

# FACT SHEET: Combating Hate Crimes

On March 30, 2021, Attorney General Merrick B. Garland's first directive to the Department of Justice was a 30-day expedited internal [review](#) to determine how the department could deploy all the tools at its disposal to counter the recent rise in hate crimes and hate incidents. After that review was completed, in May, the Attorney General issued a [memorandum](#) announcing steps that the department would immediately begin to take to deter hate crimes and bias-related incidents, address them when they occur, support those victimized by them, and reduce the pernicious effects these incidents have on our society. Since then, the department has aggressively worked to implement the Attorney General's directives to increase resources to combat hate crimes through federal law enforcement action and to enhance training, support and outreach to state and local partners.

**Pursuing Hate Crimes Prosecutions:** Since 2021, more than 60 people have been charged in more than 55 different cases. Since January 2021, the department has secured convictions against more than 55 people.

**Launching *United Against Hate* nationwide:** In September 2022, the Attorney General [announced](#) that over the next year, all 94 U.S. Attorneys' Offices (USAOs) will host a nationwide initiative to combat unlawful acts of hate. Developed by the Civil Rights Division, the [United Against Hate](#) (UAH) program improves the reporting of hate crimes by teaching community members how to identify, report, and help prevent hate crimes, and provides an opportunity for trust building between law enforcement and communities. Since its launch, USAOs have hosted over 50 *United Against Hate* events.

**Elevating Hate Crimes to Level 1 National Threat:** As of Oct. 1, 2021, hate crimes and many other criminal civil rights violations are categorized in the FBI's highest-level national threat priority, which will increase the resources for hate crimes prevention and investigations and makes hate crimes a focus for all 56 FBI field offices.

**Coordinating Hate Crimes and Incidents Work:** The Attorney General appointed a Deputy Associate Attorney General as the department's first-ever hate crimes coordinator to centralize the efforts of department attorneys, law enforcement partners, community organizations and other stakeholders around responding to hate crimes and incidents.

**Expanding Language Access:** In May 2022, the Attorney General announced the hiring of the department's inaugural Language Access Coordinator. The department has added information to its [website](#) on reporting hate crimes in 24 languages. Information is now available in 18 of the most frequently spoken AAPI languages in the United States, including Chinese (both Simplified and Traditional), Japanese, Korean, Tagalog, Vietnamese and many more.

**Issuing Guidance:** In May 2022, the one-year anniversary of enactment of the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act, the Attorney General [issued](#) new guidance with the Department of Health and Human Services aimed at raising awareness of hate crimes during the COVID-19 pandemic. The department has also issued fact sheets with the Department of Education addressing harassment and discrimination in school, including harassment based on COVID-19 related issues, harassment of LGBTQI+ students, and discrimination based on national origin and immigration status.

**Reviewing Hate Incidents:** The Attorney General designated the Criminal Section Chief in the Civil Rights Division to facilitate an expedited review of hate incidents to determine whether they violate federal criminal laws, in accordance with the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act.

**Reviewing USAO Resources:** The Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys conducted a nationwide survey of each USAO's resources dedicated to handling both civil and criminal enforcement of civil rights. All 94 U.S. Attorneys Offices designated at least one Assistant U.S. Attorney to serve as a Civil Rights Coordinator.

**Conducting an Awareness Campaign:** In June 2021, the FBI [launched](#) a National Anti-Hate Crimes Campaign involving all 56 FBI field offices to encourage reporting. The campaign includes outdoor advertising, billboards and radio streaming in addition to social media.

**Revitalizing the Community Relations Service:** The department is revitalizing the Community Relations Service (CRS), the component known as "America's Peacemaker," which provides facilitated dialogue, mediation, training, and consultation services for communities facing bias-related conflict. In FY22, CRS facilitated nearly a dozen Protecting Places of Worship forums to provide interfaith communities with resources and information on securing their places of worship, help faith leaders build relationships with law enforcement. Virtual forums held in June 2022 alone reached more than 800 faith-based and other community members. In FY22, CRS also facilitated five hate crime forums which focused on a broad range of community groups, including providing critical information to clergy and lay faith leaders across the country about hate crime laws, reporting procedures, and local resources for responding to hate incidents and hate crimes.

