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.

###

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](http://www.usccr.gov) and follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com) and [Facebook](https://facebook.com).
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