



**This Public Advisory  
is a publication of the  
Nassau County  
Police Department  
Community Affairs**

For further information, call the  
Nassau County Police Department  
Bias Crimes Coordinator  
at 516-573-7360



**Public  
Advisory**  
0612

# **BIAS/ HATE CRIMES**

**A guide from the  
Nassau County  
Police Department  
for you to better  
understand and report  
Bias/Hate Crimes**

## A Bias Incident is...

Any act against a person or their property that is committed or intended to be committed in whole or substantial part because of a belief or perception regarding the race, religion, ethnic background, sexual orientation, age, gender or disability of that person.

## A Bias/Hate Crime is...

Any criminal offense committed against a person or property for the reasons listed above.

Bias/Hate crimes strike at the very heart of the victim's identity. When a person or group of people is victimized, it affects the family, friends, relatives and the entire community.

**Intimidation,  
Fear And Terror  
Ripple Through The  
Community!**

If you are the victim of a Bias/Hate Crime...

- Call 911 - stay calm.
- If possible, note the description of the person(s) responsible and/or the vehicle used.
- Make note of the exact words and actions used by the perpetrator. Tell the police officer at the scene.
- Do not remove graffiti or other evidence prior to police arrival.
- If you have any questions or issues with confidentiality, contact the Nassau County Police Department Bias Crimes Coordinator at (516) 573-7360.

## Bias/Hate Crime Facts

- Juveniles and young adults between the ages of 12 and 21 commit the majority of Bias/Hate Crimes.
- Most offenders are not members of an organized hate group or organization; they are ordinary individuals, most with no prior criminal records.
- Bias/Hate Crimes have a unique psychological impact on the victim.
- Bias/Hate Crimes can have a more devastating effect than other crimes-on the victim and the victim's community.
- Bias/Hate Crimes have been committed by every type of person no matter the race, religion, ethnicity, gender, etc.

**BIAS/HATE  
CRIMES  
AFFECT  
EVERYONE**

## A Message from the County Executive



In Nassau County, we are combating the impact of Bias/Hate Crimes. Racial assault, cemetery desecration, gay bashing, and countless other forms of bias-related criminal conduct erode the very structure of our society. Those who commit these crimes receive harsher sanctions because of the broader emotional and psychological impact those crimes have on our communities. When one citizen is the victim of a hate crime, we all suffer.

All Americans have a stake in effective responses to hate crimes. Too often, crimes of bias and hate have been dismissed as "childish pranks". Even childish pranks may reflect a much more serious, deep-seated problem. The damage done by hate crimes cannot be measured solely in terms of physical injury or dollars and cents.

Please join us in the fight against Bias/Hate Crimes. If you or a member of your family witness or experience a Bias/Hate Crime, call the Nassau County Police Bias Crimes Coordinator at (516) 573-7360 in the Police Department's Community Affairs Office.

## A Message from Nassau County Police Commissioner



Bias Crimes and incidents tear apart the very fabric of a community. The Nassau County Police Department strives to strengthen all our communities throughout this great county by responding to issues that threaten the quality of life we enjoy and cherish.

It is the mission of this department to safeguard the rights of all individuals irrespective of age, ethnic background, disability, gender, political affiliation, race, religion or sexual orientation. Any threats or acts of violence, property damage, harassment, intimidation or other Bias/Hate Crimes are given the highest priority. The members of the Nassau County Police Department will use every necessary resource rapidly and decisively to identify the perpetrators and take vigorous enforcement action.

Do not hesitate to contact us at 911 or the Bias Crimes Coordinator at (516)573-7360 if you have information regarding Bias Crime activity.