

S T A T E O F
PRIDE
R E P O R T
2025



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A Message from Attorney General Rob Bonta

Happy Pride Month, California!

From Crescent City to Blythe, Californians are coming together this month in celebration and in solidarity with our beautifully diverse LGBTQ+ community. Pride is more than a celebration; it's a reminder of the resistance that sparked this movement and the resilience that sustains it. The first Pride was a protest, and that spirit of joyful resistance remains crucial today, as LGBTQ+ individuals across the country face a troubling rise in discrimination, disinformation, and hate.

Here in the Golden State, we take pride in being a beacon of inclusivity, diversity, and belonging. But our work is far from over. Be it slurs, threats, harmful legislation, or violence — attacks on our LGBTQ+ are entirely unacceptable, and we will not stand for them. In the past year alone, hate crimes targeting LGBTQ+ Californians have risen across the board.

That's why in California we are actively fighting back by:

- Protecting LGBTQ+ students from forced outing policies in schools;
- Ensuring our classrooms and libraries provide inclusive and diverse books and curricula;
- Defending the right of transgender students to use bathrooms that align with their gender identity;
- Standing up for our transgender servicemembers against biased and discriminatory policies;
- Defending access to gender affirming care and anti-discrimination protections in healthcare settings; and
- Responding to hate crimes, ensuring that all Californians can live safely, authentically, and without fear.

As a proud ally, advocate, and the Attorney General, I'm committed to using every tool at my disposal to ensure LGBTQ+ individuals have access to all the rights and resources they deserve. But our fight for equality doesn't stop at California's border. We know that the struggle for LGBTQ+ rights is a national one, and we are committed to pushing back against discriminatory laws, wherever they arise. No matter who's in the White House or who controls Congress, we'll keep showing up with a message of unity, acceptance, and inclusion, ready to fight for the LGBTQ+ community. We will show anyone who attacks our rights, freedoms, and people that we are not backing down. Because no matter who you love, or how you identify, you deserve to be safe, protected, and respected.

This Pride Month let's celebrate how far we have come and recommit ourselves to the fight ahead. Because love wins. Unity wins. And together, we will keep showing up — for our neighbors, for our children, and for future generations.



Rob Bonta



State of Pride

As we celebrate Pride Month, we honor the resilience, diversity, and strength of California's LGBTQ+ community. Our state leads the nation with over 2.8 million LGBTQ+ adults, representing 9.5% of our adult population, higher than the national average of 7.9%¹.

Throughout history, California has continued to pave the way empowering and advancing the rights of the LGBTQ+ community.



2.8 MILLION LGBTQ+ ADULTS IN CALIFORNIA



REPRESENTING 9.5% OF CA'S ADULT POPULATION



¹ *California's LGBTQ+ Population*, Public Policy Institute of California. (June 2024), <https://www.ppic.org/blog/californias-lgbt-population/>.

A Timeline of Progress and Resistance: LGBTQ+ Rights in California

2014

Ban on “Gay Panic” Defense (AB 2501): California became the first state in the U.S. to officially ban the use of “gay panic” and “transgender panic” defenses in murder trials, thereby preventing defendants from claiming they were provoked to violence due to a victim’s sexual orientation or gender identity.²

2015

Marriage Equality Legalized Nationwide: In a landmark decision, *Obergefell v. Hodges*, the U.S. Supreme Court legalizes same-sex marriage. Californians celebrated this victory, building upon the state’s earlier legalization of same-sex marriage in 2013.³

2017

Gender Recognition Act (SB 179) Signed into Law: California became the first state to allow residents to select a non-binary gender marker on state-issued IDs and birth certificates, affirming the rights of transgender and non-binary individuals.⁴

2020

Transgender Respect, Agency, and Dignity Act (SB 132): Governor Gavin Newsom signed Senate Bill 132 into law, ensuring that transgender, gender-nonconforming, and intersex individuals are provided with a safe, humane, and dignified environment while incarcerated.⁵

2021

Affirming Transgender and Nonbinary Students’ Names in College Act (AB 245): Ensures that California’s public colleges and universities allow transgender and nonbinary former students to have their name and gender accurately reflected on their academic records, such as transcripts and diplomas.⁶

