

About Hate

A hate crime is a crime motivated by bias against race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or disability. Hatred can be rooted in fear or ignorance but it can also be a consequence of prejudicial views, stereotypes, exclusionary beliefs, media misrepresentations. Hate generally starts with bias that is left unchecked. Bias is a preference either for or against an individual or group that affects someone's ability to judge fairly. When that bias is left unchecked, it becomes normalized or accepted, and may even escalate into violence. When hate manifests against a person or group of people, it usually derives from ignorance, anger, fear, a sense of injury, or a perceived threat to the status quo.

When the word "hate" is used in law, such as "hate crime law," it does not mean rage, anger, or general dislike. In this context, "hate" means bias against people or groups with specific characteristics. The pyramid of hate shows how bias can escalate from attitudes to more severe forms of hate. Hatred is an intense negative emotional response towards certain people, things or ideas, usually related to opposition or revulsion toward something.[1] Hatred is often associated with intense feelings of anger, contempt, and disgust. Hatred is sometimes seen as the opposite of love.

A number of different definitions and perspectives on hatred have been put forth. Philosophers have been concerned with understanding the essence and nature of hatred, while some religions view it positively and encourage hatred toward certain outgroups. Social and psychological theorists have understood hatred in a utilitarian sense. Certain public displays of hatred are sometimes legally proscribed in the context of pluralistic cultures that value tolerance. Hatred may encompass a wide range of gradations of emotion and have very different expressions depending on the cultural context and the situation that triggers the emotional or intellectual response. Based on the context in which hatred occurs, it may be viewed favorably, unfavorably, or neutrally by different societies.