

## ORIGIN OF MPAC'S HATE CRIME PREVENTION DEPARTMENT

In the aftermath of September 11, 2001, MPAC was inundated with reports of hate acts. With the generous support of the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations (LACCHR), MPAC created the Hate Crimes Prevention Department in December 2001.

Religious stereotypes, discrimination, lack of information about Islam, and the public's negative perception of Muslims have caused hostility against Muslims to escalate in recent years.

## SERVICES

MPAC's Hate Crime Prevention Department has three main focuses:

1. **Victim Assistance!**: By fielding calls through our 24-hour toll-free hotline (800-898-3558), MPAC guides victims of hate acts and discrimination to the appropriate resource (e.g. medical care, legal consultation, counseling).
2. **Advocacy**: An extension of victim assistance is advocacy, such as supporting bills that benefit victims and contacting law enforcement to advocate that applicable cases be pursued as hate-motivated crimes.
3. **Hate Prevention**: As a tool of prevention, MPAC strives to educate the community about hate acts, the issues surrounding hate and racism, and the factors that contribute to hate.

Outreach and Educational efforts include:

- Holding educational forums and workshops
- Encouraging hate crime/incident reporting
- Training law enforcement
- Fostering community-police partnership
- Delivering cultural sensitivity trainings
- Educating the media
- Developing & distributing educational tools

MPAC will not turn away any person who is the victim of a hate crime/incident. If MPAC cannot assist you directly, we will refer you to an agency that can.

## ABOUT MPAC

The Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC) is a public service agency working for the civil rights of American Muslims, for the integration of Muslims into American pluralism, and for a positive, constructive relationship between American Muslims and their representatives. The mission of MPAC encompasses promoting an American Muslim identity, fostering an effective grassroots organization, and training a future generation of men and women who share our vision.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations  
(213) 974-7611

Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office  
Victim-Witness Assistance Program  
(213) 974-7499

Los Angeles City Commission Human Relations  
(213) 978-1660

Los Angeles City Attorney's Office  
Victim-Witness Assistance Program  
(213) 485-6976

### MUSLIM PUBLIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL

3010 Wilshire Blvd, Suite #217  
Los Angeles, CA 90010  
Tel: (213) 383-3443  
Fax: (213) 383-9674

110 Maryland Ave. N.E. Suite 304  
Washington, D.C. 20002  
Tel: (202) 547-7701  
Fax: (202) 547-7704

[www.mpac.org](http://www.mpac.org)  
Email: [hatecrimes@mpac.org](mailto:hatecrimes@mpac.org)

# An Attack Against YOU Is An Attack Against US



Hate Crime Prevention  
Department

Hate Crime Hotline  
(800) 898-3558

## WHAT IS A HATE CRIME?

A hate crime is any criminal act or attempted criminal act directed against a person(s) based on the victim's actual or perceived race, nationality, religion, gender, disability, or sexual orientation. Hate crimes include:

An act which results in serious physical injury

**September 2001:** An American Muslim woman was shopping at Albertson's when a Caucasian woman attacked her and yelled, "America is only for white people!" The victim was taken to the emergency room.

An act which results in injury even if the injury is slight

**October 2004:** A group of Hispanic adolescents mocked an Afghani Muslim woman about her background. She was verbally assaulted with language like, "F\*\*\* you" and physically assaulted and slightly injured at her apartment complex.

A threat of violence that may be able to be carried out

**September 2003:** A Bangladeshi taxi driver was threatened by a middle-aged male who yelled derogatory comments at him, including, "Get out of this country you f\*\*\*ing Arab, f\*\*\*ing Mohammad ..." The perpetrator pulled up next to him, got out of his vehicle and threatened to physically harm the victim.

Commission of Arson

**June 2005:** A 2100-square-foot facility used as a mosque and burial preparation for Muslims throughout San Bernardino County was found burned to ashes at 4:30 AM. Two male teenagers were arrested for vandalizing the remains of the mosque and cemetery and on suspicion of the arson.

An act which results in any property damage

**May 2005:** A Malaysian Muslim woman purchased the "New Translation of the Quran" from Amazon.com. Scrawled on the inside cover was "F\*\*\* this Shi\*" and "Death to All Muslims." Due to MPAC's diligence, the FBI opened a hate crime investigation.



Photo by AP

## WHAT IS A HATE INCIDENT?

A hate incident is an act directed against a person(s) based on their actual or perceived race, nationality, religion, gender, disability, or sexual orientation. The difference between a hate incident and a hate crime is that a hate incident is a non-criminal act. Hate incidents include:

Hate messages, hate graffiti or property damage in PUBLIC places, which is NOT directed at a specific individual or group

**December 2005:** A billboard campaign aimed at "pressuring state governments ... to implement driver's license reforms that would strengthen our nation against terrorism" depicts an Arab Palestinian as a terrorist, further propagating the stereotype of Arab men being violent.



Circulating offensive materials that do NOT directly threaten violence, such as hate e-mail or hate flyers

**February 2005:** An elderly white male sent hate mail to numerous Asian and Muslim businesses and organizations that contained threatening language such as to "Kill Chinese!" and "Kill Iranian Terrorists!"

Making derogatory comments that lack the threat of violence

**June 2003:** In response to a twelve year old saying she was from Iran, her classmates said, "I hate those places ... they're full of towel heads."

Posting hate materials that do NOT result in property damage, such as caricatures depicting a racial, ethnic or religious group

**September 2004:** A store in Santa Monica displayed highly offensive signs with statements such as "Palestinians are PIGS, muderous scum PIGS."

## WHAT TO DO IF THIS HAPPENS TO YOU

- ▶ CALL 911 to seek medical attention if necessary
- ▶ IMMEDIATELY REPORT HATE CRIMES to the police and to a community organization such as the Muslim Public Affairs Council. Make sure the police report identifies the crime as hate-motivated.
- ▶ DOCUMENT the hate act with detailed notes such as: Date, time of incident, description of perpetrator(s), and a detailed personal account of what happened, including any derogatory comments made. Preserve any documents related to the crime such as emails, photos, etc.
- ▶ SUPPORT VICTIMS of hate by assuring them that they are not alone and that assistance is available.
- ▶ ALERT the local District Attorney, whose office prosecutes hate crimes. Ask about the Victim Witness Assistance Program, which may compensate you for costs related to the crime, such as property damage, injuries suffered, and funeral expenses.

## WHY REPORT?

- By reporting hate crimes, perpetrators can be punished, others will be deterred from engaging in hate-motivated behavior, and American principles and values will be protected.
- If crimes and incidents are not reported, perpetrators will continue to pose threats to our society.
- A lack of response may be perceived as encouragement to commit additional acts.
- To make policy changes and implement hate crime legislation, a significant number of hate crimes must be reported.

## STATISTICS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- According to the Los Angeles City Attorney's office in 2003, one-third of victims of hate crimes were under the age of 18.
- According to the FBI, anti-Islamic incidents jumped from the second least reported prior to 9/11 to the second highest reported among religious-bias incidents in 2001, claiming 554 victims with a growth of more than 1,600 percent.
- According to the LACCHR'S 2003 report, many immigrant groups including Asians, Middle Easterners and Latinos, are likely to under-report hate crimes against them for several cultural reasons, such as reluctance to contact authorities, lack of familiarity with hate crime laws, etc.