

HATE CRIMES TOOL KIT

CHECKLIST FOR HATE CRIME VICTIMS

✓ **Ensure your Safety and Seek Help**

If you are victimized in a hate crime, your first and foremost priority should be to ensure your physical safety. If anyone was with you or saw what happened, record their names and contact information. Seek medical attention immediately, if necessary. A hate crime can be an emotionally traumatizing experience that may leave you feeling isolated. Find someone you can talk to about the experience, such as a friend, family member, teacher, counselor, member of the clergy, or police officer. Be assured by police of anonymity, if desired. Remember that hate crimes can happen to anyone. You are not to blame!

✓ **Record Details about the Incident**

After the initial shock of the incident has subsided, write down exactly what happened. Try to include as many specific details as possible, including when and where the incident occurred. If possible, record the names and/or detailed descriptions of the perpetrators. Keep and make copies of all documentation, including hate mail or recordings of hate calls. Photograph any physical injuries, offensive graffiti, and/or evidence of vandalism.

✓ **Report the Incident**

Contact local law enforcement and provide them with detailed information about the hate crime to ensure that the incident is documented as being bias-related. Secure the names, contact information, and badge numbers of the investigating officers. After reporting the incident to law enforcement, contact NAPALC or any of its Affiliates. NAPALC and its Affiliates track and document the occurrence of bias-motivated incidents in an annual *Audit of Violence Against Asian Pacific Americans*, which seeks to raise community awareness around hate crimes and anti-APA violence. In some cases, direct legal assistance or an attorney referral may be provided.

✓ **Contact a Community Organization**

As an additional resource, contact a local community organization for assistance and support (please see provided Organizational Resource List). Community organizations may be able to provide assistance in dealing with law enforcement, providing language translation, seeking medical care or psychological counseling, locating an attorney, handling media inquiries, procuring victim assistance funds, and/or identifying a support network for victims and their families.

✓ **Be Prepared to Speak to the Media**

Expect media coverage, especially if you are involved in a high profile hate crime. Appoint a family spokesperson to field questions. This person should be someone who is able to communicate clearly, while remaining calm and collected under pressure.