



# 2020 HATE AND BIAS REPORT

**City of Eugene**

This is the ninth annual report on hate and bias crimes and incidents prepared by the Office of Human Rights and Neighborhood Involvement in collaboration with the Eugene Police Department. This report is available online at <https://www.eugene-or.gov/3913>

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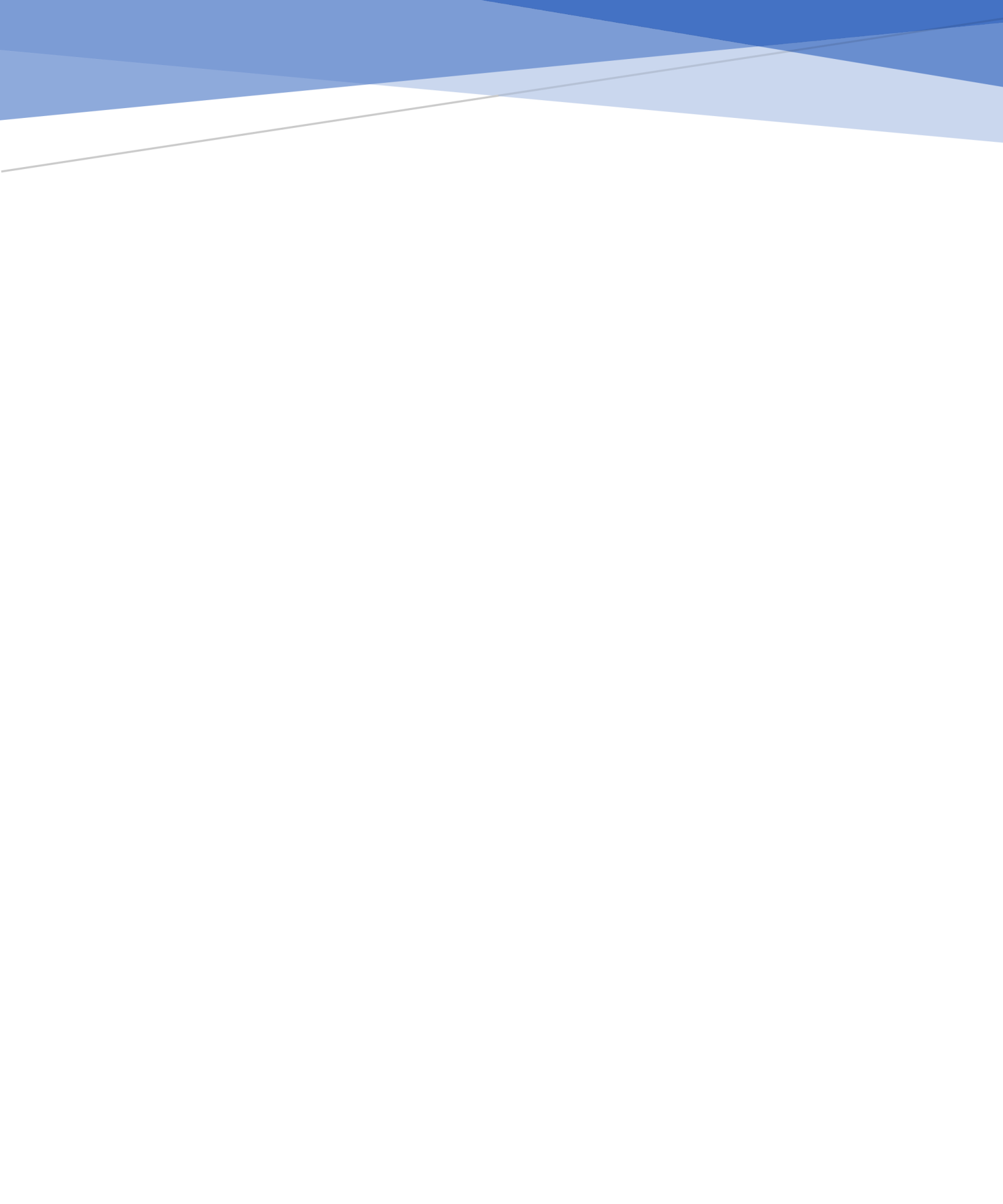
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**Our mission:** Eugene's Office of Human Rights & Neighborhood Involvement works to create an equitable, safe and welcoming community. We serve the entire community by providing opportunities for meaningful participation in community conversations, access to government processes and services, and by connecting people to local resources and assistance.

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## Hate and Bias Reporting and Response in Eugene

The Eugene City Council has a goal of making Eugene a welcoming and safe Community for everyone. To accomplish that goal, the City of Eugene provides sponsorship for critical community events, supports campaigns to advance human rights, and adopts policies that reflect community values. Those efforts include tracking hate and bias crimes and incidents and providing support to victims of such incidents. Definitions and distinctions between hate and bias crimes and incidents are included in the Methodology section of this report.

Hate and bias crimes and incidents are actions directed against a person that are motivated by prejudice based on actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. In addition to statutory reporting of state and federally classified hate crimes, the Eugene Police Department (EPD) tracks bias-related crimes motivated by perceived or actual age, economic status, social status, citizenship, marital status, or political affiliation or beliefs, and membership or activity in or on behalf of a labor organization or against a labor organization, to better understand and gauge community trends.

Non-criminal hate and bias cases are reported to HRNI in multiple ways:

- Direct report using the online form: <https://www.eugene-or.gov/repothate>
- Via phone call (541.862.5177) or email to HRNI staff ([hrni@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:hrni@ci.eugene.or.us))
- In person at the HRNI office (100 W 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. Suite 119, Eugene-OR 97401)
- Transferred from EPD when hate and bias cases reported to police are found to be non-criminal.

The Office of Human Rights and Neighborhood Involvement (HRNI) and EPD work collaboratively to review each hate crime reported to EPD to ensure accuracy and consistency in the reporting process. EPD provides victims with resources and assistance through HRNI. This relationship lends to the possibility of increased reporting of hate and bias incidents in Eugene.

The City of Eugene responds to hate and bias activity based on nationally recognized best practices. The City's response is victim directed and protects victim confidentiality when requested. Various people provide support depending on the circumstances and the expressed wishes of the victim. HRNI support is in accordance with the City of Eugene's Hate and Bias Incident Response Plan.<sup>1</sup> HRNI, EPD, the Human Rights Commission (HRC), and community organizations regularly collaborate on hate and bias incident response by providing victims with referrals to other agencies for assistance, supporting Op-Ed articles and letters to the editor,

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.eugene-or.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/536>

alerts in neighborhood association newsletters and social media sites, assistance with connecting victims with the media, and criminal investigations where warranted.

The City of Eugene endeavors to reduce hate and bias activity by training sworn EPD personnel and educating the community on how to report hate and bias activity. According to the 2010 Department of Justice Hate Crime Victimization Report, it was estimated that nationally 25-42% of hate crimes are reported to police.<sup>2</sup> Given this information, it is likely that the hate and bias incidents reported in Eugene represent only a fraction of the actual activity that is occurring. Through the city's efforts, we are now capturing a larger percentage of the activity occurring in Eugene than before. As the climate surrounding hate and bias activity evolves, HRNI works to prepare community members with resources and skills for addressing hate and bias when it occurs close to home

This is the ninth annual report on hate and bias activity and response, prepared by HRNI and EPD. The data collection methodology and format of reporting has been replicated consistently since the 2012 report. This allows for a historical overview of reported hate and bias activity in Eugene.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=4614>

## HRNI Community Outreach

2020 was an extremely busy year for the Human Rights and Neighborhood Involvement team. The pandemic, social justice protests, a significant increase in reported bias crimes and a rise in political extremism all combined to create a unique set of challenges. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the majority of engagement was conducted through online meetings.

HRNI staff were instrumental in a range of initiatives focused on responding to the nation-wide call to challenge hate and bias and to address equity concerns in the city. These included:

- Reviewing the City’s approach to community safety and law enforcement through the Ad Hoc Committee on Police Policy and the Community Safety Initiative (CSI) engagement sessions. The HRNI team organized six public forums for the Community Safety Initiative and collaborated on a CSI survey, which resulted in a report presented to Council on May 5, 2021. HRNI staff also supported the City’s Ad Hoc Committee on Police Policy, which held 14 meetings between September 2020 and March 2021 to discuss improvements and reforms to law enforcement policy and oversight.
- Working with neighborhood associations to deliver an adapted version of the City of Eugene’s “Belonging” training, which equips public servants and volunteers to engage the community with a strong social and racial equity lens. Several virtual trainings were held between August and December 2020.
- HRNI staff attended several neighborhood association meetings to address hate and bias activity that occurred in some neighborhoods.
- Ongoing language access initiatives including increasing City website access and creating a regular Spanish-language news outlet with the online broadcast station “La E-Kiss.” The news outlet, called “Aqui en la Ciudad” has helped the local Spanish speaking community to receive timely, accurate and linguistically appropriate information around COVID-19 measures, including public health notices, public safety, rental and other assistance, economic recovery programs and recreation and other community resources.

