

To Hate Say No To
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2015 Hate Crime Report

An annual publication of the OC Human Relations Commission
Serving Orange County since 1971

www.ochumanrelations.org

Hate Say No To Hate



A Message from the OC Human Relations Commission

As this is written in July, 2016, our country mourns the escalating violence that has left 49 people dead in Orlando, 14 members of the Transgender community murdered, more Black men dead at the hands of police, five police officers gunned down in Dallas, and people in the streets protesting the state of police-community relations in this country. Here in Southern California we have seen a rise in anti-Semitism and anti-Muslim sentiment and, as this report shows, an increase in hate crimes and hate incidents in Orange County in 2015.

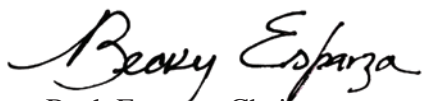
As a county and community, we don't have the luxury of not facing the issues of our time. We must keep the names and faces of those targeted in the light so they will not be forgotten. We must continue to acknowledge that these people were targeted for who they are. We must not fail to note that some groups are targeted more than others. It is not until we hold ourselves accountable to these truths that we can create communities where people are safe and included.

Over the last 45 years the OC Human Relations Commission has helped people who have faced prejudice, intolerance and discrimination and sought to educate all residents about bigotry. And, while we believe that ALL people should live free from harassment, discrimination and violence based on race, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, disability or other immutable aspect of their being, we know that we cannot do it alone.

We rely on the very partnerships that today's issues might tear apart. The vast majority of hate crime reports in Orange County come from our police departments. The work of reporting, documenting, tracking and educating about hate crime is only possible when law enforcement and community are on the same page. Our work together creates more accurate reports, enables victims' assistance programs and brings the perpetrators of hate to justice.

As we move through 2016 let's make sure that we do it together. OC Human Relations encourages the promotion of respect, engagement in dialogue and building of understanding. Let us stand side-by-side in solidarity, united around the values of justice, diversity and the human spirit. Let us embrace peace, love, respect and dignity in the face of any fear that may divide us.

For the Commission, I am,



Beck Esparza, Chair
Orange County Human Relations Commission

What Are Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents and How Can YOU Stop Them?

What is a Hate Crime?

In California, **hate crime** is defined as being a criminal act committed, in whole or in part, because of one or more of the following actual or perceived characteristics of the victim: Disability, Gender, Nationality, Race or Ethnicity, Religion, Sexual Orientation, or association with a person or group of persons with one or more of the preceding actual or perceived characteristics.

Examples of hate crime are:

- Painting racist, homophobic, and/or religious graffiti on private property.
- Burning a cross on an individual's lawn.
- An assault.
- A criminal threat of violence against an individual or a group.
- Attempted murder or murder.

What is a Hate Incident?

A **hate incident** is behavior that is motivated by hate or bias towards a person's actual or perceived disability, gender, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation but that it is not criminal in nature. Typically these behaviors are protected by the First Amendment right to freedom of expression.

If this type of activity escalates to threats being made or carried out against a person or property, or becomes an incitement to commit violence, it would be classified as a **hate crime**.

Examples of a hate incident are:

- Distribution of non-threatening racist fliers in a public place.
- Anti-gay or lesbian placards at a parade or a funeral.
- Writing a letter to the editor ridiculing people with disabilities.

A hate crime or incident may have occurred if any of the following were present:

- There was a perception that the victim was targeted because of their race, gender, sexual orientation, nationality, religion, etc.
- The perpetrator wrote or spoke in a manner that indicated bias.
- The date of the incident or crime coincides with a date that is of significance to the victim's religion, nationality, ethnicity, etc.

What Should I do if I'm Victimized?

- 1** Call the police or sheriff's department immediately and make a report.
- 2** Obtain medical attention, if needed. Be sure to keep all medical documentation.
- 3** Leave all evidence in place. Do not touch, remove and/or clean up anything.
- 4** Document what happened by taking photographs of the evidence, writing down exactly what was said, particularly any words that indicate bias, motivation, and other information that may be valuable.
- 5** Get the name(s), address(es) and phone number(s) of other victims and witnesses.
- 6** If possible, write down a description of the perpetrator and his or her vehicle.
- 7** Report the occurrence to **OC Human Relations at (714) 480-6570** or submit a hate crime report online at www.ochumanrelations.org/hatecrime.

What can YOU do to Stop Hate?

- Learn to recognize hate crimes and incidents.
- Report suspected hate crimes and incidents to your local police department and OC Human Relations.
- Maintain a respectful, inclusive climate in your school, community, neighborhood, work, and/or business.
- Create diverse teams to encourage people to work together on common goals.
- Model respect and inclusion towards others, especially when you are around children.
- Offer support and assist victims to let them know they are not alone.
- Speak out against acts of prejudice, discrimination, and hate in your community.

To report a hate crime, please call 714-480-6570.

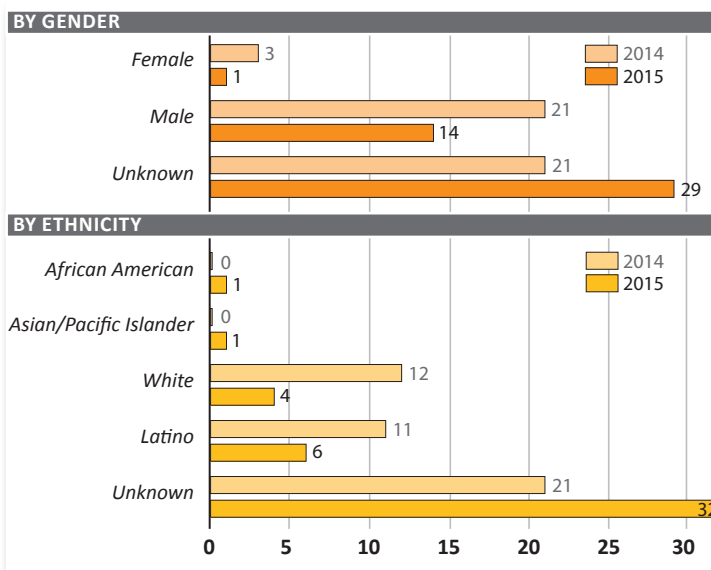
For more information, visit us at www.ochumanrelations.org/hatecrime

James Armendaris, Program Coordinator ~ james@ochumanrelations.org

ANALYSIS: Reported Hate Crimes Increased in 2015

Orange County's reported hate crimes increased from 40 in 2014 to 44 in 2015, paralleling a national increase in hate crime groups, according to Mark Potok, Senior Fellow at Southern Poverty Law Center. Potok reports that **hate crime groups across the United States grew by 14% in 2015**, including chapters of the KKK which grew by 64% and Black Separatist groups which increased by 59% (Potok, 2016).

