# HATE CRIME REPORT 2008



Commission On Human Relations



Los Angeles County

# 2008 Los Angeles County Hate Crimes



#### **Antelope Valley**



#### San Fernando Valley



### Hollywood/West Hollywood







#### Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

Don Knabe, Chair Gloria Molina Mark Ridley-Thomas Zev Yaroslavsky Michael D. Antonovich Fourth District First District Second District Third District Fifth District

William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer

#### Community and Senior Services, Los Angeles County

Cynthia Banks, Director Otto Solórzano, Chief Deputy Director

#### Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

Dr. Sandra Thomas, President Kathay Feng, Esq., Vice President/Secretary Grandmaster Tong Suk Chun, Vice President William Lambert, Vice President Eleanor R. Montaño, Vice President

Donna Bojarsky Rev. Zedar Broadous, USN (Ret.) Vito Cannella Mario Ceballos Susanne Cumming, Esq. Adrian Dove Michael Gi-Hao Cheung Lea Ann King Sergio Paz

#### **Honorary Members**

John Anson Ford (1883-1983) Catherine G. Stern Philip R. Valera Rabbi Alfred Wolf, Ph.D. (1915-2004) Morris Kight (1930-2003) Ray W. Bartlett (1919-2009)

#### Human Relations Commission Staff

Robin S. Toma, Esq., Executive Director Elena Halpert-Schilt, Assistant Executive Director

Gustavo Guerra Vasquez Cherylynn Hoff Sikivu Hutchinson Mary Louise Longoria Grace Löwenberg Isaac Martinez Juan Carlos Martinez Anthony Massengale riKu Matsuda Emily M Pacheco Josh Parr Ray Regalado Fidel Rodriguez Sharon Williams Marshall Wong



# Table of Contents

Preface	З			
What is a Hate Crime?	З			
Underreporting of Hate Crime				
Summary of Hate Crime Report	5			
2008 Hate Crimes in Perspective	8			
Commission Actions to Combat Hate Crime in 2008	16			
A Closer Look at Racial Hate Crimes	20			
A Closer Look at Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes	26			
A Closer Look at Religious Hate Crimes				
A Closer Look at Gender and Disability Crimes	32			
Hate Crime Prosecutions in 2008	32			
Review of 2008 Hate Crime Legislation	33			
Methodology	35			
Appendix A: Reporting Agencies	37			
Appendix B: Hate Crime by Service Planning Areas	38			
Acknowledgements	40			

## Maps

2008 Los Angeles County Hate Crimes	IFC		
2008 Los Angeles County Hate Crimes Motivated by Race/Ethnicity/National Origin	19		
2008 Los Angeles County Hate Crimes Motivated by Sexual Orientation	25		
2008 Los Angeles County Hate Crimes Motivated by Religion	29		
Map of Service Planning Areas	39		
2004-2008 Los Angeles County Hate Crimes			

### Charts

Total Number of Reported Hate Crimes by Year	
Hate Crimes by Criminal Offense	6
Hate Crimes by Location	7
Hate Crimes by Motivation	9
Black-Latino Hate Crimes in 2008	10
Anti-Latino Crimes by Suspect's Race/Ethnicity	10
Anti-Black Crimes by Suspect's Race/Ethnicity	11
Groups Targeted in Hate Crimes	12
Los Angeles County Population by Race/Ethnicity	20
Racial Hate Crimes by Known Targeted Group	20
Racial Hate Crimes by Criminal Offense	21
Racial Hate Crimes by Rate of Violence	22
Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes by Criminal Offense	26
Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes by Known Suspect Race/Ethnicity	27
Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes by Known Victim Race/Ethnicity	27
Religious Hate Crimes by Targeted Group	30
Religious Hate Crimes by Criminal Offense	30
Victims of Religious Hate Crimes by Known Race/Ethnicity	31
Suspects of Religious Hate Crimes by Known Race/Ethnicity	31

# Preface

Since 1980, the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations has compiled, analyzed, and produced an annual report of hate crime data submitted by all 46 sheriff and city police agencies, educational institutions, and community-based organizations.

U sing information from the report, the Commission sponsors a number of ongoing programs related to hate crime: Network Against Hate Crime, Human Relations Mutual Assistance Consortium, Hate Crime Victim Assistance and Advocacy Initiative, Corporate Advisory Committee, Media Image Coalition, Racialized Gang Violence Prevention Initiative, and zerohour/No Haters Here! youth initiative. L.A. County is a leader in hate crime investigation and prosecution and the Commission produces one of the longest-standing reports in the nation documenting hate crime.

The report has been disseminated broadly to policymakers, law enforcement agencies, educators, and community groups throughout Los Angeles County and across the nation in order to better inform efforts to prevent, detect, report, investigate, and prosecute hate crimes.

# What Is A Hate Crime?

According to California state law, hate crime charges are to be considered when there is evidence that bias, hatred, or prejudice — based on the victim's real or perceived race/ethnicity, religion, ancestry, national origin, disability, gender, or sexual orientation — is a substantial factor in the commission of the offense.

This definition is codified in the California penal code sections 422.55 to 422.95 pertaining to hate crime. Evidence of such bias, hatred, or prejudice can be direct or circumstantial. It can occur before, during, or after the commission of the offense.

Hate speech is a criminal offense when the speaker/writer has threatened violence against a specific person or group of persons. The threat must be immediate and unequivocal. The aggressor must also have the ability to carry out that threat. Frequently, derogatory words or epithets are directed against a member of a protected class, but no violence is threatened and there is no apparent ability to harm the target. Such hate incidents are important indicators of intergroup tensions. They are not, however, criminal offenses. Such language is protected by free speech rights set forth in the California and U.S. constitutions.

Graffiti may be a hate crime when it is disparaging to a class of people protected by hate crime laws. This is most often indicated by the use of epithets or hate group symbols or slogans. To be a hate crime, graffiti must be directed at a specific target. For example, racial graffiti on a freeway overpass that does not address itself to a particular person is vandalism, and therefore illegal, but not considered a hate crime. Vandalism of a house of worship or of an ethnic, religious, or gay and lesbian organization may be considered a hate crime in the absence of evidence of other motives.

For more discussion of hate crime and homeless victims see page 15.







# Total Number of Reported Hate Crimes by Year



Reported hate crimes rose in the 1990s, following adoption of legislation by the California state legislature in 1989 that mandated law enforcement to record and report hate crimes.

# **Underreporting of Hate Crimes**

The National Crime Victim Survey by the U.S. Justice Department found that hate crimes occurred 24 to 28 times more than the number reported by police to the FBI.\* This is due to victims not reporting hate crimes to police as well as a failure of law enforcement to classify hate crimes and report them to federal authorities.

#### Common reasons victims don't report hate crime:

- Fear of retaliation
- Linguistic or cultural barriers
- Immigration status
- Lack of knowledge about the criminal justice system
- Fear of insensitive treatment or prior negative experience with government agencies

# Common reasons law enforcement agencies don't report hate crime:

- Hate crime reporting a low priority
- · Lack of formal hate crime policies, training or practices
- Crimes with multiple motivations or involving gangs are frequently not reported as hate crimes
- Reluctance to admit to a problem that could result in negative publicity
- Burden on investigating detectives in order to prove bias motivation."

Hate crimes that occur in schools, jails, and juvenile detention facilities, including large-scale racial brawls, are rarely reported as hate crimes. Therefore, the hate crimes contained in this report likely represent only a fraction of hate crimes actually committed in 2008.