2022

Protecting Transgender Youth and Their Families (SB 107): In response to a rise in anti-trans laws across the nation, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Senate Bill 107 protecting transgender youths and their families from bans against gender-affirming care.⁷

2023

Establishment of the Transgender, Gender-Nonconforming, and Intersex (TGI) Wellness and Equity Fund: The California Department of Public Health awarded nearly \$2.4 million in grants to community organizations to provide gender-affirming healthcare services, demonstrating the state’s investment in the wellbeing of TGI Californians.⁸

2024

California Fights Back Against Forced Outing Policies (AB 1955): California became the first state to prohibit and invalidate any adopted school board policy, rule, or administrative regulation that requires forced outings.⁹

2025

Ongoing Advocacy and Legislation: California continues to lead in advocating for LGBTQ+ rights through numerous legislative measures regarding issues such as healthcare, housing, inclusive education, and anti-discrimination protections.

2 Parker Marie Molloy, California Becomes First State to Ban Gay, Trans ‘Panic’ Defenses, Advocate (Sept. 2014), <https://www.advocate.com/crime/2014/09/29/california-becomes-first-state-ban-gay-trans-panic-defenses>

3 Ericka Cruz Guevarra, The Couple Who Helped Overturn California’s Same-Sex Marriage Ban, KQED, <https://www.kqed.org/news/11970658/the-couple-who-helped-overturn-californias-same-sex-marriage-ban>.

4 SB 179 – Gender Recognition Act of 2017, Equality California (Feb. 2018), <https://www.eqca.org/sb179-leg/der> Recognition Act of 2017 - Equality California.

5 Housing and Searching Incarcerated People Consistent with their Gender Identity, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/prea/sb-132-faqs/>.

6 Newsom Signs Bill to ensure Trans, Nonbinary Students’ Diplomas Reflect Identities, Equal California (Oct. 2021), <https://www.eqca.org/release-ab245-signed/>.

7 Newsom signs bill protecting transgender youths and families fleeing red-state policies, Los Angeles Times (Sept. 2022), <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2022-09-29/with-new-law-california-welcomes-out-of-state-transgender-youth>

8 State Invests in Community Organizations to Better Support Gender-Affirming Health Care for Californians, California Department of Public Health (Oct. 2023), <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OPA/Pages/NR23-029.aspx>

9 Protections for LGBTQ+ Students: AB 1955, California Department of Education, <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/pl/ab-1955-sum-of-prov.asp>

Challenges in California and Across the Nation

Despite tremendous progress, LGBTQ+ individuals continue to face deeply rooted and emerging challenges across the nation, including here in California. While our state has long led the way in advancing LGBTQ+ rights, the fight for full equality, safety, and inclusion is far from over.

As California continues to advance inclusive laws, many other states are reversing course. In 2024 alone, more than 500 anti-LGBTQ+ bills were introduced across the country – targeting healthcare, education, and public spaces.¹⁰ The coordinated weaponizing of public policy further marginalizes, disenfranchises, and endangers LGBTQ+ individuals.

Additionally, the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s (FBI) most recent annual crime report showed a nearly 16% increase in reports of hate crimes nationally based on gender identity and a nearly 23% increase in reports of hate crimes based on sexual orientation.¹¹ Across the U.S., hate-fueled violence and intimidation against LGBTQ+ individuals are on the rise, driven in part by rising political polarization, misinformation, and deliberate targeting of LGBTQ+ individuals in schools, media, and public life.

As a result, California continues to remain vigilant and proactive, not only defending our own progress but serving as a model and advocate for equality in every corner of the country.

10 Mapping Attacks on LGBTQ Rights in U.S. State Legislatures in 2024, ACLU (Dec. 2024), <https://www.aclu.org/legislative-attacks-on-lgbtq-rights-2024>

11 Delphine Luneau, *FBI’s Annual Crime Report — New FBI Data: Anti-LGBTQ+ Hate Crimes Continue to Spike, Even as Overall Crime Rates*, Human Rights Campaign (Sept. 2024), <https://www.hrc.org/press-releases/new-fbi-data-anti-lgbtq-hate-crimes-continue-to-spike-even-as-overall-crime-rate-declines>