### HRC Community Outreach

The Human Rights Commission was at the forefront of responding to the challenges of 2020. Alongside its regular meetings, the HRC also held several online community forums to address the key issues of 2020:

- The HRC proudly marched alongside thousands of demonstrators at the Black Lives Matter protest on Sunday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.
- In July 2020 the HRC held a special meeting to hear from Black, Indigenous and other people of color (BIPOC) communities about their experience of policing.
- In June 2021, the HRC held a listening session to hear from members of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities about their experience of bias incidents resulting from the characterization of COVID-19 as a “China Virus.”

### **Human Rights Commission Grants**

In 2020, the HRC awarded grants to support the following activities:

- White Bird’s Resource Guide publication
- Disorient Film Festival 2020
- Asian Celebration 2020
- HIV Alliance’s LGBTQ2S+ Health Fair
- Unhoused Memorial Day 2020
- Centro Latino Americano - Oregon Workers’ Relief Fund



## **Eugene Police Department (EPD) Community Outreach**

In alignment with the City Council goal of creating a Safe Community, the City and its police department are committed to working with community partners to reach the vision of promoting a community where every person, regardless of their identity, is safe, valued, and welcome. EPD takes an active role to protect all people in Eugene against intimidation and harassment based upon bias and prejudice. EPD works in tandem with the City's Office of Human Rights and Neighborhood Involvement, which collects statistical information on both criminal and non-criminal hate and bias activity and provides victim support and community response to hate and bias activity in Eugene. Eugene Police Chief Chris Skinner and dedicated investigators provide outreach for Black, Hispanic, Jewish, and LGBTQ+ communities and work with affected victims in wake of bias incidents and hate crimes.

The EPD Investigations Division, including all of the Special Investigations Unit (SIU), the Captain, and Lieutenant met with members of the Human Rights Commission and WeCU to discuss Bias investigations.

Captain Shawn Adams attended a Santa Clara Neighborhood Association meeting to discuss Bias investigations and recent hate graffiti in the neighborhood. The captain also attended the America Asian and Pacific Islanders' listening session in response to the rising incidents of hate crime against individuals identifying as AAPI.

Members of SIU continue to outreach to underrepresented groups and anticipate that outreach can significantly increase in the future as the city exits COVID-19 restrictions. The unit has also engaged with a Chinese American group to build trust and relationships, in a new outreach effort.

Lieutenant Chris Harrison or Captain Shawn Adams attends every Human Rights Commission meeting on behalf of EPD. The Investigations Division keeps records/statistics for GARE (Government Alliance on Race and Equity) reporting.

Chief Skinner took immediate action on May 28, 2020, to condemn George Floyd's death at the hands of Officer Derek Chauvin in Minneapolis. He and the department have welcomed the national and local discussions on race and policing reform. As early as mid-2020, Eugene Police initiated its first set of policing reforms, building upon its foundation of the past 15 years of systemic reform.

Reform efforts continue with strong, forward momentum to identify gaps and blind spots and make changes to remove any possible racial injustice or bias toward people of color and address use of force issues.

“The community is fully engaged in the events we’ve been going through since the last week of May 2020,” said Chief Chris Skinner. “In our profession, which we have chosen to serve our community, we are aware of a longstanding nationwide incidence of injustice to community members and communities of color. I want to emphasize the first pillar of 21st Century Policing, which is Trust and Legitimacy, and part of building that trust and legitimacy is recognizing injustices at the hands of police and policing in this community and this nation. I’m encouraged in the direction we’re going, and the leadership role we have taken in our industry, not only in our state but on a national level.

While we still have work to do, we remain committed to the highest levels of accountability, training, and collaboration with other resources in the community. Efforts geared toward accountability include continued dialogue with the police auditor, Civilian Review Board, and our police commission.

We continue to improve our practices in disciplines such as our Crisis Negotiation Team, Crisis Intervention Training, de-escalation tactics, bias training, and reporting. We continue to collaborate through other resources such as CAHOOTS for behavioral health calls.”

The department has been poised to quickly adopt Oregon legislative changes, and took the initiative on changes including removing the carotid restraint from EPD policies. The use of the carotid as a less lethal force option is no longer an option and no longer condoned as a less lethal tool and will not be trained any longer.

EPD Policy and Accreditation Office aggressively identified policies for the Police Commission, a 12-member citizen advisory body, to conduct comprehensive reviews on. These policies include Policy 808 – Handcuffing, Control Holds, & Impact Weapons, Policy 316 – Public Assemblies and Demonstrations, Policy 317 – Civil Disturbance, and Policy 318 – Field Force and Policy 809 – Pepper Ball Projectiles.

Of special note, the Police Commission, a civilian commission that provides the Eugene Police Chief with policy review and recommendations, kept a rigorous meeting schedule, despite challenges posed by COVID-19. The commission was created in 1998 and charged by city ordinance to facilitate communication between the community and police, increase public

understanding of police policies and practices, and provide input on police policies and procedures that reflect community values and resource priorities.

EPD identified and made changes in its use of force reporting. Work began in mid-2020 to be finalized and implemented in June 2021: EPD recognized pointing a firearm, Taser, K9 or extended-range impact weapon at someone with the intent to gain compliance is an elevated use of force and it has an impact on the person involved. New policy language was written to require those actions be reported and tracked as uses of force. The department worked to make changes to the reporting system and refer the policy to Police Commission to review as their schedule and priorities allowed.

EPD is in the early stages of an “Early Intervention System” that works within our current complaint and use of force reporting system to help us intervene at the early stages of problematic behavior.

EPD has continued to review training and education as there are policy changes and identify improvements through review of recent incident response and best practices.

Eugene Police Department is continuing to look at the culture of the police department and how the department and its employees can move down a path of reflecting our community. The department has welcomed conversation and input and has been fully engaged in listening to the members of the Ad Hoc Committee on Police Policy, as well as providing background information and answering questions. Staff and leadership have similarly participated and listened to Community Safety Citizen Advisory Board and public engagement sessions, as well as reports to City Council.

During the year, Eugene Police leaders and employees attended the City’s Belonging Training.

Chief Skinner has made clear that EPD will not engage in immigration matters - Oregon police agencies have no legal authority to enforce federal immigration laws.

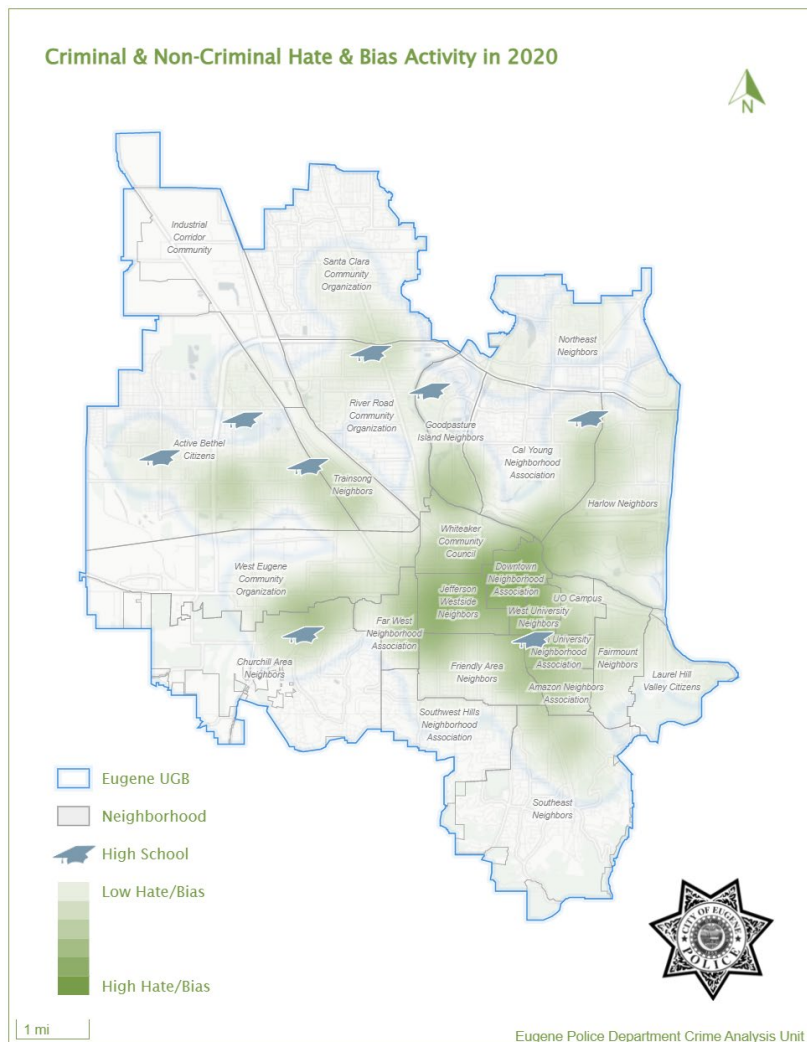
For Election Day in November 2020, Chief Skinner ensured officers were aware of ballot drop box locations and collection protocols and made extra staffing available during the entire week for any civil unrest or attempts to interfere with ballot drop off locations. On top of this, he urged members of the community to all be responsible for providing a safe environment for residents and guests and to maintain civility and a safe space.