\*U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2005, "Hate Crime Reported by Victims and Police"

# Summary of Hate Crime Report

# 2008

- Hate crimes in Los Angeles declined slightly from 763 in 2007 to 729 in 2008, a 4% decrease.\*
- Hate crimes motivated by racial, ethnic, or national origin bias (simply called "racial hate crimes" in this report) were the most common type (61%). African Americans remained the most frequently targeted group (61%), followed by Latinos (27%). Crimes targeting all other racial or ethnic groups plunged.
- Hate crimes between African Americans and Latinos remained disturbingly high. Black victims of racial hate crimes were targeted by Latinos 69% of the time. Latinos were attacked by blacks 61% of the time.
- Sexual orientation-motivated crimes remained the second largest group (18%) and were the most likely to be of a violent nature (73%). Gay men were the targets in 81% of homophobic crimes.
- Crimes motivated by religion were the third largest category and constituted 16% of the total. The great majority (65%) were anti-Jewish and only 28% were of a violent nature.
- Anti-transgender crimes dropped by half from 14 to 7. There were single cases of anti-female and disabilitymotivated crimes.

- Gang members were responsible for 22% of racial hate crimes and their crimes were overwhelmingly violent (80%).
- White supremacists accounted for 20% of hate crimes and targeted Jews the most frequently (29%) followed by blacks (28%) and Latinos (12%). However, only 14% of these crimes were violent.
- In cases where suspects were identified, they were overwhelmingly male (91%). Young adults (18-25) constituted the largest group of suspects (43%) followed by persons over 25 (30%) and juveniles (27%).
- Hate crimes occurred throughout Los Angeles County but the largest numbers were concentrated in the San Fernando Valley, followed by the Metro area. However, if one accounts for population, the highest rate of hate crimes took place in the Antelope Valley, followed by the Metro area.

*"Hate crimes in Los Angeles County declined slightly from 763 to 728, a 4% decrease."* 







\*Unless otherwise noted, all statistics compare data fron calendar years 2007 and 2008 throughout this report.

# Hate Crimes by Criminal Offense



# Hate Crimes by Location



### Racial Hate Crimes Fall While Others Rise

H ate crimes declined slightly in 2008 from 763 to 729, a 4% decrease. While any decline is encouraging, it should be noted that this is the second largest number of hate crimes reported since 2002. As in previous years, by far the most frequent motivation for hate crimes was race (61%) followed by sexual orientation (18%) and religion (16%). There also were relatively few

reported hate crimes based on gender (1%) and a single crime related to disability.

Despite the decrease, hate crimes did not decline across the board. Crimes motivated by race dropped 16%, but crimes based on sexual orientation grew 21% and religious crimes rose 14%. Hate crimes targeting African Americans, whites, Asians, Armenians, Middle Easterners, and transgender people declined but those targeting gay men and lesbians increased. The number of crimes targeting Latinos and Jews remained virtually the same.

The small reduction in hate crime was consistent with a decrease in crime overall. A preliminary report by the U.S. Department of Justice on crime nationally found that violent crimes in the U.S. declined 2.5% and property crimes

declined 1.6% in 2008. The California Attorney General also issued an initial report showing that violent crime was down 3.3% and property crime declined 3.5% in that same year.

*While any decline is encouraging, this is the second largest number of hate crimes reported since 2002*,

Furthermore, hate crimes were less likely to be of a violent nature in 2008. 60% of all hate crimes were violent, a slightly lower rate of violence than for the last 5 years. Among the largest categories of criminal offenses, 33% were vandalisms; aggravated assaults and simple assaults each comprised 22%; and 12% were acts of intimidation.

There were marked differences in the rates of violence

experienced by different victim groups depending on the motivation. Once again, sexual orientation crimes had the highest rate of violence (73%) followed closely by crimes based on race (68%). By contrast, only 28% of religious-motivated crimes were violent.

Geographically, the San Fernando Valley had the largest number of hate crimes (200) followed by the Metro area (147). However, if one accounts for population, the Antelope Valley had the highest rate of hate crimes (11.8 per 100,000 residents) followed closely by the Metro area (11.7 per 100,000 residents). The East side of the County had the lowest number (31) and rate (2.2 per 100,000 residents) of hate crimes.

Hate crimes occurred most frequently at residences (34%) followed by public places (31%), businesses (14%), schools (11%)

and religious sites (6%). As a general pattern, hate crimes have historically occurred more frequently in public places, such as a street, park, or beach, than at residences. This change is a disturbing development because many people assume that they are safest in their own homes. In addition, when victims are targeted by hate crime at a residence the experience is particularly frightening because it means that the suspect knows where they live, when they leave for work and return, if they have children, and other information that increases their sense of vulnerability. In many cases it also suggests that the perpetrators of such crimes are neighbors.







# Hate Crimes by Motivation



\*These were primarily cases of vandalism that used hate symbols and it could not be determined if the crimes were motivated by race, religion, etc.



#### **McClatchy Newspapers**

NEW YORK — In a Pennsylvania coal mining town last July, four high school football players were accused of shouting ethnic slurs at a Mexican immigrant before a brawl crupted and Luis Ramirez, 25, was killed.

Three of the teens were charged with ethnic intimidation, and the attack became part of a growing category of crimes reported in the U.S.; bate attacks against Hispanics.

Attacks on Hispanics grew 40 percent from 2003 to 2007, outpacing the estimated 16 percent increase in the Hispanic population in the U.S.; according to FBI statistics. Over the same time period, the total number of hate-crime incidents reported nationwide has remained steady.

"We do know from reports and from hate-group activity that there's a new focus on the Latino and immigrant populations," said Randy Blazak, director of the Hate Crimcs Research Network at Portland State University in Oregon.

Since 2004, Blazak said, Ku Klux Klan rhetoric has taken an "incredible shift from anti-black diatribes" toward hatred directed at Latinos.

Experts say the increase in violence targeting Hispanics nationally is likely even larger because hate crimes are underreported, especially in tumigrant communities where residents have an inherent distrust of law-enforcement agencies. They caution, however, that the FBI statistics are drawn from local law enforcement agencies, which have widely disparate standards for labeling crimes as hate crimes.

Seven Patchogue-Medford High School students are accused in the fatal attack on Ecuadorean immigrant Marcelo Lucero on Nov. 9, a death that has been classified as a blas crime. Nassau and Suffolk counties have both reported substantial decreases in hate crimes against Hispanies in recent years.

Mark Potok, head of the intelligence project at the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Ala., a nonprofit organization that combets discrimination and bias crimes, said there has been a sharp increase in the number of groups the organization labels as "hate groups," tising from 602 in 2000 to 888 last year.

"Our analysis is that the growth of these groups was driven almost entirely by their exploitation of the immigration issue," Potok said, referring to the contentious debate over the nation's porous borders and the number of nonresident immigrants in the United States.

The increase in hate crimes targeting Latinos, experts said, can be largely attributed to the declining economy, which has led to fierce job competition, as well as anti-immigrant thetoric.

# Black-Latino Hate Crimes in 2008



### Hate Crimes Between Blacks and Latinos

A frican Americans and Latinos remained the 2 largest groups of victims and there was disturbing evidence of continued tension between the 2 communities.

Black victims of racial hate crime were targeted by Latino suspects in 69% of the cases and 61% of Latino victims were attacked by blacks. The number of black-on-Latino crimes increased 13%, from 39 to 44, and the number of Latino-on-black crimes decreased 10%, from 96 to 86.

# Anti-Latino Crimes by Suspect's Race/Ethnicity



2008 2007

### Gangs Remain a Major Factor in Hate Crimes

H ate crimes committed by gang members declined from 120 to 101, a 16% decrease. This represents 14% of all hate crimes compared to 16% the previous year. This report classifies those crimes where the suspects admitted their gang affiliation or used the names of gangs in graffiti or tattoos as gang-related. They do not include crimes in which solely the appearance of the suspects (e.g., shaved heads, baggy pants) led witnesses to believe they were gang members. The actual number of suspects who were gang members may be higher.

