Terms and definitions

Handout

Bias
An inclination or preference either for or against an individual or group that interferes with impartial judgment.

Discrimination
Unfair treatment of one person or a group of people because of their identity (for example, race, religion, gender ability, culture, and so on.). Discrimination is an action that can come from prejudice.

Genocide
The act of or intent to deliberately and systematically annihilate (wipe out) an entire religious, racial, national or cultural group.

Hate Crime
A criminal act directed at a person or group because of the victim's real or perceived race, ethnicity, gender, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or ability.

Prejudice
Judging or forming an idea about someone or a group of people before you actually know them. Prejudice is often directed toward people in a certain identity group such as race, religion, gender.

Scapegoating
Blaming a person or group for something, when the fault actually lies elsewhere. Scapegoating includes hostile words or actions that can lead to verbal or physical violence; a person or group is blamed for something because of some aspect of their identity, but they usually lack the power or opportunity to fight back.

Stereotype
The false idea that all members of a group are the same and think and behave in the same way.

Bias-motivated Violence
An action that emotionally or physically harms a person or group and that is motivated by the identity of the person or group (for example, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ability, and so on.).