Named after two hate crime victims whose murders were prosecuted as hate crimes but not reported in hate crime statistics, the Khalid Jabara and Heather Heyer National Opposition to Hate, Assault, and Threats to Equality (NO HATE) