

What can you and your community do?

- * Speak out against hate and intolerance.
- * Support the victims by holding community rallies and offering support and assistance to the victim.
- * Encourage public officials to state their opposition to hate crimes.

Services available to you

- * Contact the **City of Azusa's Human Relations Commission (HRC)**, which was established to respond to and prevent hate crimes. Members include representatives from the City of Azusa, Azusa Unified School District, religious organizations, community based organizations and concerned citizens, who will immediately respond to a hate crime when it occurs. HRC's Mission Statement: "The Human Relations Commission of the City of Azusa is an independent, non-partisan body of appointed members, assisted by concerned citizens, with a goal of developing a comprehensive plan to create and perpetuate inclusion, diversity and civic peace." Contact person is Claudia Shields, Ph.D.
Phone (626)812-3252, (626) 812-9308
E-mail: NoHate@ci.azusa.ca.us
- * Citrus Court House District Attorney's Victim/Witness Program (626) 813-3169. Located at:
1427 West Covina Pkwy, West Covina, CA.

(Services Continued)

- * California State Board of Control Victims of Violent Crime Unit. Telephone 1-800-777-9229.
- * State of California—Department of Fair Employment and Housing.
Telephone 1-800-884-1684, TTY: 1-800-700-2320
- * The United States Attorney's Office Victim/Witness Assistance Program in your district (Federal listing in the telephone book)
- * United States Department of Justice, Community Relations Services (Federal listing in the telephone book)
- * For further information on these programs and other crime prevention material,

write to:

California Attorney General's Office Office of Victims' Services

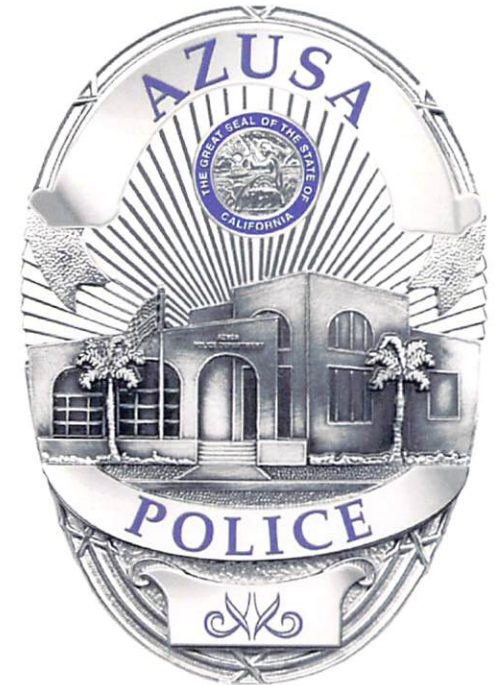
1300 I Street
P.O. Box 944255
Sacramento, CA 95814
(877) 433-9069 Toll free!

e-mail: victimservices@doj.ca.gov

or visit the following Website:

<http://ag.ca.gov/victimservices/index.php>

Preventing Hate Crime



What we can do !

Azusa Police Department
725 N. Alameda Ave.
Azusa, CA 91702
(626) 812-3200
www.ci.azusa.ca.us

It's the law

As defined in California Penal Code section 422.55, *hate crime* means “a criminal act committed, in whole or in part, because of one or more of the following actual or perceived characteristics of the victim: 1) disability, 2) gender, 3) nationality, 4) race or ethnicity, 5) religion, 6) sexual orientation, 7) association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.” Law enforcement agency crime reports and a web-enabled data collection systems are used to submit hate crime data to the Department of Justice. Each crime report includes information about, but is not limited to, bias motivation, type of crime, location of crime, number of victims, and the number of known suspects.

Hate Crimes in California

In California, you can be a victim of a hate crime if you have been targeted because of your “real” or “perceived” race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or physical or mental disability. These groups are referred to as “protected classes.” All people are members of a protected class. It is important to be able to differentiate between hate incidents and hate crimes.

A *hate incident* is an action or behavior that is motivated by hate, but is protected by the First Amendment right to freedom of expression. Examples of hate incidents can include name calling, epithets, distribution of hate material in public places, and the display of offensive hate-motivated material on one's property. The freedoms guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution, such as the freedom of speech, allow hateful rhetoric as long as it does not interfere with the civil rights of others.

If this type of behavior escalates to threats being made or carried out against a person or property, then it would be classified as hate crime.

A *hate crime* is a criminal act or attempted criminal act committed against a person or his or her property because the person is, or is perceived to be, a member of a protected class. Hate crimes should be reported to the proper authorities, such as your local police or sheriff's department. If hate crimes are not reported to law enforcement, the perpetrators will continue to act on their beliefs and will continue to pose a threat to society.

Hate Crime Victims

If you suspect you are a victim of a hate crime, you should:

- * Call the police or sheriff's department immediately and obtain medical attention (if needed).
- * Write down the exact words that were spoken and any other information that may be of value.
- * Preserve any evidence (graffiti, egg shells, writing on victim's vehicle) when possible without touching or moving any evidence. Wait until law enforcement officers respond to investigate and collect any evidence and take photographs.
- * Get the name(s), address(es), and telephone number(s) of other victims and witnesses.

- * Call community-based organizations in your area that respond to hate crimes.
- * You have certain rights under the California Constitution's Victim's Bill of Rights. For example, you may be entitled to information about the prosecution of the perpetrator, and have the right to present a victim impact statement at the time of sentencing.

The court may require the person who has violated your rights to pay a civil penalty to you, money to compensate you for the actual harm you have suffered, and/or an additional amount of money designed to punish that person and to deter future violations of these laws. The court also may issue a restraining order or other type of injunctive order to protect you from further harm, and may order the person who has harmed you to pay your attorney's fees if you have hired an attorney.

Basic Clues

The following list indicates signs that a hate crime may have been committed:

- * Perception of the victim or witness that he/she was selected by the perpetrator because of his or her membership in a protected class.
- * Written or oral comments of the perpetrator that may indicate a bias.
- * Date of incident coincides with a day that is of significance to the victim's protected class.
- * Differences between the race or religion, for example, of the victim and the perpetrator.