

THE IMPACT OF HATE CRIME

Hate crimes hurt more than just their target. They hurt the community. They violate our human rights and threaten our freedom of expression. They create an environment of fear, oppression and violence. Left unchecked, they can easily escalate to violence and expand to other targets.

" If we are to achieve a richer culture, rich in contrasting values, we must recognize the whole gamut of human potentialities, and so weave a less arbitrary social fabric, one in which each diverse gift will find a fitting place." ~Margaret Mead

HOW TO FIGHT HATE ON CAMPUS

Challenging and preventing hate on campus is the responsibility of all our community members. The following are some simple suggestions to help:

- Educate yourself on the issues
- Rise up and speak out against hate
- Support those being targeted by hate crimes
- Be curious to learn about and understand others
- Respect every person's individual rights
- Refrain from expressing views that judge, blame, exclude or attack others
- Practice tolerance and peace
- Ask for help and use resources on campus
- Celebrate and value diversity on campus

For more information on preventing hate crimes, please visit:

<http://www.theendtohateproject.org/>

<http://www.asuc.org/hatecrimes/>

<http://www.tolerance.org/>

To learn more about how you can help to create a respectful work and learning environment, you are encouraged to stop by the Office of Human Rights and Equity Services at DeCew Residence 221.



Office of Human Rights and Equity
Services

DeCew Residence, Room 221
St. Catharines Campus
www.brocku.ca/humanrights
(905) 688-5550 ext. 5657
humanrights@brocku.ca



OFFICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUITY SERVICES

Promoting a respectful work and learning environment at Brock University.



PREVENTING HATE CRIMES AT BROCK

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OUR COMMITMENT

Brock University is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive community, and to providing all members of its community with a **respectful work and learning environment** that is free of hate, harassment and discrimination. This includes harassment and discrimination on the basis of race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, gender identification, sexual orientation, age, marital status, family status and disability. Hate crimes are a serious and potentially dangerous form of harassment and discrimination.

WHAT IS A HATE CRIME?

Hate crimes may be defined as any act of intimidation, vandalism, threat, harassment or physical force against any person, group or property motivated by bias against the victim's perceived or real race, ethnicity, religion, nationality, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation or political belief.

Hate crimes may include verbal attacks, visual attacks (graffiti) and physical attacks. It isn't about engaging in academic discussion or protecting freedom of expression. It's about spreading hate based on irrational fears. Hate grows. Hate consumes.

The expression of hate against members of Brock's community is an attack on the entire community and the value we place on diversity and inclusiveness. As members of the Brock University community, we have an obligation to recognize the existence of hate crimes on our campus and to educate ourselves about how hate crimes affect our community. The expression of hate and hate crimes violate University policy, as well as provincial and federal law.

TARGETS OF HATE CRIME

In a May 2004 release by Statistics Canada, twelve major police forces across Canada reported a total of 928 hate crime incidents during 2001 and 2002. The report contains statistics on target groups of hate crimes as well other statistics relating to hate crimes. The results of the distribution of hate crime targets in Canada is summarized below.

Percentages of Groups Targeted for Hate Crimes

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|-------------------------------|
| Jewish – 25% |
| Black – 17% |
| Muslim (Islam) – 11% |
| South Asian – 10% |
| Gay and Lesbian – 9% |
| Multi-ethnic/multi-race – 9% |
| East and Southeast Asian – 9% |
| Arab/West Asian – 8% |
| Other – 2% |

Source: <http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/040601/d040601a.htm>

WHAT IS A HATE GROUP?

Hate groups are organizations which: encourage or incite hatred toward certain groups of people; advocate violence against certain groups on the basis of sexual orientation, race, colour, religion etc.; claim that their identity (racial, religious etc.) is 'superior' to that of other people; and do not value the human rights of other people.

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” ~ Martin Luther King Jr.

WHAT IS THE LAW IN CANADA?

Canada has taken a very strong positive stance against hate activity: The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees equality under the law for all people, regardless of race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, etc. Federal and Provincial Human Rights Codes prohibit various forms of discrimination; the Canadian Human Rights Act also makes it illegal to repeatedly communicate hate messages by phone. The Criminal Code of Canada, in Sections 318 and 319, explicitly prohibits acts inciting hatred or violence toward any group on the basis of race, colour, ethnic origin, religion and sexual and gender orientation.

Source: <http://www.theendtohateproject.org>