# Significant rise in hate crimes - including against LGBTQ+s - reported across California



A recent report from the Commission on the State of Hate reveals a huge rise in hate crimes across California with nearly 70% of these incidents categorised as violent offences.

Russel Roybal, the chair of the Commission on the State of Hate, stated, "We have a problem with racism in the United States." The data underscores that the Black community remains the most targeted group in California, with anti-Black hate crimes increasing by over 27% from 2021 to 2022, a statistic that surpasses the overall rise in hate crimes, which grew by 20%. Similarly, crimes against the Latina/o community saw a sharp increase of 35%.

In light of recent global events, the report has also documented a worrying trend in hate crimes against Jewish, Muslim, Palestinian, Israeli, and Arab communities. This surge followed the Hamas attacks on Israel in October 2023 and the ensuing conflict in Gaza. The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) reported a staggering 178% increase in requests for assistance and reports of bias during the last quarter of 2023, compared to the previous year. According to Roybal, "The rise in anti-Semitism in our state is alarming," prompting various government agencies to respond with increased resources to combat this trend.

The report also addresses the escalating violence against the LGBTQ+ community, particularly towards transgender individuals and women of colour. Data from the California Department of Justice indicates that hate crimes against transgender individuals and those targeted based on sexual orientation reached their highest levels since at least 2013 in 2022. Roybal remarked on the correlation between derogatory rhetoric from elected officials and the subsequent rise in hate crimes, emphasising the need for responsible discourse.

Despite the reported increase in hate crimes, the findings reveal a systemic issue with underreporting, particularly among diverse communities. Many individuals feel unsafe reporting these incidents or encounter barriers such as language differences. In response, the commission has established California vs Hate, an anonymous hotline for reporting hate incidents and accessing support services, available in over 200 languages. Roybal expressed concern that federal immigration policies could further deter individuals from reporting, particularly among undocumented populations, stating, "I cannot tell you how angry that makes me."

The report also highlights disparities in how young people experience hate and discrimination, particularly within educational settings. Black students face a disproportionately harsh response to behaviour compared to their peers, with Black male students three times more likely to be suspended or expelled. Carol Johnson shared her distress over her son’s treatment following a fight at school, asserting that he was subjected to harsher scrutiny due to his race.

In contrast, organisations such as the Black Youth Leadership Project are working to support Black students through mentorship and advocacy. Lorreen Pryor, president of the organisation, remarked on the detrimental impact of school responses on Black youth, stating, “The way [schools] respond to our children can kill their spirits and really affect them in the long run.”

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://calcivilrights.ca.gov/commission-on-the-state-of-hate/commission-reports/> - This URL supports the claim about the Commission on the State of Hate's report highlighting trends in hate crimes across California. It provides access to the commission's annual reports, which detail the strategic goals and findings related to hate activity.
* <https://my.lwv.org/california/diablo-valley/article/ca-commission-hate-observer-report> - This URL corroborates the rise in hate crimes in California, particularly noting the increase in reported incidents and the underreporting issue. It also mentions the commission's efforts to address hate through public forums and awareness campaigns.
* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W2veGaZcSy0> - This URL provides a community briefing on the 2023 Annual Hate Crime Report, which discusses the collection and analysis of hate crime data in California. It highlights trends and changes in reported hate crimes over recent years.
* <https://www.cair.com/> - This URL is related to the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), which reported a significant increase in requests for assistance and bias reports following recent global events. It supports the claim about the surge in hate crimes against Muslim and other communities.