

Hate Incident Rapid-Response Guide for Montana

1 SAVE any evidence.

Hang onto flyers, photos or video. Sometimes phrases or images can help us identify a specific activist or group. Please provide police with the original, but take a photo or make a copy to give to the Montana Human Rights Network.



Please do not erase graffiti on your property until it's been documented by authorities, and be aware that graffiti on public property can only be removed by those responsible for it, like county or city officials.

2 CALL the authorities.

If it feels safe to call the police, contact them to report the incident. Always use the Hate Incident Reporting Form so MHRN can contact you or the appropriate people to help support the victims and create a database of hate activity in Montana.



It is important to collect certain details about the incident, but be assured that all responses will be strictly confidential unless the victim chooses to go public.

3 GATHER support.

A common response is to keep the incident quiet, but please call your friends, neighbors, community leaders or anyone who will help you feel empowered. Sometimes media attention can be negative, so don't feel obligated to call a TV station or newspaper. MHRN can help with media connections if you want to go public, however.



Create a support team that takes care of the targets of the incident first, and if you're not sure where to start, please work with MHRN to give the support team tasks that are tangible and helpful in your situation.

4 THROW a party!

Celebrate the truth that love is stronger than hate. Let neighborhood children decorate sidewalks with positive messages, hang signs saying "Love Lives Here" or "No Room for Hate," or hold a block party.



Gather people together in a safe space in your community to remember that no one is alone. This can include speakers, musicians and good food. We also recommend sending people home with an action item that benefits the entire community.

5 CONNECT with others.

Stopping hate activity in Montana takes all of us. To find a group in your area that supports diversity, equity and human rights contact the Montana Human Rights Network. If there isn't a group close by, we can help you start one!



We couldn't include all of the great advice we've collected from communities who have successfully responded to hate incidents, so please contact MHRN so we can help you create the best response to your specific situation.

*This guide created by the
Montana Human Rights Network
and Love Lives Here.*



www.mhrn.org



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