



PRESS RELEASE
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**Maine Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights
Announces Public Briefing on Hate Crimes**

On Friday, July 12, 2019, in Augusta, the Maine Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will hold a public briefing on hate crimes, to examine the laws and policies in place to address such crimes in the state.

In March, the Commission [urged](#) the United States Department of Justice and the Trump Administration to increase hate crimes enforcement responsive to the violence motivated by hate targeted at people of color, faith, and newcomers to our country.

Maine Committee Chair Diane Khiel said, “Thirty-five years since the worst hate crime in modern Maine's history - the murder of teenage Charlie Howard, who was thrown off a bridge for being gay and drown - we must remain vigilant. This briefing will examine Maine's laws and other protections against hate crimes to assess where we are toward that goal in 2019.”

The Committee will hear from elected and government officials, advocates, and members of the public to better understand the extent of the problem in Maine and official actions to address it. U.S. Attorney Halsey Frank and Maine Commissioner of Public Safety Michael Sauschuck are among the panelists. There will be an opportunity for members of the public in attendance to address the Committee in an open comment session.

EVENT: Maine Advisory Committee Public Briefing: Hate Crimes

WHEN: Friday, July 12, 2019, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm EDT
(End time subject to duration of panels and public comment session)

WHERE: The Holocaust and Human Rights Center
46 University Drive, Augusta, ME 04330
Or via telephone: 1-800-353-6461; ID: 7589262

Stay abreast of updates, including panelist information and session times, at www.usccr.gov and on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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 reports and meetings of the Commission and its Advisory Committees, please visit www.usccr.gov and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).