

Serious vilification

If vilification includes a threat of harm to a person or their property, or inciting others to threaten physical harm to a person or their property, then it is a criminal offence. This is called serious vilification and should be reported to the police.

Example:

During a peaceful rally, a non-participating member of the public threatens violence towards the group and encourages others to do the same. These threats of violence are based on the group's religious and ethnic identification.

A person convicted of serious vilification can face a possible jail sentence of up to three years.

What to expect when reporting

When reporting an incident, you should provide your location and describe what you have experienced or witnessed. During the initial investigation, the police may interview victims and witnesses, record details, assess the need for victim protection, and collect physical evidence. Although you can remain anonymous, it may affect how the police proceed with the investigation. You are encouraged to report any hate-motivated crimes occurring around you.

Reporting options

If you believe a crime that was committed against you or someone else, was motivated by hate, you can report it in the following ways:

- **Emergency:** If a crime is happening now, call Triple Zero (000).
- **Policelink:** Report a crime online at police.qld.gov.au/policelink-reporting or call 131 444.
- **Crime Stoppers:** For anonymous reporting of non-urgent criminal activity or suspicious activity go to crimestoppersqld.com.au or call 1800 333 000.
- **In person:** You can report a crime in person at any police station.

You may also wish to contact the **Queensland Human Rights Commission** by calling 1300 130 670 or online at qhrc.qld.gov.au.



Hate Crime

Are you aware of the law regarding hate crimes?



Recognise your **rights** and available **reporting options**.



Queensland
**Human Rights
Commission**



Understanding hate crime

A hate crime is a criminal act motivated by hate and is committed against an individual or a group of persons based on prejudice or bias against their characteristics

Hate crimes can include:

■ **Abusive words or behaviour**

Name calling or threats relating directly to ones characteristics

- **Physical assault or violence**

Punching, hitting, spitting, slapping, kicking, using weapons, rape, murder or threatening

- **Property damage**

Vandalism, arson, offensive graffiti,
desecrating graves or places of worship

■ Harassment

False complaints, stalking, constant phone calls, emails or text messages

■ Online crime

Hate messages or posts targeting people or minority groups, including social media platforms directly impacting you.

Hate crimes target victims characteristics and may include:

- Race
- Sexuality
- Sex characteristics
- Religion
- Gender Identity

We encourage anyone who experiences an incident motivated by hate to report this to police.

Example:

A shop proprietor having their shop window smashed by a customer because of their gender identity.

Understanding discrimination and unlawful vilification

Queensland's discrimination laws are about treating everyone fairly. If you are treated unfairly because of something about you, it might be discrimination or unlawful vilification. While these incidents do not

meet the threshold of a criminal offence, these behaviours are still prohibited under Queensland law.

Unlawful vilification is when someone publicly incites hatred, serious contempt or severe ridicule of someone because of their race, religion, sexuality, sex characteristics or gender identity. This includes things like online abuse or harassing someone on the street.

Example:

A culturally diverse person attending a large training course was called ethnically insulting names by the head trainer in front of other trainers and members of the course, resulting in laughter at the comments.

Discrimination is if you are treated unfairly at work, school, in your dealings with government, or in seeking goods and services, because of a specific characteristic like your race, sex, disability, religion, or sexuality.

Example:

A rental agency refusing tenancy to a same sex couple even though they were the strongest applicants.

You can find out more or make a complaint by contacting the Queensland Human Rights Commission.