These crimes included the lone hate-motivated murder reported in 2008 (See A Closer Look at Racial Hate Crimes). 80% of gang-related hate crimes were violent compared to 79% in the previous year. Aggravated assaults were the most frequent criminal offense (46%) followed by acts of vandalism (18%), simple assaults (14%), and intimidation (13%). 96% of hate crimes committed by gang members were racially-motivated compared to 94% the previous year. Identified gang members were responsible for 22% of all racial crimes. 68% percent of gang-motivated crimes were anti-black and 22% were anti-Latino.

The gangs included 102 Street East Coast Crips, 12th Street Gang, 18th Street Gang, 38th Street Gang, the Avenues, Barrio Pobre 13, Bloods, Compton Varrio 70s (CV 70's), Tiny Locos (Sub-group of CV 70s), Canoga Park Alabama, Culver City Boys, East Longos Gang, East Side Wilmas, El Monte Flores, Florencia 13, Gardena High School Nasty Boys, Langdon Street Gang, Long Beach Insane Crips, Mad Street Gang, Mara Salvatrucha 13, Nazi Lowriders, North Hollywood Locos 14, Pasadena Denver Lane Bloods, Southsiders, Varrios San Streets, Vineland Boys and SOA (Smoking Out Artists, a subgroup of Vineland Boys), and West Side Longo gang. There were also other crimes in which the suspects were identified as members of Bloods and Crips gangs but the police reports did not specify which subgroup.

# Anti-Black Crimes by Suspect's Race/Ethnicity



# Groups Targeted in Hate Crimes

	■ 2008 ■ 2007	Percentage of Total 2008	Percentage Change from 2007
Black	280 	37%	-10%
Gay (male)	109 102	15%	7%
Mexican	83	11%	17%
Jewish	78 78 78	10%	0%
Latino (not specified)	37 50	5%	-26%
Unknown	33	4%	120%
Lesbian	20 9	3%	122%
Scientologist	0 15	2%	NA
White	15 31	2%	-52%
Christian	11 14	1%	-21%
Armenian	8	1%	-47%
Transgender	14	1%	-50%
Asian/Pacific Islander	6 18	1%	-67%
LGBT (not specified)	5 0	1%	NA
Muslim	5 3	1%	67%
Non-White	5 5	1%	0%
Chinese	4 9	1%	-56%
Korean	4 2	1%	100%
Protestant	4 0	1%	NA
Cuban	∎ 3 □	0%	NA
	0 50 100 150 200 250 300 3	50	

\*In 2008, there were single crimes that targeted females, Germans, Iranians, Iraqis, Mormons, multi-racial groups, the physically-disabled, and Vietnamese. There were two crimes each that targeted Catholics, Japanese, Jehovah's Witnesses, and Middle Easterners.

### White Supremacist Activity Surprisingly High

F or the fourth year in a row this report examines the universe of hate crimes linked to white supremacists. This is evidenced by the use of swastikas, white power symbols, or slogans (e.g., "Heil Hitler"). Sometimes the suspects mentioned the name of a specific white supremacist group verbally or in writing. In 2008 hate crimes displaying white supremacist ideology grew 131 to 143 or from 17% to 20% of all hate crimes.

Jews were targeted in 29% of these crimes, African Americans in 28%, and Latinos in 12%. There were also a fair number of crimes where it was unclear who was being targeted, such as cases in which non-Jewish white victims found their property vandalized with swastikas, but had no idea why they were singled out. These cases are generally classified as "motivation unknown."

The great majority of white supremacist crimes (76%) were acts of vandalism and only 14% of crimes committed by white supremacists were of a violent nature. Nearly half (46%) of victims were targeted at their residences followed by public places (18%), schools (17%) and businesses (13%).

Some experts estimate that nationally only about 5% of hate crimes are committed by members of formal hate groups. Many of the hate groups that claim Southern California chapters are not active and only retain a local post office box or website. It is likely that the majority of these crimes are committed by "lone wolves" who operate independently or with groups of friends, rather than members of formal, structured organizations. Sometimes these perpetrators are only connected with hate groups via the Internet.

However, simply because the suspects in these crimes may not be actual members of organized hate groups does not make them less dangerous. A frightening example of a "lone wolf" is James W. von Brunn who opened fire at the



U.S. Holocaust Museum in Washington,

D.C. on June 10, 2009, killing a black security guard. The shooter had been monitored for decades by civil rights groups and law enforcement because of his racist activities including operating an anti-Semitic website. However, he was not active in any known organized hate groups.

#### Suspects\*

Young adults (18-25) constituted the largest group of suspects (43%) followed by persons over 25 (30%) and juveniles (27%). This distribution is consistent with the previous year.

Similar to past years, males comprised 91% of identified suspects. However, female suspects were just as likely as their male counterparts to commit violent crimes. This is a shift because a higher percentage of male suspects committed violent hate crimes compared to females in the previous year.

\*Throughout this report information on suspects is based on cases in which suspects were identified.

### **Group Attacks**

In previous years this report noted a frightening rise in the number of hate crimes committed by large numbers of juveniles. In 2008 those mob attacks declined and only 31% of hate crimes were committed in groups compared to 45% the previous year. However, there were reports of crimes that were committed by groups as large as 18. In one case, a Latino male was walking with his girlfriend in Long Beach. He was attacked by 3 black male teenagers who yelled, "Fuck Mexicans." The original suspects were joined by 15 more young black men who surrounded and beat the victim. A number of teenage girls were also present and laughed and cheered their male friends on.

# Crimes Related to Conflict in the Middle East

 ${\displaystyle S}$  ince 2001, this report has tracked crimes in which suspects made specific references to events in the

# Fight breaks out after Armenian tribute at school

City News Service VAN NUYS — A skirmish between Armenian and Lathoo students benke out Wednesslay following an Armenian Genoeide renormhrance casenbly at Grant High School. The molec broke out at the Van Nuys campus at 13000 Constructs, during the lumb, beaut, said Susan Cos of this Los Angeles Unified School District. She said no arreats were made and

She said to injuries, there were no injuries. KABC (Channel 7) reported that a shouting match began when Latin students took issue with the program, students took issue with the program, School police quickly got things

smoothed over, "The students that were involved in the fiction were sent home with their parents. We did usk the parents to pick them up themselves. Some of the students were suspended over the next couple of case. We will set all their out on Monthly when the studente return," said school Principal Linda Ibach.

Linda, 1666... "We will have extra officers on camture over the next two days and an Monday, as well, just to make sure thes. (Dings) are all calmed down, she said.

Middle East. Most often, these crimes have involved suspects who call their victims "terrorists" or blame them for the war in Iraq.

> In 2008, these crimes declined from 6 to 4. In one, a black male suspect who was receiving assistance at a mosque in Hawthorne exhibited erratic behavior on several occasions that was perceived to be threatening to the staff. The suspect made several calls to the mosque and left a message, "May Allah punish you with

a suicide bomber." The other

3 crimes were anti-Semitic and made negative references about Israel.

In addition to these crimes, there were 4 other anti-Muslim and 4 other anti-Middle Eastern crimes that may have been inspired by Middle Eastern conflict but there were no direct verbal or written references.

### Hate Crimes Related to the Presidential Election and Prop 8

One of the unusual phenomena in 2008 was a group of hate crimes motivated by the November elections. Across the country, there was a racist backlash against the campaign of President Barak Obama. These crimes included numerous cases of vandalism, displays of nooses, and acts of intimidation. In one of the most serious cases on election night in New York City, a trio of white youth shouted, "Obama!" as they attacked a black teenager originally from Liberia with a metal pipe and police baton. They went on to accost 3 more victims.

In Los Angeles County, there were 8 cases reported in which homes, cars or other property were vandalized because the owners displayed Obama signs or bumper stickers. The graffiti included swastikas, anti-black, and in one case, anti-lesbian slurs. Interestingly, the great majority of the victims were white.