DOJ's Work to Protect the LGBTQ+ Community

Combating Hate and Violence

In response to rising hate and violence targeting LGBTQ+ people and other vulnerable groups, the California Department of Justice (DOJ) works to ensure California's communities and local law enforcement have a clear view into this issue by:

- [Urging](#) the American Medical Association (AMA) to take stronger action to protect health care providers from potentially dangerous medical board certification requirements. Underscoring that requiring abortion and gender-affirming care providers to travel to states that restrict those forms of care in order to get board-certified puts them at legal and physical risk.
- [Issuing a statement](#) in response to President Trump's [executive order](#) that targets the LGBTQ+ community, reminding Californians of the resources and protections provided to them under state law.
- [Releasing the annual Hate Crime in California Report](#), which in 2024 shows that crimes against the LGBTQ+ community have risen across the board. The 2024 statistics show the most notable increases in the following areas:
 - o Anti-LGBTQ+ bias events increased by 13.9% from 151 in 2023 to 172 in 2024
 - o Anti-transgender bias events increased by 12.3% from 65 in 2023 to 73 in 2024
 - o Anti-gay (male) bias events increased by 8.7% from 231 in 2023 to 251 in 2024
 - o Anti-lesbian bias events increased by from 17 in 2023 to 23 in 2024
- Providing valuable information, expertise, and training for federal, state, and local law enforcement on identifying, tackling, and preventing hate crimes, including through an updated [law enforcement](#) bulletin on California laws that prohibit hate crimes as well as guidance related to the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes. DOJ's Hate Crime Coordinator is an experienced criminal prosecutor and subject matter expert who leads the department's efforts in collaborating with internal and external partners and strengthening responses to hate crimes in California.

Defending Access to Critical, Lifesaving Care

Research has consistently shown that gender-affirming care improves the health outcomes for individuals with gender dysphoria, a medical condition characterized by significant distress that occurs when an individual's gender identity differs from their sex assigned at birth. In individuals ages 13-20, receiving gender-affirming care was associated with 60% lower odds of moderate to severe depression and 73% lower odds of having suicidal thoughts over a 12-month period.¹² Despite this, many of the political attacks directed against LGBTQ+ people over the past year were focused on denying this life-saving treatment to some of the most vulnerable Americans — transgender people, particularly transgender youth.

12 Diana M. Tordoff et al., *Mental Health Outcomes in Transgender and Nonbinary youths Receiving Gender-Affirming Care*, JAMA Network Open(2022), https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2789423#google_vignette

DOJ is defending this vital care and the rights of transgender youth by:

- [Submitting a comment letter](#) opposing a proposed rule by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that would make over a dozen amendments to rules governing federal and state health insurance marketplaces including prohibiting coverage of gender-affirming care as an Essential Health Benefit (EHB) on federal exchange plans, leaving states responsible for paying any increase in premium as part of the premium subsidies if they require such coverage.
- [Backing a legal challenge](#) by Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ+ Equality, and individual patients and their families against the Trump Administration's executive orders targeting transgender individuals by stating that gender identity was a "false" idea and by attempting to strip federal funding from institutions that provide life-saving gender affirming care for young people under the age of 19.
- [Reminding California hospitals](#) and federally funded healthcare providers of their ongoing obligation under California anti-discrimination law to provide gender affirming care amid confusion resulting from President Trump's Office of Management and Budget directive on freezing federal funding and his executive order on gender affirming care.
- [Supporting challenges](#) to state laws that limit transgender youths' access to critical and lifesaving care by leading nationwide coalitions against bans on gender-affirming care in states like Tennessee.
- [Protecting LGBTQ+](#) youth from harmful practices such as conversion therapy, which is inconsistent with the standard of care for mental health practitioners for its ineffectiveness and increased risk of suicide and depression.

Ending Discriminatory and Dangerous 'Forced Outing' Policies

In July 2024, California enacted Assembly Bill 1955 (Ward), becoming the first state to prohibit and invalidate any adopted school board policy, rule, or administrative regulation that requires forced outings.

