

Fast Facts

HATE CRIMES



“You shall appoint ... officers in all your gates, which the LORD your God gives you ... and they shall judge the people with just judgment. You shall not pervert justice; you shall not show partiality.”

— Deuteronomy 16:18-19 (NKJV)

The thought police are coming! Hate crimes legislation is the beginning of the government’s intrusion into our God-given freedoms of faith and conscience. If passed, the groundwork would be laid for the silencing of America’s churches and the imprisonment of her faithful pastors. We have already witnessed gross violations of personal liberty in other nations which have embraced such laws. The logical progression of these laws leads to the callous dismissal of our First Amendment rights to free speech and religious exercise. As Thomas Jefferson once said, “The legitimate powers of government reach actions only and not opinions.”

— Dr. Gary Cass, Executive Director,
Center for Reclaiming America for Christ

“Violence”: How Do the Courts Define It?

Many argue that pending hate crimes legislation would not muzzle free speech for Christians, noting that the bill only condemns “a crime of violence.”

In the current age of judicial activism, it is important to consider how the courts might define the term “violence.” For instance, when a Catholic Church refused to provide three gay activists with Holy Communion, D.C. Superior Court Judge Mildred M. Edwards told the activists: “*Tremendous violence* was done ... when the Body of Christ was denied to you.”

“Judge Declines to Sentence 3 Catholic Gay Activists,”
The Washington Post, January 31, 2003.

Even in the United States Code, a “crime of violence” is defined as the “threatened use of physical force” or “a crime that by its nature poses a substantial **risk** that force will be used against a person or property.” So, by legal definition, “a crime of violence” would not require a physical assault. In fact, the legal definition explains that it must pose only a “**risk**” that force might be used against a person.

— U.S. Code, 18 USC 16, Released August 3, 2005.



Congress Ignores “Equal Protection” Clause

Though the U.S. Constitution guarantees that all American citizens will enjoy “**equal protection** of the laws,” Congress has repeatedly attempted to pass legislation elevating the status of homosexual citizens.

On September 14, 2005, the U.S. House of Representatives voted 223-199 to pass hate crimes legislation as an amendment to the Children’s Safety Act (HR 3132). The legislation would allow the Attorney General to “provide technical, forensic, prosecutorial, or any other form of assistance in the criminal investigation or prosecution of any crime that constitutes a *crime of violence* ... and is motivated by prejudice based on ... sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability of the victim, or is a violation of the hate crime laws of the state.”

— “House Favors Expanding Hate Crime Law,” *The Washington Post*, September 14, 2005.

Congressional History of Pushing Hate Crimes

Ever since Representative John Conyers (D-MI) and Senator Ted Kennedy (D-MA) first introduced the Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 1999, many pro-homosexual members of Congress have been determined to elevate the status of the nation’s homosexual citizenry.

Sadly, in 2004, both houses of Congress passed hate crimes legislation as an amendment to the Defense Authorization Act. However, because conflicting language existed between the Senate and House versions of the bill, the amendment was eventually stripped out during a conference committee meeting. Afterward, Senator Kennedy promised, “We will be back again and again, and we will continue to bring this legislation up every opportunity we can until it is signed into law.”

— “Initiative on Hate Crimes Scrapped,” *The Washington Post*, October 8, 2004.

Heterosexuals: The New Second-Class Citizens

“In addition to being unconstitutional and unnecessary, this legislation risks undermining local law enforcement. Instead of focusing solely on the most effective means to protect their community, police and prosecutors would likely give disproportionate attention to any crime that could even conceivably be covered by [the bill]... It would lead to unintended consequences that would harm law enforcement and encourage them to become *thought police*. At the same time, the bill would undermine the settled moral convictions of tens of millions of Americans.”

— U.S. Senate Republican Policy Committee, July 15, 2003.

“All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the **equal protection** of the laws.”

— The Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution, ratified July 9, 1868.

No Urgency for Hate Crimes Legislation

Though many advocates of the homosexual agenda claim that there is a great need for hate crimes legislation, the number of reported hate crimes attributed to sexual orientation has been steadily declining in recent years. In 2001, 1,393 “hate crimes” were reportedly based on sexual orientation. In 2002, that number dropped to 1,244. Again, in 2003, the number dropped to 1,239. Meanwhile, pro-homosexual organizations have reported a growing trend of “gay-on-gay” domestic violence. In 2003, there were 6,523 cases of same-sex domestic violence — up 13 percent from 5,718 in 2002.

Robert Knight, director of the Culture and Family Institute, points out: “People involved in homosexual behavior are astronomically more likely to be assaulted by another homosexual than to become the victim of a ‘hate crime.’”