Hate Crime Perpetrators



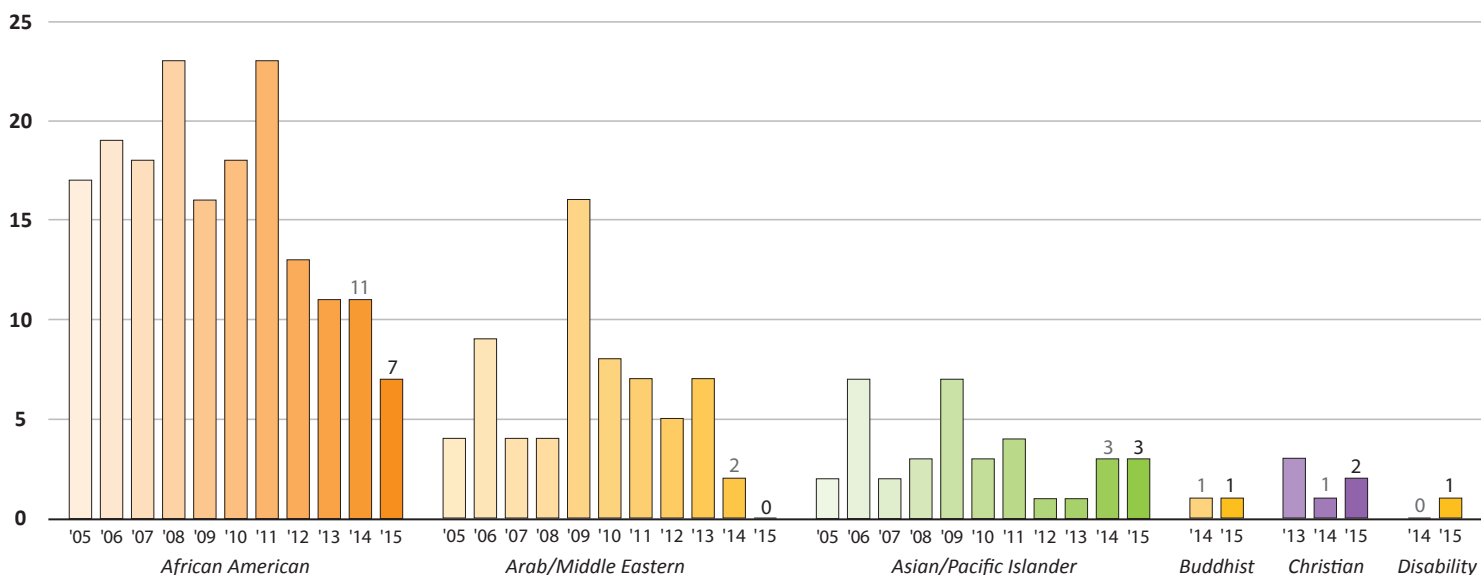
Top Hate Crime Targets by Community

- Hate crimes targeting the LGBTQ community and those perceived to be LGBTQ increased from 8 reported in 2014 to 11 in 2015 (up 38%).
- 7 of these hate crimes specifically targeted individuals based on sexual orientation and 4 reported hate crimes specifically targeted transgender individuals.
- African Americans were targets of 7 reported hate crimes in 2015, down from 11 in 2014, continuing a four-year downward trend from 23 in 2011. It is unknown whether this a downward trend in actual instances or in reporting.
- Hate crimes targeting the Jewish community increased from 6 to 7 reported crimes in 2015.
- The number of reported hate crimes targeting Asian/Pacific Islanders remained at 3 in 2015, as in 2014. Those targeting Latinos dropped from 3 to 2; and Christians and Muslims increased from 1 to 2.

Local Hate Crime Case Studies

- While offering assistance to a customer, a female employee was punched in the face by another customer who yelled, "Hispanics should not work here" and "You are Saudi Arabian." Customers nearby protected the employee as the male perpetrator attempted to assault her a second time.
- On a number of occasions, a Gay man living with his partner found threatening notes on his car. The notes stated, "We don't want f***** in our neighborhood." The incident turned into a crime

Main Targets of Hate Crime



*Catholic, Jehovah's Witness, and Scientology each had no reported hate crimes in 2014 and one reported in 2015 for a total of three in 2015.

when a third note, along with a liquid substance, was found in the car, causing paint damage.

- A young Hispanic transgender woman had been verbally harassed by a local male resident/transient for some time. When the victim objected to the derogatory name calling, the perpetrator began to strike her.
- Two male African American employees of a local business received verbal death threats and were called racial slurs by an unruly patron who physically assaulted one of the men.
- Separate cases of graffiti and vandalism were reported by residents, as well as school and church officials, who found images of swastikas and hate slurs painted on multiple walls, locker rooms and parks. The graffiti included KKK symbolism and threats against specific groups based on religion, physical/mental ability, and race.

Hate Incidents Dramatically Increased in 2015

- Reported hate incidents increased dramatically from 14 in 2014 to 43 in 2015, primarily targeting Muslims and those perceived to be Muslim, including the Sikh community.
- After the Paris attacks in November and the December San Bernardino shooting, hate incidents against the Muslim community and those perceived to be Muslim spiked to 37 out of the 43 reported hate incidents for 2015.

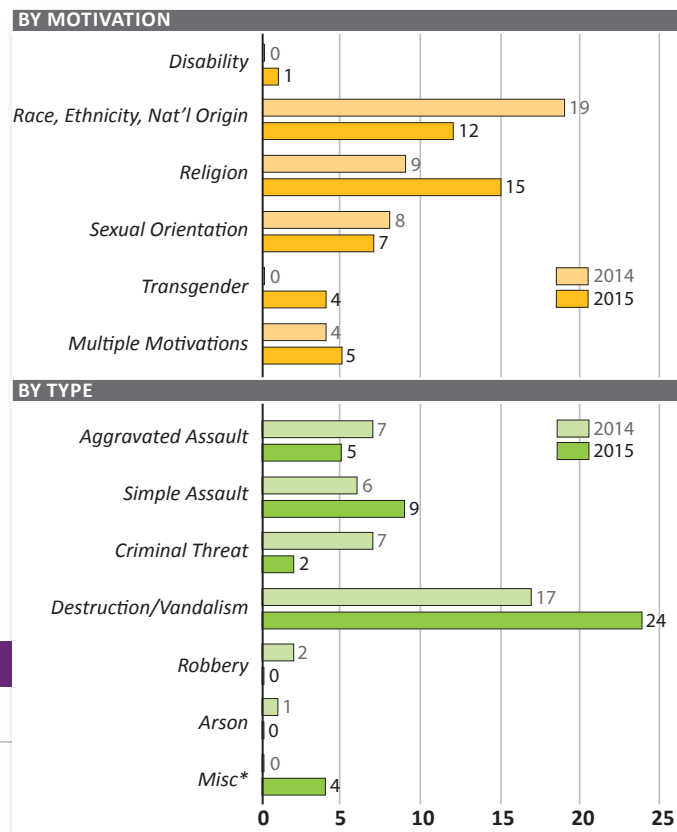
Local Hate Incident Case Studies

- Residents awoke on a Sunday morning to find fliers on their front lawn urging them to enlist and support the “Orange County KKK.” The fliers contained unconfirmed statistics about “Black” and “Hispanic”

