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



Elements of an Effective Response

REPORTING

- Reported to local law enforcement, or authority for investigation
- Receiving and/or publicizing reports from law enforcement of bias-related incidents

VICTIM SUPPORT

- Reassurance, safety, and listening
- Developing a list of procedures or do's and don'ts
- Connecting to resources and filing a complaint

Anti-Violence Project (212) 714-1141 www.avp.org

Hate Crime/Discrimination Complaints /U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Toll-free: 1-800-522-6843 www.usccr.gov/filing/flndx.htm

· Assessing needs (medical, emotional, etc.)

PUBLIC DENUNCIATION

- Action that condemns the hate crime, takes a position against intolerance, supports the targeted community
- Should be proportionate to the crime

Why a response is important

SILENCE MEANS ACCEPTANCE

 If we do not respond to hate crime, we send a message to the victim and perpetrator that intolerance is okay

A report released by the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Attorney General in 2001 indicates that MANY HATE CRIMES ARE ESCALATIONS OF OTHER INCIDENTS that do not get a proper response

A U.S. Department of Justice 2005 study of hate crime reporting indicates that ONLY ABOUT 40% OF ALL BIAS MOTIVATED INCIDENTS ARE REPORTED to authorities

Adapted from Beckwith, J., Iowa Human and Civil Rights Project of AmeriCorps VISTA and the Iowa Civil rights Commission, May, 2008