

SNAPSHOT OF HATE IN WATERLOO REGION

1st Annual Report



About the Coalition of Muslim Women of KW

Founded by a handful of Muslim women from diverse backgrounds in 2010, Coalition of Muslim Women of KW (CMW) is a charitable organization empowering women and girls to be leaders and change makers. CMW provides opportunities for personal and professional growth, and leadership and skills development for women while addressing issues of gender-based violence, racism, discrimination and Islamophobia through innovative programming and services, partnerships and collaboration, and advocacy and outreach.

For more information about this study, contact:

Sarah Shafiq, Ph.D.
Director of Programs and Services
Coalition of Muslim Women of KW
Sarah.shafiq@cmw-kw.org

Mifrah Abid
Coordinator, Together Against Islamophobia
Coalition of Muslim Women of KW
Mifrah.abid@cmw-kw.org

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Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Data from CMW’s Hate Reporting System	4
How was this data collected?	4
How were the reports made?	4
Discrimination	7
Gendered Islamophobia	8
Support for Victims of Hate	9
How has CMW supported victims of hate in the past year?	10
Reports from Community Groups and Waterloo Region Police Service	12
Landback Camp provided by Amy Smoke	12
Caribbean Community provided by Carla Beharry	13
Jewish community of Waterloo Region provided by Rabi Lori Cohen and Ravit Lasman Lechter	14
Report from the Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS)	14
Conclusion	15
Appendix 1	16
Write-up Provided by Waterloo Region Police Services	16

Introduction

The first anniversary of the horrific June 6th Islamophobic attack in London was an extremely difficult time for the community. It brought up feelings of immense pain, hurt and anger. One way to approach healing was to channel the hurt into addressing the harm by Islamophobia and Racism. This report is one strategy to counter Islamophobia, Racism and Xenophobia in the Waterloo Region.

The CMW has a 10-year history of working on issues related to hate and discrimination in the Waterloo Region. [“The Hate Crimes Project”](#)¹(2012) was the first attempt at responding to cases shared by CMW members and the community. One of the main recommendations from that pilot project was the need to create a formal system to document hate and discrimination in the Waterloo Region. The CMW fulfilled its goal by establishing the first of its kind hate reporting program in March 2021.

This Hate or Discrimination Reporting & Support Service for Racism, Islamophobia and Xenophobia is composed of several features:

- A comprehensive reporting system that allows victims or bystanders to report online, or via phone, text, email and Whatsapp
- Public education about understanding hate and discrimination and the importance of reporting
- Community outreach and alliance building
- One-on-one support to victims when requested
- Systems advocacy
- Annual community report

The importance of a community-based, third-party reporting systems has been made clear in various reports and research projects². There are known gaps in the data collected by the police³. Such 3rd party hate reporting systems provide upstream, preventative approaches to hate and discrimination as they provide data on the location of hate, types of hate and other markers, which help the whole community to devise targeted strategies. This data complements the information collected by the police and helps provide a better picture of hate related harm.

There are several additional barriers to reporting which have been addressed by the Hate or Discrimination Reporting & Support Service, including a dedicated staff for outreach and awareness presentations to convey the importance of reporting. A total of 37 community awareness raising sessions were conducted between April 2021 and May 2022. Majority of these sessions (n=31) were online. These online sessions were attended by 907 community members. The staff was also able to offer six in-person sessions to a total of 57 attendees. Language barriers were addressed through the availability of CMW’s peer workers supporting 11 languages including: Farsi, Dari, Urdu, Hindi, Punjabi, Turkish, Somali, Arabic, Amharic, Tigrinya, and Gujrati. Additionally, WhatsApp was provided as a reporting channel as so many in the racialized communities prefer it as their primary communication channel.

¹ <https://cmw-kw.org/pdf/hatecrimes.pdf>

² <https://hcci.ca/addressinghateinhamilton/>

³ <https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&Id=148641>

The data included for this report is only the formally reported cases through the website, phone, text, email or WhatsApp. Informal reports that were shared during public education sessions, outreach and general presence in the community are not included in these statistics. If we were to include data from informal reports, it is estimated that there are at least three times more incidents that are unreported.

This report intends to present a nuanced picture of hate in Waterloo Region because such data does not exist currently. This report aims to address gaps in hate reporting data by providing details on where hate cases are occurring (geographical area/sector); the type of hate/ targeted identities (Islamophobia, Anti-Asian hate, Anti-Black racism, Anti-Semitism, etc.) and what kind of supports are needed by various communities experiencing hate (language interpretation, legal assistance, etc.) To get a better picture, the Waterloo Region Police Service (WRPS), Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) and various community groups were invited to share their data or reflections. WRPS, Landback Camp, Caribbean Canadian Association and Waterloo Region Jewish Community Council shared their data and reflections. WRDSB also launched its internal reporting system in 2021, however the data was unavailable to be shared with the public at the time this report was prepared.

Data from CMW's Hate Reporting System

How was this data collected?

The data for this report has been collected between April 2021 to May 15, 2022. Two methods were used to collect data.

1. Online through <https://reportinghate.ca/>. The community can report for themselves, or on behalf of someone they know. Those who have witnessed hate or discrimination can also report.
2. Documentation by CMW staff. Cases were received through phone call, email (report@cmw-kw.org), text, WhatsApp on a dedicated phone number 519-722-2449. It was important to include the option of WhatsApp as racialized community is very comfortable with WhatsApp. All the reports received through these multiple channels were documented in an internal database by a designated staff. In cases where same incident was reported through multiple channels and / or by multiple parties, the incident was counted only once.

How were the reports made?

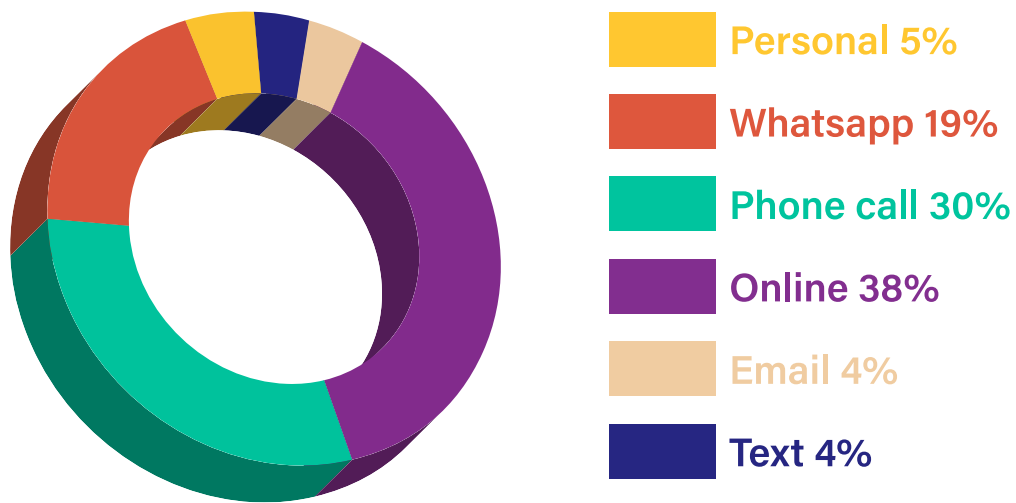
As seen in figure 1, during the period of this report (April 2021 – May 2022), a total of 104 reports of hate or discrimination were received. 37% (n=36) of the reports were made through the online form. The rest 63% (n=64) were made through other reporting channels provided. The importance of relationships is clear from this data. The community relied less on the automated online system, and more on contacting the staff directly.

