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REPORT

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SUBJECT: **2017 ANNUAL HATE/BIAS MOTIVATED CRIME REPORT**

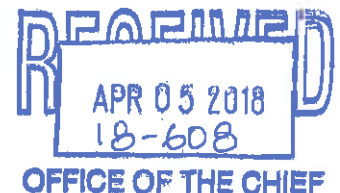
FROM: Manuel Rodrigues, Acting Deputy Chief, Operations Support Services

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that this report be received by the Police Services Board as part of annual reporting requirements.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- The total number of Criminal Code offences reported to Peel Regional Police in 2017 was 40,382. Of those, 158 or 0.4%, have been designated as hate motivated crimes.
- In comparison to 2016, the number of reported hate crimes increased by two and half times in 2017, growing from 59 to 158. The vast majority, 106, or 67.1%, of the hate motivated crime reports continue to be mischief/graffiti related offences. Thirty-five, or 22.2%, of the reported hate/bias crimes were of a violent nature.
- Religion was the most common motivating factor in hate related crimes; the Muslim faith was the most targeted, being victimized in 57, or 36.1%, of all reported hate/bias crimes.
- A Hate Crime Fact Card was developed and is available to the public as a reference. See Appendix A.
- In 2017, 16, or 10.1%, of the 158 reported hate crimes resulted in charges.



DISCUSSION

Background

Peel Regional Police (PRP) Diversity Relations Bureau (DRB) was established in 1986 and was entrusted with the responsibility of fulfilling PRP commitment to educate employees and members of the community regarding hate/bias motivated crimes, incidents and propaganda. The efforts to maintain open, current and forthright dialogue with all members of the Peel Region community have evolved to now include formalized Chief's Advisory Committees.

One of DRB's primary mandates is to monitor and statistically analyze hate crime and/or racially biased motivated incidents with an end to identify and address related discernible trends within the Region of Peel. The annual report serves to document statistical data.

The direction provided to PRP employees on hate/bias motivated crime is governed in accordance with Directive 1-B-130(F); serving to assist in understanding how to accurately identify, record and investigate hate/bias crimes.

A hate/biased motivated crime or incident is defined as:

- (a) *"hate/bias crime" – means a criminal act committed against a person or property, which is motivated solely or in part, by the offender's hate/bias or prejudice based on race, national or ethnic origin, language, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or similar factor.*
- (b) *"hate/bias incident" – means incidents which involve behaviours that, though motivated by bias against a victims' race, national or ethnic origin, language, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability or sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or similar factor, are not criminal acts. (For example, disrespectful/discriminatory or hostile speech).*

All reports of incidents and/or occurrences are forwarded to the DRB Regional Hate/Bias Crime Coordinator for review; ensuring that support and specialized knowledge is provided to investigative bureaux. The DRB Regional Coordinator is also responsible for liaising, on a regular basis, with the local Assistant Crown Attorneys assigned to the Hate Crime portfolio.

The investigation of all incidents/occurrences is the responsibility of the respective Divisional Criminal Investigation Bureau or related centralized investigative bureau (i.e. Homicide, Robbery etc). Beyond DRB, investigators are supported by PRP Intelligence Services who provide context based on information shared amongst police services and governmental agencies on hate motivated crime and extremism.

Peel Regional Police also have five (5) Divisional Hate/Bias Crime Coordinators, who act as a resource to divisional personnel during hate/bias motivated criminal investigations. When possible, the divisional coordinators take an active role in open investigations.

There are two types of hate/bias motivated crimes, as described in sections 318 and 319 of the Criminal Code. The first includes the offences of advocating genocide, public incitement of hatred, and wilful promotion of hatred against an identifiable group; these are characterized as hate propaganda offences under the Criminal Code. The Attorney General's consent is required to initiate a prosecution for the offence of wilful promotion of hatred and the offence of

advocating genocide. The second refers to all other criminal offences where evidence establishes that bias, prejudice or hate was a motivating factor in the commission of the offence.

Upon conviction of a crime where hate, bias or prejudice is established as a motivating factor, the Crown is entitled to argue that such factor(s) are aggravating element(s) in consideration of penalty.

Further, under the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2001, a provision was added to the Criminal Code allowing the court to impose greater penalties for the criminal offence of mischief involving religious property (a building, structure or part thereof).

In connection with the above noted Anti-Terrorism Act, and due to the linkages between violent extremism and hate/bias motivated acts, training specific to hate/bias motivated crimes and incidents is embedded within the educational component of PRP's Countering Violent Extremism Initiative (CVEI). This training continues to be provided to PRP members (sworn and civilian), Peel Region school boards, law enforcement partners, as well as other government and non-government based agencies and community partners.

Findings

The information presented in the annual report is based on reported occurrences. Although believed to be a true reflection of the prevalence of hate motivated crime in the Region, it is acknowledged that there may be unreported incidents, and as such, there are limitations in interpreting the data. The DRB undertakes proactive outreach programs aimed at reducing victim reluctance to report incidents of hate and to ensure community members are made aware of what constitutes a hate/bias motivated crime. This training is delivered in a variety of forums, one of which is the aforementioned CVEI, which aims to educate the police and community on the root causes of hate/bias motivated acts. The training also ensures that victims are provided with the necessary support, regardless of whether the matter was deemed a crime or incident, in an effort to ensure their overall well being and safety, and to encourage the timely reporting of these incidents to police.

Additionally, DRB has created and disseminated Hate/Bias motivated information fact cards, which are made available to our community members via PRP website, police stations, community stations, and officers. The fact cards help provide context to, and outline, the various elements of Hate Motivated Crimes and Incidents, and provide guidance on how to report such matter to police. Diversity Relations Bureau continues to be committed to, and focused on, community engagement and outreach, and have collaborated with multiple community stakeholders in an effort to better understand, address, and mitigate the myriad of issues associated with hate/bias motivated matters.

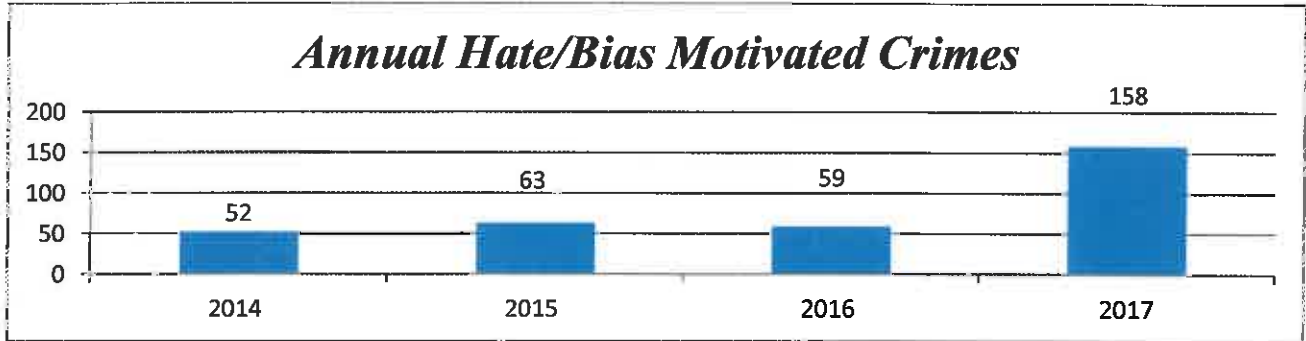
In 2017, DRB has provided additional support to the Regional and Divisional Hate Crime Coordinators. The Bureau has opened up lines of communication by formalizing Coordinator quarterly meetings and initiating monthly reporting standards from all areas of the organization. The Bureau also coordinated training opportunities, such as a three day Conference put on by Intelligence Services Provincial Hate Crime Extremist Investigative Team (HCEIT) and a two day Symposium hosted by the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) Diversity and Inclusion Network Committee on Understanding Hate Crimes.

Annual Hate/Bias Motivated Crimes

During the period of January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017, Peel Regional Police recorded 40,382 Criminal Code offences. Of those, 158 have been designated as hate/bias motivated crimes. Hate motivated crime offences accounted for 0.4% of all reported criminal offences that occurred in Brampton and Mississauga.

As noted in the chart below, the number of reported hate/bias motivated crime offences have fluctuated over the past four years, with a recent spike between 2016 (59) and 2017 (158). Part of the reason for this increase may be related to a focus on Hate motivated crime training, part of which includes information being relayed to community members on the importance of reporting such crimes. Additionally, the recent increase in groups espousing 'far-right' ideologies, may be triggering more overt crimes of hate, such as graffiti related mischief, with a particular focus on the Jewish and Muslim faiths.

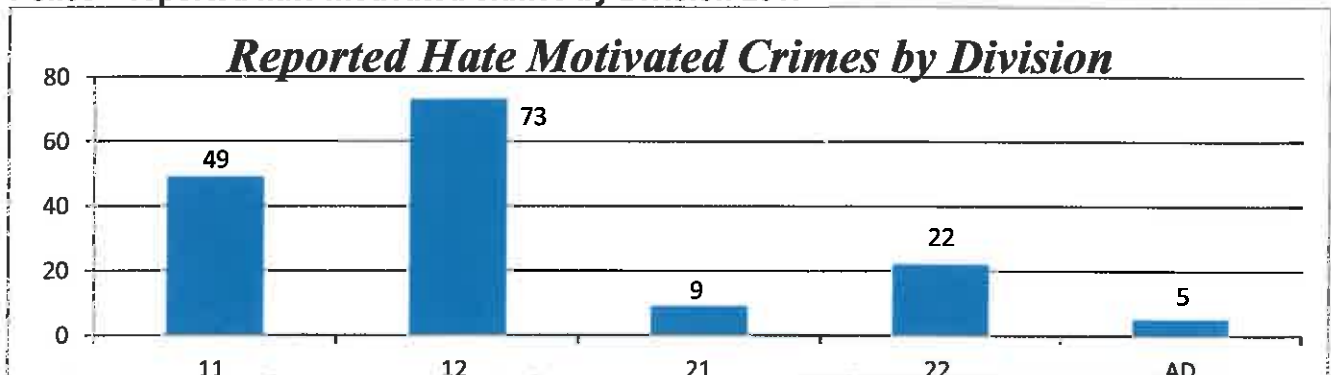
Chart 1
Police - reported hate motivated crimes; total 2014 to 2017



