

# Together Against Hate Durham



Canadian  
Race Relations  
Foundation

Learn more at [durham.ca/Anti-Hate](https://durham.ca/Anti-Hate)

# Objectives

- Increase public awareness of how to identify, understand, and report hate activity.
- Empower residents and communities with accessible educational tools and resources.
- Strengthen community capacity through coalition building and multi-sector collaboration.
- Address barriers to reporting by promoting a common language and reducing fear or uncertainty among residents.
- Inform policy development using data from community surveys, youth engagement, coalition input, and conference sessions.

# Why now?

TRENDING

## 'It's dramatically under-reported': Hate crimes in Durham Region



By Reka Szekely Oshawa This Week

Monday, January 18, 2021 | 2 min to read

Article was updated Feb 15, 2023



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When the first rainbow crosswalk was installed in Bowmanville in May 2019, it was vandalized just two days later, marked up with black rubber from spinning tires.

Then, another few days later, the crosswalk — a symbol of support for the LGBTQ community — was spray-painted with a derogatory term.

A few months later, it was again vandalized, with motor oil.

ADVERTISEMENT



# Coalition Partners



Beth Zion Congregation



Bawaajigewin Aboriginal Community Circle

Clarington Diversity Advisory Committee

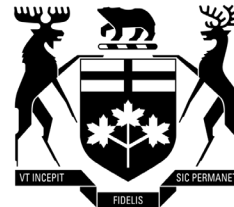


Dnaagdawenmag Binnoojiiyag Child & Family Services





# Coalition Partners



Ontario  
MINISTRY OF THE  
ATTORNEY GENERAL



Pickering Anti-Black  
Racism Taskforce



NATIONAL  
COUNCIL  
OF CANADIAN  
MUSLIMS

Your Voice. Your Future.

CONSEIL  
NATIONAL  
DES MUSULMANS  
CANADIENS

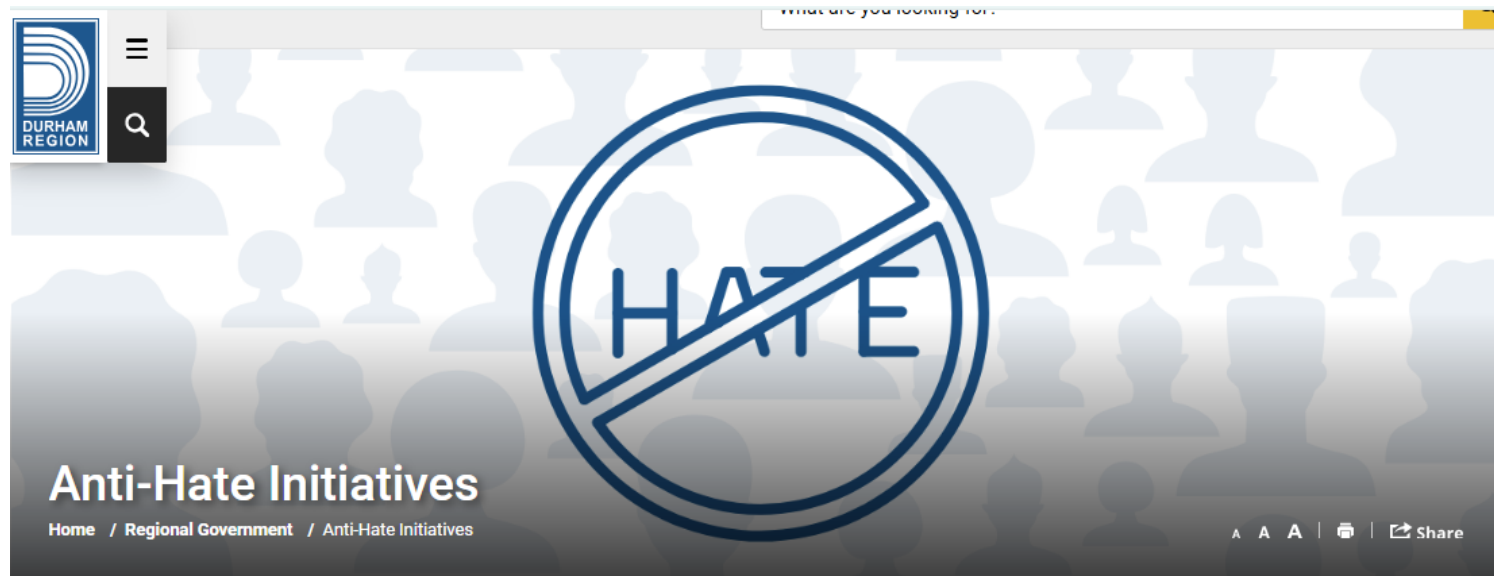
Votre voix. Votre avenir.

