THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF ACTUAL HATE CRIMES:

*While waiting for the train during her morning commute, an Asian woman was approached by a man who grabs her hair and pulls her to the ground. During this attack, the man yelled, “F*** you, Asians!”*

*A family buys a new home in a community where they are the first African Americans on the block. Soon after moving in, their car is vandalized while parked in front of their home with racial epithets stating, “No N***** Allowed! “Die N*****!”*

*A Jewish synagogue has several windows broken out, and a message is spray painted across the doors, “Jews Must Die!” along with swastikas painted all over the building.*

**DISCLAIMER:** The information contained in this document does not constitute legal advice. All content herein ("the content") is for general informational purposes. The content may not constitute the most up-to-date legal or other information. Hate crime laws vary from state to state. The content may not reflect and my not apply to your specific jurisdiction or set of facts or circumstances. The content contains links to third-party websites, which are provided for readers' convenience and for informational purposes only.
What is a hate crime?

Hate + Crime = Hate Crime

The Illinois Hate Crimes Act establishes criminal and civil liability for a (1) a specific group of crimes that is (2) committed due to a bias or prejudice against someone’s perceived or actual race, color, creed, religion, ancestry, gender, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability or national origin. This specific group of crimes includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Assault
- Battery
- Criminal Damage to Property
- Criminal Trespass
- Cyberstalking
- Intimidation
- Misdemeanor Theft
- Disorderly Conduct
- Intimidation by physical harm or confinement
- Stalking

For the actual and complete statute, refer to the Illinois Hate Crimes Act, 720 ILCS 5/12-7.1.

How are hate crimes different from other crimes?

Hate crimes not only impact the immediate victims but others like them. Hate crimes affect families, communities and the nation. Hate crime laws provide for enhanced penalties. The Illinois Hate Crimes Act elevates certain crimes that would otherwise be categorized as misdemeanors to felonies, which carry stiffer penalties. The Illinois Hate Crimes Act also ensures that victims have the ability to file civil hate crime claims against the perpetrator.

Under Illinois law, perpetrators of hate crimes are also subject to enhanced penalties if their criminal acts are committed in places of worship, schools, cemeteries or parks.

What is the difference between a hate crime and a hate incident?

“Hate incident” is a term that is being used to describe actions or behaviors motivated by hate. Hate incidents may or may not be crimes. Unlike the term “hate crime,” there is no formal legal definition for “hate incident”. Examples of hate incidents include: name-calling, insults, distributing hate material in public places, and displaying hate material on one’s own property.
Though there is no universal set of steps that will work for everyone, these actions may help if you have been a victim of a hate crime or incident.

#1 Secure your Safety
*The first priority is to ensure your physical safety.*

- **IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, DIAL 911.**
  You can state your preferred language for translation services.
- Seek medical attention, if necessary.
- If witnesses are present, ask them for support or intervention.

#2 Make a Record
*Record what happened with as much detail as possible. A record can be important if you choose to pursue legal action.*

- Record what happened, including the time, date, location, and description of the perpetrator.
- If anyone saw what happened, record their name and contact information.
- Photograph any physical injuries, offensive graffiti, property damage or other evidence.

#3 Seek Support and Report
*If you have been affected by a hate crime or hate incident, know that you are not alone. There are people who want to help.*

**Report to a Community Organization for Support Services.** Community organizations may be able to provide support and resources, such as, finding medical or counseling services, helping you communicate with law enforcement, helping you understand your rights, connecting you to an attorney, and identifying a support network for victims and families.

**Report to Law Enforcement for Investigation and Prosecution.** Hate crimes are against the law. Perpetrators may be subject to criminal and civil liability. Victims and witnesses have the right to report to law enforcement.

- **Local Police Department.** You can report to your local police department. The police department will initiate an investigation, which may result in state criminal prosecution.
- **Federal Bureau of Investigation.** You can report to the FBI. The FBI may investigate hate crimes for federal criminal prosecution.
- **Illinois Attorney General’s Office.** You can report to the Illinois Attorney General’s Office. The office may bring a civil or non-criminal action for the commission of a hate crime.

**Make an Anonymous Report for Data Collection.** If you want to report a hate crime or incident anonymously, there are organizations accepting anonymous reports for data collection.
Reporting and sharing your experience is entirely your choice. There are many reasons people choose to report a hate crime or incident. The following are some reasons you may want to report.

| Reporting a hate crime may result in prosecution and accountability. | There are community organizations that you can go to for support. |
| When you report, you might be helping to prevent these incidents from happening to someone else. | Reporting provides more accurate information to law enforcement, which can improve their response to hate crimes. |
| When a crime is classified as a hate crime, the offender can face more severe penalties. | State and federal government considers data when making resource allocation decisions. |
| Reporting can lead to a helpful connection and make you feel less alone. Remember there are people who want to help. | Some hate crimes start as smaller incidents which may escalate into more serious and frequent attacks. Every report matters, even if you think it is not significant. |

You can make anonymous hate crime or hate incident reports to non-profit, Asian Americans Advancing Justice, through this QR code. This is only for data collection.
If you have been affected by a hate crime or hate incident, know that you are not alone. There are people who want to help. Below is a non-exhaustive list of locally-based resources and support services.

### Emergency Services and Law Enforcement

Victims and witnesses have the right to report to law enforcement. When reporting to law enforcement, it is important to specify that you are reporting a hate crime, as some agencies are required to follow certain procedures to ensure that hate crime reports are comprehensively investigated. Secure the name, badge number, and contact information of the responding officer.

You do not need to speak English to contact law enforcement. You can request interpretation services by stating your preferred language.

**Chicago Police Department:** In an emergency, call 911. For non-emergency police services, call 311 or dial (312) 744-5000. You can also file report with the Chicago Police Department online.

**Federal Bureau of Investigation:** To make a hate crime report to the FBI, contact your local FBI office and ask to submit a hate crime complaint to the Civil Rights squad. For the FBI Chicago field office, call (312) 421-6700.

**Illinois Attorney General’s Office:** To make a hate crime report to the Illinois Attorney General’s Office, call (877) 581-3692, or submit a complaint form by mail or email.

### Community Organizations

#### Legal Aid

**Chinese American Service League (CASL) – Legal Services**
Make an appointment by phone, (888) 764-6125, or online.

**Lawyers Helping Our Community**
LHOC operates remotely. You can make an appointment through their online application.

**Attorneys Giving Legal Advice**
AGILA focuses on serving the Filipino American community. Appointments can be made online.

#### Health & Wellbeing

**Asian Human Services**
2838 W. Peterson Ave
Chicago, IL 60659
Info: (773) 293-8430
Crisis Counseling Program Hotline: (773) 907-6411

**Midwest Asian Health Assoc.**
230 W. Cermak Rd, 2nd Floor
Chicago, IL 60616
(312) 225-8659

#### Education & Empowerment

**Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Chicago**
4716 N. Broadway
Chicago, IL 60640
(773) 271-0899

**Coalition for a Better Chinese American Community**
2301 S. Archer Ave, Suite 1
Chicago, IL 60616
(312) 761-9738