

RESPONDING TO HATE: A QUICK GUIDE

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Asian Canadians have been the subject of racist assaults and bigoted taunts. This Guide sets out your rights and resources when you are the victim of or a witness to racist incidents. This Guide provides information so that you can understand and respond to three kinds of hate: Hate Crimes, Hate Incidents and Acts of Discrimination.

HATE CRIMES

Are hate-motivated criminal acts that are offences under the Criminal Code, such as Assaults (Section 265), Uttering Threats (Section 264.1(1)), Criminal Harassment (Section 264(1)) and “hate speech” (Section 319 (1) & (2)). Hate crimes are crimes committed for hateful reasons. Consequently, they are punished more severely by the Courts. They involve two elements:

- i) An underlying crime (e.g. murder, assault, threats, vandalism, arson) and
- ii) The crime is committed in part because of race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age or mental or physical disability.

HATE INCIDENTS

Are non-criminal acts that occur when the person uses bigoted, biased or prejudiced language (spoken, or written, online or in-person) or takes other actions that are based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, etc.

ACTS OF DISCRIMINATION

Are violations of human rights codes – these are acts of unfair treatment in services, goods, facilities, accommodation, contracts, employment, vocational associations (e.g. transit, the workplace, public accommodations, restaurants, hotels, theatres, stores, housing, schools or universities etc.), because of race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age or mental or physical disability. This form of Discrimination is not criminal but a violation of the federal or provincial human rights laws.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU EXPERIENCE OR WITNESS ACTS OF HATE OR BIAS

HATE CRIMES	HATE INCIDENTS	ACTS OF DISCRIMINATION
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Get medical help & if you feel comfortable, report the Incident to the police2. Retain evidence (photos, videos) & contact information of witnesses3. Report to community organizations (see list)4. Support the victim(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. If you think your safety is at risk, get help, consider calling the police2. Report cyber incidents to the platforms on which they occur3. Report to community organizations (see list)4. Support the victim(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Report to Government Anti-Discrimination Agencies2. Report to Government Human Rights Commissions3. Report to community organizations (see list)4. Support the victim(s)