

## Community Hate Crimes Prevention and Control Strategies

### How can AAPI organizations advance better police-community relations?

Effective policing results in the promotion of security and justice for all segments of society. This requires good police-community relationships, wherein police officers have cultural awareness, an understanding of community concerns, and communication skills that prevent misunderstandings that could lead to violence. For example, police should not misinterpret a lack of eye contact with AAPIs as signifying guilt. (It may, instead, represent a culturally-related manner of showing respect toward an authority figure.) Similarly, an Asian male's failure to engage in a firm handshake or an Asian female's aversion to being touched by a male police officer are often culturally-based tendencies, not signs of ill-will.

Communities can advocate for law enforcement agency implementation of best practices in police training (e.g., cultural awareness programs offered by the ADL--see <https://www.adl.org/who-we-are/our-organization/signature-programs/law-enforcement-training/implicit-bias-training> or mediation/communication skills--see <http://nypeace.org/>).

### What can individuals and community organizations do to stop hate?

The SPLC suggests the following **10 ways to fight hate**\*<sup>1</sup>:

1. Act
2. Join Forces
3. Support the Victims
4. **Speak Up**
5. Educate Yourself
6. Create an Alternative
7. **Pressure Leaders**
8. **Stay Engaged**
9. Teach Acceptance\*<sup>2</sup>
10. Dig Deeper

\*<sup>1</sup>: See <https://www.splcenter.org/20170814/ten-ways-fight-hate-community-response-guide>

\*<sup>2</sup>: School programs include *Different and The Same*, designed for grades 1-3 by Family Communications, Inc., (producers of Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood), available at <http://shopgpn.com/differentandthesame.aspx>; free resources for K-12 classroom teachers can also be downloaded at [tolerance.org](http://tolerance.org) and at [adl.org/education](http://adl.org/education).

### Are AAPIs prepared to combat hate when it occurs? What can or should you do?

- Two Vietnamese men enter a bar after work, walk to the counter, and order two beers. The bartender replies, "We don't serve your kind, you're not welcome here." A patron, overhearing the bartender's remarks, says, "Yeah, if you know what's good for you, you're gonna get out right now."
- A Sikh man, walking along a sidewalk toward a downtown parking lot, sees a car swerving toward the nearby curb. Among the four Whites in the car, one flashes his middle finger, while another yells, "Go home to where you belong." A third spat at the man, yelling, "We'll be back for you."
- A Korean woman with a cart full of groceries heads toward a checkout stand and begins to unload items onto the belt. Almost immediately, a White woman approaches, glares at the Korean woman, and complains, "I have never seen such rudeness. In our country," she fumes, "people wait their turn to be served. Go back to where you came from!" (Perplexed, the cashier calls the manager, who insists that the White woman be served first.)
- A Lebanese-American man carries a peace sign while participating in a demonstration with about 25 others in front of a suburban shopping center. Suddenly, a car abruptly stops, an elderly White man jumps out, and he runs directly towards the dark-complexed man. While yelling, "You f---ing idiot, he charges head first into the demonstrator, knocking him to the ground, grabbing and tearing his sign.
- Just hours after the Trump administration announced an executive order suspending travel from some predominantly Muslim countries, an arsonist destroyed a mosque in Victoria, Texas. He was overheard saying that members of the mosque were terrorists.

## Let your Legislators know your concern about hate crimes

### Ohio's "ethnic intimidation" law is weak

Ohio's "ethnic intimidation" law only applies to certain misdemeanors. Further, **Ohio is only one of 14 states that fails to provide legal protections against bias-motivated acts based on sexual orientation or gender identity.**

The FBI reports that over **20% of all hate crimes are directed toward LGBT individuals.** Further, **hate crimes against LGBTs are more likely to involve violence (53%)** than those directed to other groups (37%).

**This situation** is not only inherently unfair, but it **compounds the problem of hate crime under-reporting.** It leads to discouragement among some LGBT victims who believe that crimes they experience will not be adequately prosecuted. Further, reporting the crime can make them feel more vulnerable to further discrimination and violence.

**Ohio's laws do not require reporting of hate crimes** but, rather, leave it to individual law enforcement agencies to comply with Federal reporting guidelines.

### Urge your elected official to support House Bill 569

Ohio State Representative, Nickie Antonio (District 13, Lakewood, OH), has introduced House Bill 569, on May 17, 2016. Yet to be voted upon, this bill is designed to address the above concerns. First of all, **it adds sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, disability, and ethnicity to protected groups of people,** thereby joining 36 other states that have laws against bias-related crimes based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Further, **it brings Ohio's protected groups in line with federal law.**

**This bill also (1) mandates peace officer training on bias-motivated crime; (2) requires law enforcement agencies to submit data on bias-motivated crime** to the Ohio Department of Public Safety and the FBI; and (3) **provides for the annual public release of the data.**

- ✓ Ohio must join with other states that send a clear message that crimes motivated by hate are unacceptable;
- ✓ Hate crimes, which often take the form of violence, weaken a democracy by creating a sense of terror and, when ignored, isolation of vulnerable groups;
- ✓ Police training on bias-motivated crimes can enhance officers' cultural awareness and understanding of prevailing stereotypes and misinformation that induces hate;
- ✓ Police training on bias-motivated crimes, combined with a mandate for reporting, can facilitate compliance with federal hate crime reporting guidelines;
- ✓ Public access to hate crime data can encourage more effective educational programs to combat hate and reduce bias-motivated crimes.

