

# TEN DAYS AFTER

HARASSMENT AND INTIMIDATION IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE ELECTION  
NOVEMBER 2016 // SPLCENTER.ORG





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**ABOUT THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER**

The Southern Poverty Law Center, based in Montgomery, Alabama, is a nonpartisan (c)(3) civil rights organization founded in 1955 and dedicated to fighting hate and bigotry, and to seeking justice for the most vulnerable members of society.

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# 867 POST-ELECTION HATE INCIDENTS

In the ten days following the election, there were almost reports of harassment and intimidation from across the nation. Many harassers invoked Trump's name during assaults, making it clear that the outbreak of hate stemmed in large part from his electoral success.

People have experienced harassment at school, at work, at home, on the street, in public transportation, in their cars, in grocery stores and other places of business, and in their houses of worship. They most often have received messages of hate and intolerance through graffiti and verbal harassment, although a small number also have reported violent physical interactions. Some incidents were directed at the Trump campaign or his supporters.

Of course, hate crimes and lower-level incidents of racial or ethnically charged harassment have long been common in the United States. [www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/hcv0311.pdf](http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/hcv0311.pdf). But the targets of post-election hate incidents report that they are experiencing something quite new.

I have experienced discrimination in my life, but never in such a public and unashamed manner, an Asian-American woman reported after a man told her to go home as she left an Oakland train station. Likewise, a black resident whose apartment was vandalized with the phrase nigger reported that he had never witnessed anything like this. A Los Angeles woman, who encountered a man who told her he was

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Gonna beat her [pussy, stated that she was in this neighborhood all the time and never experienced this type of language before. Not far away in Sunnyvale, California, a transgender person reported being targeted with homophobic slurs at a bar where I've been a regular customer for years never had any issues.

In his *60 Minutes* interview that aired on November 1, 2016, President-elect Trump claimed that he was surprised to hear that some of his supporters had been using racial slurs and making threats against African Americans, Latinos, and gays. He shouldn't have been. In his November 1, 2016 interview with *The New York Times*, Trump claimed he had no idea why white supremacists the so-called alt right had been energized by his campaign. Again, it's no mystery. Both the harassment since the election and the energy on the radical right are the predictable results of the campaign that Trump waged for the presidency a campaign marked by incendiary racial statements, the stoking of white racial resentment, and attacks on so-called political correctness.

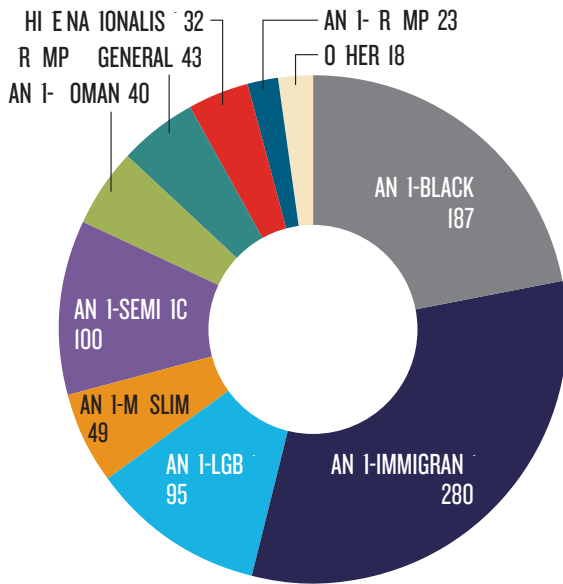
At this point, it is not enough for Trump to look in the camera and say Stop it! to the harassers, as he did on *60 Minutes*. Nor is it enough for him to simply disavow the white supremacists who see him as

their champion, as he did at the *Times*. If he is to make good on the first promise he made as the president-elect his pledge to bind the wounds of division in our country he must repair the damage that his campaign has caused. Rather than feign ignorance, he must acknowledge that his own words have opened wounds of division in our country. Rather than simply saying Stop it! and disavowing the radical right, he must speak out forcefully and repeatedly against all forms of bigotry and reach out to the communities his words have injured. And rather than merely saying that he wants to bring the country together, his actions must consistently demonstrate he is doing everything in his power to do so. Until president-elect Trump does these things, the hate that his campaign has unleashed is likely to continue to flourish.