DOJ worked to block these policies by:

- [Securing a victory](#) dismissing the City of Huntington Beach's challenge to AB 1955. In that case, the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California accepted Attorney General Bonta's arguments that AB 1955, which prohibits schools from adopting policies that "out" transgender students without their consent, does not violate the fundamental rights of parents under the Fourteenth Amendment. The court held that schools have no constitutional obligation to notify parents of a student's social transition (use of a name and pronouns consistent with the student's gender identity) because such activity does not constitute "medical treatment" and schools need not provide parents with any and all information that may be relevant to protected parental decision-making.
- [Securing a victory](#) in *People of the State of California v. Chino Valley Unified School District*, where the San Bernardino Superior Court issued an injunctive and declaratory relief against the Chino Valley Unified School District Board of Education's mandatory gender identity disclosure policy. The ruling permanently halted enforcement of the policy's provisions that required schools to inform parents, with minimal exceptions, whenever a student requests to use a name or pronoun — or access facilities or programs — that do not align with the sex on their birth certificate or official records, even when the school district knows that such disclosure will result in mental, psychological, or physical harm to the student.

Pushing Back Against Discrimination and Exclusion

The weaponizing of public policy aimed at marginalizing and excluding LGBTQ+ individuals extends beyond healthcare and education and can severely impact people's participation in other areas of their lives.

DOJ stood up against these shameful and discriminatory attacks by:

- [Filing](#) a pre-enforcement lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Justice (U.S. DOJ) in response to its demand that California schools violate state law and the U.S. Constitution by excluding transgender female students from participation in sports consistent with gender identity. In the lawsuit, Attorney General Bonta asks the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California to uphold California's law and prevent the Trump Administration from taking retaliatory action, such as withholding or conditioning federal funding, over the state's refusal to comply with U.S. DOJ's unlawful demands.
- [Issuing letters](#) to insurance companies reminding them of their legal obligations under [Assembly Bill 571](#) (Petrie-Norris), which prevents insurers from refusing to issue or renew, or from altogether terminating, professional liability insurance for a licensed medical provider based solely on their provision of gender-affirming care services, if the services are performed in and lawful in California.
- Supporting [a legal challenge](#) to President Trump's executive order attempting to prohibit transgender servicemembers from serving in the military in any capacity.
- [Pushing back](#) on efforts to undermine civil rights protections for LGBTQ+ Americans in the workplace.

Championing Diversity and Inclusivity in Schools

In September 2023, California passed Assembly Bill 1078 (Jackson), which prohibited school boards from banning instructional materials or library books that offer inclusive and diverse perspectives, including those representing the LGBTQ+ community¹³.

DOJ worked to ensure classrooms in the state fulfilled this obligation by:

- [Supporting](#) Montgomery County Board of Education's decision to incorporate LGBTQ+ inclusive books into its curriculum.
- [Issuing a statement](#) in response to President Trump's [executive order](#) targeting transgender, nonbinary, intersex, and gender nonconforming students, reminding schools of their obligations under California law to provide inclusive curriculum that reflect the roles and contributions of our diverse population, including our LGBTQ+ community.
- [Backing a legal challenge](#) against Cobb County School District's attempt to enact and enforce two policies that prohibit school staff from discussing topics deemed "divisive," undermining their ability to teach diverse books and curricula.

13 Accurate and Inclusive Curriculum (AB 1078), California Department of Education, <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/cf/ab1078guidance.asp>

Know Your Rights

LGBTQ+ Discrimination Rights

You have the right to access and utilize public accommodations: In California, it is illegal to discriminate against people using public accommodations on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

You have the right to use the restroom consistent with your gender identity: You have the right to use the restroom consistent with your gender identity both in public settings, like schools, and at your workplace. As an employee in California, you have a right to safe and appropriate restroom facilities. Your employer cannot dictate which restroom you use. If your place of employment has single-stall restrooms, they must be labeled as “All Gender,” “Unisex,” “Gender Neutral,” or something similar.

You have the right to rent property without fear of discrimination: The federal Fair Housing Act prohibits sex discrimination by most landlords and, as the Supreme Court held in 2020 (*Bostock v. Clayton County*), discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity is sex discrimination. Thus, the Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. Housing discrimination against people with HIV/AIDS, or people perceived to have HIV/AIDS, is also illegal under the Fair Housing Act’s protections against disability discrimination. California’s Fair Employment and Housing Act provides similar protections.