## 2020 Hate and Bias Crimes and Incidents at a Glance

This report includes 93 hate and bias cases that occurred in 2020. Of those, 54 were categorized as hate or bias crimes and 39 as non-criminal incidents. In 2019, 66 cases were reported. Of those, 48 were criminal and 18 non-criminal cases. **These numbers reflect an annual increase of 40% in reported hate and bias activity in a year marked by the global COVID-19 pandemic and racial justice protests in the US.**

In 2020, African Americans were the group most affected by physical violence and by intimidation, and the Jewish community was the main target of vandalism. African Americans were also the main target of non-criminal incidents. Reported hate activity against the Latino/Hispanic and the LGBTQ+ communities declined.

The distribution of hate and bias incidents did not change from previous years and central neighborhoods continue to be the most impacted areas.



## Reporting Methodology

The 2020 Hate and Bias Report includes criminal and non-criminal activity reported to EPD and HRNI. The report provides a statistical snapshot of reported hate and bias incidents to inform efforts to combat bias-motivated activity in the city of Eugene. The report provides policymakers and community members with information to plan efforts on education, prevention, intervention, victim assistance, and policy advocacy.

### Definitions



Bias and hate crimes, incidents, and discrimination are reported based on the actual or perceived association of victims with the following categories:

#### Categories protected by federal law

- Age
- Skin color
- Disability
- Ethnicity
- Marital or Domestic partner status
- National origin
- Race
- Religion

#### Categories protected by State of Oregon statutes\*

- Sexual Orientation and gender identity

#### Categories protected by City of Eugene Code\*

- Familial status
- Housing status\*\*
- Source of income

\* State and local protections are in addition to Federally recognized protected categories.

\*\*For tracking purposes only in this report. Added as a motivation for bias crimes in the City of Eugene Code since April 2021.

### Hate or Bias Incident

A hate or bias incident is any non-criminal hostile expression that may be motivated by a person's real or perceived association with race, color, disability, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, and unhoused status.

Examples:

- Name calling; using a racial, ethnic, or other slur to identify someone; or using degrading language.
- Creating racist or derogatory graffiti or images/drawings.
- Imitating someone with a disability or imitating someone's cultural norm or practice.

### **Hate or Bias Crime**

A hate crime, known as a bias crime under Oregon law, is any crime motivated by a person's real or perceived association with race, color, disability, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity and, for bias crimes that can be prosecuted by the City of Eugene in municipal court, unhoused status.

Examples:

- Assaulting, injuring, or even touching someone in an offensive manner because of their protected class.
- Creating racist or derogatory graffiti on someone else's property based on their protected class.
- Threatening to physically harm a person, their family, or their property based on their protected class.

Both bias crimes and incidents can be verbal, physical, or visual, and can target someone in a protected class, a family member, or even someone incorrectly perceived to be in a protected class.

### **Discrimination**

Discrimination is a civil rights violation in housing, employment, or public accommodations based on a person's real or perceived association with a protected class.

Examples:

- Denying someone access to housing (renting or buying) based on their protected class.
- Treating people disrespectfully or denying access to a place of public accommodation (i.e. grocery store, medical offices, gym, etc.) based on their protected class.
- Denying someone employment or the right to contract based on their protected class.

### **Underreporting of Hate Crimes**

The National Crime Victimization Survey, prepared by the U.S. Department of Justice, indicated that 54% of hate-motivated incidents were not reported to law enforcement during 2011-2015.<sup>3</sup> According to survey respondents, reasons for not reporting hate-motivated incidents include: judging incidents not important enough to be reported to police; feeling that

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<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Special Report: Hate Crime Victimization Statistical Tables, 2014 – 2015 June 2017.

police would be unable to help the victim; fear that police would not bother to get involved; and fear that reporting the incident would bring more trouble for the victim.

Another potential reason for underreporting is the existence of multiple law-enforcement jurisdictions within city limits such as those operated by universities and colleges. Hate-motivated violence that occurs in facilities outside of city's jurisdiction may not be formally identified as hate crimes, even if those facilities are within city limits. Therefore, it is reasonable to assume that the hate crimes reported in this document likely represent only a portion of hate crimes committed in Eugene during 2020.

The City of Eugene is trying to minimize reasons for underreporting by giving visibility to the issue via publications and events, by promoting outreach to marginalized communities, and by engaging city officials in response efforts. Additionally, the publication of this annual report contributes to increased community awareness of hate and bias activity, which might promote more community participation in the efforts to make Eugene a safe and welcoming community for all.

## **Understanding the Numbers**

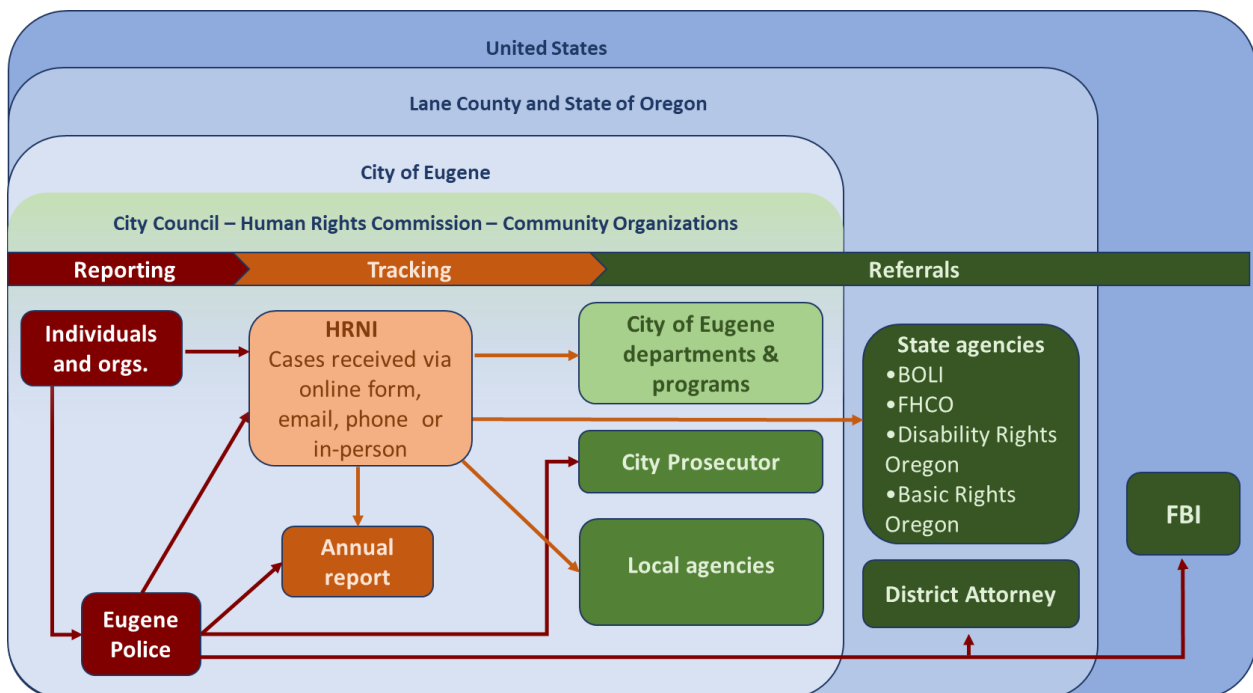
Unless otherwise noted, all numbers in this report refer to cases, rather than victims and perpetrators.

