

## How Can I Help Prevent Hate Crimes?

- Work to strengthen and improve hate crime laws at the State and National levels.
- Offer assistance by working with victims of hate crimes.
- Learn how to educate your community about hate crimes.

## Local Resources

Maryland State Police  
(800) 525-5555

Baltimore City Community  
Relations Commission  
(410) 369-3141

Baltimore County Human  
Relations Commission  
(410) 887-5917

Howard County Office  
of Human Rights  
(410) 313-6430

Montgomery County Office  
of Human Rights  
(240) 777-8450

Prince George's County Human  
Relations Commission  
(301) 883-6170

## State of Maryland Commission on Civil Rights Statewide Office Locations

**Baltimore Office**  
William Donald Schaefer Tower  
6 Saint Paul Street, Suite 900  
Baltimore, MD 21202-1631  
Phone: 410-767-8600  
Fax: 410-333-1841  
TTY/TTD: 410-333-1737  
Toll Free: 1-800-637-6247

**Hagerstown Office**  
Potomac Plaza  
44 N. Potomac Street, Suite 202  
Hagerstown, MD 21740  
Phone: 301-797-8521  
Fax: 301-791-3060

**Easton Office**  
Talbot County Career Center  
301 Bay Street, Suite 301  
Easton, MD 21601  
Phone: 410-822-3030 x345  
Fax: 410-820-9966

**Salisbury Office**  
Salisbury District Court  
Multi-Purpose Center  
201 Baptist Street, Suite 33  
Salisbury, MD 21801  
Phone: 410-713-3611  
Fax: 410-713-3614

**Leonardtown Office**  
Joseph D. Carter Center  
23110 Leonard Hall Drive  
P. O. Box 1509  
Leonardtown, MD 20650  
Phone: 301-880-2740  
Fax: 301-880-2741

# STATE OF MARYLAND COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

## Maryland's Response To **Hate Crimes**



# NO ONE should be a target



[www.mccr.maryland.gov](http://www.mccr.maryland.gov)  
[Facebook.com/MDCivilRights](https://www.facebook.com/MDCivilRights)  
[@MDCivilRights](https://twitter.com/MDCivilRights)





## What is a Hate Crime?

A hate crime is an act that appears to be completely or partly motivated by race, color, religion, ethnic background, sexual orientation, gender, or disability. To be considered a hate incident, the act is not required to be a crime under any federal, state, or local statute. Vandalism to any place of worship, assault on an individual, the bombing of a building - each of these examples - can be a hate crime if it meets any of the following criteria:

- Racial, religious or ethnic statements are made during the incident.
- Hate group symbols are displayed.
- The motive of the crime is to harm, injure or intimidate a particular group or organization.
- The victim perceives it to be a hate crime.

## How Does the Federal Law Protect Me Against Hate Crimes?



Federal law addresses hate crimes primarily through the Civil Rights Statutes (U.S.C. Titles 18 and 42) which includes the following:

**Conspiracy Against Rights:** makes it illegal for two or more people to conspire to injure, threaten, or intimidate someone in the exercise of any right provided by the U.S. Constitution.

**Prevention or Intimidation:** address intimidation based on race/ethnicity in housing or the exercise of certain federally-protected rights.

In addition, Federal law provides for increased sentences where a defendant selects a victim because of race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, gender or disability. When a hate crime results in bodily injury or fire is used, the crime is a felony. It is a capital crime if death results.



## What are Maryland's Hate Crime Laws & How Can They Protect Me?

Title 20 of the State Government Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, enforced by the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights, protects people against hate crimes in their homes; from injury, intimidation, or harassment by neighbors; and interference with fair housing rights based on race, national origin, sex, familial status, color, religion, marital status, physical and mental disability, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

Maryland law addresses hate crimes specifically through Criminal Law Article §10-301 et. seq., it is illegal in Maryland, punishable by fine and/or imprisonment, for any person to vandalize or attempt to vandalize any religious property, or to interfere by force or the threat of force with any person in the exercise of their religious beliefs.

It is also forbidden to damage, destroy, burn, or otherwise vandalize the property of a person or an institution because of their race or beliefs, or to harass or commit a crime against any person because of their "race, color, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, gender, disability, national origin, or because another is homeless."

This statute also provides an extra sentencing enhancement for those crimes motivated by hate.

## I Believe That I Was the Victim of a Hate Crime. What Can I Do?

1. Report the incident to your local law enforcement agency, local human rights agency, Maryland State Police, or the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights. Even if you do not have any information on the suspects or there is no physical injury or property damage, your report will serve as important investigative information if a future incident occurs.
2. Do not destroy any evidence related to the crime. Do not clean up any vandalism until the police arrive and investigate.
3. Get help. Your local victim assistance and human rights agencies are here to help you.

## Hate Crime Hotline

If you do not know who your local victim service providers are or you need to reach your local human rights agency, call the Maryland Hate Crimes Hotline at:

**1-800-637-6247**

between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. weekdays.

