

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE: COMBATTING HATE CRIMES

On March 30, 2021, Attorney General Merrick B. Garland's first directive to the Department 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. Since then, the Department has aggressively worked to implement the review team's [recommendations](#) and increase resources to combat hate crimes through federal law enforcement action and adequate training, support, and outreach to state and local partners.

- **Pursuing Hate Crimes Prosecutions:** Over the past six months, more than 17 defendants were charged in over 12 cases, including three white men who chased down and ultimately killed Ahmaud Arbery. In addition, 14 defendants were convicted, and 13 pled guilty, including a man who pled guilty to a racially motivated murder of two Black people at a Kroger grocery store and his attempted murder of a third.
- **Appointed Hate Crimes Coordinator:** The Attorney General appointed Deputy Associate Attorney General Rachel Rossi as the hate crimes coordinator to centralize the efforts of Department attorneys, law enforcement partners, community organizations, and other stakeholders.
- **FBI Will Elevate Hate Crimes to Level 1 National Threat:** On October 1, 2021, the FBI will elevate hate crimes and criminal civil rights violations to its 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 of the Bureau's field offices.
- **Expanding Language Access:** The Department added information to its [website](#) on reporting hate crimes in seven languages, including five of the most frequently spoken AAPI languages: Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. The Department will add an additional ten languages in the coming months.
- **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.
- **Conducted Nationwide Survey of 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.
- **Revitalizing Community Relations Service:** The Department will revitalize the Community Relations Service program "America's Peacemaker," which will provide facilitated dialogue, mediation, training, and consultation for communities facing bias-related conflict.
- **Announcing Grant Programs:** On May 4, 2021, the Department released the solicitation for a \$2 million grant program to provide resources to communities to support projects devoted to promoting awareness, healing, and reconciliation, as well as service access and resource development. In the Fall, the Department will award grants of up to \$300,000 to state, local and tribal law enforcement and prosecution agencies, working with community-based partners, to conduct outreach, education, investigations and the prosecution of hate crimes. BJA will also award grants to law enforcement and prosecution agencies of up to \$750,000 to support collaborative efforts to target hate crimes in their communities.
- **Providing Law Enforcement Trainings:** On June 9, July 20, and August 11, 2021 the FBI held regional conferences with over 100 law enforcement agencies in Denver, Louisville, and San Francisco, with additional conferences scheduled before the end of the year. These conferences help local police 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.
- **Conducting Training Sessions:** In September 2021, CRS will host two webinars on responding to hate crimes on college campuses. The first, co-hosted by the Office for Community Oriented Policing Services, is for campus law enforcement officials. The second is for educators and college administrators. In October, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention will host a virtual symposium on preventing youth-related hate crimes.
- **Launched Awareness Campaign:** On June 30, 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.