- The sum of cases reported by protected class categories may differ from the total number of cases. That is a result of some cases being related to more than one protected class. For example, when we report impacted communities, those might include victims targeted due to religion and ethnicity at the same time.
- In alignment with how the bias crime statutes are written, we report the perpetrators' intended target group instead of relying on the actual identity of the victim as a proxy. This accounts for cases in which the actual identities of the victims are not specified or where the victim's identity is mistaken. For example, when a Latino victim is perceived by the perpetrator as African American.
- This report does not include potential human rights violations committed by Eugene Police Department employees. If a case involves EPD personnel, it will be included in the Eugene Police Auditor's Report. See the Related Reports section for details.
- When the person filling a report does not wish to be contacted and does not include enough information, HRNI may be unable to determine the group associated with the victim(s) of a hate and bias incident. In such cases, the impacted group may be listed as unknown.
- It is important to note that fluctuations in data from one year to the next does not necessarily indicate trends. Sometimes, an increase one year follows a notable decrease the previous year. Multi-year data provide a better sense of trends.



- The report may not reflect the actual outcome of the investigation of individual cases. We receive the original police incident report for cases in which the investigation may be ongoing. We may review it and include it before the investigation is completed or charges are filed. Therefore, the number of hate crimes reported here may differ from the numbers reported by EPD to the FBI's hate crime statistics.
- Some numbers referring to hate crimes committed 2014-2018 have changed since last year's report due to an ongoing process of updates and corrections.
- In this report, we classified the swastika as anti-Jewish when found in isolation. Cases where a swastika and racialized graffiti were both present were categorized as multi-racial.

The following image illustrates the system utilized by the City of Eugene to track hate or bias activity, support victims, and prepare its annual reports on hate and bias crimes and incidents.

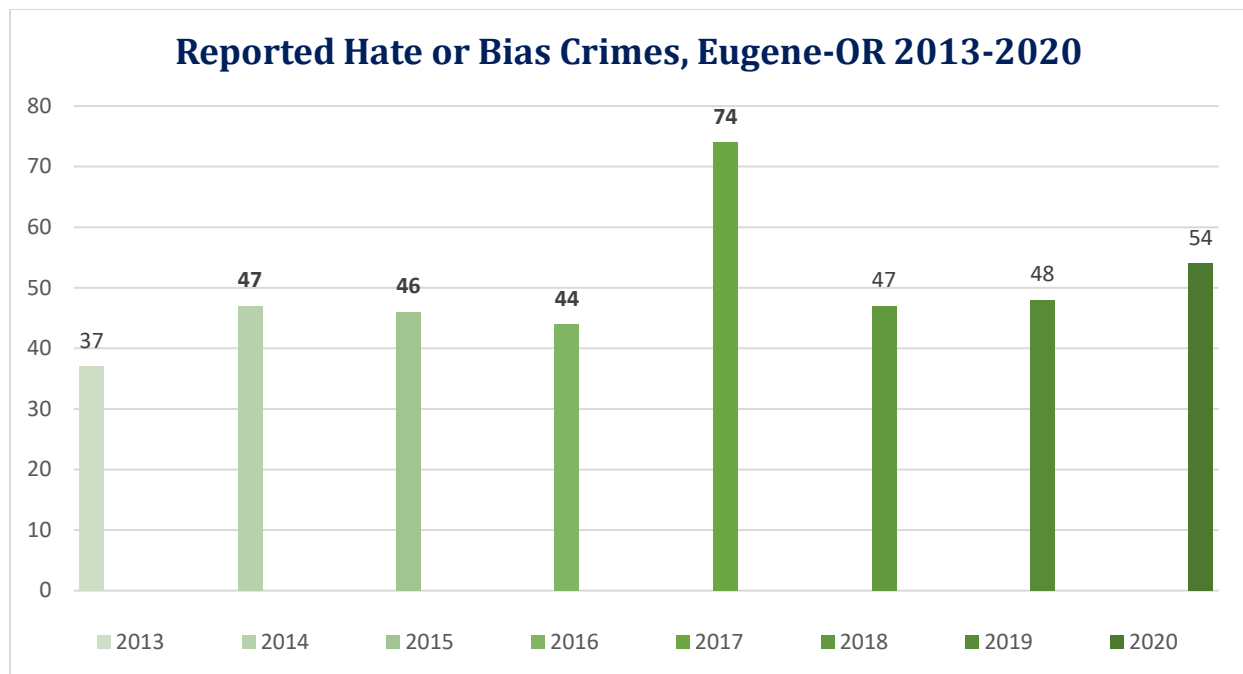




## Hate and Bias Crimes

In 2020, 54 bias crimes were reported to EPD, which represents an 13% increase over the 48 cases reported in 2019. The increase in reported bias crimes in Eugene correlates to similar findings at the state and federal levels. Preliminary data for 2021 does indicate a level of bias crimes similar to those recorded in 2018 and 2019. If this trend continues until the end of the current cycle, we can expect about 50 hate crimes being reported in Eugene during 2021.

Nationally, organizations such as Stop AAPI Hate<sup>4</sup> have recorded an increase in hate crimes targeting the Asian community. No hate crimes against the Asian community were reported to EPD in 2020. HRNI received information of at least one incident that would be categorized as a bias crime (assault) against an Eugene resident of Asian descent. That resident opted not to report it to police. Therefore, only non-criminal bias incidents against Asians are included in this report. EPD, HRNI, and the Human Rights Commission will continue to monitor the monthly reports in 2021 to identify changes in patterns and adjust how to respond to significant variations.

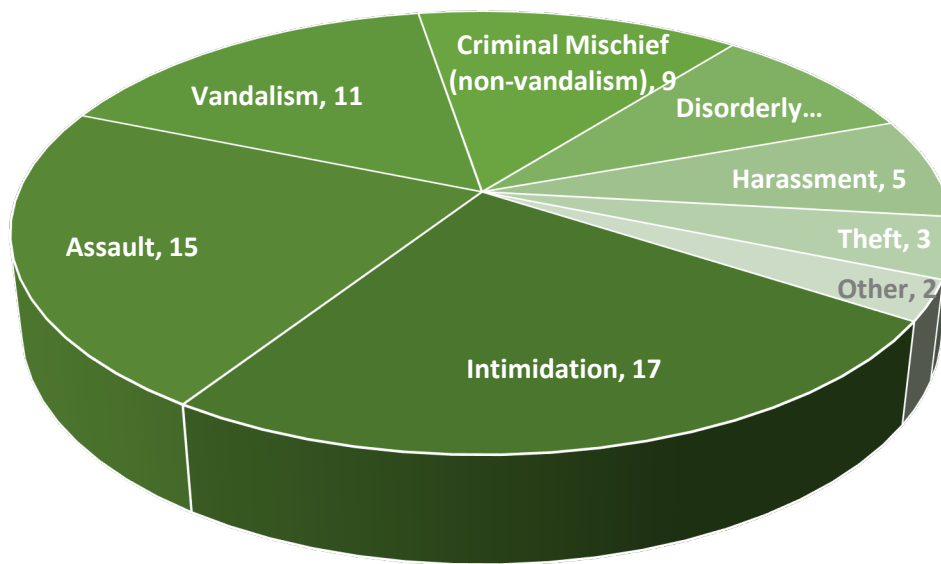


Intimidation, assault, and vandalism were the most common types of crimes reported to EPD in 2020. When language or activity goes beyond the protections of free speech it may become criminal. Most criminal vandalism was related to swastika graffiti. The presence of hate graffiti is not always classified as a hate crime as by definition a crime must have a victim. If hate

<sup>4</sup> <https://stopaapihate.org/national-report-through-march-2021/>

graffiti is found in high traffic public spaces, schools or is directly reported by a person who felt victimized it is included in this report.

### Reported Bias Crimes by Charge Description, Eugene-OR 2020



There were 15 incidents involving physical violence in 2020, which represents an increase since violent crimes have oscillated between 10 and 12 cases in the past four years. Blacks or African Americans were targeted in 7 assault cases. Crimes involving physical violence made up 27% of all cases in 2020. Of the 54 crimes reported in 2020, arrests were made in 16 cases, 6 cases remain open or pending, and 28 were suspended or inactive with no more leads.

