



HATE ACTIVITY REPORT
June 2001 – May 2002



Office of the Vice Provost for Educational Equity
The Pennsylvania State University

May 2002

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
HATE ACTIVITY REPORT
THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

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INTRODUCTION

This report provides an overview of hate activity reported to the University during the 2001–2002 academic year. Information was gathered from University Police Services, the Affirmative Action Office, and other official channels for reporting acts of intolerance across the multicampus system.

The reports range from those in which the target(s) were slightly concerned or annoyed about the incident to those where the target(s) felt physically threatened and feared for their safety. While these reports differ in their intensity, they are critical incidents that send the wrong message about our community. As stated in *The Penn State Principles*, we respect “the dignity of all individuals within the Penn State community.” Our plan is to provide the community with an annual report of hate activity and to develop enhanced strategies for supporting the victims of these hate activities.

Most likely this report is an underrepresentation of the actual hate activities that occurred. A 2001 study by the Southern Poverty Law Center found that federal and state hate crime reports reflect only 20 percent of actual hate crime activity in the nation. The study indicated that a series of factors lead to the low-level reporting on college and university campuses. Within university systems compliance requirements are interpreted differently and multiple definitions are used to determine hate crime activity. This lack of standardization results in a decentralized and unreliable reporting system. The study noted other barriers to hate crime reporting, such as the stigma attached to reporting hate crime activity, and a lack of awareness about reporting contacts and processes. Finally, some colleges and universities are reluctant to publish data that damaged their public image.

Despite these national trends Penn State is committed to developing a uniform mechanism for reporting acts of intolerance, educating the campus community about the reporting process, and communicating a summary of such incidents on an annual basis.

DATA SUMMARY (June 2001 – May 2002)

What follows is a list of findings followed by a series of charts and graphs that depict the character of hate crimes at Penn State from June 2001– May 2002.

- 54 hate activity reports were made to the University from June 2001 – May 2002.
- 85% (46) of reports involved targets who were students, 9% (5) staff, 2% (1) faculty, and 4% (2) were unidentified.

- 38% (21) of reports indicated victims were targeted primarily because of their race/ethnicity, 31% (17) because of their gender, and 19% (10) because of their sexual orientation.
- 37% (20) reported verbal harassment, 31% (17) written harassment, and 26% (14) physical harassment.
- 56% (30) of the victims reported were women, 31% (17) were male, and 13% (7) were unidentified.
- 59% (32) of victims reported male agents, 4% (2) reported female agents, and 37% (20) were unable to identify the gender of the victimizer.
- Reports indicated hate activity was most likely to occur in the evening (6:00–11:00 p.m.) (13) followed closely by late evening/early morning (11:00 p.m.–4:00 a.m.) (11).