In addition to these crimes, there was a case in Long Beach in which a white male victim was attacked by 3 black suspects and, curiously, 1 white suspect. The suspects shouted, "We got a Nigga in the White House now! What are you going to do about it, white boy?" A Latino friend of the victim tried to intervene and was also beaten.

There was another group of hate crimes prompted by Proposition 8, the constitutional amendment that banned same-sex marriages. The public debate around Prop 8 triggered 9 anti-lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT) crimes. 5 of these crimes were acts of vandalism in which opponents of Prop 8 had their property targeted by homophobic (and in 1 case, anti-black) graffiti. In addition, there were 4 violent crimes.







### Efforts to Document and Combat Violence against Homeless

For the first time this report will examine the subset of hate crimes in which the victims are homeless. On October 9, 2008 John R. McGraham, a homeless man, was set on fire and burned to death in the Mid-Wilshire neighborhood of Los Angeles. In January 2009 Benjamin Martin, an unemployed barber whom years earlier had worked near the scene of the crime, was arrested for the murder. According to an LAPD spokesperson, Martin had "personal dislike for not only Mr. McGraham, but also homeless people in general. It's far too soon to ascribe a motive to this thing but it's probably going to end up boiling down to the demons in this guy's head." As the trial had not begun at the time of this report's release, further information was unavailable.

On November 3, 2008 5 homeless persons were found shot to death in an encampment in Long Beach. These savage homicides were widely reported in the media and further alarmed community leaders and the general public. At the time of this report's publication, no suspects had been identified in the Long Beach slayings and authorities would not speculate about the motive.



These brutal crimes prompted the County Board of Supervisors to pass a motion on March 24, 2009 aimed at strengthening efforts to document and combat violent crimes in which homeless persons are victims. The motion's directives included asking the Los Angeles County

Commission on Human Relations (LACCHR) to include material on anti-homeless bias in trainings delivered to law enforcement and youth and to spotlight hate crimes in which homeless people are victims in this report.

In 2008, there were 5 racially-motivated events involving 6 homeless victims in Los Angeles County. In one, 5 black male suspects attacked a homeless Latino man with lead pipes, shouting, "Fuck Mexicans!" in downtown L.A. There were also 2 cases in which homeless persons were suspects in racial hate crime cases.

### Should Crimes Targeting the Homeless Be Considered Hate Crimes?

Inder federal and California hate crime statutes, the homeless are not a protected class. Therefore crimes motivated by animus toward the homeless are not classified as hate crimes. Prosecutors cannot seek enhanced penalties for defendants convicted of such crimes. Furthermore, most law enforcement agencies do not capture data on anti-homeless crimes or forward such information about such cases to the Office of the California State Attorney General, Federal Bureau of Investigations, or for inclusion in this report.

Legislation was proposed in Congress in 2007 that would add homelessness as a protected class in

federal hate crime laws as well as require the collection of data on anti-homeless crimes. Those bills were referred to committee and no further action was taken.

This year Maryland will become the first state to add the homeless as a protected class under its hate crime statute. On July 31, the District of Columbia passed a bill to include the homeless in its hate crime law and one week later the Mayor signed it into law. Other states, including California and Texas, have considered similar bills but to date have not enacted them.

### **Building Safe, Inclusive** School Environments

n its zerohour: No Haters Here! program, LACCHR staff has worked at 5 high schools, each in different regions of the county. These pilot human relations programs reduced intolerance and fostered campus environments that embrace cultural diversity and, in turn, support academic achievement. For example, Pomona High School created a Diversity and Social Justice class, a Campus Action Team, and instituted annual traditions of Day of Silence (against homophobia) and Transgender Day of Remembrance. In 2008 these programs commemorated Lawrence King, a gay Ventura County high school student who was shot to death in a classroom on February 12 by a classmate.

In 2008, the Commission became part of a group of agencies, led by Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), that was selected for an \$8.8 million grant to carry out a five-year Safe Schools/Healthy Students project at LAUSD's Washington Preparatory High and its feeder schools, campuses that have experienced inter-ethnic violence.

dailynews.com School hate crime probed

# By Karen Maeshiro Sail Wilks

SAUGUS - Sheriff's deputies are investigating an apparent hate crime at Saugue High School in which someone drew a swastika and wrote an anti-gay slur on a student's

The mother of the student whose gym lociaer was vandalized said her son and his tain brother discovered it Wednesday morning.

Her son Todd, a 15-year-old suphomore, is Jewish, but he is not gay, she said.

They were mortified. They were frightened by the experience," said Marcia Davis, who works as an instructional assistant at Saugus.

'Tt's not random. Somebody knows he is Jewish and is intentionally doing this."

Lt. Brenda Cambra of the Santa Clarita sherirf's station said the department is investigating the incident as a hate

The Sheriff's Department takes hate crimes very seri-uusly,' said Cambra, who nush;" said Cambra, who attended a Thursday news conference in front of the school to discuss the incident.

Rabbi Mark Blazer of Temple Beth Ami in Santa Clarita, said other Jewish students also tailed of being harassed for their religions beliefs, being proselytized, and facing hostility toward Judaism in general.

"What was elear was that this is part of an origoing problem at the high school," Blazer said. "This is not something

Blazer said one goal set as a result of the incident is to form a Jewish shident club at the high school.

Saugus High Principal Bill Bolde and Hart Union High School District Superintendent Jaime Castellanns did not respond to requests for com-

kanns monstere@dstynews.com 001-475-4585



### Intervening in Communities Plagued by Hate Crimes and Racialized Gang Violence

n 2008, Los Angeles County government embarked on a mission pursuant to a motion passed by the Board of Supervisors to develop a comprehensive strategy to reduce The Commission established the Harbor Gateway Gang Reduction and Community Empowerment Project in partnership with Toberman Neighborhood Center and the

gang violence. The selected demonstration sites for the strategy are Monrovia-Duarte, Harbor Gateway, Florence-Firestone and Pacoima. All have experienced different degrees of interracial violence involving The multi-agency gangs. working groups have implemented a data-gathering process in recent months. consisting of community meetings where local residents, community-based organizations, faith leaders and government representatives answered questions posed by countysponsored facilitators.

The L.A. County Chief Executive Officer (CEO) has led the process, convening meetings of county and city agencies, law enforcement, and communitybased organizations to define the problem locally, identify resources and deficits, and propose ideas to address the problem. LACCHR staff have been involved in these efforts to ensure that the plan incorporates human relations strategies to prevent and

address the impact of racialized gang violence in County demonstration sites. This process will culminate in the CEO presenting a strategy and plan to reduce gang violence in those areas to the Board of Supervisors.

**''**This gang intervention work will rebuild communities by promoting positive human relations and encouraging civic participation...**''**  Boys and Girls Club of the South Bay, funded through a grant from the Federal Government through Supervisor Knabe's office. The project has placed 2 gang intervention workers and a civic engagement organizer in a targeted area of the Gateway. This gang intervention work will rebuild community bv positive human promoting relations and encouraging civic participation in organizations such as neighborhood watch groups, neighborhood councils, and parent groups to identify issues and engage in collective problem-solving.

In the Pasadena/Altadena area, in response to a series of ganginvolved, violent racial attacks. the Commission's Racialized Violence Prevention Gana Initiative played a key role in convening the Vision 20/20 In 2008, the Collaborative. Commission received additional funding from The California Endowment to bring together and support collaboration between the African American

and Latino communities, with city government, city college and school board resources to address the roots of interracial violence carried out by gang members.



### **Convening Networks to Combat Hate**

On June 26, 2008, the Commission held an Interfaith Roundtable on Hate Crimes to create a countywide network of faith leaders to support human relations programs. This event spawned 5 subsequent regional Interfaith Roundtables, 1 in each Supervisorial District. The Second District Roundtable was held on November 13, 2008 in the City of Carson and the remainder took place in 2009.