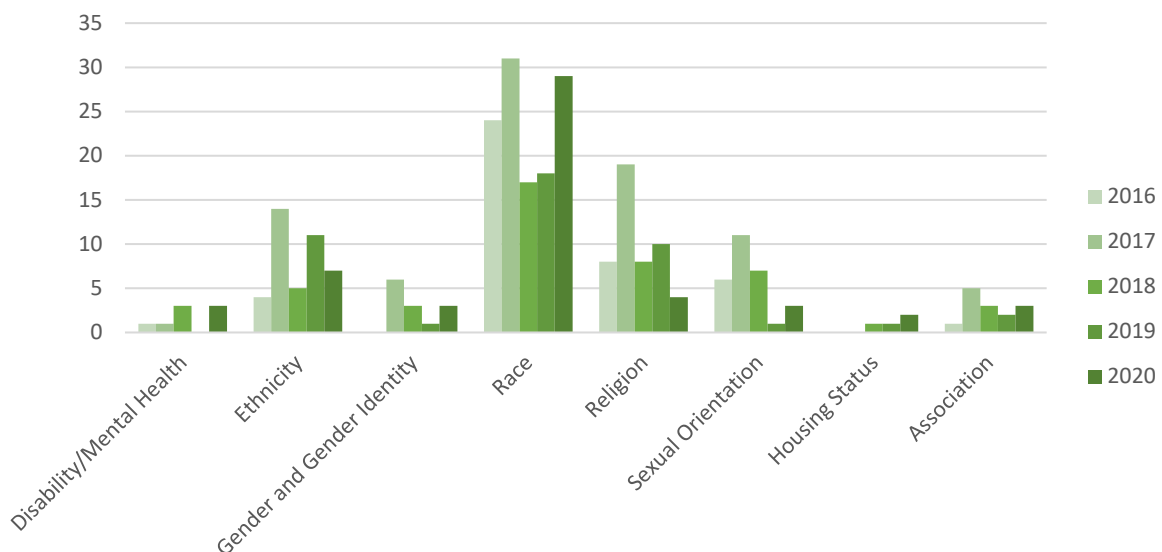
### Motivation of Hate Crimes

Consistent with previous years, race continues to be the leading motivating factor of hate crimes reported in Eugene. In 2020, 29 reported cases were motivated by the perceived race of the victims. For comparison, the public reported 21 hate crimes related to race in 2019, 17 in 2018, 31 in 2017, and 24 in 2016. Ethnicity was the second most common motivation for reported bias crimes in 2020. Reports of bias crimes motivated by religion follow a declining trend as illustrated in the chart below. Crimes motivated by the sexual orientation of the victims increased from 1 in 2019 to 3 in 2020. Nevertheless, reported bias crimes motivated by the sexual orientation of victims remain low when compared to the 11 cases reported in 2017 and 7 in 2018

## Hate Crimes by Protected Class, Eugene, Oregon, 2020

Category	Cases
Race	29
Ethnicity	7
Religion	4
Sexual Orientation	3
Association	3
Gender Identity	3
Disability	3
Housing Status	2
Income	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>

## Reported Hate and Bias Crimes, Eugene-OR 2016-2020



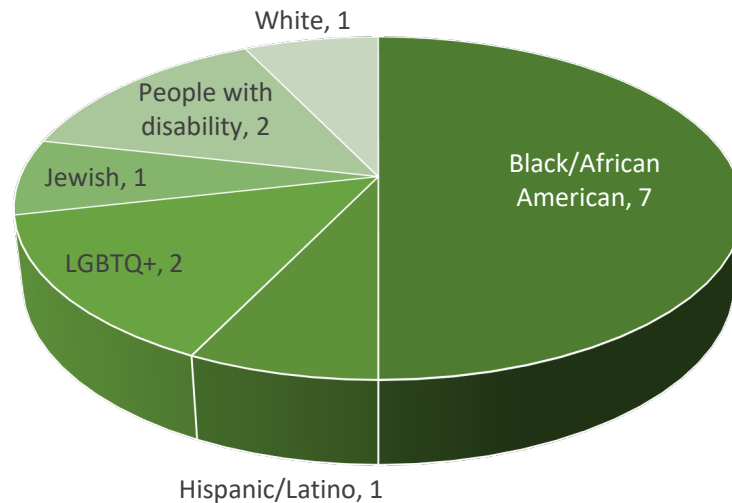
## Impacted communities

As in previous years, Black and African American people remain as the most impacted communities by hate or bias crimes despite representing less than 2% of Eugene's population<sup>5</sup>. Of the 29 reported race-related hate crimes, 26 were committed against African American community members. Of the 54 hate or bias crimes reported in 2020, 36 targeted people based on race and ethnicity, which results in racial and ethnic minorities being the most impacted groups.

<b>Communities Affected by Reported Hate Crimes in Eugene-OR, 2020</b>	
<b>Affected group</b>	<b>Cases</b>
Black/African American	26
Jewish	4
Political affiliation	3
White	3
Hispanic/Latino	2
Multi-racial group	2
Homosexual male	2
Transgender	2
Other ethnicity/ancestry	1
Arab	1
Physical disability	1
Mental Disability	1
Gender non-conforming	1
Christian - Protestant	1
Homosexual female	0
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0
Islamic/Muslim	0
Asian	0

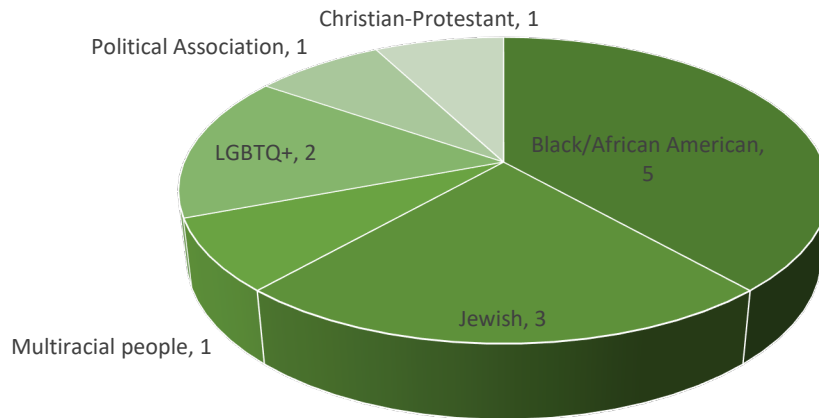
<sup>5</sup> US Census Bureau Quick Facts - <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/eugencityoregon/PST040217>

## Communities Impacted by Physical Violence in Eugene-OR, 2020



Of the 14 reported hate crimes involving physical violence in 2020, ten were motivated by the race and ethnicity of the victims. African Americans were the main target despite representing just 1.7% of the Eugene population. LGBTQ+ community members, which had experienced a spike in violence in 2018, were victimized in three cases in 2020 and in one case in 2019. Limited data available indicates a trend in declining hate crimes involving physical violence against Latinos and LGBTQ+ community members in Eugene.

