

Reporting to Law Enforcement

Reporting hate incidents or Crimes to Law Enforcement

There is evidence that hate crimes and hate incidents are highly underreported in Canada. There are different reasons why people do choose not to report to law enforcement. However, for hate and all its expressions to be most effectively addressed, accurate data recording is extremely important.

The following are steps you can take to report an incident or crime to law enforcement:

- If you are not comfortable reporting to law enforcement, find a trusted friend or community group to support you in this process.
- If you feel that you prefer not to go to law enforcement even with the company of a friend or community member, report the incident to stophateab.ca
- If you feel not sure about going to law enforcement because you have a language barrier, you can request an interpreter.
- If you're comfortable going to law enforcement, file a police report either in person or by phone with the local detachment where the incident happened. Make sure to take note of the responding officer's name and badge number so that you can follow up if desired.
- If you believe the incident was motivated by bias against your ancestry, race, colour, religion, sexual orientation, gender, gender expression, mental or physical disability, or other similar factors, confirm with the officer that the official police report actually records the incident as a hate crime or incident, even if you don't have physical evidence that it was motivated by prejudice.
- When completing the report, tell the officer all of the details of the incident you recorded or remember, including the gender, age, height, race, weight, clothes, or other distinguishing characteristics of the perpetrator. It is also important to share if there were other witnesses when the incident happened. If any threats or negative comments were made, such as racial slurs or anti-gay words, include them in the report. Take photos or document any property damage and bias and/or hate messages before they are removed.
- Share any evidence but always keep a copy with you and do not share on social media as this could interfere with an investigation.
- Ask for a copy of the report and case number, if possible, follow up to make sure the report was filed.
- If you feel you want further support, request the officer to give continue the process with Victim Services or local community organizations to help you and your community to heal.
- If you experience discrimination in a contexts where authority figures are employed based on your race or other similar characteristics, you may be able to make a complaint with the Alberta Human Rights Commission.



For information contact the Alberta Human Rights Commission:

Confidential inquiry: (780) 427 – 7661 www.albertahumanrights.ab.ca

Document any hate incidents at:

Stophateab.ca

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