

TIPS FOR STAYING SAFE:

- If you or someone in your community has been targeted by hate speech or bias incident, be sure to carry a mobile phone and keep it charged.
- Let someone you trust know where you are going and when to expect your return.
- Many communities post up to date information on social media to keep people alert to possible exposure to hate bias.
- Keep important numbers in your phone--like the FBI Tip Line, NEAAO, the local police phone number.. Know where the 9-1-1 quick dial is on your phone.
- The impact of fear on your body can be subtle. Many members of targeted communities experience ongoing stress. If you need some support, please call NEAAO's Helpline.
- Check in with an association or local organization that serves your particular community and/or language. If you need a referral, please call NEAAO at 207-800-5398 or use our confidential, anonymous CHAT feature.

This brochure is funded through Grant Number 15POVC-21-GK-00658-NONF, awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Dept. of Justice.

RESOURCES

If you are a victim of a hate crime, or witness one that seems likely to cause harm, call 9-1-1

New England Arab American Org.
Helpline (call/text): 207-800-5398

NEAAO confidential CHAT in Arabic, Dari, Pashto, English, online at rc.chat/neaaio

FBI Tipline: 1-800-225-5324

Non-emergency Bias Response Hotline:
1-844-924-2427 (M-F, 9 am to 5 pm)
Speaking 240 languages

Anti-Defamation League:
online: adl.org/report

ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union)
<https://action.aclu.org/legal-intake/me-legal-intake>

University of New England (on campus)
<https://www.une.edu/concern>

Track hate groups in Maine:
<https://www.splcenter.org/states/-maine>



ARE YOU A VICTIM OF HATE CRIME?

What is a Hate Crime?

At the federal level, a hate crime is motivated by bias against race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or disability.

Maine's Civil Rights Act provides for "the right to engage in lawful activities without being subject to physical force or violence, damage or destruction of property, trespass on property or the threat of physical force or violence, damage or destruction of property or trespass on property motivated by reason of race, color, religion, sex, ancestry, national origin, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity."

Hate crimes include:

- Physical assault
- Destruction/damage of property
- Threats of violence and bodily harm
- Burglary/breaking and entering
- Arson

Bias Incidents include:

- Ongoing harassment
- Name-calling and offensive gestures
- Actions that prevent a person from feeling safe because of identity

Hate Speech include name-calling and offensive gestures. Speech is protected by law, but if a person or group continues to use hate speech and it interferes with your life and freedom of movement, it should be reported.

Someone is threatening me. What should I do?

Was it a single threat or has this person threatened you before? Did the person call you a derogatory name, insulting your identity as defined by civil rights categories? Is the threat to commit an act of violence or destruction, or more general (i.e. "I will make your life miserable?")

These questions can help you and the police determine whether hate is fueling the threats and whether a court order might prevent further threats and/or harassment. Always report threats to your person, your family and/or your community to the police. It is important that there is a record, even if the incident is not a hate crime. If you have experienced a life-threatening incident or are witnessing a crime or a crime about to take place, call 9-1-1. In non-emergencies, you can call the local police phone number.

What happens when I call 9-1-1?

The police should come to your location and ask for a statement about what happened. They will complete a report. **They cannot ask if you are here legally or not.** You have a right to get a copy of the report they file. If there is evidence of a hate crime, the police will forward the report and any evidence collected to the Maine Attorney General's office to determine whether it can be investigated as a hate crime..



Trust your sense of what happened.

Even if you can't remember details, you know what happened and how you felt.

Do not worry about bothering the police, or the lack of evidence. Report it--you may prevent someone else from going through the same thing.



Kinds of Evidence

- Photo or video on your phone of person or group harrasing you. Don't wait until something happens--if you feel fear, take a photo. You can delete it later. Do this only if safe and discreet.
- Photo or number on car license plate.
- Photo or video of damage to property, including any symbols or writtten messages
- Witnesses--ask bystanders to stay with you and tell police what they saw
- Description of actions --any physical contact or pulling of your clothing, belongings, or aggresssion aimed at something in the immediate environment (i.e. breaking a bottle in front of you, spitting)
- Even if threats are in a language you do not fully understand, you can describe the tone of the person, their facial expression, gestures that suggest aggression.