## Criminal vandalism by impacted community, Eugene-OR, 2020

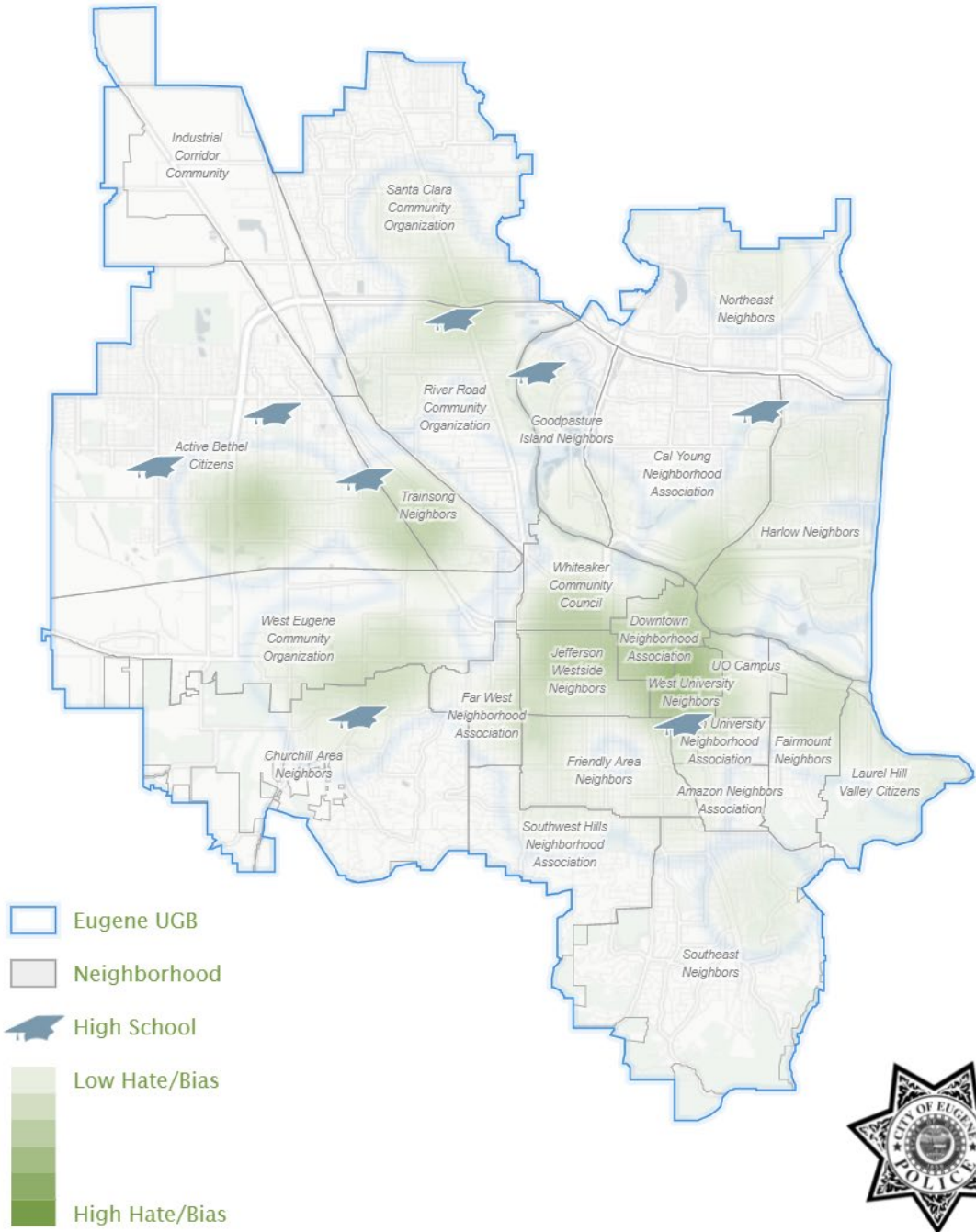


In 2020, criminal vandalism targeted primarily the Black/African American and Jewish communities. Two of the 13 cases were based on political association and targeted property associated with social justice messages. All anti-Jewish crimes were reports of swastika graffiti and those declined in comparison to the 9 and 7 cases reported in 2019 and 2018 respectively. Non-criminal cases of hate speech against the Jewish community remains common and are included in the non-criminal section of this report. In this report, the swastika is classified as anti-Jewish when found in isolation. Cases where a swastika and racialized graffiti were both present were categorized as multi-racial. Swastikas are being used across the country as a symbol of White supremacy and hate against Jewish people and other groups. For example, it has been used against immigrants, Blacks, Muslims, and LGBTQ+ people.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Swastika use is on the rise, but among those who understand it least.  
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2017/08/13/swastika-use-rise-nazis-trump-charlottesville-violence/104488402/>

# Criminal Hate & Bias Activity in 2020

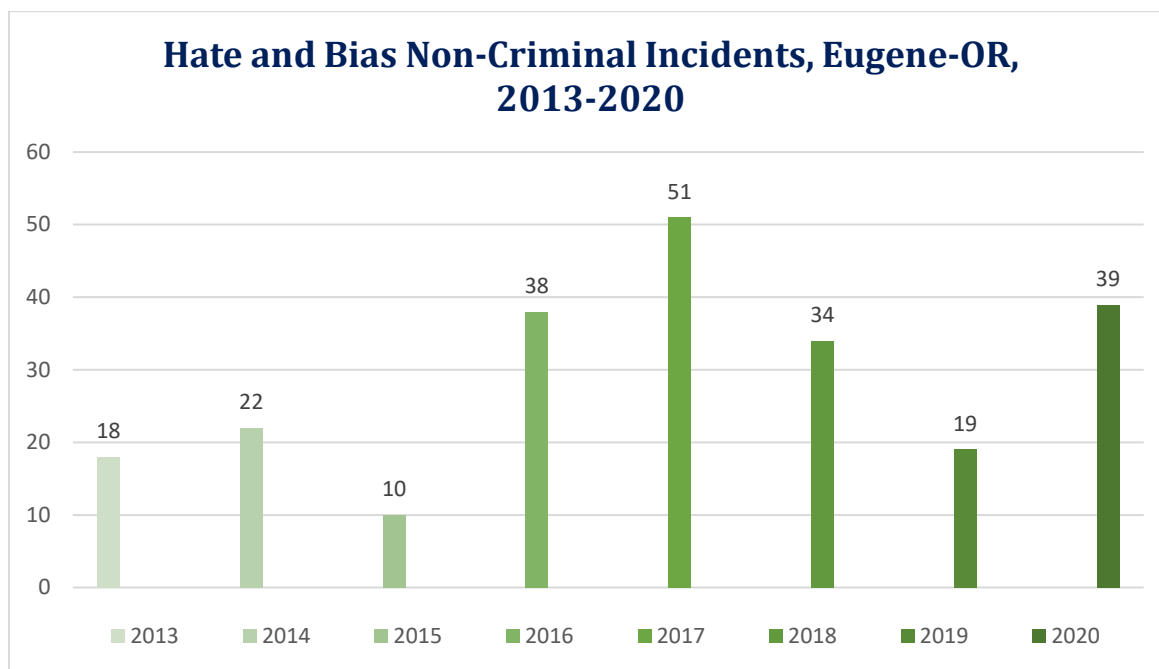


Eugene Police Department Crime Analysis Unit

## Hate and Bias Non-Criminal Incidents

While hate or bias incidents and discrimination sometimes target specific individuals, they often violate an entire group or community's sense of safety and belonging. Graffiti on the wall, fliers, anonymous emails, denying services, and language meant to harass individuals convey intolerance that impacts all of us. We want Eugene to be welcoming and inclusive. HRNI staff in cooperation with the Human Rights Commission, partner agencies, and community allies track such incidents and provide support to impacted communities. Reporting of bias incidents and discrimination is designed to help us track bias activity, who was targeted, where the incidents took place, and support survivors. We want to:

- Support survivors who have witnessed or been the target of hate or bias crimes, incidents, and discrimination.
- Refer survivors to services that can help.
- Inform policy makers, city leadership, law enforcement, and the community about the extent of the problem.
- Support community action.





There were 39 non-criminal hate and bias incidents reported to HRNI in 2020, which represents an increase of 105% over the 19 reports from 2019. This surge in reported cases reversed a trend of declining reports that has been occurring since 2017. Some of the reports made to HRNI in 2020 may have been criminal in nature, but the victims or witnesses chose not to file police reports. Thus, those incidents have been captured in these non-criminal numbers. For example, at least three cases of anti-Asian incidents became known to the community, however, the victims opted not to have it reported to law enforcement.

<b>Non-Criminal Reports by Primary Categories, 2020</b>		<b>Non-Criminal Reports by All Categories, 2020*</b>	
Hate Factor	Cases	Hate Factor	Cases
Race	16	Race	20
National Origin	1	National Origin	2
Religion	4	Religion	9
Ethnicity	4	Ethnicity	12
Sexual Orientation	1	Sexual Orientation	2
Gender and Gender Identity	1	Gender and Gender Identity	1
Employment	1	Employment	3
Association	2	Association	2
Disability/Mental Health	4	Disability/Mental Health	6
Housing	5	Housing	5
Marital/Familial Status	0	Marital/Familial Status	2
Source of Income	0	Source of Income	0

\*A case may be counted more than once if it can be included in more than one category.

