



HATE CRIME, WHAT IS IT? IS YOUR CHILD A TARGET? WHAT CAN YOU DO?



What is Hate Crime?

Hate/Biased motivated Crime is a criminal offence committed against a person or property motivated solely, or in part, upon the race, national or ethnic origin, language, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, or any other similar factor.

Is your child a target?

Hate groups concentrate their recruiting efforts in high schools, either through brochures, music, Internet or direct contact.

Young people are more susceptible to racist ideology and have no experience to refute lies being fed to them.

Youth most likely seeking a sense of identity & belonging are the most attractive targets (i.e. lonely, disenchanted, angry, unemployed, abused, runaways.)

Emotionally vulnerable/angry youth are easily indoctrinated by hate mongers & convinced to commit acts of violence to prove loyalties.

Youth are easily impressed with rituals and ceremonies of hate groups (i.e. hate music.)

Signs your child might be at risk

- Sudden lack of interest in school
- Secretive behaviour.
- Violence or overt hostility to parents and family.
- Playing racist rock music of groups such as Rahowa, Screwdriver, People Hater's Band.
- Your child has started to wear identifiable patches and or clothing.
- Stereotyping of ethnic and religious minorities, using racial and religious slurs.
- Wearing or displaying Nazi symbols such as swastikas/ paraphernalia.
- Writing or tattooing racist symbols, slogans or code words.
- Possession of hate propaganda, including Holocaust denial, videos, music, books, pamphlets.

Hate Crimes & the Internet

The internet is the primary use of communication for racist groups and provides a large number of avenues to exploit; blogs, forums, groups, chatrooms, email. The Internet and web sites enhance visibility and credibility of hate sites, often misleading young people as to their true dangers.

The Criminal Code of Canada prohibits the distribution of hate propaganda and the promotion of hatred, incitement of violence or advocating genocide, and the internet is no exception. Posting offensive material on the Internet is a criminal offence.

Protect your child from hate

Hate groups recruit and then isolate members from their former lives, fostering an atmosphere of extreme violence and intimidation, often encouraging members to commit criminal and violent acts.

Withdrawal from a hate group can make that individual the target of threats and violence.

Be aware of signs and symbolism relating to hate groups.

Be aware of the music your child listens to or concerts they attend.

Check the history files on your computer to see if any hate sites have been frequented.

Keep an open dialogue with your child; encourage them to talk about recruitment efforts or any hate group activity in your area.

Save any materials that could assist police in the investigation.

Contact your local police.