Reported Hate Motivated Crimes by Division

Hate/bias motivated crimes reported to Peel Regional Police in 2017 are broken down by Division as indicated in the chart below: 11 Division had 49 (31%) of the crimes, 12 Division had 73 (46.2%) of the crimes, 21 Division had 9 (5.7%) of the crimes, 22 Division had 22 (13.9%) of the crimes and the Airport Division had 5 (3.2%) of the crimes. Specific to 11 and 12 Division, there has been a noticeable increase in anti-Muslim graffiti, most of which are believed to be the responsibility of two suspects.

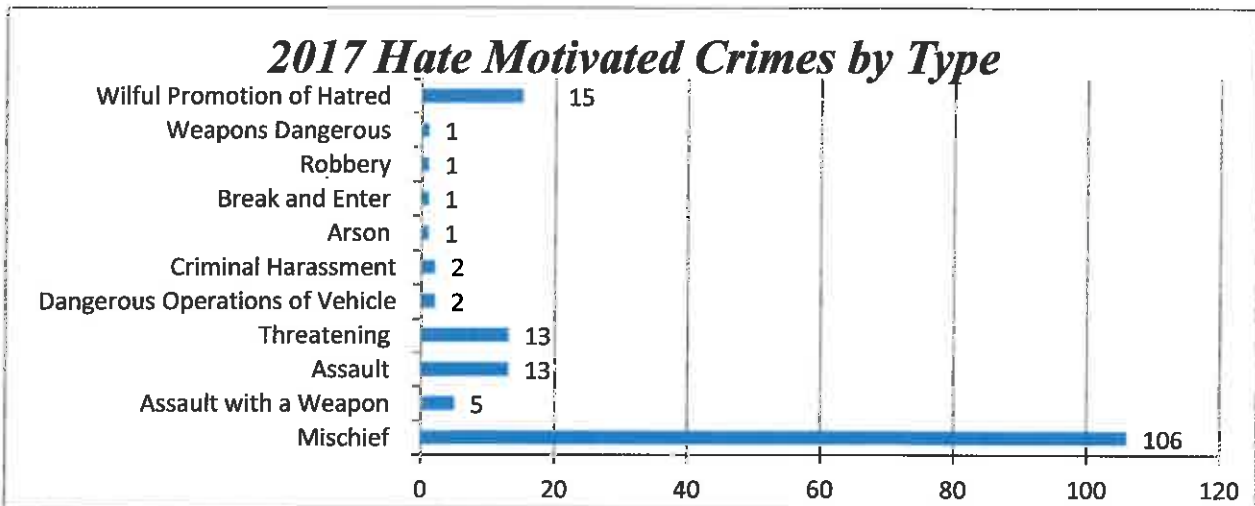
Chart 2
Police – reported hate motivated crimes by Division 2017



Hate Motivated Crimes by Type

Peel Regional Police recorded 158 occurrences of hate/bias motivated crimes in 2017. Among these, there were 106 mischief offences (67.1%), fifteen wilful promotion of hatred (9.5%), thirteen threatening (8.2%), thirteen assaults (8.2%), five (5) assault with a weapon (3.2%), and two (2) criminal harassment (1.3%). Illustrated in Chart 3 is the breakdown of hate occurrence types. (Note: in instances where multiple offences occur, for statistical purposes only, the most severe is recorded)