Established by the Commission in 1984, the Network Against Hate Crime (NAHC) brings together law enforcement agencies, human relations organizations, educators, faith communities, social service and advocacy groups and concerned individuals to coordinate efforts to combat hate crime. The Network meets quarterly to share information and resources, track legislation and sponsor educational activities about preventing, investigating, prosecuting and responding to hate activity.

# During 2008, NAHC sponsored a number of educational activities, including:

- A panel discussion on the murder of Lawrence King, a 15-year-old who was shot to death by a 14-year-old classmate in an Oxnard junior high school classroom because he was openly gay and non-gender conforming
- The screening of an excerpt of "Vincent Who?" about the lasting impact of the 1982 murder of Vincent Chin, a Chinese American who was beaten to death in Detroit by a laid-off auto worker and his stepfather who blamed Japan for the decline of the U.S. auto industry
- A presentation by Joanna Mendelson, a researcher with the Anti-Defamation League, who discussed the activities of extremist anti-immigration groups
- A tour of the recently renovated Museum of Tolerance including remarks by a museum staff person who had been the homeless victim of a horrific gay-bashing by a group of skinheads

#### Assisting Victims of Hate Crime

The Commission provided direct support to victims of hate crime ranging from an Asian stabbing victim of a white supremacist, to the parents of children injured in racialized gang violence, to an African American mother whose son had been repeatedly harassed and threatened by young Latino men living in the same housing project. Staff helped assess the needs of victims and survivors linking them with appropriate services, held press conferences to denounce the crimes and deter retaliatory violence, and assisted a family in relocating to a safer neighborhood.

LACCHR also worked with local organizations, including Pomona Advocates for Communication and Trust, the Claremont Committee on Human Relations, the Long Beach Human Dignity Program, and the Antelope Valley Human Relations Task Force, in responding to victims of hate crime and discrimination.

#### Hate Crime Education and Training

LACCHR provided hate crime education and training to a wide array of audiences throughout 2008, including the leadership of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, Los Angeles Police Department Hate Crime Coordinators, West LAPD Station Community Relations Committee, Long Beach Hate Crime Response Team, Claremont Human Relations Forum, Pomona Advocates for Communication and Trust, Beverly Hills Human Relations Commission, Georgetown University School of Law, UCLA School of Social Welfare, Pitzer College, Constitutional Rights Foundation, and at a public forum co-sponsored by the Los Angeles City Human Relations Commission LGBT Advisory Council and the West Hollywood Transgender Task Force.

# A Closer Look at Racial Hate Crimes



2008 Los Angeles County Hate Crimes Motivated by Race/Ethnicity/National Origin

# A Closer Look at Racial Hate Crimes

Crimes motivated by a victim's real or perceived race, ethnicity or national origin (referred to as simply racial hate crimes in this report) decreased 16% in 2008, from 535 to 452, and declined as a percentage of all hate crimes, from 68% to 61%. Moreover, crimes that targeted African Americans, Asians, whites, Middle Easterners and Armenians fell across the board. Only the number of anti-Latino crimes remained virtually unchanged. While this news is encouraging there were more racial hate crimes in 2008 than in any year since 2001, except for 2007.

### **Rates of Victimization**

A nti-black crimes were by far the most numerous, comprising 280 or 61% of all racial hate crimes. This continued high rate of victimization is particularly troubling in light of the fact that the African American population is only 9% of the total Los Angeles County and is smaller than the percentage of Latinos (47%) whites (29%) and Asians (13%).



Los Angeles County

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008.

Anti-Latino crimes remained virtually unchanged (from 125 123) and to constituted 27% of the total. There were 17 anti-Asian crimes. a 51% decline and the lowest number reported since the 1980s. Similarly, anti-white crimes plunged 52% from 31 to 15, the lowest number since 1990. Crimes targeting Armenians dropped 47%. from 15 to 8. Anti-Middle Eastern crimes fell 73%, from 15 to 4.



# Racial Hate Crimes by Known Targeted Group

### Racial Hate Crimes by Criminal Offense



### **Criminal Offenses**

here were 1 murder and 3 attempted murders motivated by race.

- James Shamp, an African American man employed as a janitor at a bowling alley in Canoga Park, was shot to death as he was throwing out trash. 3 members of the Canoga Park Alabama gang, which has a long history of violent anti-black crimes, were arrested and charged with murder and hate crime enhancements.
- At Men's Central Jail in downtown Los Angeles, a Mexican inmate attacked a sleeping Cuban man, yelling, "You Cuban piece of shit!" The suspect attempted to strangle the victim and slammed his head repeatedly against the metal sink, toilet, and cell door.
- In West Adams, 2 Latino males in a vehicle shouted, "Hey Nigger!" before shooting a black male victim without provocation in the parking lot of a convenience store.

 3 Latino men were sitting on a grassy area adjacent to a Metro stop in downtown L.A. A black male suspect told them, "A Mexican killed my brother. I hate Mexicans." He displayed a knife and asked, "Which one of you want it first?" One of the Latino men stood up and was stabbed. The victim started to run but was stabbed 2 more times. The suspect fled on foot.

The rate of violence employed in racial hate crimes declined slightly from 71% to 68%. Simple and aggravated assaults decreased significantly and the number of vandalisms declined 7%. However, there was a sharp rise in the number of acts of intimidation.



### Location

The largest number of racial crimes occurred in public places (36%) followed by residences (34%), businesses (14%) and schools (12%). This represents a decline in the number of crimes in public places and a rise in the number of victims targeted at their homes.

### Differences in Levels of Violence Experienced by Victims

F or most victims of racial hate crime, the highest rate of violence was experienced by Latinos (80%) followed by whites (73%), Asians (65%), and African Americans (63%). For these groups the levels of violence declined for all groups except for Asians, which rose.

Armenians were victims of violent hate crime in 67% of cases and Middle Easterners in 60%, but the absolute numbers of these crimes are so low that fluctuations from year to year may not represent trends.



# Racial Hate Crimes by Rate of Violence

### Victim-Suspect Correlations\*

here were clear patterns of victimization in racial hate crimes.

African Americans were targeted most frequently by Latinos (69%) followed by whites (26%).

Latinos were targeted most often by blacks (61%) and whites (24%).

Asian Americans were targeted by Latinos in 56% and by whites in 33% of the crimes.

Whites were targeted most often by Latinos (46%) blacks (23%) and other whites \*\* (15%).

Middle Eastern victims were targeted by equal percentages of Latinos and whites.

Armenians were targeted by Latinos in 80% of cases and by whites in 20%.

#### **Anti-Immigrant Hate Crimes**

eated public debate about immigration continued throughout 2008. However, the number of crimes in which specific anti-immigrant comments were made, such as, "wetback," decreased from 39 to 35, a 10% decline. 80% of these crimes were violent compared to 92% the previous year. The largest number (57%) occurred in public places, but 31% occurred at residences and 6% each in schools and at businesses.

These crimes were overwhelmingly anti-Latino (86%). But 3 were anti-Asian and there were single crimes targeting Iraqis and blacks. The largest group of suspects in these cases were black (48%) followed by whites (42%) and Latinos (6%). The previous year, 66% of suspects in these crimes were white and 12% were black.

It is important to note that many other racial crimes may be inspired by anti-immigrant animus that was not explicitly verbalized. For example, a suspect who assaults a Latino victim while yelling, "Dirty Mexican!" may despise immigrants as much as one who specifically shouts, "Go back to Mexico!"

#### \*Throughout this report information on suspects is based on cases in which suspects were identified.

\*\* These crimes include an anti-Armenian and an anti-German attack, or cases in which white victims were in the company of people of color.

