U.S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service

Working with University and College Communities

to Prevent and Respond to Hate Crimes and Bias Incidents

As America's Peacemaker, the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) Community Relations Service (CRS) provides facilitation, mediation, training, and conciliation services to communities in conflict and enhances their capacity to independently prevent and resolve future conflicts.

Under Title X of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Matthew Shephard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Prevention Act of 2009, CRS provides support to public and private secondary schools, universities and colleges that are experiencing actual or perceived tension or conflicts based on actual or perceived race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, or disability. CRS serves as a neutral third party and its services are confidential, voluntary, and provided at no cost.

▼ According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), a federal hate crime is a "criminal offense against a person or property motivated in whole or in part by an offender's bias against a race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, or gender identity."

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CRS programs and services include ▼

Facilitated Dialogue
CRS facilitates meetings between university officials, campus law enforcement, student leaders, and other key stakeholders to open lines of communication and promote problem solving in cases of alleged hate crimes motivated by bias. Frequently discussed topics include campus law enforcement practices for responding to bias incidents and hate crimes allegations, actions to support hate crimes prevention, clarifying campus policies regarding protests and demonstrations, as well as other issues important to the campus community.

Bias Incidents and Hate Crime Forums
This half-day forum provides members of the university and college community and campus law enforcement with information related to the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act. The program engages federal law enforcement, district attorneys, university and college officials, student leaders, campus and local law enforcement, faith leaders, and community advocacy organizations in discussions and information sharing on methods to combat and respond to hate crimes on campus.

Protecting Places of Worship Forums This half-day forum convenes experts who provide faith leaders and congregations on university and college campuses with information about hate crimes motivated by religious bias; local, state, and federal law enforcement threat

assessments; and steps to protect places of worship and religious centers on campus from potential hate crimes and other threats of violence. The program encourages the implementation of a security program, offers best practices for security, fosters networking and community outreach, and provides resources, such as examples of security plans and campus resources.

Campus Problem Identification and Resolution of Issues Together (Campus-SPIRIT) This eight-hour program brings together diverse student leaders, campus administrators, faculty members, staff, campus law enforcement, and external community leaders to identify and address critical issues impacting campus communities. The program is facilitated by CRS and local volunteer facilitators and helps universities and colleges develop and implement concrete solutions to address problems, such as the development of hate crimes prevention and response action plans and working groups.

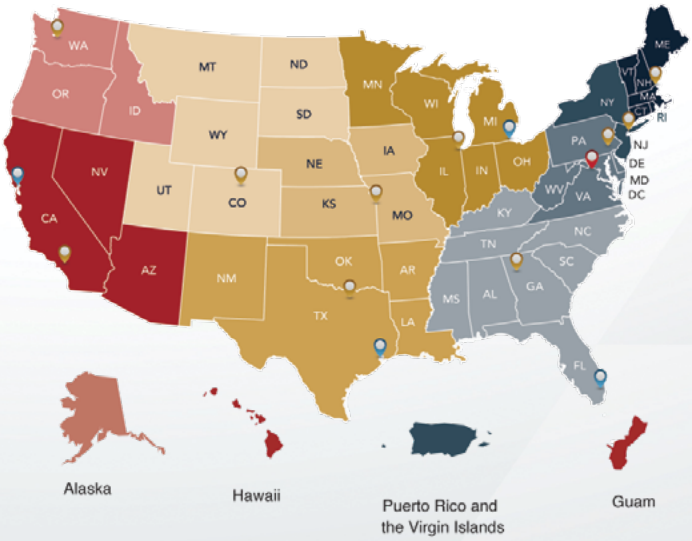
Community Awareness Training CRS provides trainings to campus law enforcement on community practices and outreach and engagement strategies to strengthen relationships between campus law enforcement or the university and college community they serve. These trainings include Engaging and Building Partnerships with Sikh Americans, Engaging and Building Partnerships with Muslim Americans, and Engaging and Building Relationships with Transgender Communities.

Mediation CRS provides mediation services to help university and college communities resolve conflicts and tensions through face-to-face negotiations between stakeholders. The goal of mediation is to develop written agreements between parties which increase trust, improve community relations, and build campus capacity.

Consultation CRS offers consultation services to help colleges and universities respond more effectively to conflicts. These services include technical assistance in the formation of equity and diversity councils or campus climate working groups; best practices for engaging with diverse campus communities; and consultation on issues of communication, dispute resolution, and joint problem-solving.

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



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www.justice.gov/crs **www.justice.gov/hatecrimes**

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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