The most frequent language used to file a report was Arabic. Waterloo region has a growing Arabic speaking community. There is a sizeable Syrian diaspora in Waterloo region now as most of whom have arrived as refugees approximately 5-6 years ago.

This group is highly vulnerable to hate and discrimination due to language barriers and a higher level of mistrust about them in the general population. As our lead staff for reporting and documentation spoke fluent Arabic and had great ties with the Arabic speaking community, the number of reports received in Arabic reached the highest number.

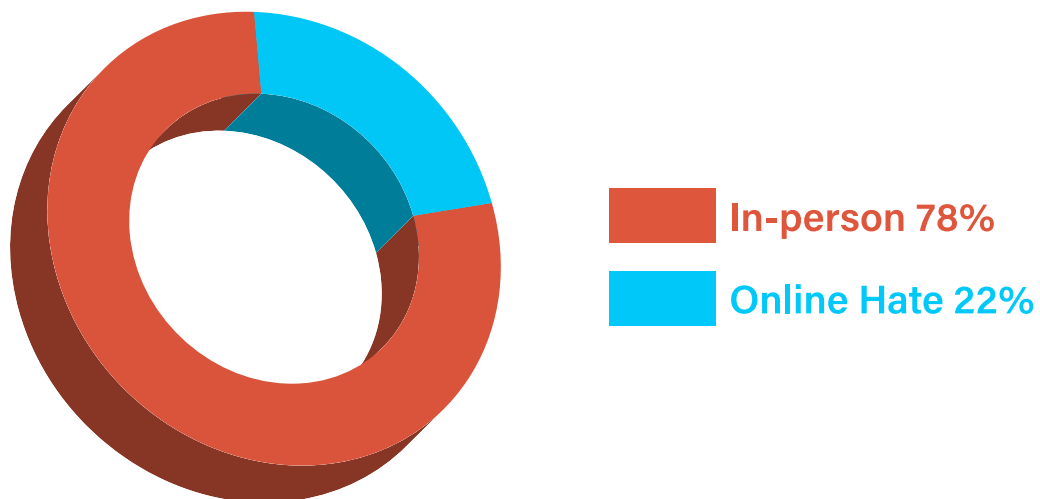
According to our data, 95% (n=99) of report were made by victims. Just about 5% (n=5) were made by witnesses. All the witness reports came through the online portal. The role of bystanders is critical in countering hate so facilitating reporting by witnesses is an important component of the service. Promotion of the online portal can target the wider community in this regard.

FIG.1 REPORTING CHANNELS

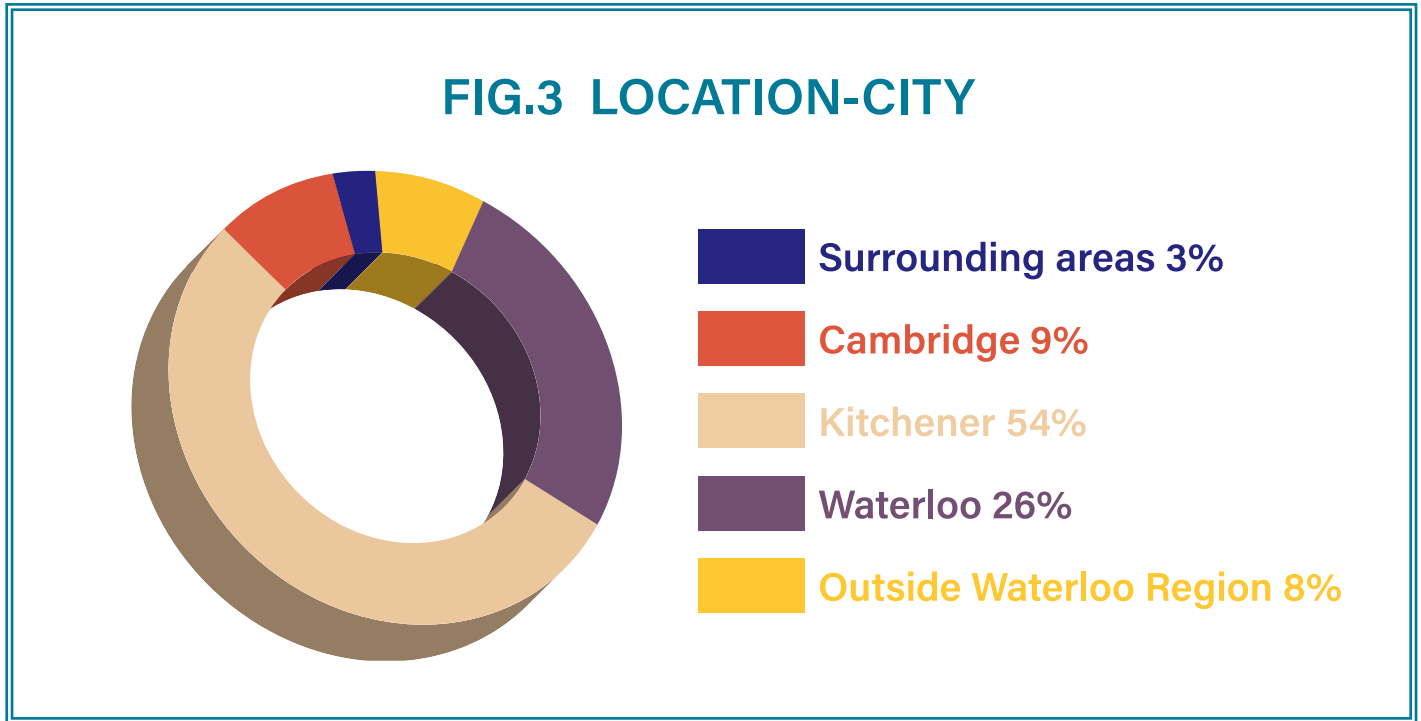


What type of hate is?

