

## WHAT ARE THE FACTS ABOUT HATE/BIAS CRIMES?

- In 2007, there were 195 cases in the state of Washington of hate/bias crimes reported to the FBI. (*Crime in the United States 2007*. Washington DC: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2008)
- In Spokane, there were 23 cases of hate/bias report in 2007. (*Crime in the United States 2007*. Washington, DC: Federal Bureau of Investigation 2008)
- In 2002 there were 7,462 hate crimes incidents reported to law enforcement. Of those, 64% were committed against person, 38% were offenses against property. Of the incidents, 49% were motivated by race, 19% by religion, 17% by sexual orientation, 15% by ethnicity and 0.6% by disability. (Uniform Crime Reporting Hate Data Collection Program 2002)
- Among anti-LGBT incidents in 2002, there were 703 assaults, 142 acts of vandalism, 115 sexual assaults/rapes, 82 robberies and 12 murders in the United State. (FBI, 2002)
- According to the Washington State Malicious Harassment statue, a person is guilty of malicious harassment if he or she maliciously and intentionally commits one of the following acts because his or her perception of the victim's race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or mental, physical, or sensory handicap.

*Call to Get Help*  
**1.866.751.7119**



*Program of*

### **Lutheran Community Services**

210 W. Sprague Ave., Spokane, WA 99201  
Tel: 866.751.7119 (24 Hours)  
Fax: 509.747.0690

### **Your Resource for Information and Assistance**

Spokane Crime Victim Service Center  
**1.866.751.7119**

Every Victim Counts,  
Southern Poverty Law Center  
**1.334.956.8200**  
[www.tolerance.org](http://www.tolerance.org)

Anti-Defamation League  
[www.adl.org](http://www.adl.org)

Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice  
[www.cjcf.org](http://www.cjcf.org)

National Center for Hate Crime Prevention  
[www.edc.org/hhd/hatecrim](http://www.edc.org/hhd/hatecrim)



Protecting the rights of crime victims



**SPOKANE CRIME VICTIM  
SERVICE CENTER**

Your Resource for Information and Assistance

**HATE/BIAS CRIMES**

# WHAT ARE HATE/ BIAS CRIMES?

- The FBI defines a hate or bias crime as: *“A criminal offense committed against a person or property which is motivated, in whole or in part, by the offender’s bias against race, religion, disability, ethnicity/national origin, or sexual origin, or sexual orientation.”* (FBI Training Guide for Hate Crime Data Collection)
- A bias crime being an assault against the individual, is also an assault against a community, and sends a clear message of fear to that entire community. Others in the community may feel threatened including friends and family of the targeted victim.
- Hate-motivated assaults generally involve more brutality than other assaults and may include multiple offenders.
- Since 1992 there have been changes to federal law and public policy initiatives regarding Hate/Bias Crime. The Hate Crime Sentencing Act (HCSA) a provision of the 1994 Crime Bill, requires the US Sentencing Commission to increase penalties for hate crimes at the federal level.
- Of the 45 states that have some form of crime law, fewer than half of the states have adopted the federal definition. Some have added other victim categories such as creed, color, gender and disabilities. Wyoming, South Carolina, Indiana, Georgia and Arkansas do not have a hate or bias crime law at this time.
- In order for a bias crime to be treated as such, there must be one or more ‘bias indicators’ that provide the basis for bias or hate crime designation. Such indicators may include verbal or written statements or gestures made by the offender. Drawings, symbols and comparable items may also qualify.

## If You Are a Victim/Survivor of a Bias/Hate Crime

**H**ate crime victims must not only endure the primary physical injuries incurred during the crime, they are often also victims of secondary injury. Secondary injury occurs when the victim feels rejected by or is denied support from the community.

There are often strong fears of repeat victimization. Thirty percent of hate crimes occur in the victim’s residence; therefore the victim is reminded of the crime on a daily basis and may not feel safe even in their own home.

Bias crimes may result in a group within the community living in constant fear; when this occurs, the whole community suffers and many others may identify with the trauma resulting in a broadening sense of secondary victimization.

Because bias crimes target individuals for being who they are, the victim’s trauma may last longer than a victim of a similar crime where bias was not a motivation factor. Multiple resources indicate that because the basis for the attack is the individual’s identity, victims may experience an emotional crisis.

The responses of individual victims vary. Victims reactions are likely to be influenced by many factors including the nature and duration of the crime, the victim’s age, prior history of victimization, family and social environment, response from law enforcement and access to support networks.

Responses of victims are similar to those of victims of any crime, and may include fear (for themselves, their families, their communities, their way of life), suspicion, sadness, anxiety, depression, anger, alienation, feelings of powerlessness and vulnerability, loss of trust, feelings of betrayal and injustice, loss of confidence in law enforcement/whole criminal justice systems, feelings of stress, self-blame and self-hatred.

## Where Can You Get Help?

Remember, as an assault victim, you are not alone. Your community may have caring professionals, support groups, and Spokane Crime Victim Service Center all of which are there to help you by providing assistance, information, services, and referrals. Social services programs and Spokane Crime Victim Service Center also can help you find out about crime victim rights in your state.

If the assault involved an injury or threat of injury, you may be eligible for reimbursement by your state’s crime victim compensation program for certain out-of-pocket expenses, such as medical or counseling expenses and lost wages. To be eligible for these funds, you must report the assault to the police and cooperate with the criminal justice system. Spokane Crime Victim Service Center can provide compensation applications and additional information.

It is important to keep a record of expenses you incur as a result of the assault. If the attacker is arrested and convicted, you may request restitution by completing a victim impact statement and listing your losses and expected future expenses (such as necessary medical treatment). Restitution for certain losses may be ordered by the judge as part of the sentence imposed on the attacker.

However, in many cases, the defendant may not have sufficient assets or income to pay restitution. It is possible that even if an offender is convicted and ordered to pay restitution, you may receive no, or only partial, restitution for your losses.

Whether you have been assaulted by a stranger or someone you know, the best way to ensure your safety is to report the incident to local law enforcement immediately. Of course, the decision to report an assault is always yours.