Violations of both the federal Fair Housing Act and California’s Fair Employment and Housing Act include:

- Refusal to sell, rent, or lease rooms, apartments, condos or houses to protected individuals.
- Refusal to negotiate for the sale, rental, or lease of housing.
- Representation that a housing accommodation is not available for inspection, sale, or rental when it is in fact available.
- Denial of a home loan or homeowner’s insurance.
- Cancellation or termination of a sale or rental agreement.
- Policies, practices, terms, or conditions that result in unequal access to housing or housing-related services.
- Offering inferior terms, conditions, privileges, facilities, or services in connection with the housing accommodation.
- Sexual harassment involving unwanted sexual advances or requiring sexual favors for housing rights or privileges.
- Refusal to permit, at a disabled tenant’s expense, reasonable modifications when necessary to accommodate a disability.
- Refusal to make reasonable accommodations in housing rules, policies, practices, or services where necessary to afford a disabled person equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling.
- Retaliation against someone filing a complaint.
- Overly restrictive rules limiting the activities of daily life for families with children, including where children are allowed to play.

You have the right to receive service, regardless of the provider's religion: This includes wedding services, medical care, and child welfare services. California has banned religious exemption laws.

You have the right to a discrimination-free workplace: Both the California Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) and Title VII of the federal Civil Rights Act (Title VII) make it illegal for an employer to fire, demote, fail to hire, fail to promote, harass, or otherwise discriminate against you (such as by paying a lower wage or denying benefits that other workers receive) because of your sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or gender expression.

While the majority of employees in California are covered under these laws, there are a few types of employees that are exempt from the laws:

- Certain employees of religious entities like churches and mosques.
- Employees of very small employers. California discrimination protections described here apply to entities with at least 5 employees (but the harassment provisions apply to every entity, even if you are the only employee); and federal discrimination protections apply to entities with at least 15 employees.

You have the right to learn about and teach LGBTQ+ history: California Education Code Section 51204.5 prescribes the inclusion of the contributions of various groups in the history of California and the United States. This section includes both men and women, Native Americans, African Americans, Mexican Americans, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, European Americans, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Americans, persons with disabilities, and members of other ethnic and cultural groups, to the economic, political, and social development of California and the United States of America, with particular emphasis on portraying the role of these groups in contemporary society.

You have the right to discuss LGBTQ+ issues and topics in school under Section 48907 of the California Education Code: In addition, under Section 48950, no public school, charter school, or non-religious private high school can discipline you for talking about being LGBTQ+ or for discussing LGBTQ+ issues.

You have the right to disclose – or not disclose – your gender identity on your own terms, regardless of your age: Your school, whether public or private, doesn't have the right to "out" you as LGBTQ+ to anyone without your permission, including your parents. Under the California and U.S. constitutions, you have a protected right to privacy, which includes the right to keep your sexual orientation, gender identity or that you are transgender private (what courts call a "reasonable expectation of privacy"). In other words, you have the right to control to what extent and to whom you disclose highly personal information about your sexual orientation or gender identity. This means that even if you are "out" about your sexual orientation or gender identity at school, if you're not "out" to your parents at home, and you can reasonably expect that they're not going to find out, then school staff can't tell your family that you are LGBTQ+ without your permission. Being open about your sexuality in school doesn't mean you automatically give up your right to privacy outside school.

However, under some limited circumstances, your school can tell your parents something about your sexual orientation or gender identity — but only if they have a very good reason for doing so. It really depends on the circumstances. But they can't do it just to punish you, harass you, discriminate against you, or retaliate against you for complaining about something. For example, if you complain to the principal about a teacher making or allowing anti-LGBTQ+ comments in class, they can't then call your parents (or threaten to call them) and discuss anything about your actual or perceived sexual orientation. If your principal or teachers are threatening to "out" you to your parents and you need advice, give us a call. You should also explain your desire and your right to keep this information private.

You have the right to play on a sports team that aligns with your gender identity.

You have the right to services, activities, and programs in the California Juvenile Justice System.

You have the right to refuse and prosecute conversion therapy providers in California: Conversion therapy for LGBTQ+ youth is illegal in California.

