Filming hate can expose abuse, deter violence, substantiate reports and serve as evidence. Be a witness!

BE SAFE!

Your camera can protect you or put you and others at risk. Could exposing the identity of the person(s) being targeted, such as an immigrant or trans person, endanger them or others in their community? Ask yourself: Does anyone’s identity need to be protected? Who can I call for help? Do I have an escape route? Could someone take my camera? Are there others around? Can I film without being seen?

GET READY: Free up space on your device and protect it with a secure pass code (not Touch ID)!

TO FILM OR NOT TO FILM?

If you witness a hateful act, let the target know you are there to help. If you feel that filming could make the situation worse, don’t do it. Here are some possible ways to take action instead of filming:

- DIRECT - If safe, call out the harassment and/or directly confront the harasser. Assess the risk to yourself and others before using this tactic.
- DISTRACT - Ignore the harasser and engage with the person being targeted
- DELAY - Speak to the target afterwards, ask how you can support
- DELEGATE - Request assistance from a 3rd party

*NOTE: Some individuals and communities may fear and/or distrust law enforcement because of previous abusive or traumatizing experiences. Involving the police could make them feel uncomfortable or unsafe. Check with the target before calling law enforcement or 911.

Visit ihollaback.org for more tips on bystander intervention.

FILM SO OTHERS UNDERSTAND

Show what happened with details like torn clothing, blood stains, hateful chants, slurs, threats, license plates, threatening symbols, graffiti, property damage and weapons. On-camera interviews can help explain important parts of the story, but consider whether it could cause harm by making them a target or re-victimizing them.

PROVE IT'S REAL

Film (or say) the time and date. Show street signs, landmarks, others filming and nearby surveillance cameras to help prove your location. Film without stopping if you can. If sharing online, include a clear, factual description.

DON'T SHAKE

Keep your camera steady and hold important shots for at least 10 seconds. Film multiple angles from different distances. Getting good video in low light can be hard, but the audio can still be valuable.

THINK BEFORE YOU SHARE

Uploading your video or livestream to a public channel can turn you - or the target and their community - into a target. Once it’s online, you lose control of who sees the video and the context it’s shared in. Before sharing publicly, ask for advice from a lawyer, the victim, a trusted friend, local activist or journalist.

WHO TO TELL

If possible, ask the target what they want you to do with the footage. Many non-profit and state organizations are recording reports of hate-related incidents. Look for a group near you to file a report and find additional support for the victim.

SEE IT FILM IT CHANGE IT

Get more filming tips: fbrary.witness.org
Filming Hate - V 2.0 - USA

BACK IT UP

Enable auto backup on your phone. Save the original file in a safe place. Never delete the original file or change the filename. Ever. If you do edit, do it from a copy.