Chart 3
Police – reported hate motivated crimes by type of offence 2017

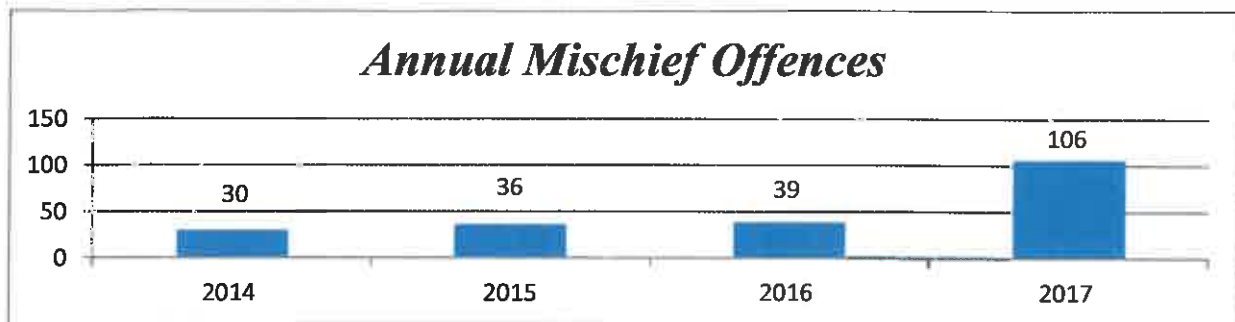


Mischief Remains the Highest Reported Incident Type

As noted above, mischief accounts for 67.1% of all hate motivated crimes with 106 reports; all were crimes involving graffiti. A year to year comparison shows that the number of crimes involving mischief has continued to increase slightly until this year, during which it increased by 271% from 2016 to 2017.

NOTE: Approximately 64, or 60% of said reports, are believed to have been committed by two suspects. This is an important factor to note, as it helps us better understand the spike in numbers.

Chart 4
Police – reported hate motivated crimes, mischief 2014 to 2017

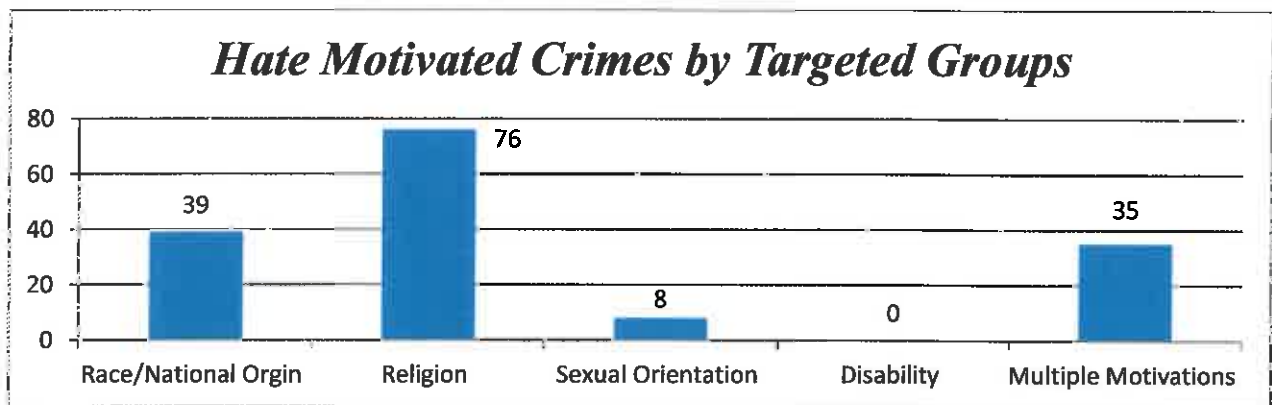


Targeted Groups

Among the 158 hate motivated crimes reported to Peel Regional Police in 2017, 76 or 48.1% targeted religion, 39 or 24.7% targeted race/national origin, 8 or 5.1% targeted sexual orientation, and 35 or 22.1% included multiple motivating factors.

In 2017, there was a notable increase of reported hate motivated crimes targeting religion, growing from 26 in 2016, to 76 in 2017.

Chart 5
Police – reported hate motivated crimes, targeted groups – 2017



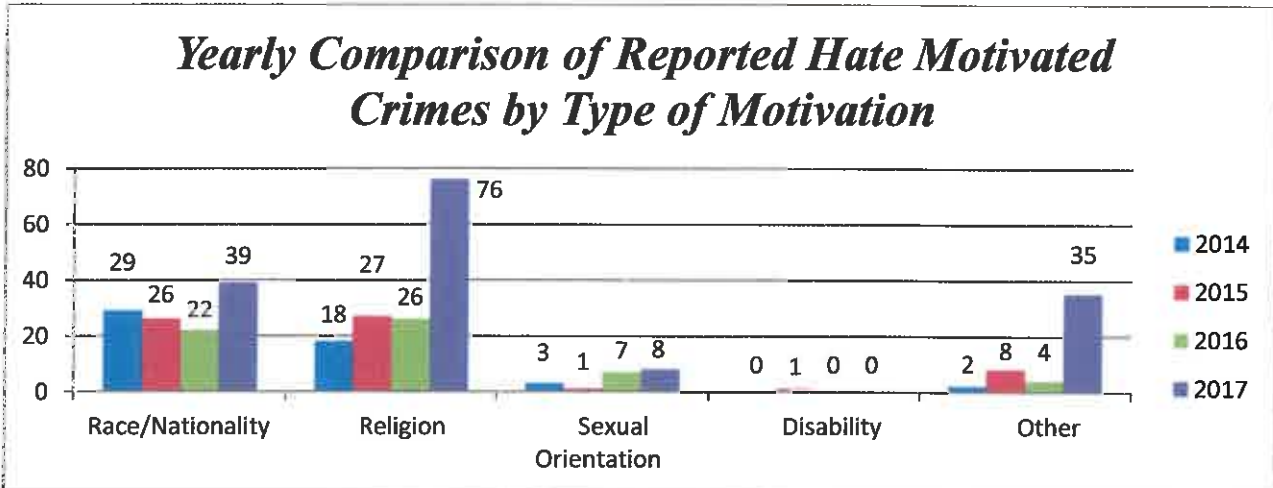
Religion is the Most Common Motivation for Hate Crimes

During 2017, the total number of race/national-origin motivated hate crimes increased; reaching the highest point in a four year period. Similarly, there was a noticeable increase of hate motivated crimes targeting religion.