FIG.2 ONLINE HATE



Online hate is a serious concern for the community with almost one fourth (n=23) of hate reports comprised of online hate as seen in **figure 2**. However, majority of the cases (n=81) reported were still interpersonal in nature.



It is seen in **figure 3** that out of the 81 cases that took place in-person, 54% (n=41) were reported in Kitchener, followed by Waterloo 26% (n=20). The data conveys the number of reported cases, not the actual numbers which we estimate to be at least three times more than the ones reported here. This estimate is based on the number of informal reports shared during the community education sessions. It is also important to note that these community education sessions were primarily offered in Kitchener and Waterloo. This confirms the importance of public education and awareness raising in encouraging the victimized communities to report.

There were five reports of in-person hate from outside Waterloo Region and five reports of online hate from outside Waterloo Region. These out of the region reports were received from Hamilton, Toronto, Brampton, Edmonton, Vancouver, and Guelph. Currently, a similar service is not available in any of the afore-mentioned municipalities.

Where is hate taking place?

As reported earlier in figure 2, 22% (n=23) cases were reported to be online hate and 78% (n=81) were in person. Out of the in-person reports, a staggering 29% of cases (n=23) were from neighbourhoods, closely followed by public schools at 28% (n=22) as shown in **figure 4**.

FIG.4 LOCATION-SECTOR

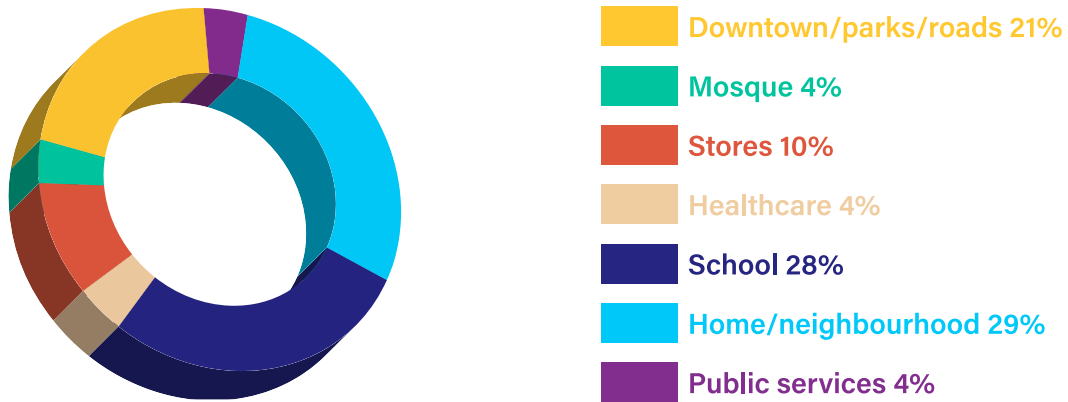
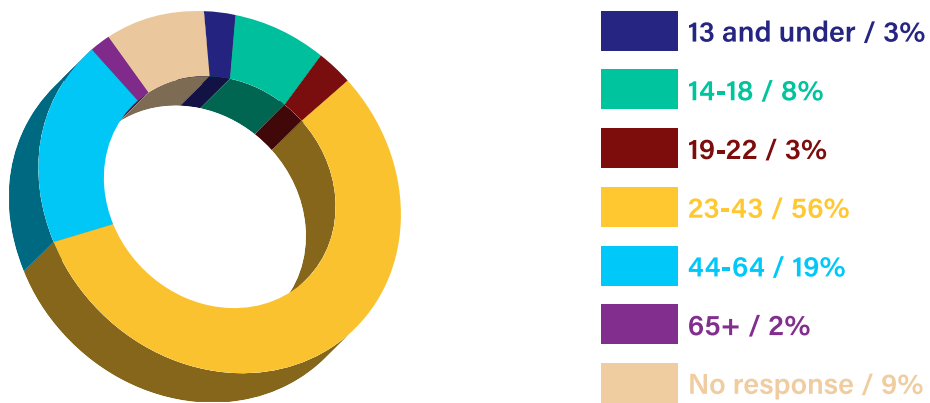


FIG.5 AGE OF THE VICTIMS



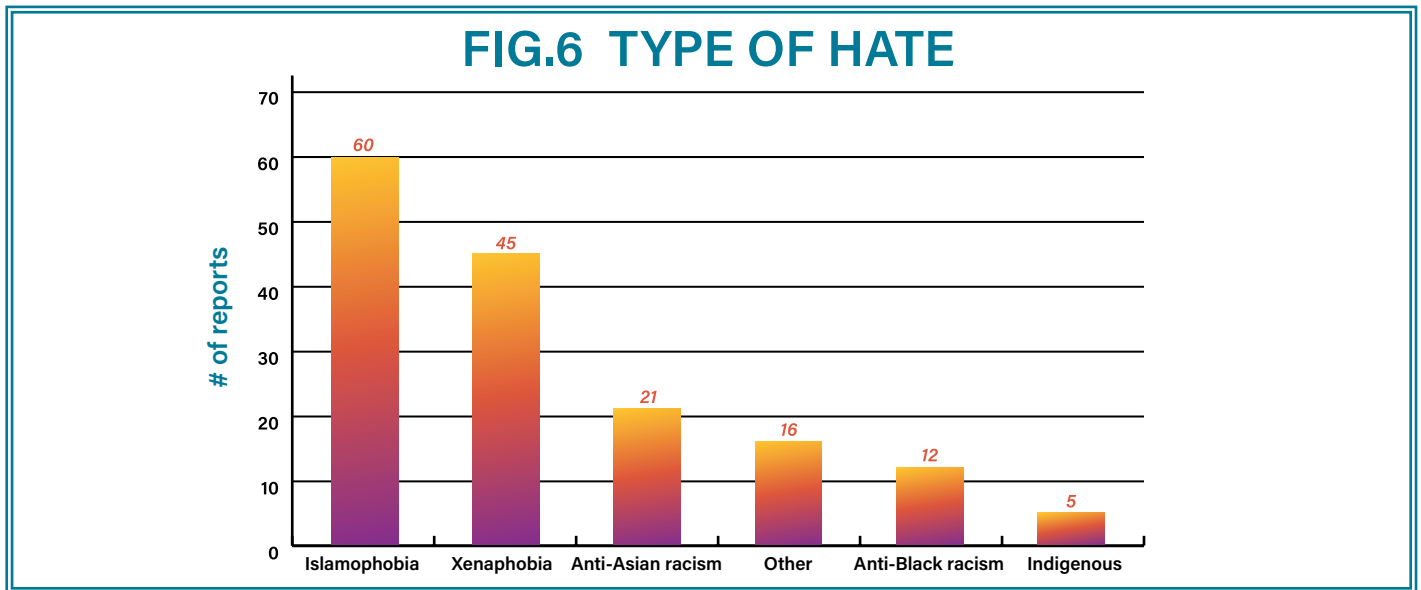
According to the reported cases, most victims were middle-aged or younger (**Figure 5**)

Discrimination

One of the unique aspects of the Hate & Discrimination Reporting and Support Service is the emphasis on documenting discrimination. This data is not collected by the police. The data about at least formal cases of reported discrimination may be collected by the employers and service providers but it is rarely made public.

