# **Your Rights and Reporting: A Guide to Action**

Online hate speech can be a violation of your rights. This guide provides an overview of your options for reporting hate speech, both on platforms and through legal channels.

## **On Social Media Platforms**

Every social media platform has a set of Community Guidelines or Terms of Service. These rules typically prohibit hate speech.

* **Familiarize yourself with the rules:** Take a moment to read the hate speech policy of the platforms you use most often.
* **The reporting process:** Locate the "report" button on the comment, post, or profile. Follow the prompts and select "hate speech" as the reason. The more specific information you provide (like screenshots), the faster the platform can act.
* **What happens after you report:** The platform will review your report and, if it finds a violation, will remove the content or ban the user. You won't always be notified of the outcome, but your report helps keep the community safe.

## **Through Legal Channels**

While laws vary, many countries have laws against hate speech, especially when it is a form of harassment or incites violence.

* **Know your rights:** Research local laws regarding hate speech in your country or region. Many organizations dedicated to civil rights or human rights have resources to help you understand this.
* **When to involve authorities:** If you feel threatened or if hate speech is escalating to the point of a physical threat, consider reporting it to law enforcement.
* **Intersectionality in legal protection:** Hate speech targeting individuals based on race, religion, gender identity, or sexual orientation is often a protected class under law and can be seen as a more serious offense.

Knowing your rights and the tools available to you is a critical part of standing up to hate speech. By reporting it, you're not just protecting yourself, but also helping to build a more respectful online world for everyone.