#### DATA COLLECTION

The 10 hate incidents described here come from two sources submissions to the #ReportHate page on the SPLC website and media accounts. Incidents

## HATE INCIDENT MOTIVATION



Texas, came home to find a swastika spray-painted onto their door. One residence in Pittsburg, California, draped a banner proclaiming to neighbors “You can hang a nigger from a tree equal rights he’ll never see.”

The targets or motivation of the harassers are also illustrated (Figure 3). The figure includes reported hate incidents motivated by disdain for Trump.

The category Trump-General refers to incidents in which harassers invoked Trump’s name but did not make their motivations clear. The other category refers to hate incidents motivated by bias against Asian Americans, Native Americans, or those with disabilities. Some incidents were difficult to categorize because they appeared to be motivated by multiple forms of hatred or bias.

The number of reported incidents declined over the ten days following the election (Figure 4).

The following sections of this report describe some of the incidents by each group targeted.

outspic was said in our halls.

A mother from Colorado offered this story

*My 12-year-old daughter is African American. A boy approached her and said, ‘Now that Trump is president, I’m going to shoot you and all the blacks I can find.’*

Hate incidents have also been extremely common in two settings where strangers are likely to encounter one another – on the street and in retail establishments. A woman from Louisiana submitted the following report

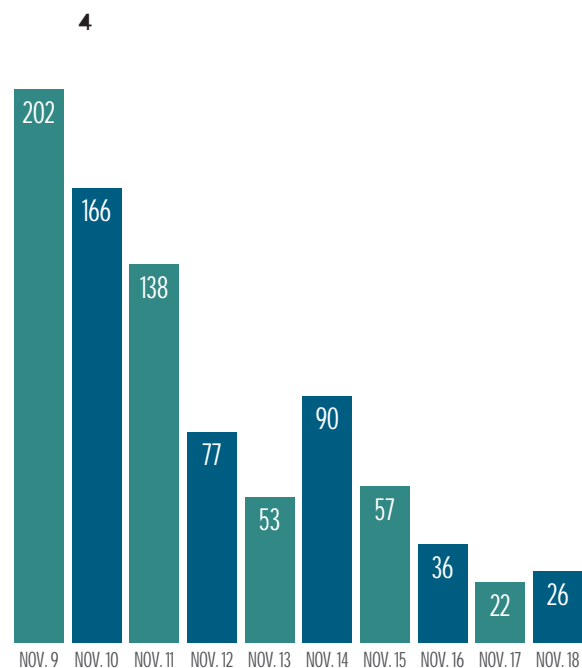
*I was standing at a red light waiting to cross the street. A black truck with three white men pulled up to the red light. One of them yelled, ‘Fuck your black life!’ The other two began to laugh. One began to chant ‘Trump!’ as they drove away.*

When an 18-year-old service employee in Kalamazoo, Michigan, asked a man if he needed help, he replied, “I don’t need to ask you for shit. Donald Trump is president. He then called her a ‘black bitch’ and spat on her shoes. A cashier in Minnesota and a hostess in Illinois were both called ‘nigger’ by their customers.

People also have been harassed in their homes. Many have reported receiving threatening messages on their front lawns, slipped under their front doors, left on their porches, and taped onto their windshields. A Sudanese-American family in Iowa City, Iowa, for example, found a note attached to their door that read,

*You can all go home now. We don’t want niggers and terrorists here. #trump.* A lesbian couple in Austin,

## HATE INCIDENT DAILY COUNT







it should be electrocuted (sic) and Mexicans should have to wear shock collars. In Redding, California, students brought deportation letters to school for their Latino classmates.

Children's anxieties about being deported are described by one mother's report from Greenville, North Carolina. When her son asked, "Mom, am I going to be deported?" She told him, "No, why?" And he said, "Because almost every kid in school was telling me that I was going to be deported to Mexico. And I told them no, I was born a U.S. citizen. But they said, 'Yes you are, 'cause you are Mexican—just look at your skin color.'"

