

In the face of hatred,
apathy will be interpreted
as acceptance by the
perpetrators, the public and
- worse- the victims.

Reach out to allies and
create a diverse coalition of
churches, schools, clubs,
civic groups, police, and the
media.

Hate speech victims are
especially vulnerable.
Silence amplifies isolation.
Support victims and help
them speak out.

Hate must be exposed and
denounced. Speak up in
ways that draw attention
away from hate and
towards unity.



We take hate speech seriously. As
individuals and as a community,
the best thing you can do is:

Speak up.

Even if you don't think a crime
has been committed, call the
police to report the incident.

Law enforcement tracks and
investigates all reports.

Call: 319-356-6800

Let's commit to disrupting hate and
intolerance at home, at school, in the
workplace and in our faith
communities.

IOWA CITY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

410 E. Washington St. Iowa City, Iowa 52240
(319) 356-5022

IOWA CITY UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION

20 E Market #200 St. Iowa City, Iowa 52240
(319) 337-7290

HATE SPEECH



We can fight hate speech
and the hurt it causes as a
community!





HATE HAS NO HOME HERE.

نفرت کے لئے یہاں کوئی گھر نہیں ہے
ישנאה אין בית כאן אין בית אין בית
이 집에는 미움이 없다
الكره ليس له مكان هنا El odio no tiene hogar aquí.

What to do when you or others are confronted with verbal or written expressions of hate:

- 1) You may have a strong desire to talk with the person(s). A powerful speaker can have a high degree of influence over the audience. Most experts advise you not to engage in discussion. Engaging allows the speaker(s) to continue to spread their hate speech. Ignore and keep moving, stopping the influence of the speaker(s).
- 2) Not knowing what to say and feeling helpless. Audience grievances and fears can be cultivated by the speaker. Report the incident. It's very important to share your experience with someone you trust and with the appropriate authorities. The more we know the more effective we can be in countering hate speech as a community.
- 3) If you are a witness to someone being targeted: Go to the victim and engage them in conversation; pick a random subject. Create a safe space for the victim. Ignore the attacker. The person engaging in hate speech will stop and leave.

HATE SPEECH AND YOU

This brochure provides information about hate speech, what it is and isn't, and what you can do when you or others are confronted with verbal or written expressions of hate. The more you know, the better equipped you are to handle hate speech, especially the emotional toll it can take. The best remedy for hate speech is not through censorship, but rather through more speech.



WHAT IS HATE SPEECH?

Hate speech is verbal or written communication expressing hatred for some group. It covers all forms of expression which spread, incite, promote or justify racial hatred, xenophobia, Anti-Semitism, discrimination, or other forms of hatred based intolerance. Speech that demeans on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, disability, or any similar ground is hateful.

HATE SPEECH & THE FIRST AMENDMENT:

The U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly ruled that hate speech is legally protected free speech under the First Amendment. Speech cannot be punished just because of its hateful content. But when you get beyond content and look at context, speech with a hateful message can be hurtful. One person's hate speech is another's legitimate expression of opinion.

While not punishable by law, hate speech can be insulting and feel threatening. You can feel emotionally disturbed. You can feel psychic trauma, which can have physiological manifestations. You can feel silenced. These are all real harms that may be suffered by people who are subject to hate speech that is not punishable.

HATE SPEECH & HATE CRIME:

Hate crime doesn't always involve hate speech and hate speech in and of itself is not always a hate crime. A group may use hate speech in an attempt to discriminate but unless the group has broken a law, it is not a hate crime. Hate speech is an attack based on some characteristic. While it may not be a crime, hate speech expresses racism, discrimination and exclusion.