### Anti-Inter-racial Relationship Crimes

Crimes that targeted inter-racial couples or groups of racially mixed friends fell from 38 to 13, or 66%. 10 of these crimes were motivated by anti-black sentiment, although the actual victims were primarily Latinos and whites who had African American friends. For example, in Bellflower a white female had her vehicle's tires slashed and vandalized with the graffiti, "Nigger-Lover," because she had a black roommate. In another case a black adult male attacked 2 students (1 black and 1 Latino) walking to school while yelling anti-Latino slurs. He also attacked a Latino security guard who tried to intervene.

The rate of violent inter-racial crimes grew from 74% to 85%. The largest number of these crimes (54%) occurred in residences and 23% occurred in both businesses and in public places.



### Actual Cases -Racial Hate Crimes

#### February 12 - Covina

A white teenager was approached by 3 Latino teenagers, who said, "Fuck you, punk ass white boy!" and then jumped him. During the fight, one of the suspects pulled out a knife and slashed him in the face.

#### March 21 - Pasadena

At a high school, an African American teacher received 6 calls. 3 of the calls were hang-ups and in the other 3 an unknown male told him, "Fuck niggers." On the same day, his classroom door was vandalized with "Fuck Niggers" and swastikas. Lockers and an adjacent classroom door were also vandalized with similar graffiti.

#### May 10 - Downtown Los Angeles

A Latino motorist was stopped by a black female who forced him at gunpoint to get out of his car. She was joined by 2 black males and 1 black female who beat and robbed him. During the attack, one of the suspects said, "Let's have fun with this Mexican fucking wetback and shoot him already."

#### May 17 - Newhall

3 young Latinas were walking in an apartment complex when 2 older white teenage girls pulled up in a car and shouted, "Fucking beaners!" They jumped out of the vehicle and hit the victims with a flashlight and kicked them forcefully.

#### June 4 - Shadow Hills, Los Angeles

3 Latino males in a vehicle stopped an Armenian motorist. They ordered him to get out of the car and give them his wallet. When he failed to do so, they beat him with their fists and struck him with a hammer. The suspects were later arrested and one admitted to police that they selected their victim because he was "obviously Armenian" and "they think they are better..."

#### August 31 - Culver City

Latino members of the Culver City Boys gang were gathered by a parked car. As a black female victim passed, one of the suspects asked, "Where's your bitch-ass baby Daddy at?" He followed the victim then pulled out a handgun. The suspect pointed the weapon at the victim and told her, "We don't like Niggers!" The victim ran into a nearby house and the suspect kicked in the door and continued to yell racial slurs.

# A Closer Look at Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes



## 2008 Los Angeles County Hate Crimes Motivated by Sexual Orientation

# A Closer Look at Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes

H ate crimes based on homophobia increased 21%, from 111 to 134. As in past years, gay men were targeted in the great majority of these crimes (81%) and anti-lesbian crimes made up 15%. The remaining 4% targeted LGBT-oriented organizations as opposed to individuals.

Sexual orientation-motivated crimes were violent in 73% of the cases, a greater proportion than for racial- (68%) or religious- (28%) motivated crimes. Simple assaults constituted 35%, aggravated assaults 25%, vandalisms 23%, and acts of intimidation 11%.

### Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes by Criminal Offense



# Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes by Known Suspect Race/Ethnicity



H istorically, victims of sexual orientation hate crimes have been attacked most often by suspects of the same race. In 2008, Latinos were targeted by other Latinos in 72% of the crimes and African Americans were attacked by other blacks 70% of the time. White victims of sexual orientation crimes were attacked by racially diverse suspects. In cases targeting whites, 51% involved white suspects, 43% involved Latino suspects, and 17% involved black suspects.\* It should be noted that some of these victims were attacked by groups of suspects of different races.

33% of sexual orientation-motivated crimes occurred in public places followed by residences (32%), businesses (18%) and schools (10%).

### Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes by Known Victim Race/Ethnicity



hites constituted the largest number of victims of homophobic crimes (46%) followed by Latinos (34%) and blacks (10%). The previous year Latinos comprised the largest number of victims.

\*Throughout this report, information on suspects is based on cases in which suspects were identified.

Note: Anti-transgender hate crime is not counted in this section. Consistent with state law, anti-transgender attacks are classified in this report as gender-based hate crimes.

# — Actual Cases — Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes

#### June 22 - Santa Clarita

2 white brothers were walking into a convenience store when 2 men (1 white, 1 Latino) seated in a parked car yelled, "Hey queer!" When they exited the store, the men in the car again shouted, "Hey queers! We're talking to you!" One of the suspects exited the vehicle and attacked one of the victims. When the second victim tried to break up the fight, the other suspect attacked him.

#### July 28 - Malibu

A white lesbian couple had been walking hand in hand on the beach when a white tourist family from Arkansas began walking behind them. The mother of the family told them, "You are going to burn in hell!" and dumped her water bottle on one of the victims. When the suspect approached to reclaim the bottle she punched the victim in the face. The victim began to take pictures of the suspect, who attacked her again, trying to grab the camera.

#### May 8 - City of San Fernando

A newspaper journalist wrote an article profiling a man who took part in a charitable bike ride to raise money for AIDS charities. In response, she received 54 antigay e-mails from the same person at her office.

#### August 1 - Hollywood

2 Latino men were holding hands while waiting in line at a restaurant. 2 male suspects (1 white and 1 Latino) confronted them, saying "You fucking faggot motherfuckers! You sons of bitches! Faggots, you can't be here! Get out of here!" One of the victims verbally defended himself. The white suspect responded by punching him in the face. The Latino suspect pinned the victim's arms while the white suspect continued punching him. The second victim and 2 bystanders intervened to stop the beating.

#### November 2 - Los Angeles

A white gay male found the word, "Yes" spray-painted across his "No on 8" sign and the word "Fags" written on the cement wall in front of his home.

# A Closer Look at Religious Hate Crimes



# 2008 Los Angeles County Hate Crimes Motivated by Religion

# Religious Hate Crimes by Targeted Group



R eligious-motivated hate crimes increased 14% from 105 to 120. Consistent with previous years, the great majority (65%) were anti-Jewish. They were followed by anti-Scientology crimes (13%), anti-other Christian (9%), and anti-Muslim (4%) crimes. This was the first year that a large number of anti-Scientology crimes were reported. However, most of the 15 anti-Scientology crimes appear to be committed by the same person. 10 of the cases involved threatening letters containing a white powder that were mailed to various Scientology churches throughout L.A. County during the final days of January and the first week of February. The powder turned out to be harmless. One Scientology church also reported that it had been vandalized with similar graffiti on 3 different occasions.

# **Religious Hate Crimes by Criminal Offense**

As in previous years, the majority of the cases were acts of vandalism (58%) followed by intimidation (16%), disorderly conduct (8%) and simple assault (7%). Only 28% were crimes of a violent nature. There were, however, 6 cases of arson.



# Victims of Religious Hate Crimes by Known Race/Ethnicity



ANTELOPE VALLEY County offers rewards in slaving, hate crime

dailynews.com Wednesday 07/16/08

> County supervisors Torsney approved a \$30,000 reward, for information leading to the arrest and convision of a Lancaster man accused of stabling his gliffriend to death with a speed in front of their four children.

In another case, a \$10,000 reward is being offered for information leading to the arrest of the people with spray-painted racial stars and swastikas July 8 on two abandoned homes in the 1000 block of Wist, Avenue P-1

in Palmdale. Anyone with information on the hate utime incident is asked to contact Detective BIII Gordon at the Palmdale sheriff's station at 881-272-2400.

The largest number of these crimes occurred at residences (33%) followed by religious sites (32%), public places (13%), and schools (11%).

> Because most religious crimes are vandalisms or threatening calls and letters, suspects were identified in only 23% of the cases. Suspects were identified in 19 of the anti-Jewish crimes; and in

58% of those cases, the

suspects were white.\* There were very few other identified suspects.