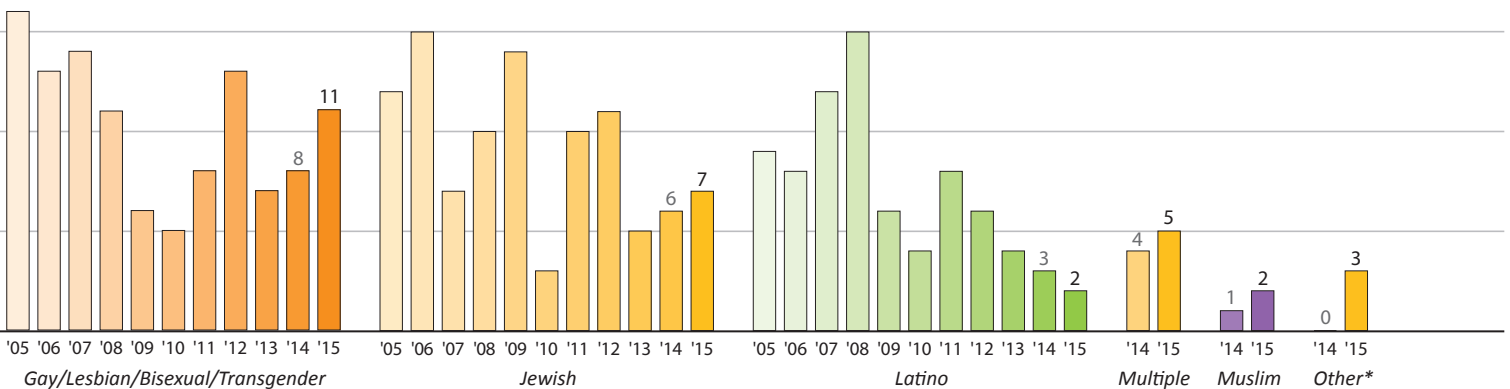
crime trends along with a reference to “lies from the Jewish media.”

- Orange County residents of Muslim faith continue to experience hate incidents in which they have been called “terrorists” and other insulting and derogatory terms. Hate slurs were made by email, phone calls and mailed literature.
- An owner of an Islamic clothing store arrived to work one morning to find a Quran riddled with bullet holes left on her front door.
- One victim came out to her car after grocery shopping at a local store and found a note on her car that said “F*** Allah Go back to Iran!!!!!”

Hate Crime Motivations and Types



*There were zero reported hate crimes involving Harassment; Murder; Phone; or Email, Mail, Literature, or Internet in 2014; one each reported in 2015 for a total of four in 2015.





STATE OF CALIFORNIA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KAMALA D. HARRIS
ATTORNEY GENERAL

March 2, 2016

To the Residents of Orange County,

It is with pleasure that I once again commend the Orange County Human Relations Commission for its work in publishing the 25th annual Hate Crime Report. This report sheds light on hate crimes and incidents that erode the trust, respect, and safety that unite a community. It is an invaluable tool that helps us understand – and combat – these insidious acts, and sends a clear message that they will not be tolerated. In working with community organizations, educators, and law enforcement to produce this report, the Commission also demonstrates what a community can achieve together.

As California's chief law enforcement officer, I am committed to ensuring the safety of every Californian. I firmly believe that it is immoral and contrary to our values to stoke fear and cast aspersions against entire groups of Americans. There is no place in our communities for hate. Everyone deserves to live free of discrimination and intimidation based on race, religion, sexual orientation, gender, disability, ethnicity, or other innate characteristic. Together, using the Commission's report and my office's annual [Hate Crime in California](#) report, we can identify the key places to direct our resources to eradicate bigotry.

This report provides access to critical data, which is a powerful tool for solving seemingly intractable problems. Transparency is vital to building public trust, enforcing accountability in government, and creating smart public policy. For these reasons, I have directed my office to focus on the quality of and public access to data collected by the California Department of Justice, and have launched an OpenJustice initiative (<https://openjustice.doj.ca.gov>), which showcases California's criminal justice data in engaging and easily digestible ways. By taking advantage of data as a tool, law enforcement can maximize limited resources to combat crime – including hate crimes.

I offer my gratitude to the Commission and the residents of Orange County for all that you do to foster a more inclusive and diverse California.