For this report, healthcare and schools were separated from public services so that we could discern the percentages for each. Public services and healthcare made up 8% (7 cases) of discrimination. Out of the 28 cases reported in schools, 9 were of discrimination by teachers, hence an alleged infringement of the Ontario Human Rights Code. The remaining 19 cases were from other students and involved bullying and even hate motivated incidents. It is to be noted again that at times multiple reports are made for a particular incident, but for the purposes of this report, the specific case is counted only once.

What type of hate has been reported?



Half of the cases have a component of Islamophobia, but this may be attributed to the primary audience who have been contacted through outreach. It is to be noted that there are overlaps in this dataset as a case reported as anti-Asian hate may also be reported as xenophobia.

There was only one report of anti-Semitism, and one report of anti-Indigenous racism. This speaks to the need to expand the outreach and form partnerships with these communities.

Quotes by the parents of public school students

When my daughter decided to wear the hijab, while she was walking in the hallway, a boy came and pulled her hijab. My daughter was shocked and went to the washroom and cried. She came home and shared what happened with her. We went to the school and reported, but the school did nothing.

While my son was walking in the school hall, one of his schoolmates, called him and said, "All Syrian are ISIS, you kidnap women and kill children. you shouldn't be in Canada."

"My mother did not speak any English and was not provided with any translator at any point during her stay. Our family was also never contacted by the hospital staff to assist in translating. My mother was given an ipad with google translate as if it was easy for an elderly sick woman to grasp this concept of technology and then ridiculed for not using it.

My mother was also treated very dismissively by the hospital staff. She was often left hours waiting for a drink of water or waiting hours to be escorted to the bathroom. There was no consideration given to my mother's religious practices. After her quarantine period was over, my mother was transferred to a room with three other men despite our family letting the hospital know we were ready and willing to pay for a private room. There was no attempt to help her cover up around these men and she was constantly exposed in front of them which was extremely humiliating and embarrassing for her. Our family had also let the staff know prayer was extremely important for my mother and again there was no support provided to her to help her wash and cleanse to be able to complete her prayers."

Quote by the family about their experience at a local hospital in Waterloo Region

Gendered Islamophobia

Out of 60 cases of Islamophobia, 21 cases (35%) targeted Muslim women specifically. Compare this number to 44 cases of non-Islamophobic hate in which 6 cases (13%) targeted women. There is a stark difference regarding the chosen targets of hate. This finding is consistent with existing research⁴. The CMW will release a detailed report on gendered Islamophobia.

⁴ Zine, Jasmin. "Unveiled sentiments: Gendered Islamophobia and experiences of veiling among Muslim girls in a Canadian Islamic school." *Equity & Excellence in Education* 39.3 (2006): 239-252.

Perry, Barbara. "Gendered Islamophobia: hate crime against Muslim women." *Social Identities* 20.1 (2014): 74-89.

Support for Victims of Hate

The CMW is committed to not just document hate, but also provide follow up support to victims of hate. Other than the initial barriers to reporting, victims often lack motivation to report a hate crime/hate incident as it is rare to find any support AFTER they have reported. Victims often must deal with the meagre prospects for outcomes/benefits after reporting⁵. CMW offers one-on-one support to individual victims to help them cope with the trauma and seek remedies for the hate or discrimination they have experienced.

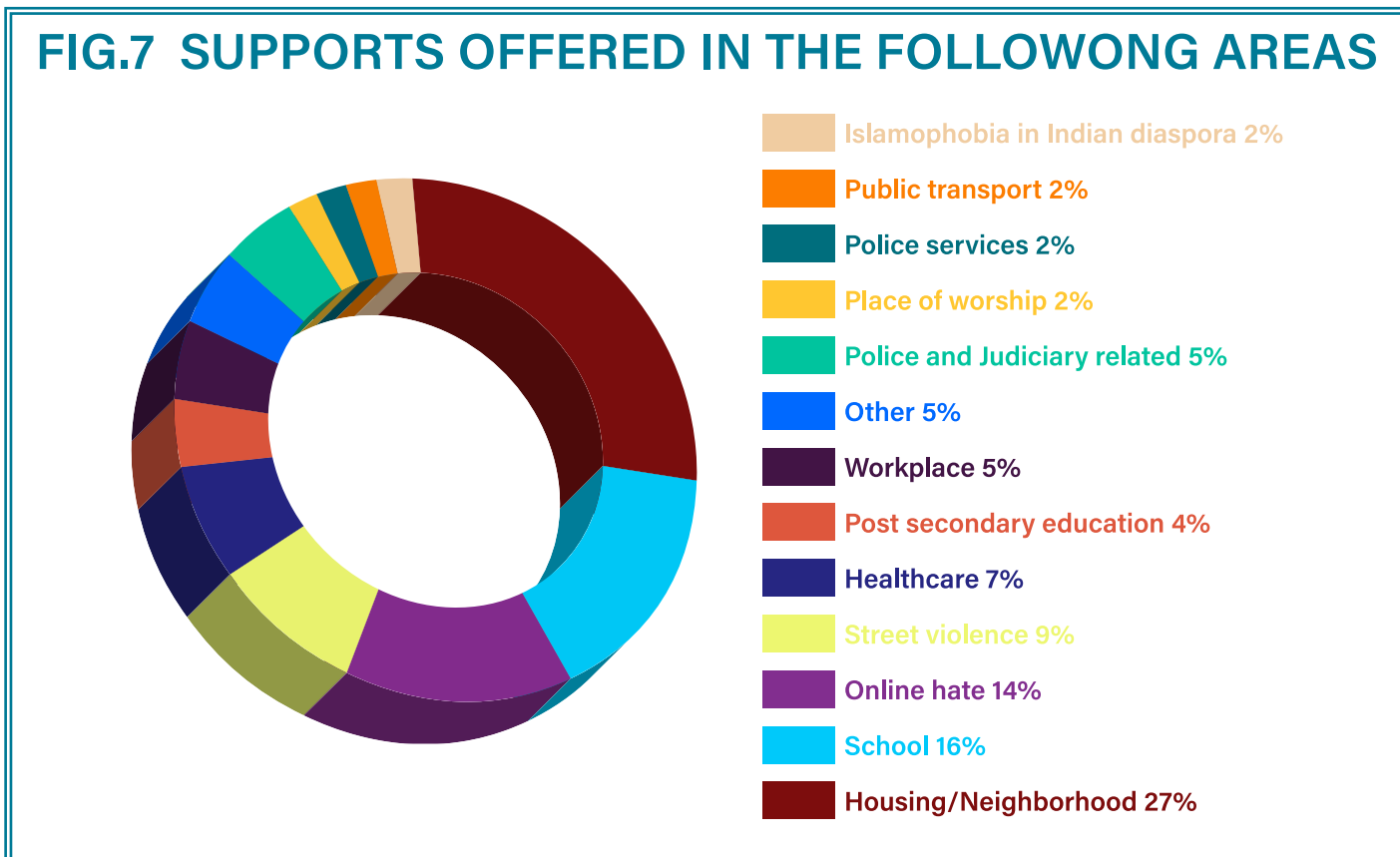
Over the past year, CMW has provided one-on-one support to 30 cases out of 104 total reports. 29% of reported cases asked for assistance. The following supports were provided to the victims of hate and / or discrimination:

- **Mental Health Supports/Counselling:** Provided culturally relevant mental health supports (trauma counselling, grief counselling, coping strategies) to the victims through our partners. CMW covered the cost of the counselling where needed.
- **Assistance in reporting/filing cases with appropriate authorities:** Prepared and filed cases with appropriate authorities such as the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal, local bylaw officers, Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS), hospital administrations, College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, College of Nurses of Ontario, public transit services, housing boards, school administration, landlords, post-secondary institutions, and Landlord and Tenant Board
- **System navigation:** Assisted racialized individuals overcome systemic barriers when accessing services within systems
- **Restorative Justice/Mediation services (Sulah):** Referred for mediation services through the Sulah program in partnership with Community Justice Initiatives
- **Legal supports:** Access to free legal advice, referrals, and finding appropriate legal representation for victims; subsidizing legal costs where needed
- **Supports offered in Housing/Neighborhood conflicts:** CMW supported victims in resolving conflicts/ discriminatory behavior/ property damage/ verbal abuse. Victims experiencing harm from landlords or neighbors were offered mediation services through the Sulah program. In cases of discrimination, CMW advocated on behalf of the victims with landlords, either by intervening directly, or engaging municipal by-law officers or assisting in filing a case with the Landlord-Tenant Board. In cases of assault or property damage, CMW assisted victims in filing cases with the police, and tracked updates from the police services. Victims experiencing trauma were also provided with free mental health counseling.
- **Supports offered in schools:** An important support provided by the Hate or Discrimination Reporting and Support Service is to advocate with individual schools and school board alongside school children and families who have faced race-based bullying/harassment/discrimination. Restorative justice, including mediation circles approach is valued and thus promoted at schools experiencing ongoing racial tensions, distrust, and harm. Workshops, educational sessions and crisis mitigation strategies were provided to individual schools experiencing racial tensions. Anti-Islamophobia trainings to school staff, parent community and students have been provided. Support was also provided through free, culturally sensitive mental health counselling for racialized students and their families who have experienced physical violence and trauma. Lastly, advocating for or accompanying students' families to meetings with police services to help them understand/navigate the process where there have been assaults/physical violence.

⁵ Tackinhate.org <https://bit.ly/3sElmqS>

- **Supports offered in post-secondary education institutions:** Advocated with universities when cases of Islamophobia/racism on the campuses were reported. Offered universities trainings and services such victim support, programming aimed at mitigating racial tensions through public education and dialogue
- **Advocacy with policy makers:** Advocated on behalf of victims/victimized communities with systems and policy makers including elected government representatives.
- **Online hate:** Filed reports of online hate cases to police services outside of Waterloo Region and sought updates on the case status/progress

One-on-One Support provided by the CMW in the following areas with percentage of cases in that area.



How has CMW supported victims of hate in the past year?

Housing

One-on-one support was provided to victims by referring cases of neighborhood harassment/vandalism/property damage to the WRPS or to the by-law office when the landlord refused to ensure the living safety of racialized tenants. This included following up with cases and providing updates to the victims. Help was provided with filing formal complaint with the Landlord and Tenant Board. Landlords have been contacted to resolve discriminatory behaviors and ensure equitable access to housing resources for racialized tenants. If the dispute is long standing, then cases have been referred to legal consultation. Victims face trauma due to harassment, therefore, free, or subsidized mental health counselling sessions have been provided to reduce the stress. Where continuing to stay was not possible, CMW staff assisted with finding and subsidizing temporary living arrangements for victims.

School/post-secondary education

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Online hate

Reporting online hate cases with police services across Ontario is challenging due to the jurisdictional issues so the community members may feel reluctant to call the police to report individuals perpetuating online hate. Support was provided to report such cases. The CMW also helped the police services gather evidence against individuals indulging in online hate and genocidal language. Receiving updates on cases is important for the community so cases were followed up by contacting individual police services for updates on the progress of online hate cases. CMW filed a case with the WRPS for a hateful zoom bombing that took place during a vigil organized by the CMW for the Afzal family that was murdered in London in 2021. The zoom event had intruders who traumatized the attendees with racial slurs and derogatory language. The incident was eventually classified as an Islamophobic hate motivated crime by the WRPS.

Police and judiciary related

The CMW collaborated with the Crown attorneys to speak of the impact of hate crimes (on behalf of the Muslim/racialized communities) at sentencing hearings of hate crimes involving Islamophobia. Help was provided to file cases with the Waterloo Region Police Service. Support was provided by advocating alongside victims who reported treated unfairly by the police services. Referrals were provided to victims for legal supports. Legal fees were subsidized for racialized youth who were unable to navigate the judicial system. Recognizing the importance of change at the systems level, regular meetings with the police are arranged to better serve victims and victimized communities. Regular townhalls with the WRPS were organized on matters that impact racialized communities the most: hate crimes legislation, domestic violence legislation, and addressing drug use and gang violence.

Place of worship

CMW offered support and solidarity to the Baitul Kareem mosque in Cambridge that was broken into and vandalized .