16 of the religious crimes involved language or symbols related to Satanism. 11 of those involved satanic graffiti at churches or religious schools. One of those churches was also set on fire with Molotov cocktails. In addition, several vehicles were targeted with similar graffiti and there was 1 simple assault and 2 aggravated assaults.

# Suspects of Religious Hate Crimes by Known Race/Ethnicity



### — Actual Cases — Religious Hate Crimes

#### February 19 - West Hills, Los Angeles

An unknown suspect set fire to the front porch and vehicle of a Jewish man and stole a mezzuzah from his front door.

#### April 13, 2008 - Whittier

A church was vandalized with Satanic graffiti including upside-down crosses, "666," and the phrase, "Death to blind faith."

#### June 11 - North Hollywood

A Jewish male found a five-foot swastika spray-painted on the side of his residence.

#### September 1 - Los Feliz

2 Latina members of the Church of Scientology were offering stress tests on the sidewalk. 2 males in a passing vehicle shouted, "Screw Scientology!" and threw a 20 ounce bottle of Gatorade at them.

\*Throughout this report information on suspects is based on cases in which suspects were identified.

# A Closer Look at Gender and Disability Crimes

Crimes motivated by the victim's gender or gender identity declined from 15 to 8. In one case a woman had her residence vandalized with graffiti that was racist, anti-lesbian and used the word "whore." The other 7

crimes targeted transgender women.

Consistent with previous years, the 7 anti-transgender crimes were all of a violent nature. 6 were physical attacks and 1 was a death threat.

3 of the crimes took place in bars and 2 of them started as arguments about the victims using the women's restrooms. 2 other crimes occurred in public places while one crime took

place in a jail cell and another at a residence. Unlike previous years, none of the transgender victims were targeted in areas known for street prostitution. 3 of the victims were white, 3 were Latina and 1 was black. Most of the victims were attacked by suspects of the same race. Female suspects were involved in 4 of the crimes and males were also suspects in 4.

> There was a lone crime that targeted the disabled. A hospital in Hancock Park was spray-painted with, "Fuck Jews" and "Fuck Cripples."

# Hate Crime Prosecutions in 2008

The District Attorney's (D.A.) Office prosecutes the great majority of hate crimes in Los Angeles County. In 2008, the D.A.'s Office filed hate crime in 146 cases, compared to 167 the previous year. 70 adults and 76 juveniles were charged.

In the adult cases, 58 of the defendants were charged with felonies. Of these, 84% were motivated by the victims' race or nationality. 12% were related to the victims' sexual orientation and there were single cases based on religion and disability.

12 adults were also charged with misdemeanors. 10 of these crimes were racially-motivated and 2 were based on religion.

43 hate crimes were referred to the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office in 2008, which filed 25 cases as hate crimes in which all of the defendants were adults.

The U.S. Attorney's Office, which is responsible for prosecuting federal offenses, did not file any hate crime charges in 2008. However, they did prosecute a number of members of gangs known for racially-motivated attacks.



### State Legislation Related to Hate Crime

#### Assembly Bill 86 (Lieu, Salas and Solorio)

**Pupil Safety Act** specifies that "bullying" means one or more acts by a pupil or a group of pupils directed against another pupil that constitutes sexual harassment, hate violence, or severe or pervasive intentional harassment, threats, or intimidation that is disruptive, causes disorder and invades the rights of others by creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment. This law gives school officials grounds to suspend or expel a pupil for bullying including, but not limited to, bullying by electronic act. This bill became law on January 1, 2009.

#### Assembly Concurrent Resolution108 (Eng)

ACR 108 designated the month of June 2008 as **Hate Crimes Awareness Month** to increase awareness about diversity, tolerance, and hate crimes.

#### Assembly Bill 2762 (Eng)

AB 2762 would establish the **Diversity Education Pilot Program**, which would authorize the State Department of Education to award \$25,000 to five schools for necessary resources and tools to deal with incidents of hate crime or inter-group conflict on school campuses. The State Assembly passed this bill on May 23, 2008, and sent it to the State Senate. However, the session ended without it ever leaving the State Senate Appropriations Committee.

#### Assembly Bill 2799 (Saldana)

AB 2799 would require each county to establish a hate crimes commission or direct an existing board or committee (commission) to review the incidents of hate crimes within the county and ensure that local law enforcement agencies are responding to hate crimes and reporting these crimes to the Attorney General as specified. The State Assembly passed this bill and sent it to the Senate on May 29, 2008. On June 12, 2008, it was referred to the Committee on Rules and remained there at the close of session.

### Federal Legislation Related to Hate Crime

The following federal hate crime-related bills were introduced in the 110th Congress. Since these bills didn't pass, and never became law, they were cleared from the books.

#### H.R. 6123 (Sanchez)

**Megan Meier Cyberbullying Prevention Act** is named after 13-year-old Megan Meier, who committed suicide after online harassment. It would amend the federal criminal code to impose criminal penalties on anyone who transmits in interstate or foreign commerce a communication intended to coerce, intimidate, harass, or cause substantial emotional distress to another person, using electronic means to support severe, repeated, and hostile behavior. This bill was reintroduced as H.R. 1966 to the 111th Congress on April 2, 2009. It was referred to House Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security on May 26, 2009.

#### H.R. 6776 (Jackson-Lee)

David Ray Ritcheson Hate Crime Prevention Act would allow victims of hate crimes to claim unemployment insurance. It would prohibit health care insurers from taking into account whether a person is or has been a victim of a hate crime to determine insurance coverage eligibility. It would also allow a victim of a hate crime to take family and medical leave.

It would authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to award grants to (1) provide housing and offer counseling to victims of a hate crime and their dependents; (2) establish and operate a national clearinghouse and resource center for information and statistics relating to the incidence and prevention of hate crimes; and (3) establish and operate a national, toll-free telephone hotline and a website to provide information and assistance to victims of hate crimes and their dependents.

#### H.R. 6776 (Jackson-Lee) - (continued)

It would authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants to local educational agencies and institutions of high education to improve and provide programs relating to hate crimes. This bill was referred to the House Administration and Financial Services on August 1, 2008. It was reintroduced as H.R. 262 to the 111th Congress on January 7, 2009. It was referred to House Subcommittee on Workforce Protections on March 3, 2009.

#### H.R. 6777 (Jackson-Lee)

**Noose Hate Crime Act of 2008** would amend the federal criminal code to impose a fine and/or prison term of up to two years on anyone who, with intent to harass or intimidate any person because of that person's race, religion, or national origin, displays a noose in public. On August 1, 2008, this bill was referred to House Committee on the Judiciary. This bill was reintroduced as H.R. 70 to the 111th Congress on January 6, 2009 and referred to the House Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security on February 9, 2009.

#### S. 1105 (Kennedy)

**Matthew Shepard Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007**, first introduced in 1998 by Senator Ted Kennedy as the Hate Crimes Prevention Act in an effort to amend the 1968 hate crime law. In 2008 the bill did not move forward. It was reintroduced in 2009 to the Senate in the 111th Congressional Session as S. 909 - The Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Prevention Act (Kennedy), and passed by both Houses by October 22, 2009. The President Barak Obama signed the re-named *Matthew Shepard and James Byrd*, *Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act* was signed into law on October 28, 2009.

It authorizes the Attorney General to: (1) provide assistance to state, local, or tribal law enforcement agencies to investigate or prosecute violent crimes and hate crimes; and (2) award grants to assist such agencies with expenses associated with the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes. It also authorize the Office of Justice Programs to award grants to state, local, or tribal programs designed to prevent and respond to hate crime.

