

HATE CRIMES AGAINST THE DISABILITY COMMUNITY

Background

- The USDOL currently reports that the Disability Community is the largest minority in the country at 50 million Americans as the reported number.
- The State of CT currently is the 6th oldest state by average age. As you age there is potential to become disabled.
- Many persons with disabilities will not self-identify for several reasons:
 - Stigma
 - Fear
- There are a vast number of disabilities that leave the affected individual unable to communicate.
- Many disabilities are either invisible or non-apparent.

Further Background

- State Sources for Reporting of Hate Crimes Against the Disability Community-
 - DESPP
 - CSP (Connecticut State Police) CAU (Crimes Analysis Unit)- CAU oversees CT Bias (Hate) crime reporting programs.
- In 2020, (most recent data), 98 total bias (Hate) crimes reported in CT.
 - 4 total reported for disability bias (Hate).
 - Anti-physical disability-1
 - Anti-mental disability-3
 - Reported from the towns of Enfield, Glastonbury, New Britain, Westport

Disability Community Concerns

- Lack of education on clear definition of Hate Crime. (Ex. If a crime is committed against a person with an invisible or non-apparent disability, does that rise to the level of Hate Crime if the person committing the crime is unaware of the disability?)
- Lack of education on current/existing reporting mechanisms and if others are allowed to report crime for them. Universal accessibility of reporting mechanisms such that all persons with disabilities can utilize them.
- Fear of self-identifying a disability to law enforcement.
- Lack of media coverage of crimes committed against Disability Community.

Considerations For Our Advisory Council

- Create clear definition of “Hate Crime” with respect to persons with disabilities that includes input from the Disability Community.
- Research, identify and develop universally accessible reporting mechanisms that currently exist either in the U.S. or abroad that can be mirrored here in Connecticut that includes input from the Disability Community.
- Recommend statute, (if necessary), that allows anyone to report a hate crime on behalf of someone in the Disability Community.
- Recommend the creation and development of universally accessible educational materials and opportunities for the Disability Community on Hate Crimes and reporting with input from the Disability Community.
- Consider recommending an ongoing entity to continue this work that consists of members of the Disability Community, non-profit organizations, law enforcement and judicial.

Additional Information and Resources

- [290021.pdf \(osce.org\)](#)
- [The Invisible Hate Crime | Southern Poverty Law Center \(splcenter.org\)](#)
- [Crimes Analysis Unit \(ct.gov\)](#)
- [2020-Bias-Crime-Report.pdf \(ct.gov\)](#)
- [2019-Hate-Crime-Statistics.pdf \(ct.gov\)](#)
- [Crime-in-Connecticut.pdf](#)
- [2018-Hate-Crime-Statistics.pdf \(ct.gov\)](#)
- [2017-Bias-Crime-report-complete.pdf \(ct.gov\)](#)
- [United States Department of Justice-Hate Crimes-Facts and Statistics](#)