

Bias Incident Reporting Process FAQ

As part of Alpha Chi Omega's ongoing commitment to inclusion and belonging, resources have been created to help volunteers and chapter leaders navigate bias incidents. This includes a Bias Incident Reporting Form, which has been made available for members to use as needed and desired. This form can be completed anonymously by collegiate or alumnae members.

Alpha Chi Omega will not tolerate retaliatory action against anyone for reporting or inquiring in good faith about a potential bias incident or violation in policy or against anyone seeking assistance in learning about the reporting process.

HOW DO I ACCESS ALPHA CHI OMEGA'S CONFIDENTIAL REPORTING SYSTEM?

1. Navigate to the [Inclusion and Belonging webpage](#) of the Alpha Chi Omega website.
2. Scroll down to the [Bias Incident Reporting Process section](#) and click the "[Submit a report](#)" button.

WHAT IS A BIAS INCIDENT?

A bias incident is any intentional or unintentional conduct, speech, expression or action that could reasonably be perceived as being motivated in part or in whole by bias, prejudices or stereotypes of individual or group identities or characteristics. This definition is inclusive of but not limited to incidents that intimidate, demean, mock, degrade, marginalize or threaten individuals or groups based on that individual's or group's actual or perceived legally protected identities.

Alpha Chi Omega does not endorse or support behaviors or activities that are motivated by bias, prejudices or stereotypes or are demeaning in nature.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO REPORT BIAS INCIDENTS?

Bias incidents can create a hostile living environment and/or sisterhood experience and have a negative effect on our membership. Alpha Chi Omega remains deeply committed to addressing bias within our collegiate and alumnae chapters and within the national organization as a whole

I AM UNSURE IF WHAT I WITNESSED OR EXPERIENCED WAS A BIAS INCIDENT. SHOULD I STILL REPORT?

Yes, Alpha Chi Omega encourages all members to report suspected bias incidents. If you witness or experience behavior that may not feel right to you, we can appropriately follow up.

WHAT ABOUT FREE SPEECH? DON'T MEMBERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO FREE SPEECH?

Alpha Chi Omega is committed to fostering respectful dialogue within our communities. Members voluntarily agree to participate in Alpha Chi Omega membership and agree to the Member Code of Conduct. This includes using language that is not hurtful or demeaning to others.

WILL SUBMITTING A BIAS INCIDENT REPORT RESULT IN DISCIPLINARY ACTION?

Submitting information through [Alpha Chi Omega's Bias Incident Reporting Form](#) will not result in immediate disciplinary action. Once information is received, the report is reviewed to determine if the details described might violate Alpha Chi Omega's policies, then Alpha Chi Omega headquarters will work with the appropriate local individuals for follow-up.

Collegiate membership accountability takes place by utilization of the chapter relations and standards board, and each chapter is required to follow Alpha Chi Omega's fraternity process as outlined in the Policies of Alpha Chi Omega.

General alumnae membership accountability follows the fraternity process for alumnae members, which may or may not result in disciplinary action.

Volunteer accountability takes place through the volunteer accountability process and is typically led by a volunteer supervisor with the guidance of a staff liaison.

WHAT IF THE INCIDENT IS AN EMERGENCY?

If you have immediate concerns about the health and safety of you or another person, you should engage with local campus resources and/or local emergency response resources.

If the incident is related to a collegiate chapter, please also review the Crisis Management Plan.

WHAT IF THIS INCIDENT HAS BECOME PUBLIC?

Collegians – Please review the Crisis Management Plan provided to your chapter by headquarters. Do not speak to any media representatives unless and until the chapter

president has received permission from Alpha Chi Omega headquarters to provide an appropriate statement. Instruct members to not provide statements to the media.

General Alumnae – You can receive help by emailing lifetimeengagement@alphachiomega.org or calling headquarters. For alumnae who are volunteers, please contact your volunteer supervisor for additional support.

CAN I ALSO USE THE BIAS INCIDENT REPORTING FORM TO REPORT OTHER HARMFUL BEHAVIORS OCCURRING IN A CHAPTER AS PART OF MY MEMBERSHIP EXPERIENCE?

The Bias Incident Reporting Form should only be utilized to report a bias incident. If you have immediate concerns about the health and safety of you or another person, you should engage with local campus resources and/or local emergency response resources.

Collegiate members can also work with the VP chapter relations and standards or a trusted member of the CRSB to voice other chapter-related concerns.

Please note, the reporting form should not be utilized as a way to report a personal grievance or avoid conflict/difficult conversations.

WHAT HAPPENS TO MY REPORT AFTER IT HAS BEEN SUBMITTED?

When you submit a report, an email is automatically sent to inform an authorized administrator on the headquarters staff. The administrator(s) will review the submitted report and may contact you for additional information if contact information is provided.

While we value and acknowledge the significance of anonymity when submitting bias reports, it is important to recognize that, in cases where contact information isn't provided, our ability to effectively address your concerns may be limited and we will be unable to provide updates.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

To best encourage dialogue, Alpha Chi Omega believes it is essential to share a common language of inclusion and belonging terms. We invite you to review this [Inclusion and Belonging Terms resource](#).

Due to the ever-changing nature of language, please note this glossary is not meant to be exhaustive.