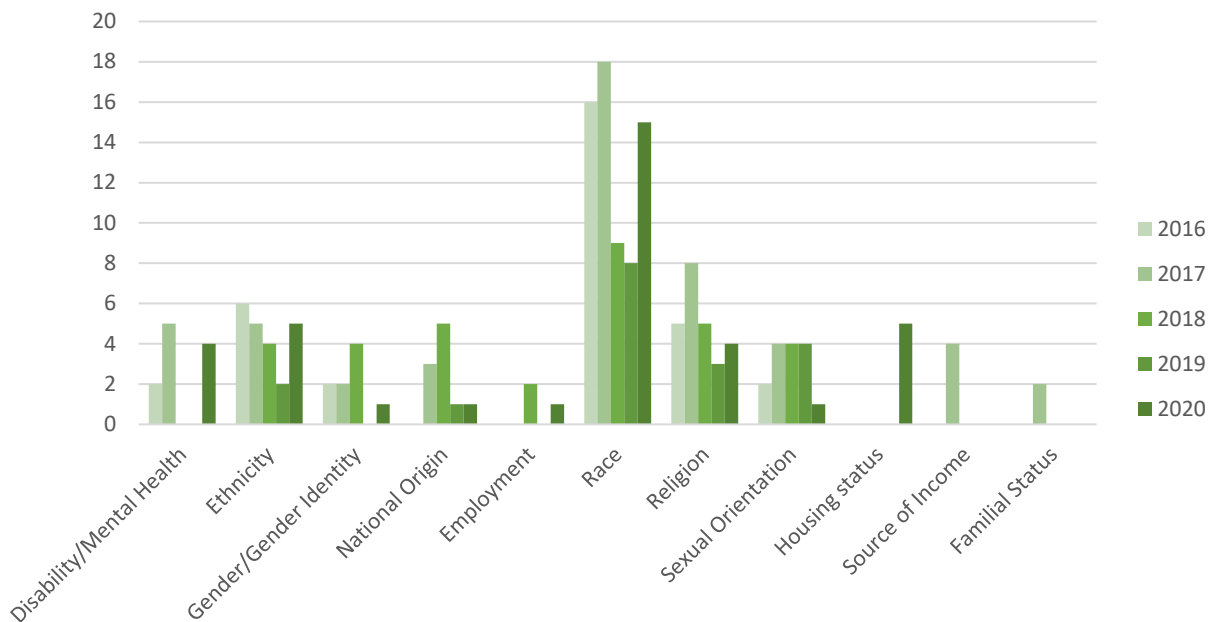
Race and ethnicity continued to be the most frequently reported motivating factors for non-criminal bias incidents. This remains consistent with trends in Eugene and with federally reported statistics on hate and bias crimes. Since 2019, incidents targeting African Americans have been more frequent than incidents impacting other groups. This further illustrates the disproportionality in bias incidents experienced by Blacks or African Americans, which are just 1.7% of the local population.

When the person filling a report does not wish to be contacted and does not include enough information, HRNI may be unable to determine the group associated with the victim(s) of a hate and bias incident. In such cases, the impacted group may be listed as unknown.

### Non-Criminal Reports by Targeted Group, Eugene-OR, 2020

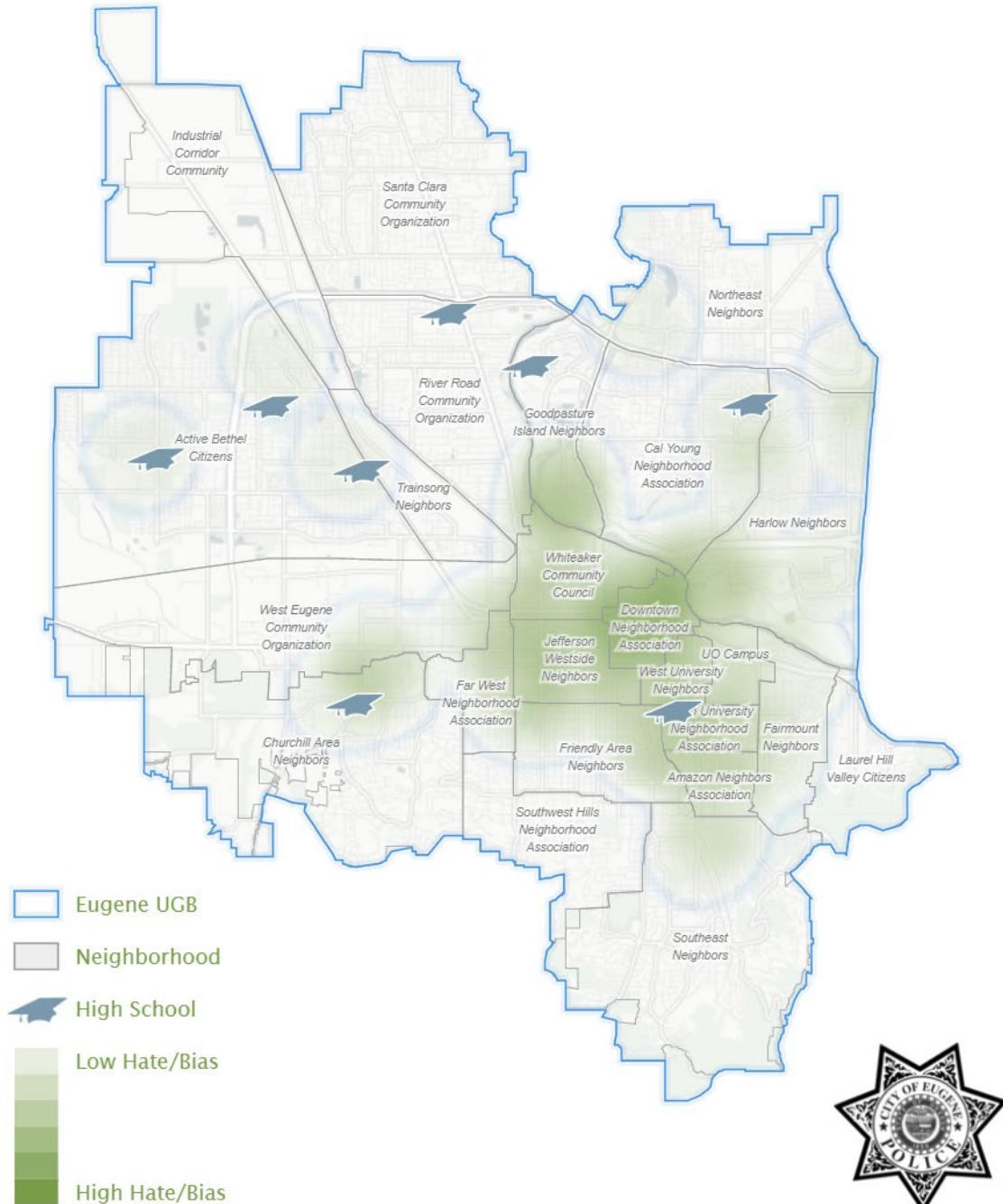
Group	Cases
Latino/Hispanic	5
LGBTQ	2
Jewish <sup>7</sup>	6
Asian	3
Blacks/African American	11
Native American	0
White/Caucasian	1
Unknown	7

### Reported Non-Criminal Bias Incidents, Eugene-OR 2016-2020



<sup>7</sup> Cases of swastika graffiti found in isolation of other hate speech were classified as anti-Jewish

## Non-Criminal Hate & Bias Activity in 2020



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Eugene Police Department Crime Analysis Unit

## How to Report Hate or Bias Crimes, Incidents, and Discrimination

**If you are in immediate danger call 911.** If it is not an emergency, you may submit a complaint or concern in the following ways:

- **Report online at** [www.eugene-or.gov/reporthate](http://www.eugene-or.gov/reporthate)
- **In person:** Office of Human Rights and Neighborhood Involvement located at 100 West 10th Avenue. Our office is currently closed to the public due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- **By phone:** 541-682-5177

### Why Should I Report?

While hate or bias crimes, incidents, and discrimination sometimes target specific individuals, they often violate an entire group or community's sense of safety and belonging. Graffiti on the wall, fliers, anonymous emails, denying services, and language meant to harass individuals convey intolerance that impacts all of us. We want Eugene to be welcoming and inclusive.

Reporting is designed to help us track hate or bias crimes, incidents, and discrimination, who was targeted, where the incident took place, and support survivors. We want to:

- Support survivors who have witnessed or been the target of hate or bias crimes, incidents, and discrimination.
- Refer survivors to services that can help.
- Inform policy makers, city leadership, law enforcement, and the community about the extent of the problem.
- Support community action.

### Information and Referral

The Rights Assistance Program is a reporting and referral service designed to support bias victims. We are not able to investigate any report submitted to us. Reports submitted here may not receive an immediate response and will not result in an investigation.

If you believe a crime has occurred and want it investigated, you may contact [Eugene Police](#) or your local law enforcement agency directly. You may also submit a report to us and indicate that you need assistance reporting to law enforcement.

We are not able to give any legal advice to anyone reporting a bias incident.