Included in the “other” category in 2017, there were thirty-five reports of crimes with multiple hate motivations. Of those thirty-five reports, in twelve cases, or 34.2%, the motivating factors included gender and religion; in twelve more cases, the motivating factors included race and religion; in five cases, or 14.2%, the motivating factors included race, religion and sexual orientation; in four cases, or 11.4%, the motivating factors included race and sexual orientation; while in the remaining two cases, the motivating factors included religion and sexual orientation.

Chart 6

Police—Yearly Comparison of reported hate motivated crimes, by type of motivation, 2014 to 2017

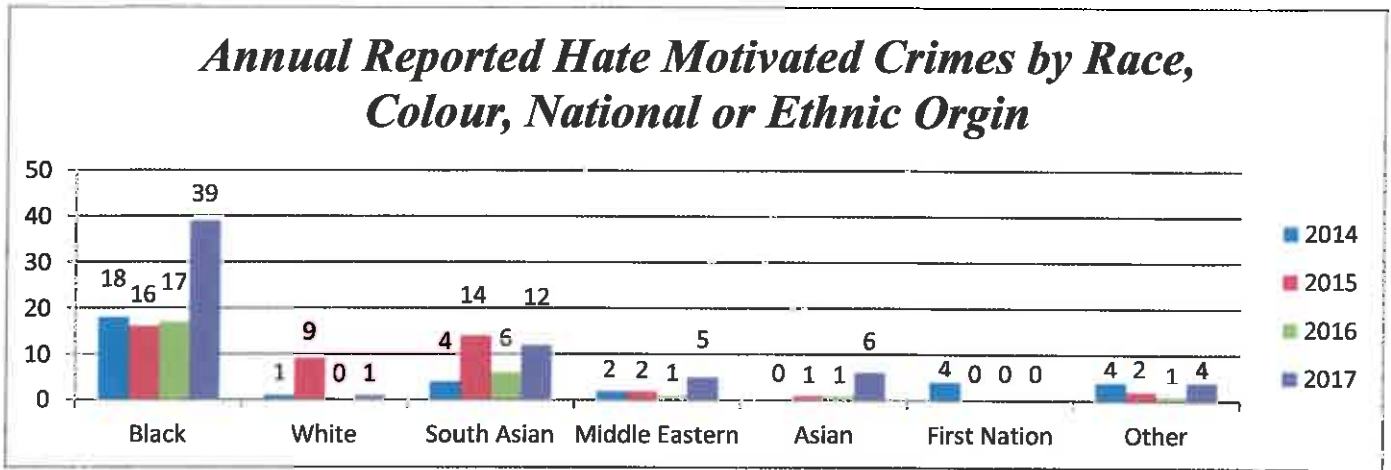


Type of Race/Colour/National or Ethnic Origin as Motivation for Hate Crimes

Statistical review of victimization based on ethnic and/or racial background identified a variance in 2017 in comparison to 2016. There was an increase in the victimization of members of the Black community, from 17 crimes in 2016 to 39 in 2017. Victimization of persons of South Asian heritage increased from six crimes in 2016 to 12 in 2017. Asian heritage increased from one crime in 2016 to six in 2017, and the Middle Eastern heritage increased from one crime in 2016 to five in 2017. While the number of occurrences targeting the White community went from zero in 2016, to one crime in 2017.