**Grants:** In 2022, the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) awarded more than \$12 million to state, local and Tribal agencies and community organizations to help address an alarming rise in violent and property crimes committed on the basis of race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or disability. As a part of these awards, OJP's Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) administers a program named in honor of Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. that supports law enforcement training and prosecution of hate crimes and encourages partnerships with stakeholders. Through the [Shepard-Byrd grant](#) program and BJA's new [Community-Based Approaches to Prevent and Address Hate Crimes program](#) that seeks to implement comprehensive community-based approaches to addressing hate crimes that promote community awareness and preparedness, increased victim reporting and improved responses to hate crimes, BJA made fourteen awards (to six jurisdictions and eight organizations) for funding and training and technical assistance support. BJA has also awarded \$1.7 million under the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act of 2016 to help solve cold case homicides involving civil rights violations that occurred before Dec. 31, 1979. OJP's Office for Victims of Crime is awarding more than \$2 million under the Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act to establish state hate crime reporting hotlines and to ensure victim and witnesses are connected to law enforcement and local support services. The Bureau of Justice Statistics allocated more than \$2 million in FY 2022 Jabara-Heyer funds to support law enforcement agencies (LEAs) that have not yet transitioned to NIBRS and that will have a substantial impact in achieving more robust and complete estimates of hate crime from the reported NIBRS data. FY 2022 funds went to the state of California, to assist the Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office, and the San Francisco Police Department in their efforts to report incident-based crime data to NIBRS. OJP's National Institute of Justice awarded almost \$3 million to support research focused on understanding and preventing hate crime offending; identifying strategies

for improving the reporting, investigation and prosecution of hate crimes; and addressing the needs of victims of hate crimes and their communities.

#### **Conducting Training Sessions:**

- In May 2022, the FBI hosted its sixth regional conference in Atlanta with approximately 150 people in attendance. In September 2021, the FBI held its fourth regional conference in Philadelphia, which included approximately 150 participants, and in December 2021, the FBI held its fifth regional conference in New Orleans where approximately 160 people attended. These conferences help local law enforcement agencies better understand federal civil rights and hate crimes laws; encourage reporting; strengthen relationships between law enforcement and local civil rights organizations; and build trust within the diverse communities they serve.
- In January 2022, OJP's Bureau of Justice Assistance's (BJA) State and Local Anti-Terrorism (SLATT) program has trained approximately 2,563 criminal justice professionals via in-person and virtual workshops, webinars, and technical assistance on terrorism, targeted violence, and hate crimes.
- In October 2021, the OJP's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) hosted a virtual symposium with over 1400 participants on preventing youth-related hate crimes, radicalization and identity based bullying, it held a series of 13 webinars as part of its Preventing Youth Hate Crimes & Identity-Based Bullying Initiative and conducted 19 youth roundtables in 7 cities across the United States to give youth a voice on this topic. OJJDP also plans to release a related curriculum as well as a special report this winter.
- In September 2021, COPS hosted a webinar for campus law enforcement officials on Justice Department resources for responding to hate crimes on college campuses.
- In September 2021, the Community Relations Services hosted a webinar for educators and college administrators that highlighted its facilitated dialogue programs that support campuses working to address the sources of tensions and strengthen relationships between campus community groups.
- In May 2021, the Office for Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), working with Arlington, Texas Police Department (APD) and [Collaborative Reform Initiative Technical Assistance Center \(CRI-TAC\)](#) partners as well as a cadre of subject matter experts (SMEs), developed a training curriculum on hate crimes for line-level officers. The training addresses the immediate response on the scene of a potential hate or bias crime; and focuses on enhancing law enforcement's response and the uniform patrol officer's ability to recognize and report a hate crime. This includes addressing victim needs, reporting incidents, and building community trust.