You have the right to have your medically necessary gender affirming care covered by your private or public health insurance plan: Under California law, employer-provided health plans and Medi-Cal cover medically necessary gender-affirming care just like they cover other medically necessary treatments.

You have the right to have your same-sex spouse or registered domestic partner covered by your health insurance plan: Under California law, same-sex spouses and registered domestic partners are entitled to the same healthcare coverage as different-sex spouses.

You have the right to request that your California driver's license, birth certificate, and death certificate have a gender marker other than "M" or "F": California allows residents to be identified by a gender marker other than "F" or "M" on their driver's license. It is also the first state to allow a nonbinary gender marker on birth certificates. You can also choose "bride," "groom," or "neither" on your marriage certificate.

You have the right to serve on a jury: California does not allow discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender.

You have the right to donate blood and plasma.

You do NOT have the right to use a "panic defense" in murder cases (i.e. argue your way to a lesser charge of manslaughter by expressing your discomfort with, surprise at, or fear of a victim's sexual orientation or gender identity): In September 2014, California became the first state in the U.S. to officially ban the use of "trans panic" and "gay panic" defenses in court.



Information about Hate Crimes

What is the difference between a hate crime and a hate incident?

A **hate crime** is a crime against a person, group, or property motivated by the victim's real or perceived protected social group. You may be the victim of a hate crime if you have been targeted because of your actual or perceived: (1) disability, (2) gender, (3) nationality, (4) race or ethnicity, (5) religion, (6) sexual orientation, and/or (7) association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. Hate crimes are serious crimes that may result in imprisonment or jail time.

A **hate incident** is an action or behavior motivated by hate but which, for one or more reasons, is not a crime. Examples of hate incidents include:

- Name-calling.
- Insults.
- Displaying hate material on one's own property.
- Posting hate material that does not result in property damage.
- Distribution of materials with hate messages in public places.

The U.S. Constitution allows hate speech as long as it does not interfere with the civil rights of others. While these acts are certainly hurtful, they do not rise to the level of criminal violations and thus may not be prosecuted. However, it is important to note that these incidents have a traumatic impact on the victims as well as on the community at large.

In California, under the Ralph Act, Civil Code § 51.7, your civil rights may be violated if you have been subjected to hate violence or the threat of violence – even where the incident does not rise to the level of a hate crime and may be otherwise constitutionally-protected from prosecution by the government – because of your actual or perceived: sex, race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sexual orientation, citizenship, primary language, immigration status, political affiliation, and/or position in a labor dispute. A civil violation may result in restraining orders, injunctive and/or equitable relief, damages, a civil penalty of \$25,000, and/or attorney's fees.

How can I spot a hate crime?

Signs that a crime was motivated by hate may include:

- The offender chose the victim or property because they belonged to a protected group, like a certain religion or gender.
- The offender made written or verbal comments showing a prejudice.
- The crime happened on a date that is important for the victim's or offender's protected group.
- There is organized hate activity in the area.

What should I do if I am the victim of a hate crime?

- If you are in immediate danger, call 911, and if needed, get medical attention.
- Contact the local law enforcement agency right away and report the crime.
- Write down the exact words that were said and make notes about any other details and relevant facts.
- Save all evidence (e.g., graffiti, eggshells, writing on victim's vehicle). If safe, wait until law enforcement arrives and takes photos.
- Get the names and contact information for other victims and witnesses, and try to get their descriptions of the perpetrator(s).
- Contact community organizations in your area that respond to hate crimes.

I am the victim of a hate crime, and I am struggling to identify all of the services available to me. Who at the California DOJ should I talk to for help?

If you have been a victim of a hate crime, please contact the [California Victims' Services Unit \(VSU\)](#) at the California DOJ. VSU offers support and information to victims and their families at every stage of the criminal process. The unit accomplishes this by advocating for victims, and by helping identify and close any gaps in services available to victims offered by all levels of government. The unit works in conjunction with victim service providers and frontline prosecutors all across the state.

Members of my community have been targets of a major hate crime event. Does the California DOJ have resources to help my community?

Yes. To ensure that local law enforcement officials have the resources they need to respond to major hate crime events, the Attorney General's office has developed the Attorney General's [Hate Crime Rapid Response Protocol](#). The protocol calls for the prioritization of resources to ensure that the California Department of Justice makes available resources to ensure that local authorities have access to skilled law enforcement special agents, lawyers who are experts on handling civil rights issues, victim services professionals, and others, in order to provide a comprehensive response to major incidents.