Even teachers, those charged with caring for and shaping our young people, have reportedly expressed anti-immigrant sentiments to their students. In Los Angeles, a teacher was recorded telling her student that her parents would be deported. She said, "I have your phone numbers, your address, your mama's

address, your daddy's address—it's all in the system, sweetie. Black students, too, have received this type of harassment from adults they should be able to trust.

Anti-immigration harassment hasn't been restricted to Latino students. In Wesley Chapel, Florida, a teacher scolded the behavior of black students by saying, "Don't make me call Donald Trump to get you sent back to Africa." In Indiana, a 7th grader demanded to know whether a classmate adopted from China was in fact Mexican, because, if so, "Trump is going to kill you." A middle-school student in Coon Rapids, Minnesota, had her hijab forcefully removed, causing her to fall. A 15-year-old adopted from Mozambique was told by her class

couple found a gun target tacked to the front door of their restaurant with a pair of nooses hung on either side. A white couple with eleven adopted black children were the object of a letter that read, "You and yours need to stay separate NOT EQUAL."

tolerance for black people. "We have reclaimed our country back by selecting Trump, one note read, and you are now messing up everything. The racial letter warned, "We have just cleared the white house of niggers! Do not bring niggers in our neighborhood... We will kill them."

In Clarksburg, Virginia, a white woman married to a black man found a note attached to the family's front door that read, "you're worse than your nigger family because you should know better. Race trader (sic). Trump". In Brundidge, Alabama, an interracial



# ANTI-MUSLIM

Hate incidents involving Muslims, or those perceived to be Muslim, were about . % of the total collected by the SPLC.

Muslim Americans are frequently characterized as terrorists. In Nashville, a white man in a truck hurled racial slurs at a woman wearing a hijab while she waited for the bus with her son. Go back to your fucking country and take your terrorist son with you, he said as he drove away. In El Cajon, California, a business received a typed note that read

of rescinding the constitutional protections of same-sex marriage. In Brighton, Iowa, a couple got this note under their windshield: "So father homo, how does it feel to have Trump as your president? At least he's got a set of balls. They'll put marriage back where God wants it and take your's away. America's gonna take care of your faggity ass." In North Carolina, a couple received a similar note: "Can't wait until your 'marriage' is overturned by a real president. Gay families - burn in hell. #Trump".

LGBT children have not escaped harassment in the wake of the election. In upstate New York, students wrote homophobic slurs and drew a swastika on a teen's headphones while he was in class. In Cedar Falls, Iowa, a 16-year-old decided to drop out of school after a series of incidents in which schoolmates called her a fag and queer, and threatened to grab her by the

pussy. The teenager came out four years ago and her parents said, "We never experienced anything like that. All of a sudden, the 15th (of November) hits, and she's some kind of freak - she's a target."

Churches that performed same-sex marriages or had banners advertising inclusivity have been tar-



# ANTI-SEMITISM

In the wake of the election, we recorded anti-Semitic incidents, about % of the total recorded. The figure includes, vandalism and graffiti incidents of swastikas, without specific references to Jews.

Swastikas have been scrawled in public spaces, schools, driveways, and on people's cars and garage doors. Many of these incidents simply feature a swastika and a refer-

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# WHITE NATIONALISM

White nationalists have openly embraced Donald Trump, and following his election victory, the language, literature, and symbols of white nationalism have cropped up throughout the country.

A vast number of white nationalist fliers and recruiting materials have appeared in businesses, public parks, on people's cars, in driveways, and, especially, on college campuses around the country. Are you sick of anti-white propaganda in college? YOU ARE NOT ALONE, a widely distributed flier read. RACE IS REAL. Your professors are lying to you to keep their jobs.

Many fliers perpetuate long-debunked myths of white racial superiority and contain warnings against miscegenation. A handout found on many college campuses explained Why White Women Shouldn't Date Black Men. Other posters encourage whites people to openly embrace their white identity. Love who you are, a flier at an Ohio university read, white people have the right to exist as white people. BE WHITE. The distribution of Klu Klux Klan recruiting materials has also been reported around the country.

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# ANTI-TRUMP

Of the 1,000 hate incidents collected by the SPLC, 100 were anti-Trump. In the days following the election, there were far fewer reports of anti-Trump harassment and intimidation than there were of the other types of harassment catalogued in this report. However, the small number of anti-Trump incidents may

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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