If you believe you have been a victim of a hate crime, call 911 to contact the Chicago Police Department immediately! It is imperative that you tell the police why you feel that hatred was a motivating factor in the crime.

If you need assistance in reporting a hate crime, call the Commission at (312) 744-4874.

The Commission assists victims of hate crimes. These are crimes motivated by a victim's actual or perceived race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, ancestry, sexual orientation, and disability.

Hate crimes are acts of bigotry, but can only be charged when another crime such as battery, assault, aggravated assault, criminal damage to property, criminal trespass to vehicle or to real property (like a home), mob action, looting, disorderly conduct or harassment by telephone occurs and a specific hate motive is established.

The City of Chicago has taken a firm stand against hate and bigotry, and with the help of all of its citizens, we can strive to reduce the incidence of hate crimes and ensure that the perpetrators are punished to the full extent of the law.

Discrimination

Chicago’s Human Rights Ordinance and Fair Housing Ordinance prohibit discrimination based on any of these “protected classes”:

- Race
- Sex
- Color
- Sexual Orientation
- Ancestry
- Gender Identity
- National Origin
- Marital Status
- Religion
- Parental Status
- Disability
- Military Discharge Status
- Age (over 40)
- Source of Income
- Credit History (employment only)

Discrimination is prohibited in housing, employment, public accommodations, credit transactions, and bonding.

How to File a Discrimination Complaint

Anyone subjected to prohibited discrimination may file a complaint at the Commission on Human Relations. Complaints must be filed within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory action, which must have occurred in Chicago.

Decision Process and Penalties

Commission staff investigates each complaint. If there is substantial evidence of the alleged violation, the complainant may pursue the case in an administrative hearing, where the accused may present defenses.

If the Commission rules that a violation occurred, it may order the violator to pay a fine to the City, to pay damages and attorney fees to the complainant, and to take specific actions to eliminate discriminatory practices.

Hate Crimes

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Community Tension Intervention

The Commission works in communities to respond to tensions that may arise due to racial, ethnic, religious, and other forms of difference to prevent these tensions from escalating, leading to hate crimes and other acts of violence. Staff skilled in mediation and conflict resolution techniques reach out to communities experiencing these tensions to help parties in conflict agree on solutions.

Education

A key component to preventing and alleviating discrimination, hate crimes and intergroup tensions is education. The Commission offers a variety of human relations workshops and presentations to schools, religious institutions, youth agencies, and community groups on such topics as the Chicago Human Rights and Fair Housing Ordinances, prejudice reduction, hate crimes, bullying, and access to public places for people with disabilities.

To request a workshop or to find out more about these programs, contact the Commission at (312) 744-2571.

For details, call 312-744-4111 or visit www.cityofchicago.org/humanrelations.
Advisory Councils

The Commission on Human Relations has three advisory councils whose members are appointed by the mayor and serve three year terms: the Advisory Council on Equity, Advisory Council on Women and LGBT Issues, and the Advisory Council on Veterans. The councils work with the Commission to address practices which have a discriminatory impact. In addition, the councils serve as liaisons between City government and the community to promote cooperation and enhance services. They also provide assistance in designing educational and enforcement programs for the Commission.

Advisory Council on Equity:
Consists of Chicago residents representing the African descendant, Arab, Asian, and Latino communities

Advisory Council on Women and LGBT Issues:
Brings together Chicago residents representing the woman's community and the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities

Advisory Council on Veterans:
Consists of members of Chicago’s veterans community

Contact Us
Chicago Commission on Human Relations
740 North Sedgwick Street, Suite 400
Chicago, Illinois 60654
Main: (312) 744-4111
Fax: (312) 744-1081
TTY: (312) 744-1088
email: cchr@cityofchicago.org
http://www.cityofchicago.org/humanrelations

Filing Complaints
Employment: (312) 744-4474
Housing: (312) 744-5879
Public Accommodation: (312) 744-5879
Credit: (312) 744-5879

Councils
Equity: (312) 744-1543
Veterans: (312) 744-4135
Women and LGBT: (312) 744-4135

Community Tensions: (312) 744-2571
Hate Crimes: (312) 744-4874
Education/Workshops: (312) 744-2571

https://www.facebook.com/ChicagoCHR