

H A R A S S M E N T & H A T E

Hate crimes are unique in that they are "message crimes," or crimes committed against individuals **BECAUSE THEY BELONG TO A SPECIFIC RACE, RELIGION, GENDER OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION.** In this they are crimes against **GROUPS** of people--and thus they differ greatly from other crimes and are not adequately addressed by other laws.

From classrooms to bar rooms many Idahoans are living in fear. Hateful violence, vandalism and harassment should not be part of any Idahoan's day to day life, yet many of us of all ages must endure harassment, vandalism and the threat of violence on a daily or weekly or monthly basis. Existing laws simply are not adequate to address this problem .

As a state trying to repair its image as a haven for violent extremists, an amendment adding "disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and physical appearance" to Idaho's Malicious Harassment law makes real the promises made by Governors Batt and Kempthorne that violence and hatred toward members of any targeted group will not be tolerated here.

H A R A S S M E N T & H A T E

Hate crimes are unique in that they are "message crimes," or crimes committed against individuals **BECAUSE THEY BELONG TO A SPECIFIC RACE, RELIGION, GENDER OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION.** In this they are crimes against **GROUPS** of people--and thus they differ greatly from other crimes and are not adequately addressed by other laws.

From classrooms to bar rooms many Idahoans are living in fear. Hateful violence, vandalism and harassment should not be part of any Idahoan's day to day life, yet many of us of all ages must endure harassment, vandalism and the threat of violence on a daily or weekly or monthly basis. Existing laws simply are not adequate to address this problem .

As a state trying to repair its image as a haven for violent extremists, an amendment adding "disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and physical appearance" to Idaho's Malicious Harassment law makes real the promises made by Governors Batt and Kempthorne that violence and hatred toward members of any targeted group will not be tolerated here.