



PRESS RELEASE
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**U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Releases Report:
*In the Name of Hate: Examining the Federal Government's Role
in Responding to Hate Crimes***

WASHINGTON – Today, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights released [*In the Name of Hate: Examining the Federal Government's Role in Responding to Hate Crimes*](#). In response to increased reports of hate crimes including horrific acts of bias-motivated violence, the Commission voted to investigate the federal government's role in combating hate crimes. In particular, the Commission examined three areas: federal law enforcement's hate crimes reporting practices and local policies being developed to encourage greater reporting; federal prosecution and enforcement of laws regarding hate crimes and bias-motivated incidents; and prevention of federal crimes based on race, national origin, ethnicity, disability, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

Chair Catherine E. Lhamon said, "As this report reflects, the nation urgently needs leadership against hate, promoting respect for the dignity of all persons in our communities. None of us is immune to the harm of hate, and we all deserve and benefit from commitment to confronting and eliminating this toxicity that threatens America's promise of equity and justice."

Key findings from the Commission majority include:

- Available evidence suggests hate crimes are increasing in America. Many Americans are negatively impacted by hate crimes and are fearful of the heightened expression of hate and bigotry in the United States.
- Effective laws for, reporting of, and responses to hate violence by law enforcement officials send a message to targeted communities that these crimes and the threat they pose will be addressed through appropriate training of law enforcement officers and increased availability of resources.
- As of the time of this writing, 46 states and the District of Columbia have some form of hate crime statute, leaving Arkansas, Georgia, South Carolina, and Wyoming as the only states without such statutes.
- The highest percent of reported post-2016 election hate incidents were in K-12 schools, and the majority of these incidents involved racial discrimination. Educators, researchers, parents and students should pay attention to bullying and hate-related incidents in schools and actively work with students and school communities to prevent them.

Key recommendations from the Commission majority include:

- Congress should (a) pass legislation and provide adequate funding that would incentivize local and state law enforcement to more accurately report hate crimes to the FBI, and

promote greater transparency and accountability, which would aid in building community trust; and (b) pass legislation to ensure that federal law enforcement agencies collect and report their hate crime data to the FBI.

- To ensure that states are accurately reporting hate crime data they receive from local law enforcement agencies, the federal government should condition funding on reporting and publication of data, undergoing data auditing for accuracy, and working with community groups to report hate crimes even where a victim does not want to move forward with criminal prosecution.
- The Trump Administration should reinstate groups within the Department of Homeland Security who analyze the threat of domestic terrorism and reinstate grants awarded to groups who counter white supremacist terror. The Justice Department should provide grants, training materials, and resources for police departments to receive cultural competency and sensitivity training related to hate crimes and bias-motivated incidents. Congress should allocate additional funding towards anti-bias training for officers.
- Congress should pass legislation that includes hate crime prevention and response programs at higher education institutions and ensures that students and faculty are aware of related safety concerns on and around campuses. The Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights must vigorously enforce the protections against harassment that federal civil rights laws guarantee to students and provide the necessary leadership for school officials and administrators at primary, secondary, and higher education institutions to protect their students from bias-related incidents.

In May 2018, the Commission held a [public briefing](#), hearing from federal and local law enforcement experts, state and federal policy makers, community leaders, impacted family members, and the public about federal and local responses to these heinous acts. The [morning](#), [afternoon](#), [public comment](#) sessions and the briefing [transcript](#) are available for review.

The Commission's Advisory Committees in Massachusetts, Maine, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming have recently carried out work to address hate crimes, helping inform the Commission and the report.

[In the Name of Hate](#), based on expert and public input, research and analysis, will offer actionable recommendations to the President, Congress, federal agencies and law enforcement entities.

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The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights 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. The Commission: In our 7th decade, a continuing legacy of influence in civil rights. Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).