



U.S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service

## Educating and Supporting Communities Through the Bias Incidents and Hate Crimes Forum

The U.S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service (CRS) Bias Incidents and Hate Crimes forum is a facilitated dialogue program that educates local communities on ways to prevent and respond to alleged hate crimes. The forum is a public gathering that provides community members, public officials, and other interested parties with information related to the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr., Hate Crimes Prevention Act as well as state and municipal hate crimes laws.

### Program Goals ▼

Network with subject matter experts, community members, and law enforcement to share ideas, best practices, and resources to prevent and respond to alleged bias incidents and hate crimes

Improve participants' understanding of federal, state, and local hate crimes laws and ways to report alleged hate crimes

Build a multiparty working group tasked with addressing alleged hate crime issues

Identify federal, state, and local resources, programs, and tools to help prevent and respond to alleged bias incidents and hate crimes

The program engages federal, state, and local law enforcement, district attorneys, local government officials, civil rights organizations, and community organizations in discussions and information sharing on methods to combat and respond to alleged bias incidents and hate crimes. This three-hour in-person forum can be conducted in-person or virtually as a webinar in two hours.

The [Bias Incidents and Hate Crimes Forum Guide for Community Leaders](#) contains additional information and step-by-step instructions for community leaders to plan and facilitate their own forum.

### Program Overview ▼



#### Law Enforcement Panel

Representatives from federal law enforcement and the state or county prosecutor's office discuss federal and state hate crime statutes to increase public awareness of hate crime reporting procedures and prosecutions.

#### Community Speaks Panel

Representatives from local community and civil rights organizations discuss the challenges communities face when responding to alleged bias incidents and hate crimes.

#### Resources Panel

Representatives from federal, state, and local law enforcement; victim advocacy groups and assistance programs; and community leaders discuss resources available in the aftermath of alleged bias incidents or hate crimes.

### About CRS ▼

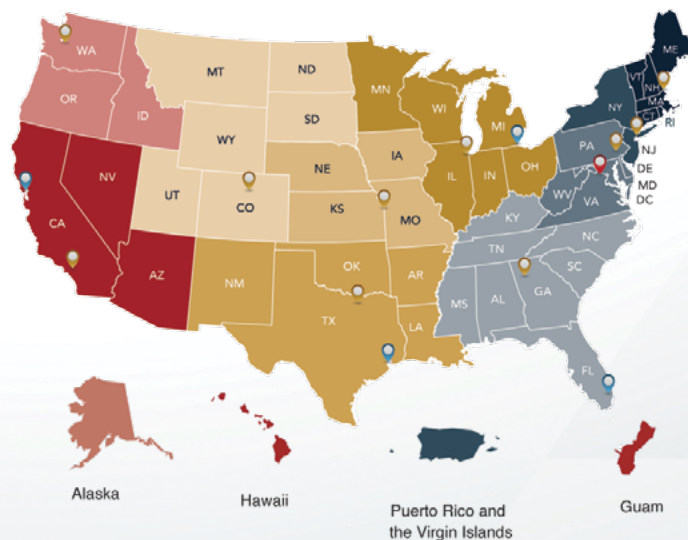
Established by Title X of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and expanded by the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr., Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009, CRS serves as “America’s Peacemaker” for communities facing tension or conflict based on differences of race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, and disability. CRS services aim to enhance the ability of local communities to independently and collaboratively prevent and resolve future conflicts through the use of problem solving, increased knowledge, and improved communication.

### CRS Services and Programs ▼

CRS provides an array of programs to communities experiencing tension to cultivate understanding, improve collaboration, and prevent future conflicts. CRS staff are professional mediators, facilitators, trainers, and consultants experienced in bringing community members together to help enhance their ability to resolve existing conflict and prevent future conflicts. All CRS programs and services are available virtually through videoconferencing platforms that engage community groups and stakeholders using tools such as breakout rooms, chat, and whiteboard capabilities.

### Where We Work ▼

- New England Region
- Northeastern Region
- Mid-Atlantic Region
- Southeastern Region
- Midwestern Region
- Southwestern Region
- Central Region
- Rocky Mountain Region
- Western Region
- Northwestern Region
- Field Offices
- Regional Offices
- CRS Headquarters Offices



### Find us, connect with us ▼

[www.justice.gov/crs](http://www.justice.gov/crs)

[www.justice.gov/hatecrimes](http://www.justice.gov/hatecrimes)



[facebook.com/DOJCRS](https://www.facebook.com/DOJCRS)



[@DOJ\\_CRIS](https://twitter.com/DOJ_CRIS)



[askcrs@usdoj.gov](mailto:askcrs@usdoj.gov)



202.305.2935

For more information on this program or other CRS services, please contact your local CRS office:

<https://www.justice.gov/crs/about-crs/regional-and-field-offices>