

Hate Crimes and Bias-related Incidents



"Hate crimes are particularly dehumanizing as the perpetrator's bias against the victim is the reason for the crime, and it is unacceptable. We take seriously every report of a hate crime or bias-related incident and will fully investigate each case. We encourage anyone who believes they are a victim to please report it. This guide will help you through the process and provide additional resources."

–Chief Wendell Shirley
Bellevue Police

What is a Hate Crime?

RCW 9A.36.080

"A person is guilty of a hate crime if they maliciously and intentionally commit one of the acts listed below based on the attacker's perception of a victim's race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, or mental, physical or sensory disability."

- Physical assault.
- Threats to a person or group of people that causes the victims to have "reasonable fear" that the attacker will cause physical injury or property damage.
- Damage or destruction of a victim's property.

What is a Bias-related Incident?

"Bias incidents are acts of prejudice not criminal in nature and not involving violence, threats or property damage. Threatening words do not constitute a hate crime if it is apparent to the victim that the person does not have the ability to carry out the threat. Bias incidents are still important to report. They negatively impact whole communities and deserve to be elevated and understood by the public." Bias incidents include:

- Yelling profanity and insults
- Distributing racist flyers in public places
- Displaying hateful materials on private property

Should I report it to the police?

Yes! If hate crimes are not reported, they will continue to occur. Reporting hate crimes holds perpetrators accountable for their behaviors. It plays a crucial role in preventing future incidents by sending a message that the behaviors are unacceptable and that the crimes will be investigated and not ignored.

What to do if you are a victim of a hate crime or bias incident

- Make sure you are safe. If you need to, move to a safe place.
- Call 911 to report it.
- A local community organizations. Mini City Hall at Crossroads Mall has information about organizations that can help.

How to Report

Reporting hate crimes and bias-related incidents is essential in preventing future incidents and creating a safe, more inclusive community. Stand up against hate and bias by reporting any incidents you witness or experience.



BellevueWA.gov/hate-crimes-bias-related-incidents

REPORT CRIME ONLINE

Be prepared to give as much detail as possible about the incident, including your location, time of day, suspect details and a description of what happened.

- **Call 911** for immediate help if the crime or incident is in progress or you feel like you are in danger.
- **Report online** at **BellevueWA.gov/hate-crimes-bias-related-incidents** or call the police non-emergency number (425) 577-5656 to report an incident that has already occurred.