Ontario Shores  
Centre for Mental Health Sciences



YWCA  
DURHAM | A TURNING POINT  
FOR WOMEN

# Public Awareness Campaign



- Anti-Hate Initiatives ▾
- Community-Based Hate Reporting Program
- Community Healing Toolkit
- Together Against Hate Durham

- A to Z Services
- Access to Information >
- Accountability and Transparency
- Budget and Financial >
- By-Laws >
- Careers and Volunteering >
- CitvStudio Durham

The Region of Durham is taking a proactive stance against hate through collaboration, education, and the development of strategic programs and supports. Below you will find information about each of these initiatives.

These are more than just projects—they are calls to action for all residents, organizations, and leaders to stand together in building a more inclusive and respectful Durham Region.

For questions or more information, please contact [diversity@durham.ca](mailto:diversity@durham.ca)



## Together Against Hate Durham

- Take meaningful action against hate
- Discover educational brochures, posters, videos, and support tools



## Community-Based Hate Reporting Program

- Partnering with Victim Services of Durham Region to offer enhanced supports for individuals impacted by hate
- Improving the rates of hate reporting



## Community Healing Toolkit

- A practical resource designed to support healing, resilience, and wellness across Durham Region
- Created for community leaders and ambassadors



# Public Awareness Campaign



## What is hate?

Hate targets people based on:

- Racial or ethnic identity
- Religion or faith
- Gender identity or expression
- Sexual orientation
- Age
- Language
- Disability
- Any personal attribute

If you require this information in an alternate accessible format, please contact 311 or the Accessibility Coordinator at [accessibility@durham.ca](mailto:accessibility@durham.ca) or 1-800-372-1102, extension 2009.

Scan the QR code to complete the Together Against Hate Durham Community Feedback Survey



## How to recognize hate incidents using the five Ws

Considering these five questions can assist in determining if an incident qualifies as a hate crime, even if all five factors aren't fully present.

### Who?

Was the person or group targeted based on identity?

### What?

Were slurs, symbols, or excessive violence used?

### When?

Did it happen on a meaningful date? (e.g. religious or political)?

### Where?

Did it happen at a location tied to identity? (e.g. place of worship, Pride event)

### Why?

Is bias the only clear motive?

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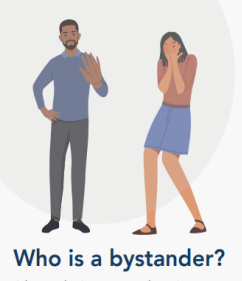


## Recognizing hate

Everyone in Durham Region deserves to feel safe—no matter their identity. But hate incidents are rising, affecting individuals, communities, and society.



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## Who is a bystander?

A bystander is someone that witnesses a hate-motivated incident but refrains from intervening. The bystander's inaction can reinforce the conditions that enable the perpetrator's behaviour, further contributing to the isolation of the person being harmed.

## Who is an upstander?

An upstander is someone who recognizes hate-motivated, discriminatory behaviour in real time and takes action to intervene using bystander intervention strategies. Upstanders actively work to protect individuals and strengthen their communities by confronting incidents of hate as they happen.

## Choose to be an upstander

Silence allows hate to grow. Speaking up—even in small ways—can stop harm and show that hate has no place in our community. Your actions matter. Together, we can make upstanding the norm.



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## Witnessing and responding to hate activity

How to be an upstander



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## A commitment to care

Supporting victims of hate means supporting them in ways that reduce harm, not add to it. Your presence, compassion, and willingness to listen without judgement can be a powerful counter to the isolation and disbelief they may face. When we respond with care, humility, and respect for their autonomy, we help create a culture where healing is possible and solidarity is real.

