Examples

- A group of people belonging to a white supremacist group plan and stage a riot against refugees and immigrants.
- Two men assault a group of young Somali men who were peacefully congregating in a park, the perpetrators yelled derogatory slurs related to religion, and race.
- A person created fake social media profiles to threaten and harass a Black-Muslim Canadian who is running as a City Council candidate, the threats clearly show the hostility is due to the candidate's race and colour.



## The Law

According to the Criminal Code of Canada subsection 718.2(a)(i), a sentence should be increased to account for aggravating circumstances such as evidence that the offence was motivated by bias, prejudice or hate.

Other sections of the Canadian criminal code specifically deal with hate crime are S.318, s.319, s. 430.

Unwanted jokes or insults when they are targeted at an identifiable group are considered harassment, this is a form of discrimination and prohibited by the Alberta Human Rights Act.



## Report it!

If you or someone else is in immediate danger call 911.

If you think you are targeted because of your race with a hate incident/crime or suspect someone is, contact law enforcement:

<b>Calgary</b>	Calgary Police Service	403-266-1234
<b>Edmonton</b>	Edmonton Police Service	780-423-4567
<b>Lethbridge</b>	Lethbridge Police Service	403-328-4444
<b>Wood Buffalo</b>	RCMP	780-788-4040

If you are not ready to report to the police, call the number below to receive support, information and report the incident:

### In Calgary:

If your organization or community group would like to be part of the support network, check the cce website (below) for more information.

### In Wood Buffalo:

**RMWB Pulse Line**  
**780-743-7000**

### In Edmonton:

If your organization or community group would like to be part of the support network, check the cce website (below) for more information.

### In Lethbridge:

If your organization or community group would like to be part of the support network, check the cce website (below) for more information.

### Alberta:

If your organization or community group would like to be part of the support network, check the cce website (below) for more information.

## Want to file a human rights complaint?

If a hate incident or discrimination is committed by a co-worker, employer, prospective employer (i.e., during applying for employment), service provider, landlord, or involves the public display of materials, you may be able to make a human rights complaint.

If you believe you have experienced discrimination as a result of racial profiling (in a contexts where authority figures are employed to address issues of safety, security or public protection) based on your race or other similar characteristics, you may be able to make a complaint with the Commission.

**For information contact the Alberta Human Rights Commission:**

**Confidential inquiry: (780) 427 – 7661 [www.albertahumanrights.ab.ca](http://www.albertahumanrights.ab.ca)**

**To learn more : <http://coalitionscreatingequity.ca/>**

**Document any hate incidents at:**  
[Stophateab.ca](http://Stophateab.ca)

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