Healthcare

CMW has actively supported two cases of reported racial discrimination experienced at a local hospital. CMW advocated on behalf of the complainants with hospital administration, helped with resources, and assisted in accessing their medical records/paperwork.

Street Violence

CMW helped a victim who was assaulted on the street. Free mental health/ trauma counseling sessions were provided to the victim. Helped a racialized minor who was charged by the police to navigate the legal system and arranged for immediate mental health counselling for the entire family.

Public Transport

CMW filed a formal complaint with GRT about a racial discrimination case which was reported by an eyewitness.

Reports from Community Groups and Waterloo Region Police Service

Landback Camp provided by Amy Smoke

Racial violence and gendered violence have been a daily occurrence for the Landback⁶ community. Although the Landback camp leaders support the call to defund and abolish the police, there were some incidents that escalated, and the police got involved. It was felt that the police did not take it seriously. Racial slurs were being thrown at the members daily by the non-Indigenous White Settler Canadians like "lazy drunk Indians in the park". Gendered violence was also experienced regularly by the camp members e.g., "can I talk to the girls" to members who don't identify themselves as girls.

In the summer of 2020, several stickers were put along the Iron Horse Trail that said "Get the Indians out of the park" were anti-Indigenous racism. Some stickers had razor blades to harm those removing the stickers.

There were several incidents where a neo-Nazi group/Proud Boys would circle our camp. In such cases of threatening behaviour, allies from the White settler community were called upon to provide safety through the 'White Shield'. The incidents were not limited to threats, a White settler trespassed and came into the camp with a knife and became violent by pushing one of our members. He was physically removed from the space.

⁶ We are a group of TwoSpirit IndigiQueer folx and queer/trans or LGBTQ+ settler accomplices gathering in the Great Peace to celebrate, learn, and thrive in our cultures. We represent several Nations living under the peace of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum, and the Two Row Wampum. Our summer programming has included Elder visits, medicine walks, food sovereignty gardens, arts workshops, and community feasts to name a few. <https://www.landbackcamp.com/>

Landback camp also witnessed the arrest by the police of two black youth who were playing basketball at night. These youth were handcuffed and removed from the park. This was a difficult and traumatic event to witness.

The third location at Laurel Creek had a daily visitor who vandalized, terrorized, and physically assault of a camp member. This hate motivated crime was taken to the police and they banned the harm-doer for only a year. In this case, the video evidence of the assault was provided, and the perpetrator was not charged by the police.

Other forms of violence include the experience of police being called on the Indigenous community. Someone called the police on an Indigenous woman feeding the ducks in the park. Such instances create hyper-vigilance and is harmful for the mental health of the Indigenous community.

Caribbean Community provided by Carla Beharry

It is our belief in the Caribbean community that incidences of hate crimes and discrimination are happening at a far greater rate than are currently reported, and they are occurring through all age demographics from early childhood to late adulthood.

Recently, at a Waterloo Region preschool, a white teacher threatened to call the police on a Black four-year-old child. The child, while being asked to stand in line with other classmates, was responding in a spirited way, as four-year-old children do, vibrantly interacting with classmates. The teacher, whose name has not been released to the family, grabbed the child by the shoulders, picked up the telephone and threatened to call the police. The incident was not shared, nor reported by the school to the family, who only found out about the incident from their child, visibly shaken and scared, a few days later. While the family has requested a meeting with the offending teacher, the school denied this request and refused to disclose her identity for "legal" reasons. In the high school, Caribbean and ACB (African, Caribbean, and Black) populations, stories of discrimination are rampant. Stories shared by local families include female-identifying ACB teenagers being sexually violated in classrooms and at their lockers (their body parts being grabbed by white male-identifying classmates) and being tripped on school buses. Additionally, ACB students at a local high school report being asked for "N-Word Passes" (white students approaching Black youth, asking for a free-pass to use the "N-Word" freely and without apparent repercussion). While incidents in high schools have been reported, little has changed to protect Black and racialized youth, leading to the formation of the new Black Parent Council KW, created to protect and advocate for Black youth in schools. Older adults in the Caribbean and ACB community report being targeted at local restaurants, questioned about whether they are "paying patrons" or whether they have "come in off the street," discuss being followed through stores and being routinely ignored or overlooked in medical, financial, and retail spaces.

The truth is, in Kitchener-Waterloo, our Caribbean and ACB community is navigating daily instances of harm and discrimination while working to secure safety and belongingness in community spaces.

Jewish community of Waterloo Region provided by Rabi Lori Cohen and Ravit Lasman Lechter

The Jewish community shared statistics as provided to them by the Waterloo Region Police Service for hate-motivated crimes and hate-related incidents. Since October 2020, WRPS received 11 calls for service in which the Jewish community was targeted. Majority of incidents were around hate-related graffiti or hate-related mischief.

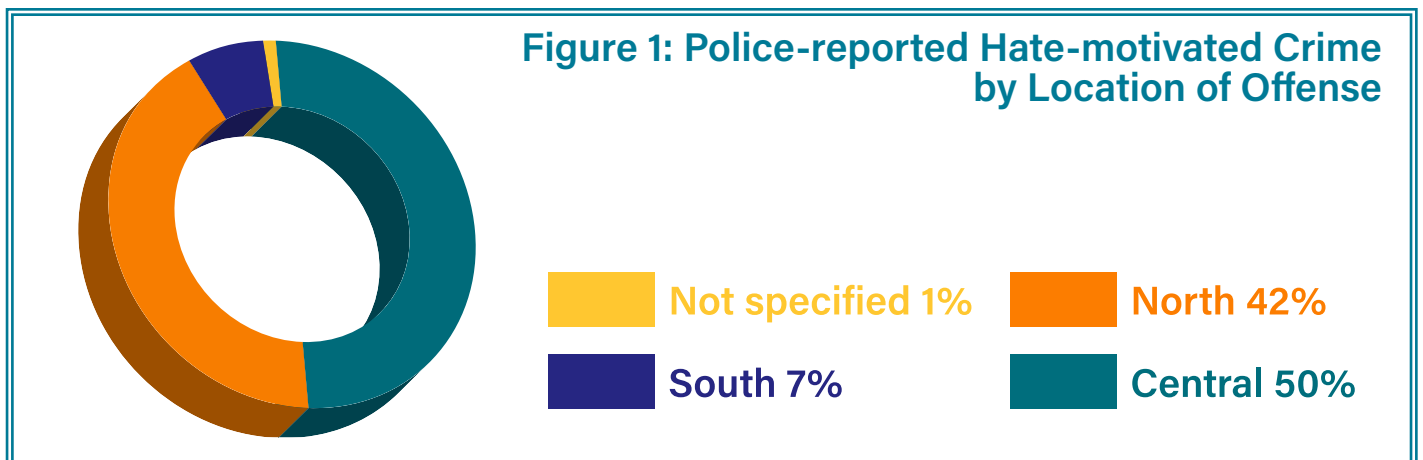
Report from the Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS)

Hate has no place in our community. WRPS is committed to holding those who engage in hateful acts accountable for their actions and supporting victims of hate. Nationally and locally, police-reported hate-motivated crime is on the rise ([Statistics Canada, 2021](#)). The most recently available data is from 2020. During this period within the Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), there were 54 incidents of police-reported hate-motivated crime, most of which were "mischief" offenses (Table 1).