Acts of hate do not happen in isolation. They are part of broader systems of oppression targeting communities based on race, religion, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, sex, family status, and other identities.

In these moments, victims and survivors often carry the weight of not only the harm, but also the burden of not being believed, protected, and supported. In supporting victims, your role is not to fix, interrogate, or minimize. It is to show up with presence, care, and humility. Culturally responsive and trauma-informed support means recognizing that survivors of hate may be retraumatized by inaction, silence, or by hearing the wrong words.

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## Supporting victims of hate



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## Why it matters

Hate has no place in our communities. When you report a hate incident you help:

- **Raise awareness** and spark important conversations.
- **Interrupt cycles of hate** through action and advocacy.
- **Support victims** by connecting them to mental health and other essential services.
- **Hold perpetrators accountable** and prevent future harm.
- **Build safer, more inclusive communities** for everyone.

Your voice matters. Reporting hate is a powerful step toward justice, healing, and change.

## Together against hate

Combating hate requires courage—and action. By reporting hate incidents, we challenge harmful behaviours, promote healing, and help create safer, more welcoming communities. Every report contributes to justice, supports those affected, and builds a society rooted in respect, dignity, and inclusion

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## Reporting hate



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Hate hurts—through words, actions, online posts, and silence. But here's the truth: you have the power to recognize hate, speak out, support others, and help make your school and community safer.

## What does hate look like?

Hate can show up in obvious or subtle ways:

- Bullying, slurs, threats
- Hateful graffiti or symbols
- Exclusion or stereotypes
- Offensive "jokes" or memes
- Online posts that mock or target identity groups

## Examples to watch for:

- Someone says, "You don't belong here" because of their race or religion
- A meme that makes fun of someone's gender identity or disability
- A group chat sharing slurs or hate symbols
- A person being excluded from activities because of who they are
- Hate crimes: threats or violence based on identity.
- Hate incidents: harmful acts that may not break the law.

## Witnessing hate: how to step up safely

Being a bystander is out. Being an upstander is how you make a difference. Use the five D's to respond safely:

- **Direct:** Speak up calmly if safe: "That's not okay" or "Please stop".
- **Delegate:** Get help from trusted teachers, adults, authorities, or community members.
- **Delay:** Check in afterward: "Are you okay?" or "I'm here if you want to talk."
- **Distract:** Change the subject, help interrupt the situation, or create a pause.
- **Document:** If safe, record incidents, but always prioritize consent and privacy.

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## Together against hate: A youth guide to recognizing and responding to hate



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## Online hate: digital safety

Hate spreads fast online—through posts, games, chats, livestreams, and social media. It can stick around and hurt more people over time.

## Be a positive digital citizen:

- Before reposting, ask, "Is this kind or harmful?"
- Don't share memes that stereotype or mock others
- Use your platform to spread respect and support

## Cyberbullying and online hate:

- Report hate using platform tools
- Don't reply—it can make things worse
- Block or mute harmful accounts
- Talk to someone if it's affecting you

Scan the QR code to complete the Together Against Hate Durham Community Feedback Survey



## Protect yourself:

- Use privacy settings
- Don't overshare personal information
- Reach out to friends, family, or adults you trust if you feel unsafe

## Reporting hate

Reporting isn't about "getting someone in trouble"—it's about stopping cycles of hate, building accountability, and protecting others. When you report, you help create safer spaces for everyone and support those affected.

- **In emergencies:** Call 911 right away if you're concerned about the safety of yourself or others. You will be connected to Durham Regional Police Services (DRPS) where an officer will investigate an assign an occurrence number. Be sure to record this number and the officer's contact details for follow up.



## Community-Based Hate Reporting Program

Launching in early 2026, this new program, developed in partnership with Victim Services of Durham Region offers multiple ways to report, safe, confidential, trauma-informed support, culturally responsive resources and emotional and mental health services.



# Anti-Hate Conference



# Policy Implementations

1. Demographic-based data collection
2. Youth advisory council guide
3. Public service education and training
4. Durham Region anti-hate advisory table
5. Advocacy on Federal Bill C-9: Combatting Hate Act