



The Nassau County Police Department continuously strives to safeguard the rights of all individuals irrespective of their race, color, national origin, ethnicity, gender, gender expression or identity, religion, religious practice, age, disability, or sexual orientation. Any acts or threats of violence, property damage, harassment, intimidation or other crimes which appear to be bias incidents are viewed very seriously by the Nassau County Police Department and will be given high priority.

**Bias Incident:** An offense or offenses against a person or property which appear to be motivated in whole or in substantial part by the race, color, national origin, ethnicity, gender, gender expression or identity, religion, religious practice, age, disability, or sexual orientation of the victim.

**Hate Crime:** A person commits a hate crime when he or she commits specified offenses

1. intentionally *selects* an individual, a group, public or private property against whom the offense is committed or intended to be committed in whole or in substantial part because of a belief or perception regarding race, color, national origin, ethnicity, gender, gender expression or identity, religion, religious practice, age, disability, or sexual orientation of a person, regardless of whether the belief or perception is correct, *or*
2. intentionally *commits* the act or acts constituting the offense in whole or in substantial part because of a belief or perception regarding race, color, national origin, ethnicity, gender, gender expression or identity, religion, religious practice, age, disability, or sexual orientation of a person, regardless of whether the belief or perception is correct.
3. Freedom of Speech is protected by our Constitution. Everyone has the right to express their likes, dislikes, and opinions no matter how offensive these expressions may be to others. Ultimately, offensive or hateful speech is still just speech and is protected.

**POLICE RESPONSE:** Upon receiving a complaint of a Bias Incident/Hate Crime a Precinct Patrol Officer will respond to the location and conducts a preliminary investigation.

- The Detective Division will also be notified.
- If a summary arrest cannot be made, the investigation is then forwarded to the Precinct squad for further investigation.

**Note:** It is important to inform the investigating Officer/Detective of any bias remarks (*exact language is critical*). The victim's perception of why the offender may have been motivated by bias will be a factor.

- Please be mindful not to disturb any evidence, e.g. any offensive symbols or words, paraphernalia or jewelry suggesting identification by the suspect(s) with an organized hate group; hate literature; spray cans; bias symbolic objects such as swastikas and crosses. This may be used as evidence.
- Reports of Bias Incidents/Hate Crimes are investigated at the Precinct of occurrence in order to ensure that the crimes are investigated rapidly and that evidence is not compromised.

**Note:** It is imperative that victims of Bias Incidents/Hate Crimes report the occurrence(s) as soon as possible. Doing so assists law enforcement in identifying multiple incidents occurring in a short period involving victims of the same identifiable group.

- The Nassau County Police Department's Bias Crime Coordinator ensures that Department resources are properly utilized to investigate all reported bias crimes which occur within Nassau County. The Bias Crime Coordinator (a Deputy Chief in the Detective Division) works in conjunction with the *Patrol Precinct Bias Incident Coordinators* (Each precinct has a designated *Patrol Bias Incident Coordinator*- the Deputy Commander of each Precinct). The Department Bias Incident Coordinator tracks, monitors and reports the disposition of all reported bias crimes directly to the Chief of Department.
- Bias Incident/ Hate Crimes statistics once categorized are shared with the District Attorney's Office, New York Case Division of Criminal Justice Services and the Anti-Defamation League.

***The Nassau County Police Department does NOT conduct civil immigration enforcement. Officers will not ask about a victim's immigrant status, and, if it is offered, will not share it with any other local federal agency.***