## Related Reports

### Police Auditor's Office Process

The City of Eugene employs an Independent Police Auditor to investigate allegations of misconduct against police officers, analyze trends of complaints and recommend improvements to police services in the city. Eugene City Code designates the Police Auditor's Office as the intake point for all complaints against employees of EPD. For more information on the Police Auditor's Office's and to review their annual report, visit this link: <https://www.eugene-or.gov/1039/Police-Auditor>

### University of Oregon Annual Crime Report

The University of Oregon is a significant part of the Eugene community, and employs its own police jurisdiction. By federal law, each law enforcement jurisdiction reports hate and bias crimes back to the federal government. Along with its strong commitment to a safe, inclusive and welcoming campus, the University of Oregon is taking active steps to address hate and bias incidents on or near its campus. The University of Oregon Police Department (UOPD), as part of an educational institution, is also required to complete an annual report in compliance with the Clery Act. The University of Oregon 2019 annual report has been published and is available for download at this website: <https://clery.uoregon.edu/annual-campus-security-and-fire-safety-report>.

The UO did not report hate crimes on any of its campuses in 2020. In 2019, UOPD reported one vandalism incident based on gender and ethnicity, one intimidation incident based on race, and one intimidation incident based on religion. In 2017 and 2018, one on-campus simple assault incident characterized by sexual orientation was reported for each year.

### Oregon Department of Justice, Senate Bill 577 (2020) Annual Report

This report displays summary data of bias crimes and non-criminal bias incidents from several data sources including the Bias Response Hotline established by the Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ) dedicated to assisting victims, witnesses, and other reporters of bias crimes and non-criminal bias incidents. In addition, the report displays data on bias-related offenses taken from Oregon's National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) housed within the Oregon State Police (OSP), data on the prosecution of bias crimes from three district

attorneys' offices that were involved in a data collection pilot with CJC, arrest data taken from the national Law Enforcement System (LEDS), court data for bias crimes taken from Oregon's Odyssey data system, and conviction and sentencing data for bias crimes from Oregon's Department of Corrections (DOC). The document is available at <https://www.doj.state.or.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/2020-Bias-Crimes-Report.pdf>

## Links to Related Resources

- City of Eugene annual hate and bias reports: <https://www.eugene-or.gov/3643/Hate-and-Bias-Report>
- City of Eugene Hate and Bias Response Plan: <https://www.eugene-or.gov/DocumentCenter/View/46329/Hate-and-Bias-Response-Plan-05-13-19->
- Hate & Bias Response and Prevention tool kit: <https://www.eugene-or.gov/4061/Hate-Bias-Prevention-and-Response-Toolkit>
- Eugene Police Policy on Bias Crimes: <https://www.eugene-or.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/4310>
- Oregon's Hate Crimes Resources: <https://www.doj.state.or.us/oregon-department-of-justice/bias-crimes/about-the-law/>

## Looking Ahead

By the time this report was completed, several community members had expressed a sentiment that hate activity against community members of Asian descent had increased due to the characterization of the novel coronavirus as a “Chinese virus.” Although no criminal cases had been recorded with EPD, HRNI has received reports of incidents that were criminal in nature. The City will continue to support victims and promote reporting to police, which can prompt investigations to identify and punish aggressors.

Since January 1, 2020, Oregon has a hotline for people to report hate crimes and bias incidents created with passage of SB-577 in 2019. The Oregon Department of Justice requires all law enforcement agencies to report local cases to the state. It is anticipated that statewide reporting will contribute to raising awareness of hate and bias activity, increase reporting, and better support to victims. It should be noted that there are still significant gaps in prosecution of hate and bias crimes. HRNI will continue collaborating with the state via participation of HRNI staff in the Oregon’s Hate and Bias Steering Committee.

Unofficial reports of hate and bias crimes and incidents indicate that there are still challenges to increasing the reporting of bias crimes and incidents. The City of Eugene will continue its efforts to prevent and respond to hate and bias activity. HRNI, EPD, and the HRC will work collaboratively to strengthen partnerships with community groups and other agencies to deliver on the City Council commitment of making Eugene “a welcoming, inclusive and safe community for everyone” ([City Council of Eugene, Resolution 5174](#))<sup>8</sup>. To support the goals listed in Resolution 5174, HRNI is currently working on the following initiatives:

- Collaborating with Eugene Police for the implementation of expected US Department of Justice guidance on hate crimes reporting and outreach in accordance to the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act of May 20, 2021.
- Offering training to neighborhood associations and community groups interested in using the Hate and Bias Prevention and Response Toolkit<sup>9</sup>
- Supporting community events with grants awarded by the Human Rights Commission<sup>10</sup>
- Continuing to implement the Language Access Initiative with other city departments to increase accessibility to city resources for people with limited English proficiency,

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<sup>8</sup> Available for download at <https://www.eugene-or.gov/DocumentCenter/View/30171>

<sup>9</sup> Interested parties may sign up for a training at <https://www.eugene-or.gov/4061>

<sup>10</sup> Event organizers may learn about the grant guidelines and request support at <https://www.eugene-or.gov/2377>

which includes translating sections of the city website to Spanish and looking for continued funding for the *Aqui en la Ciudad* programming.<sup>11</sup>

- Adjusting our reporting system to be responsive to community needs and changes in state and federal legislation
- Training all City of Eugene staff on the Belonging program, which addresses culturally sensitive customer service, respectful workplace, and community engagement among other topics.
- Working with our City and community arts and athletics event organizers to integrate advocacy and support for equity and for communities who experience hate activity in the Eugene area.

In addition to the above initiatives, HRNI supports the work of the Human Rights Commission, which advises City Council on human rights issues and related policies. The HRC meets 5:30-7:30 on the third Tuesday of every month from September to June. Meeting details are posted in this link: <https://www.eugene-or.gov/526/Human-Rights-Commission>. All are welcome to attend the meetings and provide public comments, including suggestions on how the City of Eugene can improve its programs and policies that promote human rights and support victims of hate and bias activity in our community.

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<sup>11</sup> Content is Spanish is available here: <https://www.eugene-or.gov/4056>



## Community Support

Since 2018, several community organizations have signed a letter expressing support for the City of Eugene efforts to combat hate and bias activity in our community. The organizations listed below, are committed to building, and sustaining a community in Eugene that is welcoming and inclusive for every person living, working, and visiting here. They have joined in solidarity with the people and communities who have experienced hate and bias or discrimination in our city in a unified voice to say that hate will not be tolerated here. Hate and bias activity undermines the type of community we all want to live in.

The first step to addressing any challenge facing our community is to understand it. Community organizations have been instrumental in supporting their members who have been a victim of hate, discrimination, or bias to report it. Reporting ensures that these incidents are documented, responded to, and helps ongoing work to reduce hate and bigotry.

These community organizations invite each person in our community to act to build the vibrant community we all want to live in: A community that is stronger together, welcomes newcomers, embraces difference, and above all comes together to eliminate hate. Please join us in that effort.

[Active Bethel Citizens](#)

[Beyond Toxics](#)

[Bring Recycling](#)

[Centro Latino Americano](#)

[Churchill Area Neighbors](#)

[Community Alliance of Lane County \(CALC\)](#)

[Community Supported Shelters](#)

[Downtown Neighborhood Association](#)

[Eugene Family YMCA](#)

[Eugene Islamic Center](#)

[Fairmount Neighbors](#)

[Friendly Area Neighbors](#)

[Friends of Sanctuary](#)

[Grupo Latino Acción Directa of Lane County  
\(GLAD\)](#)

[Harlow Neighbors](#)

[Human Rights, Human Stories](#)

[Integration Network for Immigrants](#)

[Jefferson Westside Neighbors](#)

[Jewish Federation of Lane County](#)

[Lane Community College](#)

[Lane County](#)

[Lane Education Service District](#)

[Lane Independent Living Alliance](#)

[Lane Transit District \(LTD\)](#)

[Laurel Hill Valley Citizens](#)

[League of United Latin American Citizens of  
Lane County \(LULAC\)](#)

[NAACP Eugene Springfield](#)

[River Road Community Organization](#)

[Sanctuary TBI](#)

[Santa Clara Community Organization](#)

[Showing Up for Racial Justice Springfield-  
Eugene \(SURJ\)](#)

[South University Neighborhood Association](#)

[Southeast Neighbors](#)

[Southwest Hills Neighborhood Association  
\(SHiNA\)](#)

[Sponsors Inc](#)

[SquareOne Villages](#)

[Showing Up for Racial Justice \(SURJ\)](#)

[Temple Beth Israel of Eugene](#)

[TransPonder](#)

[Unitarian Universalist Church of Eugene](#)

