

---

## REPORT HATE CRIMES, IMPROPER PROFILING, AND OTHER BIAS-MOTIVATED CONDUCT

Hate crimes, harassment, and discrimination are on the rise around the world, and in Massachusetts, we are experiencing a 20-year high in reported hate crimes.

Please report anti-LGBTQ+ discrimination, bullying, harassment, and hate crimes. We need communities and schools to receive incident reports so they can better understand and respond to the problem.

### WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE THE VICTIM OR WITNESS A HATE CRIME AND OTHER BIAS-MOTIVATED CONDUCT:

- Call 911 and seek medical help, if needed
- Write down all of the details of the incident as soon as possible after the incident. Include the perpetrator[s'] gender, age, height, race, weight, clothes, and other distinguishing characteristics. If any threats or biased comments were made (such as anti-gay epithets), include them in the report.
- Report the Incident
  - a. To the police
    - Get the responding officer's name and badge number
    - Ensure the officer files an incident report form and assigns a case number. If a police report is not taken at the time of your report, go to the police station and ask for one. Always get your copy, even of the preliminary report.
    - If you believe the incident was bias-motivated, urge the officer to check the "hate/bias-motivation" or "hate crime/incident" box on the police report.
  - b. To the school if students are impacted
    - Even if the incident did not occur on school property, schools often have a responsibility to respond to incidents involving students. They should always take steps to ensure the ongoing safety of all students.
  - c. To the local Human Rights Commission, if one exists
  - d. Follow up with a report to the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office and the FBI
    - FBI.gov - [Electronic Tip Form](#)
    - Mass AG's Office - [File a Civil Rights Complaint](#)

---

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE THE VICTIM OR WITNESS A HATE CRIME AND OTHER BIAS-MOTIVATED CONDUCT CONTINUED:

e. To local LGBTQ community organizations who may unofficially track incidents to better inform and offer support to community members

- Get support
  - Talking about the incident with friends and family can be a way to help process feelings and get support
  - Get professional help – from a LGBTQ affirmative therapist
  - Find resources from the FBI
  - Contact anti-violence support services – such as the [National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs](#)

For more information:

- [Protections Against Hate Crimes - Mass.gov](#)
- [Protecting Civil Rights](#) - Massachusetts Attorney General Offices Civil Rights Division
- [StopBullying.gov](#) - training tools and resources to address bullying and hate at schools
- [FBI Crime Data Explorer](#) - presents hate crimes for the nation