

Neighbourhood Watch

March 2021 Bulletin



Personal Safety Measures Against Violent Hate Crime

Hate crimes are any crimes motivated by bias, prejudice or hate based on race, national or ethnic origin, language, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, or any other similar factors.

Statistics Canada indicates nearly half of all hate crimes target an individual's race and ethnicity. As ethnic minorities, religious, and sexual groups are often most affected by hate crimes, it is important to recognize with whom and where vulnerabilities occur and implement measures to reduce risks.

With the increase in violent hate crimes in Canada and the USA, it is important for NW members to be aware and share valuable personal safety tips with those most vulnerable in order to reduce the risk of being targeted for violent hate crimes:

Plan to reduce risk - Victims are often targeted because they were alone and perceived to be vulnerable. Consult your personal circles to see if people can accompany you when you need to be out in public. Additionally, review your schedules and routines to see if activities can be done at times when there are likely to be more witnesses around you.

Be aware of your surroundings - Always be alert and observant of your environment for potentially unsafe situations, such as suspicious persons, poorly lit environments, empty lots, etc. Take note of these situations and avoid them to reduce the risk of entering a dangerous situation.

Trust your intuition - If a situation or environment begins to feel unsafe at anytime, trust your instincts and take action to remove yourself from these situations or environments and get to safety.

Implement external measures - Keep your cellphone handy to keep in touch regularly with friends and family, or to call 911 if necessary. Consider carrying mini flashlights to help navigate poorly lit environments, as well as safety whistles to attract attention should you find yourself in an unsafe situation.



These tips are meant to help promote personal safety, but preventing hate crime will require greater education and openness to diversity to discourage the culture of hate that motivates these crimes.

Preventing Hate Crimes

Hate crimes and racism continue to be important topics to discuss in the wake of the Black Lives Matter protests last summer and the increasing Anti-Asian hate crimes both in Canada and the USA. It is crucial Neighbourhood Watch members take initiative now to prevent the spread of hate crimes in our communities.

Here are some actions NWs can take to prevent the spread of hate crimes:

Recognize hate crimes - Hate crimes can be both violent and non-violent. Targeting a victim based on their race, religion, sexual orientation or gender identity can all be considered hate crimes. However even property crimes like graffiti and vandalism based on these motivations can also be considered hate crimes.

Responding to and reporting incidents - Hate crimes can escalate and it is important to address even minor acts in a timely manner before they intensify. It is important to speak out against any acts of hate and promptly report these incidents to the police.

Educate and teach acceptance - Feelings of hate and prejudice often stem from a lack of experience and education over the course of one's life. Unlearning culturally inherited racism will be difficult and not done overnight. Thus, it is important to teach acceptance and expose each other to diverse experiences as much as possible to reduce hate in the future. This is especially necessary in bringing up and teaching the next generations of youth.

Engage and strengthen community groups - Research local community organizations looking to empower the racialized populations in Mississauga and consider participating or contributing to their efforts.



Mississauga's diversity is what makes our city a welcoming and strong community for all. Acts of prejudice and hate crimes should not be tolerated, and NW members can take the lead by participating and encouraging these actions.



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