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# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

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## *Hate Crimes*

**CITY OF IOWA CITY  
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

410 E. Washington St.  
Iowa City, IA 52240  
[www.icgov.org/humanrights](http://www.icgov.org/humanrights)  
356-5022 or 356-5015  
[humanrights@iowa-city.org](mailto:humanrights@iowa-city.org)

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**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION IS THE LAW AND YOUR RIGHT**

If you believe you have been discriminated against, or you want more information on types of prohibited discrimination, please contact the Human Rights Coordinator at 356-5022 or the Human Rights Investigator at 356-5015.

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# WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS?

Persons within the state of Iowa have the right to be free from any violence, or intimidation by threat of violence, committed against their persons or property because of their race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, political affiliation, sex, sexual orientation, age, or disability. (Iowa Code 729A.1)

## WHAT IS A HATE CRIME?

*“Hate crime”* means one of the following public offenses when committed against a person or a person’s property *because* of the person’s race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, political affiliation, sex, sexual orientation, age, or disability, or the person’s association with a person of a certain race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, political affiliation, sex, sexual orientation, age, or disability:

Assault in violation of individual rights under section 708.2C of the Code of Iowa;

Violations of individual rights under section 712.9 of the Code of Iowa;

Criminal mischief in violation of individual rights under section 716.6A of the Code of Iowa;

Trespass in violation of individual rights under section 716.8 of the Code of Iowa.

# WHAT STEPS SHOULD A PERSON TAKE TO **REPORT** A HATE CRIME?

- Contact law enforcement.

## **CIVIL** **REMEDIES**

A victim who has suffered physical, emotional, or financial harm as a result of a violation of this chapter due to the commission of a hate crime is entitled to and may bring an action for injunctive relief, general and special damages, reasonable attorney's fees, and costs. An action brought pursuant to this section must be brought within two years after the date of the violation. (Iowa Code 792A)

## **OTHER** **RIGHTS** THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE?

If a Hate Crime occurs in areas of housing, employment, credit, public accommodations, or education, it may also be a discriminatory act under Iowa City's Human Rights Ordinance/ Title 2 of the City Code. Complaint must be filed within 300 days.

# WAYS TO FIGHT HATE

**ACT** Do something. In the face of hatred, apathy will be interpreted as acceptance by the haters, the public and worse, the victim.

**UNITE** Call a friend or co-worker. Organize a group of allies from places of worship, schools, clubs and other civic sources. Create a diverse coalition.

**SUPPORT THE VICTIMS** Hate crime victims are especially vulnerable, fearful and alone. Let them know you care.

**DO YOUR HOMEWORK** Determine if a hate group is involved, and research its symbols and agenda. Seek advice from anti-hate organizations.

**SPEAK UP** You too have First Amendment rights. Hate must be exposed and denounced.

**LOBBY LEADERS** Persuade politicians, business and community leaders to take a stand against hate.

**LOOK LONG RANGE** Create a “bias response” team. Hold annual events, such as a parade or cultural fair, to celebrate diversity and harmony.

**TEACH INCLUSION** Bias is learned early, usually at home, but children from different cultures can be influenced by school programs and curricula.

**DIG DEEPER** Look into issues that divide us. Work against discrimination in housing, employment, places of public accommodation, credit and education. Look inside yourself for biases, prejudices and stereotypes.

*(Modified from 10 Ways to Fight Hate, a Community Response Guide by the Southern Poverty Law Center)*

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**This brochure is a general summary of the law.**



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