The Attorney General's Hate Crime Rapid Response Protocol acts as a supplemental resource to local, state, and federal enforcement agencies' investigation and prosecution of hate crimes. The Protocol ensures local agencies have the full resources of the Department of Justice at their disposal. Attorney General Bonta believes that through a strong cooperative and team effort, state, local, and federal law enforcement agencies will be in the best position to quickly and effectively respond to major hate crime incidents anywhere in California.

Where can I find the most up-to-date data on hate crimes in California?

Every July 1st, the California Department of Justice releases an annual Hate Crimes in California Report to the California Legislature. The report outlines the previous year's hate crimes in California. You can find the report at oag.ca.gov/cjsc/pubs.

Hate Crimes: Know Your Rights

Victims' rights are enumerated in article I, § 28, section (b) of the California Constitution, otherwise known as "Marsy's Law" and the "California Victims' Bill of Rights." Under this law, victims – including victims of hate crimes – have the following rights:

1. You have the right to be treated with fairness and respect for your privacy and dignity, and to be free from intimidation, harassment, and abuse, throughout the criminal or juvenile justice process.
2. You have the right to be reasonably protected from the defendant and persons acting on behalf of the defendant.
3. You have the right to have your safety and your family's safety considered in fixing the amount of bail and release conditions for the defendant.
4. You have the right to prevent the disclosure of confidential information or records to the defendant, the defendant's attorney, or any other person acting on behalf of the defendant, which could be used to locate or harass you or your family or which disclose confidential communications made in the course of medical or counseling treatment, or which are otherwise privileged or confidential by law.
5. You have the right to refuse an interview, deposition, or discovery request by the defendant, the defendant's attorney, or any other person acting on behalf of the defendant, and to set reasonable conditions on the conduct of any such interview to which the victim consents.
6. You have the right to reasonable notice of and to reasonably confer with the prosecuting agency, upon request, regarding, the arrest of the defendant if known by the prosecutor, the charges filed, the determination whether to extradite the defendant, and, upon request, to be notified of and informed before any pretrial disposition of the case.
7. You have the right to reasonable notice of all public proceedings, including delinquency proceedings, upon request, at which the defendant and the prosecutor are entitled to be present and of all parole or other post-conviction release proceedings, and to be present at all such proceedings.
8. You have the right to be heard, upon request, at any proceeding, including any delinquency proceeding, involving a post-arrest release decision, plea, sentencing, post-conviction release decision, or any proceeding in which a right of the victim is at issue.
9. You have the right to a speedy trial and a prompt and final conclusion of the case and any related post-judgment proceedings.
10. You have the right to provide information to a probation department official conducting a pre-sentence investigation concerning the impact of the offense on the victim and the victim's family and any sentencing recommendations before the sentencing of the defendant.
11. You have the right to receive, upon request, the pre-sentence report when available to the defendant, except for those portions made confidential by law.
12. You have the right to be informed, upon request, of the conviction, sentence, place and time

of incarceration, or other disposition of the defendant, the scheduled release date of the defendant, and the release of or the escape by the defendant from custody.

13. You have the right to restitution.

- All persons who suffer losses as a result of criminal activity have the right to seek and secure restitution from the persons convicted of the crimes causing the losses they suffer.
- Restitution shall be ordered from the convicted wrongdoer in every case, regardless of the sentence or disposition imposed, in which a crime victim suffers a loss.
- All monetary payments, monies, and property collected from any person who has been ordered to make restitution shall be first applied to pay the amounts ordered as restitution to the victim.

14. You have the right to the prompt return of property when no longer needed as evidence.

15. You have the right to be informed of all parole procedures, to participate in the parole process, to provide information to the parole authority to be considered before the parole of the offender, and to be notified, upon request, of the parole or other release of the offender.

16. You have the right to have the safety of you, your family, and the general public considered before any parole or other post-judgment release decision is made.

17. You have the right to be informed of the rights enumerated in paragraphs (1) through (16).

For more information on hate crimes, please visit oag.ca.gov/hatecrimes.



