

HATE CRIMES IN INDIA: NEED FOR A COMPREHENSIVE LEGISLATION

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ABSTRACT

Hate crimes attack the victims not only physically but they and their families begin to question their very own identity causing vulnerable citizens in the country. The hate motivated crimes are not dependent on the behaviour or conduct of a person but are based on his caste, gender, religion, race etc. Hate crimes are on rise in India for the past few decades and if we do not sensitise ourselves with this crime today our future generations cannot live in peace and harmony in this heterogeneous society for very long. These hate crimes may spread beyond the individual victims to a community at large, therefore, there is an utmost need for a legislation with stringent laws and accountability of those responsible for keeping peace in the society.

KEYWORDS: *Hate crimes, Lynching, Hate Speech, Caste-Based and Gender Based Violence*