



NEWS RELEASE
March 20, 2019

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Virginia Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Will Examine Hate Crimes in Virginia

On Friday, March 29, 2019, in Washington, DC, beginning at 10:00 a.m. EDT, the Virginia Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights will hold a public briefing to examine hate crimes in the state. The briefing is open to the public. Individuals may also call-in: 1-877-260-1479, conference ID number: 6222890. Persons with hearing impairments should first dial the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

The Committee has invited experts who will share their knowledge about hate crimes and respond to questions from Committee members. Presenters include academics, advocates, and representatives of community-based organizations, and federal and state government officials. The agenda is attached.

Committee Chairman K. Shiek Pal stated, "The Committee's review will examine the history of hate crimes in the Commonwealth, as well as the current legal framework to identify, report, prosecute, and prevent such crimes in Virginia. We have invited experts to discuss the available hate crime data collected over time, and a comparative assessment of how other jurisdictions respond to and prevent hate crimes in order to consider what Virginia could or should do differently."

Public Comments

Immediately following the panel presentations, the Committee will hear short statements from interested members of the public, including those attending the meeting by phone, who wish to share their knowledge and experiences on hate crimes. The statements will begin at approximately 1:30 p.m. In addition, the Committee will accept written comments submitted by April 29, 2019; please send to the Eastern Regional Office at 1331 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Suite 1150, Washington, DC 20415 or email ero@usccr.gov.

Next Steps

The Committee will submit a written summary of its examination to the Commission, making it available to Virginia residents and policy makers.

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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, and Advisory Committees, please visit <http://www.usccr.gov> and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

**Hate Crimes in Virginia – Incidences and Responses
Friday, March 29, 2019**

**Hearing Room
U.S. Commission on Civil Rights
National Place Building
1331 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Suite 1150
(Entrance on F Street NW, between 13th & 14th Streets)
Washington, DC 20425**

AGENDA

- 10:00 a.m. Welcome and Introductions**
- 10:15 a.m. Statement: Susan Bro, President and Chairman**
Heather Heyer Foundation
Charlottesville, VA
- 10:30 a.m. Panel 1: Hate Crime History in VA, Current Legal Framework, Enforcement and Data**
- Mary B. McCord, Professor of Law**
Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection
Georgetown School of Law
Washington, DC
- Joe Platania, Commonwealth Attorney**
Charlottesville, VA
- Barbara A. Oudekerk, Statistician**
U.S. Department of Justice – Bureau of Justice Statistics
Victimization Statistics Unit
Washington, DC
- Kai Wiggins, Policy Analyst**
Arab American Institute
Washington, DC
- 12:00 p.m. Panel 2: Responses to and Prevention of Hate Crimes and What VA Could and Should Do Differently**
- Liz Coston, Professor**
Department of Sociology
VA Commonwealth University
Richmond, VA

Doron F. Ezickson, Regional Director

Anti-Defamation League

Washington, DC

**Harpreet Mokha, National Program Manager for
Muslim, Arab, South Asian, Sikh and Hindu
Communities**

U. S. Department of Justice-Community Relations Service

Washington, DC

Brian Johns, Executive Director

VA Organizing

Charlottesville, VA

1:30 p.m.

Open Public Comments

Time TBD

Adjourn