Chart 7

Police – Number of reported hate motivated crimes, by type of race, 2014 to 2017



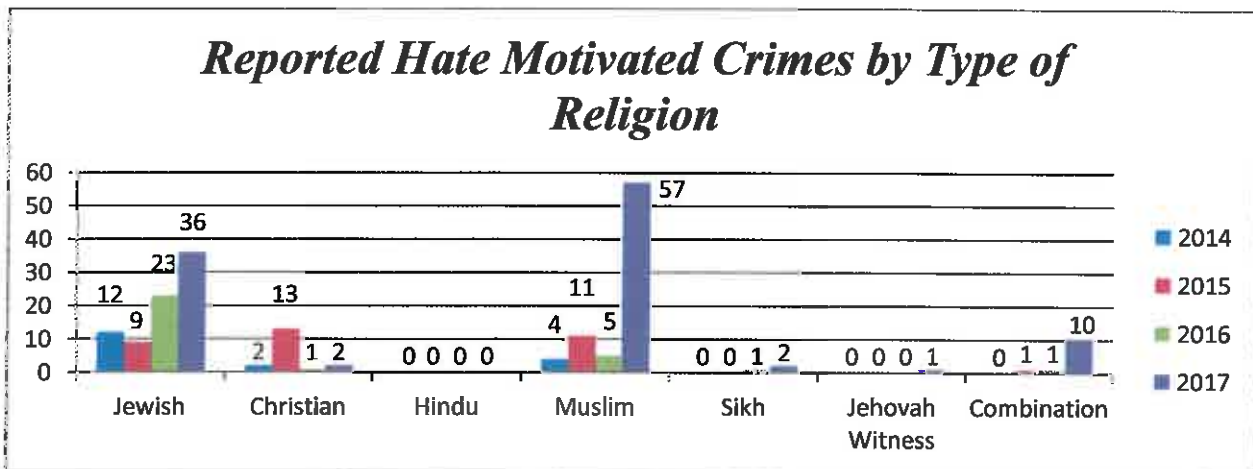
Type of Religion as Motivation for Hate Crimes

In 2017, 76, or 48.1%, of the 158 hate motivated crimes reported to Peel Regional Police targeted religion. The highest increase in victimization was experienced by both the Muslim community, from five occurrences in 2016 to 57 in 2017, and the Jewish community, from 23 occurrences in 2016 to 36 in 2017. The Sikh and Christian faiths both went from one in 2016, to two occurrences in 2017. The Jehovah Witness faith was targeted for the first time in 2017 with one occurrence. No other religious denomination was impacted by hate motivated crimes during 2017.

Categorized as combined victimization are ten incidents during which hate motivated expressions targeted two separate religions at the same time. Of those, two were towards the Jewish and Catholic faiths, and eight were towards the Jewish and Muslim faiths.

Chart 8

Police – reported hate motivated crimes, by type of religion

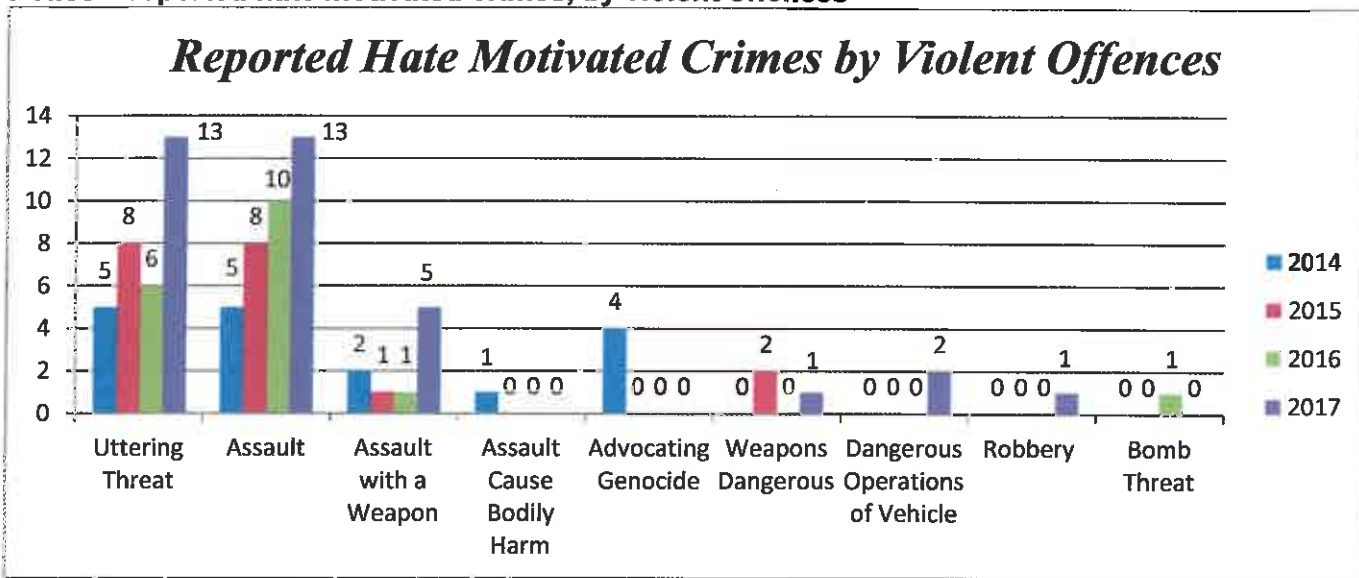


Violent Hate Motivated Crimes

In 2017, 35 of the 158 hate motivated crimes reported to Peel Regional Police involved acts of violence. The types of offences include threatening (13), assault (13), assault with a weapon (5), dangerous operations of a vehicle (2), robbery (1) and weapons dangerous (1). In cases where multiple offences have taken place, the most severe is captured for this report.