Sincerely,


KAMALA D. HARRIS

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OC District Attorney Summary of Hate Cases for 2015

Each year, the Orange County District Attorney's Office ("OCDA") reviews submissions by police agencies where a possible hate crime has been committed and a suspect has been identified. The OCDA reviews these cases, and determines whether any criminal charges, hate crime or otherwise, should be filed. The filing decision is based on the standard of whether a charge can be proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

In 2015, the OCDA received 22 such cases for consideration and filed hate crime charges in 11 cases. In every one of those 11 cases, the defendant was either convicted of a hate crime or still faces hate crime charges in an active case. In addition, each defendant convicted of a hate crime in 2015 received time in custody as part of their sentence. These punishments ranged from 45 days in jail to 10 years in state prison, depending on a variety of factors. All but one hate crime conviction came via guilty plea, while one defendant went to trial and was convicted of a hate crime by a jury.

Of the 11 cases where hate crime charges were not filed, seven had non-hate crime charges filed, and four were refused for filing.



Agencies Providing Data

Organizations

Community Service Program, Inc.
 Council on American Islamic Relations
 Orange County District Attorney's Office
 Orange County Human Relations Commission

Schools, Universities and Colleges

Anaheim Elementary School District
 Brea Olinda Unified School District
 Buena Park School District
 California State University at Fullerton
 Capistrano Unified School District
 Cypress School District
 Fountain Valley School District
 Fullerton School District
 Huntington Beach City School District
 Irvine Unified School District
 Los Alamitos Unified School District
 Lowell Joint School District
 Magnolia School District
 Ocean View School District
 Orange Coast College
 Santa Ana College
 Santa Ana Unified School District
 Police Department
 Savanna School District
 Soka University
 University of California, Irvine

City Police Departments

Anaheim La Habra
 Brea La Palma
 Buena Park Laguna Beach
 Costa Mesa Los Alamitos
 Cypress Newport Beach
 Fountain Valley Orange
 Fullerton Placentia
 Garden Grove Santa Ana
 Huntington Beach Seal Beach
 Irvine Tustin
 Westminster

Orange County Sheriff's Department Representing:

Aliso Viejo San Juan
 Dana Point Capistrano
 Laguna Hills Seal Beach
 Laguna Niguel Stanton
 Laguna Woods Villa Park
 Lake Forest Yorba Linda
 Mission Viejo Unincorporated
 Rancho Santa areas of
 Maragarita Orange County
 San Clemente



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Michelle Steel, Vice-Chair, *Second District*
Andrew Do, *First District*
Todd Spitzer, *Third District*
Shawn Nelson, *Fourth District*



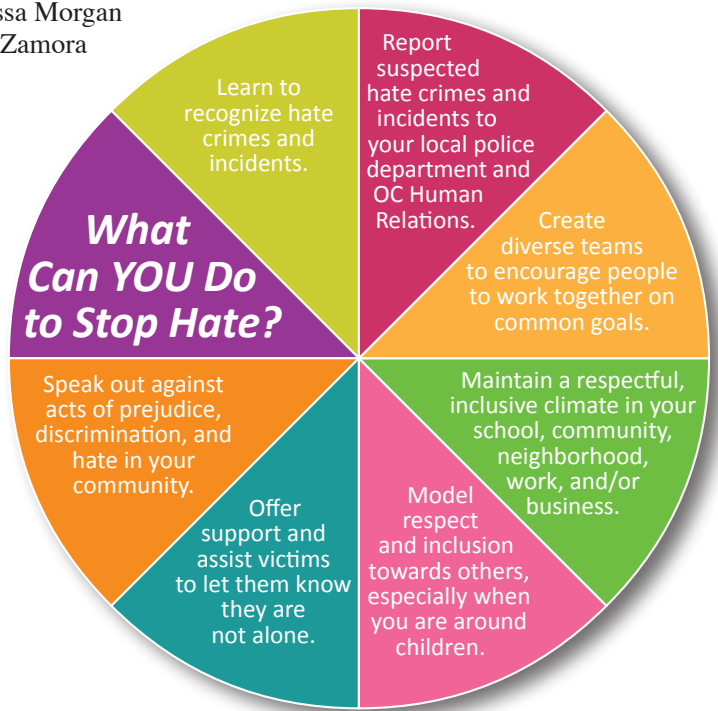
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Steve Franks, *OC Community Resources Director*

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OC Human Relations Commission

Seeking out the causes of tension and conflict, discrimination and intolerance, and eliminating those causes

1300 South Grand Avenue, Building B, Santa Ana, CA 92705
www.ochumanrelations.org/hatecrime

To Report a Hate Crime, Dial 1-714-480-6570