

A bias incident is an action taken against people or property that does not appear to constitute a crime or actionable discrimination, but which may intimidate, mock, degrade, or threaten a member or group. Hateful and offensive speech or symbols, although repugnant, are not necessarily violations of civil rights law or crimes. The FBI, which tracks all hate crimes, is careful to protect freedom of expression and civil liberties.

Examples of Bias Incidents

1. **White supremacist posters on campus**

In December 2016, white supremacist posters naming a white supremacist group appeared on campus buildings at Concordia College, Moorhead.

<https://www.valleynewslive.com/content/news/lts-ok-499350031.html>

2. **Profiling**

When two Muslim students from Nazareth College attended a church service for a “Sociology of Religion” course assignment, a local churchgoer called the U.S.

Department of Homeland Security to report them. [Read more about profiling incidents.](#)

Furthermore, these are incidents that happen daily in public places nonetheless never make the news process to the public.

Examples of Bias incidents that are never reported or heard of:

1. Two Hispanics communicating in Spanish in a public place and an older white woman shouting in their faces “speak American” you are in America...go back to Mexico.
2. Woman talking in a loud voice (when a family of Hispanic descent, park their car to go shopping) “ever since Mexicans decided to stay in N D, crime has gone up”.
3. A couple-Native Americans were trying to get a ride to Fargo after the car in which they were passengers was pulled over by Law Enforcement near Wahpeton. They had no money and slept in the doorway of a vacant building. The following morning, they went to the Wahpeton police and asked if there was a shelter they could go to and were told by law enforcement to get out of town immediately or they would be arrested. (Please note, this is their story told firsthand to us). When we saw the state, they were in while hitchhiking, we stopped on I29 about three or four miles north of Highway 13 and I29 juncture and picked them up. They told us no one would stop despite their obvious plight. It was a hot day in August, and they had had no water or food since the night before. They were tired, thirsty, and hungry and had walked over eight hours from Wahpeton.
4. A Hispanic man that works for a farmer in Richland county has endured racial slurs and humiliation by his employer, including the son of the owner. The employer later

apologized, and he returned to work because of the income and the fear if he were to leave, he would be blackballed in the area and would be unable to get further employment.

The people depicted in the examples above are not “undocumented” but American Citizens born here in this country.

HATE has made its nest in North Dakota but extremely hard to quantify. While teams of studies in Universities and the legislature are vibrant the outcomes are disproportionately negatively impacted by institution inequities with quasi-experimental issues, i.e., racism and white supremacy.

William (Bill) Berlin

Co-founder ND State Hispanics Caucus

Co-founder Hispanics Have A Voice Too (HHAVT)