Chart 9

Police – reported hate motivated crimes, by violent offences



Hate Motivated Crime Rates - by Age of Culprit

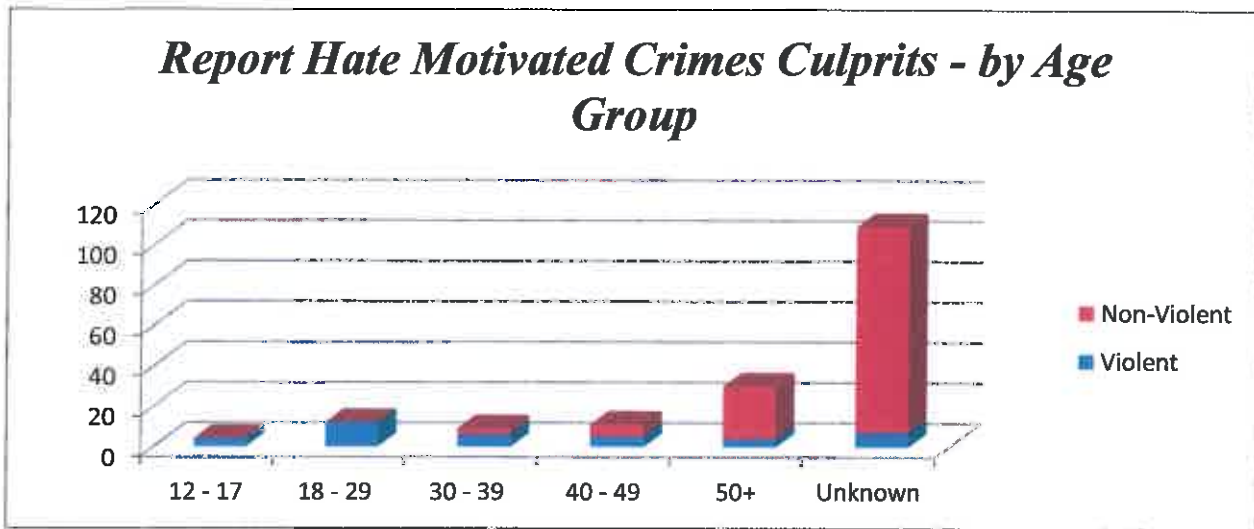
The 2017 hate/bias motivated offence occurrence reports were reviewed and the data related to the individual culprits analyzed. Sixty-six culprits were identified; the remaining occurrences, mostly graffiti related crime, remain unsolved - and as such the culprit's descriptors are unknown. The following information was noted:

Most offences, both violent and non-violent, are committed by persons between the ages of 18 and 29.

Of the 45 known culprits, 38 were male and 7 were female:

- Four of the 45 were between the ages of 12-17 and racially identified as male Black (2), male South Asian (1) and female White (1).
- Thirteen were between the ages of 18-29 and racially identified as male White (8), male Black (3), female White (1) and female South Asian (1).
- Nine were aged 30-39 and racially identified as male White (5), male Black (2), male South Asian (1) and female White (1).
- Eleven were aged 40-49 and racially identified as male White (7), male South Asian (1), male Latin American (1), male Asian (1) and female Asian (1).
- Eight were aged 50 or older and racially identified as male White (4), male South Asian (1), male Asian (1), female White (1) and female Black (1).

Chart 10
Police – reported hate motivated crimes culprits, by age group



Age and Gender of Victim

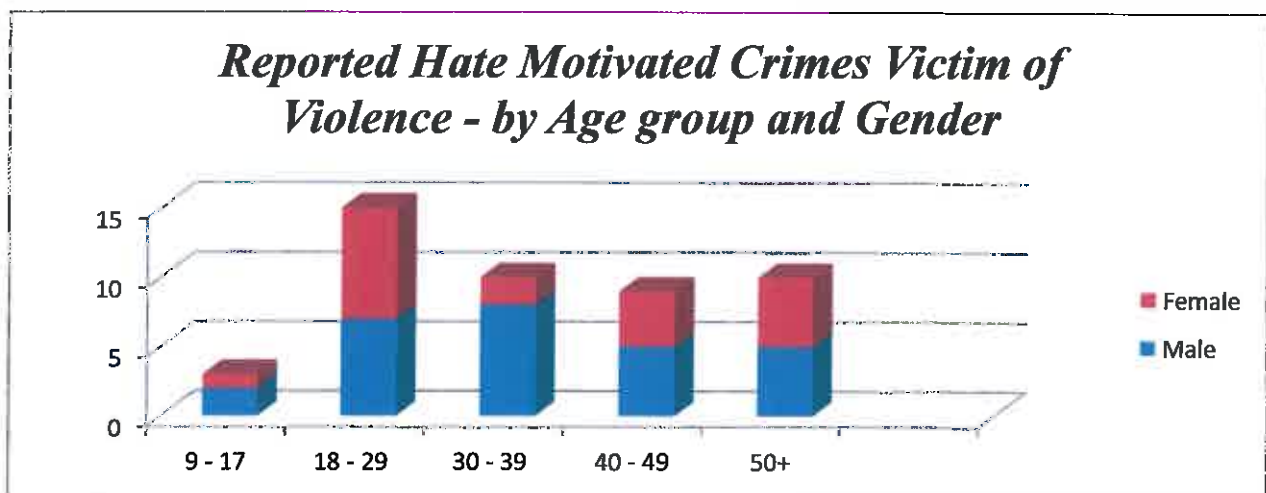
Forty-seven persons were victims of reported hate motivated violent crimes; 27 were male and 20 were female.

