

U.S. FEDERAL HATE CRIME LEGISLATION

A BRIEF HISTORY

1964: CIVIL RIGHTS ACT



Landmark law that **bans segregation** in public places and employment discrimination on the basis of **race, color, religion, sex, or national origin**

1968: FAIR HOUSING/CIVIL RIGHTS ACT

Became a **federal crime** to injure, intimidate or interfere with someone attempting to participate in "federally protected activities" on the **basis of their race, religion, or national origin**



1990: HATE CRIME STATISTICS ACT



Required the Attorney General to **collect** data on crimes related to a victim's **race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or ethnicity**

1994: VIOLENT CRIME CONTROL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT

The largest crime bill in U.S. history; **required** the FBI to **collect** data on hate crimes against **persons with disabilities**



2009: MATTHEW SHEPARD AND JAMES BYRD JR. HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT

Removed "federally protected activity" clause; **tracked** victim's **gender, sexual orientation, gender identity**, and crimes involving juveniles; **empowered** federal government to prosecute local hate crimes

NOTE: AT THE STATE AND LOCAL LEVELS, ANTI-HATE CRIME LAWS AND ENFORCEMENT VARY WIDELY