

Dear New Yorkers,

Hate crimes are on the rise, here in New York and around the country. People who commit these vile acts must be held accountable. We must send a strong message that we will not tolerate this behavior.

My office can sue when victims are targeted because of race, gender, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, or other reasons. My office can call out hate and restore accountability to the community even when a hate crime is not charged. If you are the victim of a hate crime or if you witness one, please contact your local police department immediately. Once you have done that, you may file a civil rights complaint with our online form, ag.ny.gov/report-hate-crime or through our hate crimes hotline at (800) 771-7755.

Sincerely,

Letitia James



Attorney General
of New York
Letitia James

Resources

Office of the New York State Attorney General

Hate Crime Hotline:
(800) 771-7755

Online Complaint Form:
ag.ny.gov/report-hate-crime

The New York State Office of Victim Services

(800) 247-8035

ovs.ny.gov

Hate Crimes

What to do to protect
yourself and others



Office of the New York State
Attorney General
Letitia James



If you are the victim of a hate crime, or see or hear one:



Call 911 or your local police station to file a report.



Ask for the responding officer's name and badge number.



Make sure the officer files an incident-report form and assigns a case number. If the officer doesn't immediately file a report, go to the police station and ask for one. Always get your own copy, even if the report is preliminary.



File a civil-rights complaint:

ag.ny.gov/report-hate-crime

(800) 771-7755

What can the Attorney General's Office do?

- Launch civil investigations into bias-based acts of violence or intimidation
- Sue the perpetrator when they have harmed another person or violated their civil rights based on protected characteristics
- Take legal action, even if local prosecutors have not charged a hate crime
- Get an injunction to prevent further harm to the community.

What can you do if no action was taken by the police?

- Report the incident to the Attorney General's Office for investigation
- Hire an attorney to bring a civil case against the perpetrator. The perpetrator may have to pay for damages.

CHECKLIST

Provide detailed information to help the police and the Attorney General's Office:

- Did you see or hear threatening language or a physical interaction?
- Did the perpetrator have any tattoos or other body markings?
- Was the perpetrator wearing anything with an identifiable logo or message?
- Did the incident happen during a significant event, like a holiday or cultural celebration?
- Did you see any alarming graffiti, like racial slurs or swastikas, on public or private property? Did you see damage to a cemetery, church, or temple?
- Has a similar incident ever happened in your community? When? Where?