Broken down further, seven of the male victims were White, five of the victims were Black, nine were South Asian, five were of Middle Eastern descent and one was of Asian descent.

Of the victimized females, nine were Black, four were South Asian, three were White, one was Middle Eastern, one was Asian, one Latin American and one was Multi-racial.

No trend has been identified in relation to the age of the victims over the past four years.

Chart 11
Police – reported hate motivated crimes, victims of violence by age group and gender





Understanding Hate-Motivated Crimes and Incidents

Peel Regional Police investigate all crimes committed in our jurisdiction.

When someone targets a person based on their colour, race, religion, ethnic origin or sexual orientation and a criminal offence occurs, Peel Regional Police will investigate it. Criminal offences include deliberate property damage, hate-filled graffiti, assaults, criminal harassment, or threats to cause injury or death. Hateful speech delivered on social media, in posters, and other literature may also be hate-motivated crime, if the communication targets an identifiable group and actively promotes hatred against that group.

A Hate or Bias incident may be motivated by the same factors, but does not reach the threshold of being a criminal offence. Such incidents may include name calling, racial insults or the distribution of material containing hateful language that does not meet the criminal threshold mandated by the Criminal Code of Canada.



www.peelpolice.ca/hate

In Canada, freedom of speech is protected as a fundamental freedom as guaranteed in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Those who wish to peacefully preserve or convey a point of view have the right to do so, even if their viewpoints are considered offensive to some and/or are different from others.

Important Information:

IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OF ANY INCIDENT THAT IS MOTIVATED BY HATE OR BIAS

- Stay calm;
- Keep all relevant material;
- Record all information regarding the incident;
- Call the police immediately.

REPORT ANY INCIDENT THAT IS MOTIVATED BY HATE OR BIAS

- Emergency – dial 9-1-1;
- Non-Emergency – call 905-453-3311.

PEEL REGIONAL POLICE DIVERSITY RELATIONS BUREAU

- Reviews and monitors all hate or bias motivated reports;
- Provides assistance to officers with investigations of hate or bias motivated incidents and crimes;
- Tracks trends and patterns and in conjunction with community partners promotes a greater awareness of hate-motivated incidents and crimes.

FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

According to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms everyone has the following Fundamental Freedoms:

- Freedom of conscience and religion;
- Freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication;
- Freedom of Peaceful Assembly;
- Freedom of Association.

WORKING TOGETHER

We must all come together to prevent hate. Stopping racism, and all forms of social bias, is everyone's responsibility. Do the right thing. Stop it before it starts!

Contact our Hate-Motivated Crime Information Line
at 905-456-5905 with any questions or for more information.

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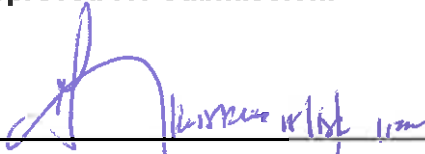
CONCLUSION

In 2017, Peel Regional Police reported 158 hate crimes. The 2017 census data indicates the combined population of Brampton and Mississauga is 1,381,739. Visible diverse persons make up over half of the total population. The 2016 census data indicates the top three ethno-cultural groups in Peel Region to be South Asian, Black and Asian (Chinese). Irrespective of the fact that the Regional community is increasingly more diverse, hate/bias motivated crimes reported to police continues to be low when considering the fact that they represent only 0.4% of the total crimes reported to police.

A reason for the rise in Hate motivated crime being reported may be, in part, due to PRP's dedication to educating, and working with the community in an effort to not only address issues of Hate motivated crime but to also generate more calls to police if/when such incidents arise. Conversely, the increase in the visibility and voice of the far-right extremist groups, at the regional, provincial and national level, have also played a role in the rise of anti-semitic, and anti-muslim, targeted bigotry.

Proactive efforts by PRP to identify and investigate hate motivated incidents while providing community outreach to increase awareness supports the 2017-2019 Strategic Plan to provide assistance to victims of crime and strengthen community engagement.

Approved for Submission:



Manuel Rodrigues, Acting Deputy Chief, Operations Support Services

For further information regarding this report, please contact A/Inspector Raff D'Angela at extension 3617 or via e-mail at 1832@peelpolice.ca

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