



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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## **Wyoming Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Releases Report on Hate Crimes**

The Wyoming Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights released a [report](#) following a series of panel discussions on hate crimes and its impact on communities targeted because of their race, color, age, religion, or disability. The report examines the sufficiency of current equal protection laws in Wyoming, estimates the prevalence of alleged hate crime by using available data and testimonies, the prevalence of hate groups (if any) in the state, and examines challenges or barriers which may prevent law enforcement from addressing alleged hate crimes.

In this report, the Committee heard testimony and received written statements from academics, advocacy organizations, policy analysts, and individuals impacted by bias-motivated incidents and/or hate crimes. Through this testimony, the Committee identified a number of concerns that include: underreporting of hate crimes, need for training of law enforcement to identify and address hate crimes, hate crime and its impact on the American Indian community, prevalence of bias-motivated incidents, lack of hate crime legislation and its impact on vulnerable communities, and alternative solutions to address discrimination given the history of attempts to pass hate crime legislation.

The report also includes recommendations directed to the Commission asking for corrective actions from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Congress, Wyoming Legislature, Wyoming Governor and state law enforcement agencies with a goal of helping address the Committee's concerns.

Committee Chair Dr. Robert Byrd stated: "This report is intended to be a tool to help identify and respond to the many issues surrounding implicit bias, hate and policing practices on our communities of color, indigenous, LGBTQ, and other races and ethnicities. The Committee concluded that Wyoming law enforcement and State government officials, at every level, need to address issues related to hate crimes in Wyoming. I encourage all citizens of Wyoming, as well as policymakers, law enforcement, community members, and any other stakeholders to read this important report."

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*The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, established by the Civil Rights Act of 1957, is the only independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights and reporting annually on federal civil rights enforcement. Our 51 state Advisory Committees offer a broad perspective on civil rights concerns at state and local levels. For information about the Commission, please visit [www.usccr.gov](http://www.usccr.gov) and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).*