



A GUIDE TO
RESPONDING TO AND REPORTING
HATE CRIMES AND BIAS INCIDENTS
AGAINST SIKH-AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

Acts of hate and bias are painful. They are designed to hurt you and create fear in communities on the basis of identity. After an incident, it can feel isolating and confusing, and maybe you do not know where to go for advice, let alone get support.

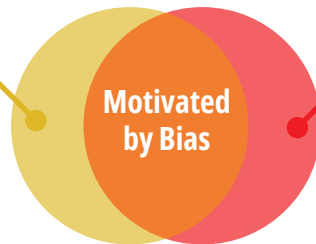
This pamphlet was created to help you understand who to report the incident or crime to, what to report, what to expect, and how to find community support.

BIAS INCIDENT VS. HATE CRIME

BIAS INCIDENT

Bias + Non-Criminal Act

A bias incident is someone harassing you for who you are and/or because of who they think you are.



HATE CRIME

Bias + Criminal Act

A violent crime motivated by hate because of who you are and/or because of who they think you are.

TYPE OF BIAS	EXAMPLE
Religious Bias: Identity/Appearance	A Sikh man in Bronx, New York, was wearing a turban while waiting for the bus. A group of young men came up to him and called him a “dirty raghead.” Then, they started beating him with fists and legs, and knocked off his turban. The Sikh man had several wounds, including a broken rib and scars on his face.
Religious Bias: Attack on a Place of Worship	A man started a fire in the men’s bathroom of the Nashville gurdwara. The next day, surveillance video captured the man returning to the Nashville gurdwara. Soon after his arrival, a much larger fire broke out in the langar hall, causing significant damage and forcing dozens of people to evacuate. Investigation revealed that the offender had been seen in a nearby neighborhood posting fliers in the park telling all followers of foreign religions to leave America.
Anti-Immigration Status	A Sikh man in San Francisco, California, was walking on a street when he was confronted by a man who told him, “Go back to your country!” Then, he proceeded to attack the Sikh man with a crowbar and fled the scene.
Race	In a parking lot next to a UPS store, a Sikh male was attacked by a man with a wooden stick. The victim suffered severe wounds. Investigation revealed that the offender had exchanged racial insults with the victim in the UPS store. The offender initiated the exchange by stating that Indians were taking away jobs from Americans.
Disability	A senior home in Texas for persons with mental disabilities was the site of a reported attempted arson. The investigation found that the offender was repeatedly saying to the residents, “You crazies need to die!”
Ethnicity/National Origin	Two Sikh university students were speaking in Punjabi when another student deliberately shoulder-checked one of them. The attacking student said, “You are in America. Speak English.”
Color	Six South Asian men were assaulted by a group of white men for trespassing their “white” neighborhood.
Sexual Orientation	Five gay friends were walking out of a bar when a group of unknown men began to humiliate the gay men for their appearances. One of them went as far to punch one of the gay men, leaving him unconscious.
Gender	A woman had gone to a male’s locker room and fired numerous shots, injuring two and killing one man. It was later known that she had planned the attack because all her life she had a deep hatred for men because she felt rejected by the men in her life.
Gender Identity	A transgender woman was walking home when two guys began to follow her, yelling, “We do not want you in this town!” They proceeded to knock her to the ground.

REPORTING A HATE CRIME

General Steps

1. Report the crime to your local police/law enforcement. Call 911 if you feel you are in danger or are hurt.
2. Get medical attention (if necessary).
3. Write down the exact words that were said.
4. Make notes about any other facts.
5. Save all evidence and take photos.
6. Get other victims' and witnesses' contact information. (Often, someone who witnesses the crime will do this. You can allow law enforcement to do this if you do not feel comfortable.)
7. Quickly follow up this report with the FBI by calling 1-800-CALL-FBI or submitting the information at tips.fbi.gov. (You have the option to remain anonymous.)
8. Contact community organizations in your area, such as SALDEF, that respond to hate crimes.

Information to Gather and Report

If it can be done safely, record a video or audio recording and take photos. Write down what happened, where it happened, and when it happened.

- Target (Name, address, contact information)
- Description of Incident (Identify dates, times, locations, and the names of everyone involved, if possible.)
- Witnesses (Name, address, contact information)
- What about the incident makes you feel it is a hate crime? (Specific slurs, writings, etc.)
- Whom have you contacted? (Has the incident been reported and to whom?)

Please note, complaints filed are processed and may be referred to federal, state, or local law enforcement or regulatory agencies for possible investigation. Please inform them where you have previously reported the incident (church, school, etc.).

Example Report 1

IDENTITY/APPEARANCE:

A Sikh man in Bronx, New York, was wearing a turban while waiting for the bus. A group of young men came up to him and called him a "dirty raghead." Then, they started beating him and knocked off his turban. The Sikh man had several wounds, including a broken rib and scars on his face.

What the Sikh Man Did:

- He reported the crime to the New York Police Department.
- He got medical assistance in treating his wounds from the Lincoln Medical Center in the Bronx area. He informed the police that he was going to be at Lincoln Medical Center prior to commuting.
- With a journal that he had, he wrote down the exact remarks that he heard that were targeted toward him.
- He also made any other notes about what was going on. He talked to the owner of a dry cleaner's shop on the street and got video footage of the incident on the street.
- He gathered all the evidence and took pictures of the dirty marks on his turban, along with his wounds.
- He followed up by calling the FBI field office in New York and reporting the hate crime. He explained all the details that were given to the police department.
- He contacted SALDEF and communicated details that he gave to the police and the FBI. SALDEF will follow up with him soon on next steps.
- He contacted community organizations in the Bronx area that respond to hate crimes, and contacted the district attorney at that time to report and explain everything that happened, along with next steps.

Example Report 2

PLACES OF WORSHIP:

A man started a fire in the men's bathroom of the Nashville gurdwara. The next day, surveillance video captured the man returning to the Nashville gurdwara. Soon after his arrival, a much larger fire broke out in the langar hall, causing significant damage and forcing dozens of people to evacuate. Investigation revealed that the offender had been seen in a nearby neighborhood posting fliers in the park telling all followers of foreign religions to leave America.

What the Sikh Sangat Did:

- ☑ The Nashville sangat reported the crime to the Nashville Police Department over the phone.
- ☑ The sangat got medical attention for anyone that was hurt, injured, or wounded from the Tristar Medical Hospital, a local hospital in Nashville.
- ☑ While someone called, other individuals took note of any details at the scene or of the arsonist.
- ☑ The sangat collected video footage of the gurdwara and also got a copy of the flier from a nearby resident in the neighborhood.
- ☑ The sangat took pictures and kept notes of all the images of wounds, and the damage that the fire caused in the gurdwara and in the langar hall.
- ☑ The sangat called the FBI field office in Nashville and informed them of the hate crime. They also informed the FBI that the police department was on the scene of the crime.
- ☑ He contacted SALDEF and communicated details that they gave to the police and the FBI.
- ☑ The sangat contacted other community organizations in the Nashville area and in the downtown area that respond and deal with hate crime cases.
- ☑ The sangat spoke with the district attorney general of Nashville about what happened and possible next steps.