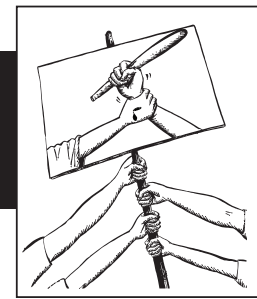


MY BROTHER'S KEEPER: People of Faith Confront Hate Crimes



Putting thought into action, some suggestions for taking the next steps in building a welcoming world:

What you can do	In your life	In your church	In your community
TO RAISE AWARENESS	<p>Continue to examine your own inner prejudices through daily journaling. Spend ten minutes responding to these questions: Do I laugh at gay "jokes"? Do I make assumptions based on race, gender, or appearance? Do I avoid certain people on the sidewalk, train, movie theater?</p> <p>Take a demo test on your reactions to race, gender, religion and more at Project Implicit: https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit</p>	<p>Preach a sermon on tolerance, or ask your pastor to do so.</p>	<p>Talk to your neighbors about hate crimes. Raise the issue during community activities at schools, food coops, the gym, etc.</p>
TO PREPARE	<p>Practice your responses – How will I react to bias incidents I encounter? Ask a friend to role play such situations and practice new responses:</p> <p>A co-worker tells an offensive joke and everyone else laughs</p> <p>A shopkeeper follows a person of color around the store as they shop.</p>	<p>Lead an adult and/or youth education series. (See www.teachingtolerance.org for resources).</p> <p>Host a screening and discussion of a Not in Our Town video. (See www.pbs.org/notinourtown for more information).</p>	<p>Educate yourself and others about bigotry, violence and hate crimes legislation as well as legislative action around related issues like immigration, civil rights and gay and lesbian rights.</p> <p>Talk to the youth in your life about bullying and hate speech in school, and ways to respond: If you are being bullied, be cool in the moment. If you witness bullying, interrupt it. If you are the bully, make a commitment to change.</p>
TO TAKE ACTION	<p>Be vigilant. Confront hate speech when you hear it: "Please don't use that language around me. I find it offensive."</p> <p>Find an existing organization working to end hate crimes and volunteer your time and support.</p>	<p>Form a group to go on the road, reach out to churches in other communities and ask to worship with them.</p> <p>Invite them to your church, swap pulpits, plan a joint service project.</p> <p>Make your welcome public and explicit: post a sign, hand out information cards, march in Pride parades.</p>	<p>Join or support your neighborhood hate crimes task force. If a task force doesn't exist yet, form one.</p> <p>Develop a rapid response plan.</p> <p>Contact your elected officials and urge them to support hate crime legislation.</p> <p>Hold a vigil for victims of hate crimes.</p> <p>Host a community speak out.</p>

Here is a partial list of useful websites:

www.illdoctrine.com/2008/07/how_to_tell_people_they_sound.html	How to tell people they sound racist, an excellent youtube clip by video blogger Jay Smith
www.pbs.org/niot	The Not in Our Town Campaign, promotes public dialog and community response to hate violence
https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit	Project Implicit, a Harvard based research site with online surveys that may offer insight into your assumptions and associations.
www.splcenter.org/intel/intpro.jsp	Southern Poverty Law Center Intelligence Project, monitors US hate crimes
www.tolerance.org	Teaching Tolerance, a project of the Southern Poverty Law Center
www.ncpc.org/topics/hate-crime	National Crime Prevention Corner, a law enforcement-based site addressing hate crimes.

For more resources and links, visit the MIND website at www.mindny.org.