

Hate crimes are unique. Victims of hate crimes are targeted because of a core characteristic of their identity. These attributes cannot be changed. Victims often feel degraded, frightened, vulnerable and suspicious. This may be one of the most traumatic experiences of the lives. Community members who share with victims the characteristics that made them targets of hate (race, religion, ethnic/national origin, gender, age, disability, gender identity or sexual orientation) may also feel vulnerable, fearful and powerless. In this emotional atmosphere, law enforcement officers and investigators must attend carefully to the ways they interact and communicate with victims, their families and members of the community.

Police officers and investigators have important roles to play in responding to hate incidents and crimes. By doing the job efficiently and carefully, police can reinforce the message that hate crimes will be investigated aggressively, thus enhancing the likelihood of a successful prosecution.

If you, or someone you know, has been the victim of a hate crime, here are some resources where you can find help:

#### **Chicago Police Department Civil Rights Unit**

The Civil Rights section is primarily responsible for the investigation of reported hate crimes. Working in conjunction with the Detective Division, Patrol Division, and Youth Division, reported hate crimes are investigated in a timely manner and attempts are made to arrest all persons alleged to have violated the rights of others.

<https://home.chicagopolice.org/about/specialized-units/civil-rights-unit/>

#### **Commission on Human Relations Chicago**

The Chicago Commission on Human Relations (CCHR) is the City's civil rights department that is charged with enforcing the Chicago Human Rights Ordinance and the Chicago Fair Housing Ordinance. The Commission investigates complaints to determine whether discrimination may have occurred in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodations, and uses its enforcement powers to punish acts of discrimination. Under the City's Hate Crimes Law, the agency aids hate crime victims.

<https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/cchr.html>

#### **ADL – Fighting Hate for the Good**

ADL (Anti-Defamation League) is a leading anti-hate organization. Founded in 1913 in response to an escalating climate of anti-Semitism and bigotry, its timeless mission is to protect the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment for all. Today, ADL continues to fight all forms of hate with the same vigor and passion.

<https://www.adl.org/>

#### **Cook County State's Attorney Victim and Witness Assistance**

The mission of the Cook County State's Attorney's Office Victim Witness Assistance Unit is to enhance prosecution efforts by delivering the highest quality of services to victims and witnesses in the areas of advocacy and court support. Providing victims with information and social service referrals is a responsibility mandated by the [Illinois Rights of Crime Victims and Witnesses Act](#).

<https://www.cookcountystatesattorney.org/resources/victim-witness-assistance-program>

#### **Center on Halsted**

Center on Halsted is a lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community center in Chicago, Illinois. It is the largest LGBT community center

<https://www.centeronhalsted.org/>

**Affinity Community Services**

Affinity Community Services is a social justice organization serving the needs of the Black LGBTQ+ community with a particular focus on Black women.

<https://www.affinity95.org/>