

CYBER HATE CRIME

What is Cyber Hate Crime?

- Cyber/Online Hate is posting and sharing hateful and prejudiced content against an individual, group, or community. It can take the form of derogatory, demonizing, and dehumanizing statements, threats, identity-based insults, pejorative terms, and slurs.
- If a post is hostile towards a person's race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity, it could be viewed as Hate Speech. If it is serious enough, it may break the law, whether it is online or offline.
- Cyber/Online Hate can be expressed through many types of media, including text, images, videos, and audio. These different types of media content are sometimes combined.
- Cyber/Online Hate can include malicious communications (sending letters, emails, and messages that cause distress and anxiety), cyberbullying, cyberstalking, harassment, stirring up hatred through content (text, image, video, audio), and incitement to commit violence.

Hate-motivated crimes in Canada:

Currently, in Canada, there is no such thing as a Hate Crime under the Criminal Code. Three offences specifically reference hate in the criminal code, and they fall under the Hate-Propaganda section, they are as follows:

Hate-Motivated or Bias-Motivated Crime:

For police to lay a Hate-Motivated or Bias-Motivated criminal charge, two things must first occur:

- 1.) A criminal offence must have occurred (e.g., an assault, damage to property, uttering threats etc.).
- 2.) Hate or Bias toward a victim must have motivated the criminal offence (e.g., because of the victim's race, nationality, ethnic origin, language, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation etc.).



How to Report an Online Hate Incident?

- It is vitally important that we don't let online hate speech go unanswered.
- Because online content is fluid, it is always good to be as specific as possible.
- When reporting an incident, include as much of the following as you can:
 - When did this happen? Noting the time and date is important because some online content, such as discussion threads in chatrooms, can quickly disappear.
 - How was the content delivered?
 - Were you sent something directly through email, SMS, text message, instant message, or private messaging?
 - Did you come across something while browsing the Web?
- If the message was sent directly to you: – keep the original email or save your chat/text log, should you need to give them to law enforcement officials. – if possible, save the username or email address of the person sending you the hateful message.
- If you encountered the content on a website: – copy and paste the address of the site by clicking your Web browser's address bar, highlighting the full Web address, and copying and then pasting it into a word processor. – take a screenshot of the content in question to give to the police. (On Windows computers, hit the "Print Screen" key, then go to a graphic or word processing program and select "Paste" from the "Edit" menu; on a Mac, hitting Command-Shift-3 will save the current screen image as a graphic file on your desktop.)

The following are places you can report online hate to:

- **Site Administrators:** Sites and services which allow people to post content, such as Facebook, YouTube, and Xbox Live, have policies about what is acceptable. You can generally complain about content on these sites through a "Contact Us" link somewhere on the home page. Some sites also have tools that have been designed specifically for this purpose:

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- Facebook allows people to report different types of offensive content. For more information see <https://www.facebook.com/help/?page=247013378662696>
- YouTube allows visitors to “flag” offensive videos (you need to have a YouTube account to do this). For more information see:
<http://support.google.com/youtube/bin/answer.py?hl=en&answer=95403>
- Xbox Live users can file complaints about all forms of harassment. For more information see http://forums.xbox.com/xbox_forums/xbox_support/f/26/t/19139.aspx.
- World of Warcraft has a policy that forbids harassment based on race, ethnicity, national origin, or sexual orientation. It can be seen at <http://us.battle.net/support/en/article/previous/20455>. To complain about harassment, you must contact a Game Master and “Open a Ticket.” For more information see <http://us.battle.net/support/en/article/previous/19775>.
- **Internet Service Providers (ISPs):** Many ISPs will remove hate content that is hosted on their servers once they are made aware of it. To find out the host of a particular site, visit www.uwhois.com or www.easywhois.com.
- **Canadian Human Rights Tribunal:** You can bring a complaint about online hate to the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal by contacting the Canadian Human Rights Commission. Canadian Human Rights Commission 344 Slater Street, 8th Floor, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1E1, Canada Telephone: (613) 995-1151 Toll-Free: 1-888-214-1090 TTY: 1-888-643-3304 Fax: (613) 996-9661 The Commission can also be contacted online at the following address:
www.chrc-ccdp.ca/contact/default-eng.aspx
- **Non-Governmental Organizations:** There are also non-governmental organizations that collect reports of both offline and online hate. They include:
 - B’nai Brith Canada (www.bnaibrith.ca/contactus.html)
 - Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Center
(www.wiesenthal.com/site/pp.asp?c=lsKWLbPJLnF&b=4441269)
 - Canadian Anti-racism Education and Research Society
(www.stopracism.ca/reportfrm.php)



- **Law Enforcement:** Many police forces have special hate crime units to deal with hate incidents. If you live in Ontario or British Columbia, you also have access to a provincial hate crimes unit:
 - Ontario Hate Crime Extremism Investigative Team (www.hceit.ca)
 - B.C. Hate Crime Team (604-543-4903 or 604-598-4243)

Resources and References:

- Canadian Race Relations Foundation: <https://www.crrf-fcrr.ca/en/news-a-events/articles/item/26823-hate-crime-in-canada>
- Stop Hate UK: <https://www.stophateuk.org/about-hate-crime/what-is-online-hate-crime/>
- Media Smarts: <https://mediasmarts.ca/teacher-resources/responding-online-hate-guide>
- Ontario Hate Crime Extremism Investigative Team: www.hceit.ca
- Canadian Human Rights Tribunal: www.chrc-ccdp.ca/contact/default-eng.aspx
- Canadian Centre for Cyber Security: <https://cyber.gc.ca/en>