



LUND UNIVERSITY

Hate crime in the online/offline environment

Dahlstrand, Karl; Olsson, Patrik

2015

Document Version:

Peer reviewed version (aka post-print)

[Link to publication](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

Dahlstrand, K., & Olsson, P. (2015). *Hate crime in the online/offline environment*. 1-1. Abstract from *Law and Society in the 21st Century*.

Total number of authors:

2

General rights

Unless other specific re-use rights are stated the following general rights apply:

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal

Read more about Creative commons licenses: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/>

Take down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

LUND UNIVERSITY

PO Box 117
221 00 Lund
+46 46-222 00 00

Hate crime in the online/offline environment

Patrik Olsson & Karl Dahlstrand. Lund University

The prevalence of hate crime in the merged online/offline environment draw attention due to a political climate where populist and extremist political movements are gaining ground. The visibility of hate crime activities has provoked public debates around the problem and engages scholars, organizations, agencies and institutes concerning this phenomenon. For various reasons, it is complicated to determine the actual extent of hate crime in its different shapes and forms. According to the hate crime statistics in Sweden, published annually by the National Council for Crime Prevention (Brå), "hate crimes with xenophobic/racist motives made up the largest proportion, followed by hate crimes motivated by sexual orientation." (Brå 2014:14) The number of Swedish police reports with an identified hate crime motive was estimated to 5 508, in 2013. (Brå 2014:14)

The rapid pace of information technology has contributed to produce new venues for purveyors of hate, spreading their rhetoric of intolerance in the online environment as well as in the offline environment. The expansion of hate and hate groups are most noticeable on the Internet e.g. social media, and cyberhate as threat has become a challenge to most people and even young people during their formative years. (Perry & Olsson 2009)

The attention surrounding hate crimes has led to political demands for changes in the law. The judiciary has also been given additional resources to prevent and prosecute persons guilty of hate crimes. In addition, the phenomenon has been noted in a number of other political, media and social contexts. Since hate crimes are often related to the subject to a criminal act, it is a complex concept, which also makes it difficult to gain knowledge of how common hate crime really is.

We will, in this paper, examine the official crime statistics, that show that the reporting rates for hate crime are quite stable and even slightly decreasing (Brå 2014:14). According to the same crime statistics the Internet is not the predominant environment where hate crimes are committed, the approach is not dependent on digital technology, but most hate crimes are committed in other settings like at home, the work place or in a public place and directly to the victim.

Bibliography

BRÅ rapport 2014:14 Hatbrott 2013 – Statistik över polisanmälningar med identifierade hatbrottsmotiv och självrapporterad utsatthet för hatbrott.

Perry, B., & Olsson, P. (2009). Cyberhate: the globalization of hate. *Information & Communications Technology Law*, 18 (2), 185-199.

Svensson, M., & Dahlstrand, K. (2014), *Nätkränkningar, Svenska ungdomars normer och beteenden*.