It amends the federal criminal code to include gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, and disability to the list of protected groups (race, color, religion, national origin). It amends the Hate Crimes Statistics Act to expand data collection and reporting requirements to include crimes manifesting prejudice based on gender and gender identity, and crimes committed by and against juveniles. It would declare that nothing in this Act would prohibit the exercise of constitutionally protected free speech. The 2008 Hate Crime Report provides a statistical snapshot of reported hate crimes to inform efforts to combat bias-motivated activity. Such data collection and analysis provides policy-makers and practitioners insight into the urgent issues and greatest needs for education, prevention, intervention, victim assistance and advocacy. The Commission receives reports from law enforcement, school districts and universities, community-based organizations, as well as directly from victims.

Of the 899 reports of hate events (both crimes and incidents) received for 2008, 612 events involving 729 victims and 970 suspects met the legal criteria for hate crimes and are included in this report. Unless otherwise noted, all numbers in the report refer to victims rather than cases.

### Changes in Categories for Criminal Offenses

Last year we adjusted our categorization of some criminal offenses to conform with reporting standards from the California Attorney General and the Justice Department and to allow comparisons with other crime statistics. The 4 categories of aggravated assault, simple assault, disorderly conduct, and intimidation aggregate the following criminal offenses listed in previous reports.

#### **Aggravated Assault**

Includes Assault with a Deadly Weapon, Assault with Intent to Cause Great Bodily Injury, and Brandishing a Weapon.

#### Simple Assault

Includes Assault and Battery and Throwing Objects at a Vehicle with Intent to Commit Bodily Injury.

#### **Disorderly Conduct**

Includes Annoying Phone Call or Email, Challenging to a Fight, Computer Hacking, Displaying Swastika to Terrorize Property Owner, Disturbing the Peace, and Reckless Driving.

#### Intimidation

Includes Bomb Threat, Criminal Threat, and Stalking.



# **Understanding the Numbers**

- If a violent crime is committed against multiple victims, we count each victim separately.
- We report the perpetrators' intended targeted 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 (e.g., when a Latino victim is perceived by the perpetrator as African American).
- A handful of cases involved epithets targeting more than 1 group. Therefore the total number of cases by motivation or by targeted group actually exceeds the 729 hate crimes for 2008.

- We also received a handful of reports, usually minor vandalism, in which the information provided in a law enforcement agency's report was too minimal to determine specific bias motivation and targeted group. In these cases the motivation and targeted group are deemed "unknown."
- It is important to note that fluctuations in data from year to year do not necessarily indicate trends; sometimes, an increase one year follows an equivalent decrease the previous year. Multiyear data can give 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 is 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 reporting law enforcement agency for a given jurisdiction.







# 2008 Reporting Agencies

#### **Police Departments**

Alhambra Police Department Arcadia Police Department Azusa Police Department Baldwin Park Police Department **Bell Police Department Bell Gardens Police Department Beverly Hills Police Department Burbank Police Department Claremont Police Department** Covina Police Department Culver City Police Department **Downey Police Department** El Monte Police Department El Segundo Police Department Gardena Police Department **Glendale Police Department** 

#### **Educational Institutions**

Alhambra City and High School Districts Azusa Unified School District Bonita Unified School District Citrus Community College District Culver City Unified School District East Whittier City School District El Monte City School District El Monte Union High School District El Segundo Unified School District Glendora Unified School District Lancaster School District Lennox School District

Glendora Police Department Hawthorne Police Department Hermosa Beach Police Department Huntington Park Police Department Inglewood Police Department Irwindale Police Department La Verne Police Department Long Beach Police Department Los Angeles Police Department Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Manhattan Beach Police Department Maywood Police Department Monrovia Police Department Montebello Police Department Monterey Park Police Department

Palos Verdes Police Department Pasadena Police Department Pomona Police Department Redondo Beach Police Department San Fernando Police Department San Gabriel Police Department San Marino Police Department Santa Monica Police Department Sierra Madre Police Department Signal Hill Police Department South Gate Police Department South Pasadena Police Department **Torrance Police Department** Vernon Police Department West Covina Police Department Whittier Police Department

Long Beach Community College District Los Angeles Community College District Los Angeles Unified School District Lowell Joint School District Lynwood Unified School District Montebello Unified School District Mt. San Antonio Community College District Newhall School District Paramount Unified School District Rio Hondo Community College District Rowland Unified School District Saugus Union School District Temple City Unified School District University of California, Los Angeles Valle Lindo School District Walnut Valley Unified School District West Covina Unified School District Whittier City School District William S. Hart Union High School District Wiseburn School District

#### **Community-based Organizations**

Anti-Defamation League

Fair Housing Council of the San Fernando Valley L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center

# **Appendix B:**

# Hate Crimes by Service Planning Areas

#	NAME	Partial Listing of Cities and Areas	2006 Population Estimates*	Hate Crimes 2008	2008 Hate Crimes per 100,000 residents
1	Antelope Valley	All of the Antelope Valley including Acton, Castaic, Gorman, Lancaster, Palmdale, Santa Clarita, Valencia	347,823	41	11.8
2	San Fernando Valley	All of the San Fernando Valley including Glendale, Newhall, Northridge, San Fernando, Westlake Village, East & West Valley areas	2,146,515	200	9.3
З	San Gabriel	All of the San Gabriel Valley including Alhambra, Altadena, Foothill, Irwindale, La Puente, Pasadena, Pomona, El Monte	1,868,116	91	4.9
4	Metro	Atwater, Boyle Heights, Downtown, Eagle Rock, Echo Park, Glassell Park, Hancock Park, Koreatown, Hollywood, Park La Brea, West Hollywood, Silverlake	1,260,196	147	11.7
5	West	Beverly Hills, Culver City, Malibu, Marina del Rey, Pacific Palisades, Playa del Rey, Santa Monica, Venice, Westchester	636,309	51	8.0
6	South	Compton, Florence, Lynwood, South Los Angeles, Watts	1,041,685	63	6.0
7	East	Vernon, Maywood, Huntington Park, Bellflower, South Gate, Lakewood, Hawaiian Gardens, Signal Hill, Montebello, Pico Rivera, Cerritos, La Mirada, Whittier, La Habra	1,379,540	31	2.2
8	South Bay	Inglewood, Torrance, Long Beach, Manhattan Beach, Palos Verdes, Redondo Beach, San Pedro	1,605,621	92	5.7

There are 13 additional hate crimes that were not included because of insufficient address information.

\* Service Planning Areas (SPAs) represent eight geographic regions of L.A. County. SPAs are widely used for social service and health care planning purposes and are linked through SPA Councils to community-based organizations, neighborhood groups, cities, schools, county and city government agencies.

# Map of Hate Crime by Service Planning Areas





# Acknowledgements

This report was developed by the Human Relations Commission

Executive Director	Robin S. Toma
Assistant Executive Director	Elena Halpert-Schilt
Report team members	Isaac Martinez Juan Carlos Martinez Emily M. Pacheco Marshall Wong
Report analysts	Benjamin Angulo Sikivu Hutchinson riKu Matsuda Josh Parr Ray Regalado
Consultant	Jacob Kang-Brown
Commission staff member	Sharon Williams
Prosecution Data Contributors	Gretchen Ford of the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office Richard Kraft of the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office Tammy Spertus of the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Cover concept and graphic design Debby Hustrulid of Ideal Printing Company.

Thanks to all of the Commission staff for their contributions and assistance. Special thanks to Commander Harlan Ward, Commander Patrick Gannon, Captain Ann Young, and Alexis Oliver of the Los Angeles Police Department, and Lt. Brian Moriguchi, Wendy Harn and Toni Veltri of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department for their continuing support. We would also like to recognize and thank the law enforcement agencies, school districts, universities, and community-based organizations that provided us with 2008 hate crime data used in this report.

# 2004-2008 Los Angeles County Hate Crimes



#### **Antelope Valley**



#### San Fernando Valley



### Hollywood/West Hollywood



www.LAHumanRelations.org