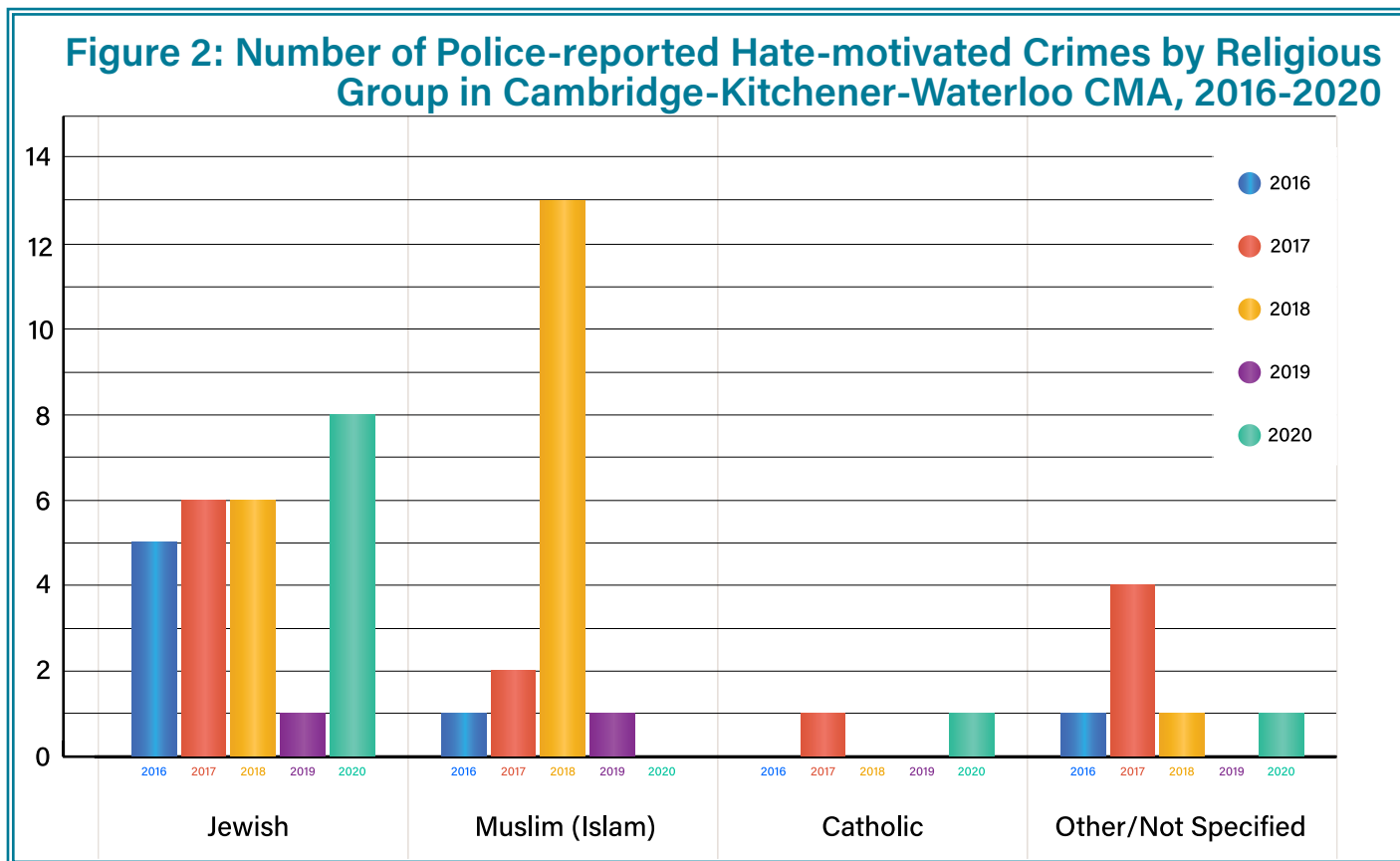
Table 1: Police-reported Hate-Motivated Crime in Waterloo Region, by Type and Offense, 2020

Offence	Motivation				Total
	Race/Ethnicity	Religion	Sexual Orientation	Other	
Assault Level 1	2				2
Assault with Weapon or Causing Bodily Harm Level 2	3				3
Criminal Harassment	2				2
Disturb the Peace	1				1
Mischief	27	9		1	37
Public Incitement of Hatred	1	1	2		4
Utter Threats to Person	5				5
Total	41	10	2	1	54

Police-reported hate-motivated crime most frequently occurred in Central Division (Figure 1).



Mirroring national trends, there was a decrease in police-reported hate-motivated crimes targeting religious groups between 2019 and 2020 in the Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo CMA in 2020 (Figure 2).



Incidents and crimes surrounding hate are under-reported, leading to an inaccurate understanding of hate in our community. There is a lot to consider when prosecuting crimes related to hate, and the police are bound legislatively and procedurally in their ability to lay hate-related charges. Appendix 1 will give an overview of the process police must adhere to regarding hate-motivated crime and what the police service is doing to improve the identification of crime motivated by hate. **If you see or experience hate, report it to us. We want everyone to live in a safe space, and by reporting, we can investigate these matters, bring appropriate charges, and help support victims to create a safer, more inclusive community. Together we can stop the hate.**

Conclusion

This report is the first of its kind in Waterloo Region. We are beginning to see a picture of hate emerging and it compels us to take Racism, Islamophobia and all kinds of hate seriously. This report highlights the importance of community-based reporting and the rich information that can be gleaned from it. Innovative solutions to remove barriers to reporting have been documented in this report. Sectors with a high number of reports have been highlighted. Special attention to solve racism should be directed to these sectors by the community. It is recommended that there is a need for public institutions to provide annual statistics on discrimination.

Appendix 1

Write-up Provided by Waterloo Region Police Services

What is the Difference between a Hate Crime, a Hate-Motivated Crime, and a Hate-Motivated Incident?

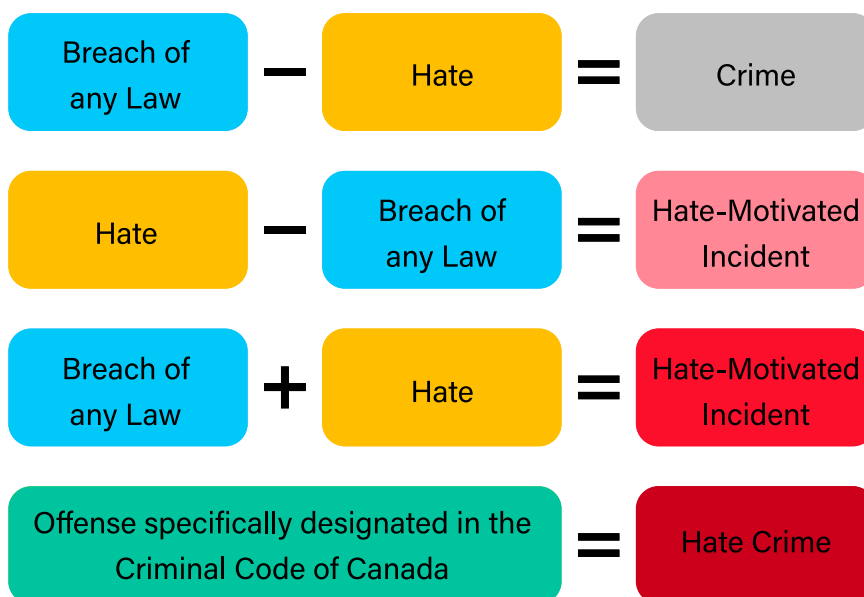
Knowing how to classify hate and crime can be confusing. Identifying the applicable legislation is a complex process because hate, prejudice, and bias based on “race, national or ethnic origin, language, color, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, or any other similar factor” are covered by provincial and federal documents such as the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Criminal Code of Canada, Ontario Human Rights Code, and precedent from previous court cases. These documents are created by provincial and federal governments and only some aspects are enforced by police. When you report hate-related actions, there are three ways to classify the behaviour:

Hate Crime

There are three offenses related to hate in the Criminal Code of Canada (CCC): Advocating Genocide, Public Incitement of Hatred, and Willful Promotion of Hatred. The definitions of these three crimes are very narrow and often only cover a portion of what people consider as a hate crime. The threshold to classify an action as a hate crime is high, and very few investigations meet the standard for this classification. Police officers cannot lay these charges without approval from a designated member of the Crown Attorney's Office.

Hate-Motivated Crime

Another section of the Criminal Code of Canada allows for an increased sentence upon conviction if a criminal violation against a person or property is proven to be motivated by hate. Although more frequently applied than the specific Hate Crime offences, this means that two thresholds must be met. First, the behavior must meet the threshold of breaking a law. Second, hate toward an identifiable group must be demonstrated as an underlying motivation. Examples include vandalism of a Mosque (Mischief relating to religious property; CCC s. 430(4.1)) or a Muslim female having her hijab pulled off (Assault; CCC s.265(1)). Here, a judge could increase the sentence if the behavior was proven to be motivated by hate against Muslims. These are complicated criminal investigations that must balance the Criminal Code of Canada against the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.



Representation of a hate-motivated incident, a hate-motivated crime, and a hate

Hate-Motivated Incident

This is an action rooted in hate, bias, and/or prejudice but does not breach any code or charter. As an example, imagine that racial slurs are shouted at someone as they walk down the street. Legally, this shouting behavior is not in violation of the Criminal Code of Canada and a police officer would not be able to lay a charge. But such behavior is offensive, inappropriate, and has no place in our community. There is a lot to consider when prosecuting crimes related to hate, so WRPS has dedicated investigators in a Hate Crimes Unit that is supported by members in the Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity (EDI) Unit.

Individuals experiencing or witnessing hate (or suspected hate) are encouraged to report occurrences to WRPS. WRPS Officers will follow up with those who reported the incident, provide victim support, perpetrator education, and/or deploy additional resources into the area. Even when WRPS is unable to lay a criminal charge, there is still much that can be done to create a safer, more welcoming community for all individuals.

How is an Incident Identified as Being Hate-Motivated?

When reporting an incident to the police, an individual (e.g. victim, witness) can indicate whether they suspect the behaviour was based on hate, including hate directed toward intersectional group identities. During the course of the police officer's investigation they will gather statements and evidence. Information is documented in their report(s), including any suspicions that the incident was motivated by hate. Any incident with any potential hate-motivation is reviewed by Hate Crime investigators and the EDI Unit. The officer's report(s) is entered into a records management system (RMS) and then processed by the Records and Access to Information Unit. If the incident involves a criminal violation, [Uniform Crime Reporting](#) (UCR) Coders assign the appropriate violation code(s). UCR is the system through which police services across Canada collect and report crime statistics to the federal government. There is a specific UCR flag for hate-motivation that can be included if the crime is suspected to be motivated by hate. The results of the UCR survey offers information on the extent of police-reported crime across Canadian society and its characteristics. The [Crime Statistics for 2021](#) will be released by Statistics Canada during the summer.

See Something, Say Something

The first step in stopping hate is speaking up; don't hesitate to report any incident you believe to be motivated by hate to the police. We want everyone to live in a safe space. When hate incidents are reported to the police, WRPS can garner the best evidence to bring appropriate charges, and ensure victims get the support and resources needed to reduce harm and feel safe in our community.

If you see or experience hate, report it to the police.

Emergency: 911

Non-Emergency: 519-570-9777

Make a change, report hate!

Have you faced or seen racism or Islamophobia?

We can help

- Report for yourself
- Report for someone else
- Report as a witness
- Report anonymously/privately
- Report in languages other than English



In case of emergency, call 911

We can help you fight racism & Islamophobia

- Connect you with the right service providers, such as Ontario Human Rights Tribunal, housing, school, healthcare, police, etc.
- Join you for your case meetings
- Help you file complaints and write letters
- Provide culturally sensitive counselling
- Help with neighbourhood conflicts/problems related to racism, Islamophobia, and xenophobia

Reporting hate builds safer communities for us and our children



@ report@cmw-kw.org


   519-722-2449

 reportinghate.ca




Coalition of
Muslim Women
Kitchener-Waterloo

 cmw.info@cmw-kw.org

 519-576-0540

 cmw-kw.org

 facebook.com/CoalitionOfMuslimWomen.KW

 [@cmwwk](https://www.instagram.com/cmwwk)

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