What can I expect when reporting a Hate Crime or Hate Incident?
If you are making a report directly to the Irvine Police Department, you should expect a professional and compassionate uniformed police officer to respond to your location to conduct an investigation. The officer will ask you questions about your experience, collect any available evidence, and ultimately document what happened in a police report.

If the facts you are reporting meet the legal definition of a hate crime, a criminal investigation will commence. This may ultimately lead to the arrest of the involved suspect(s) and subsequent prosecution by the Orange County District Attorney’s Office.

If the event does not meet the legal definition of a hate crime, a police report will still be taken to document the circumstances surrounding the hate incident.

Can I Remain Anonymous?
Generally, when a police report is filed, it becomes a public record. However, victims of hate crimes falling under Penal Codes 422.6, 422.7, and 422.75 may request that their name and personal information remain confidential. When you contact IPD to file a report, the officer who meets with you will discuss this option in more detail.

Individuals completing an online report may choose not to provide their name or other personal information. However, this may limit IPD’s ability to thoroughly investigate what is being reported. It may also hinder the criminal prosecution of involved suspects.

What can I do to stop Hate Crimes?
Establish a hate crime network that includes law enforcement, local government, schools, religious organizations and community organizations to promote prevention and awareness. Learn to identify the differences between hate crimes, hate incidents, and hate speech and know the laws pertaining to each.

What resources are available for victims of Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents in Orange County?
Orange County Human Relations maintains a comprehensive list of all available resources. You can find more information on their website at:

ochumanrelations.org/hatecrime/hate-crime-resources/

Stay Connected To Us Through Social Media

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instagram.com/irvinepolice
twitter.com/irvinepolice
youtube.com/user/IrvinePolice
nextdoor.com/agency-detail/co/Irvine/Irvine-pd/
The Irvine Police Department (IPD) recognizes the importance of protecting Irvine’s diverse community through the vigorous investigation and documentation of all hate crimes and hate incidents that occur within its jurisdiction. If you are a victim or witness to a hate crime or hate incident, please contact IPD directly at (949) 724-7200, or 9-1-1 in case of emergency. An officer will meet with you in person to collect the information necessary to thoroughly investigate what has occurred and document it in a police report.

The Irvine Police Department has established an online hate crime and hate incident reporting portal. Victims, witnesses, or other involved persons who prefer not to call the police department directly may report hate crimes or hate incidents online by visiting:

cityofirvine.org/irvine-police-department/reporting-hate-crimes-and-hate-incidents

You may also report hate crimes and hate incidents directly to the Orange County Human Relations hotline at 714-480-6580, or go to their website at ochumanrelations.org.

What is a Hate Crime?

California’s hate crime laws are codified in Penal Code Sections 422.55, 422.6, 422.7, and 422.75.

California Penal Code 422.55 defines a hate crime as a criminal act committed, in whole or in part, because of one or more of the following actual or perceived characteristics of the victim. This includes:

- Disability
- Gender
- Nationality
- Race or ethnicity
- Religion
- Sexual orientation
- Association with a person or group of persons with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics

Criminal acts include, but are not limited to:

- Vandalism
- Physical violence against the person of another
- Criminal threats
- Theft

What is a Hate Incident?

Hate incidents are defined by the California Department of Justice as “an action or behavior motivated by hate, but legally protected by the First Amendment right to freedom of expression. If a hate incident starts to threaten a person or property, it may become a hate crime.”

Examples of hate incidents include, but are not limited to:

- Name-calling, including racial slurs or other derogatory terminology
- Insults
- Distributing hate material in public places
- Displaying hate material on private property

What is Hate Speech?

Hate speech is any form of expression through which speakers intend to vilify, humiliate, or incite hatred against a group or a class of persons on the basis of race, religion, skin color, sexual identity, gender identity, ethnicity, disability, or national origin.

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution protects most speech, even when it is disagreeable, offensive, or hurtful.