— Robert H. Knight, “‘Hate Crimes’ Laws: An Assault on Freedom,” The Culture and Family Institute, September 28, 2005.

Abolishing America’s Religious Liberties

Philadelphia — Eleven Christians were arrested and jailed after preaching on public streets during a “gay pride” festival. The Christians faced several charges (including “ethnic intimidation”) with a possible sentence of 47 years in prison if convicted. A judge later dismissed the charges.

New York City — A pastor’s billboard with Bible verses was taken down after city officials labeled it “hate crime” rhetoric.

Tennessee — Two men were arrested for carrying large wooden crosses during a “Gay Day” Parade. The men were charged with “interfering with a special event.”

Idaho — A Hewlett-Packard employee was fired after refusing to remove Bible verses from his cubicle. A federal appeals court ruled, “An employer need not accommodate an employee’s religious beliefs if doing so would result in discrimination.”

Vermont — A family-owned inn is facing a lawsuit after its Christian owners expressed a lack of interest in hosting a same-sex civil union ceremony.

31 State Laws — According to the Human Rights Campaign, as of May 2005, thirty-one states have passed laws addressing “hate or bias crimes based on sexual orientation.”

— Sources available upon request.

ABC News and the Truth About Matthew Shepard

In 1998, Matthew Shepard was brutally beaten to death by Aaron McKinney and Russell Henderson. Unfortunately, the media portrayed the tragedy as a mandate for hate crimes legislation, which was subsequently introduced the next year. However, in their first interview since the trial, McKinney and Henderson, appearing on ABC’s *20/20*, told the world that money and drugs motivated their attack against Matthew Shepard — not hatred of homosexuals. Of course, that does not lessen the wickedness of the crime. In addition, new information has emerged, supported by multiple people, indicating that McKinney, himself, is bisexual.

— “New Details Emerge in Matthew Shepard Murder,” *ABC News*, December 1, 2004.

FASTFACTS is published by the Center for Reclaiming America for Christ — an outreach of Coral Ridge Ministries — to inform citizens and offer vital resources so you can reclaim your community for Christ. Founder: Dr. D. James Kennedy; (877) SALT USA (725-8872); cfr@coralridge.org; www.reclaimamerica.org. This ministry is supported by the contributions of concerned citizens like you. If you would like to support the Center, you can send your gift to: Center for Reclaiming America for Christ, P.O. Box 632, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, 33302. (Sept. 2005) # 110452

Learning from the Mistakes of Other Nations

Shortly after a Swedish pastor was jailed for speaking out against homosexuality, Slovakia’s Interior Minister Vladimir Palko commented, “In Europe, people are starting to be jailed for saying what they think.” Palko attributed this threat to “a left-wing liberal ideology [that] was trying to introduce tyranny and misuse the European Union.”

— “Slovaks Protest for Swedish Pastor Jailed for Comments on Gays,” *Catholic World News*, July 29, 2004.

What to Expect in Countries with “Hate Crimes” Laws

Canada — A Saskatchewan court upheld a fine against a newspaper publisher for running an advertisement that listed various Bible verses dealing with homosexuality.

Sweden — A pastor was arrested at his church after he began reading Bible verses about homosexuality.

Italy — Controversial journalist Oriana Fallaci was indicted for allegedly insulting the Muslim faith in her latest book, *The Rage and the Pride*. Specifically, she has been targeted for suggesting that Muslims have “multiplied like rats” throughout Europe.

Britain — An Anglican bishop was placed under criminal investigation after suggesting that homosexuals can change their sexual orientation.

Spain — The Spanish government threatened to arrest a Roman Catholic bishop for violating the nation’s law when he spoke out against the legalization of same-sex “marriage.”

France — An 82-year-old priest was convicted of “provoking discrimination” after telling his congregation that Muslims promote an “ideology that threatens the whole world.” Brigitte Bardot was charged with a hate crime and fined for writing a book which highlights the pitfalls of homosexuality and Islam.

Australia — After teaching an audience about the faults and hostility of the Koran, Pastor Daniel Scot was arrested, convicted, and imprisoned for violating an Australian law which prohibits religious “vilification.” The law reads, “A person must not, on the ground of the religious belief or activity of another person or class of persons, engage in conduct that incites... severe ridicule of that other person or class of persons.”

Brazil — Two Christians were arrested and charged with a “hate crime” for distributing Bible tracts during a Spiritist festival honoring Iemanja, the African goddess of the sea.

— Sources available upon request.

What Can You Do to Help Stop Hate Crimes Laws?

Contact your elected officials and encourage them to oppose all hate crimes legislation.

U.S. Capitol Switchboard
(202) 224-3121

The White House
(202) 456-1111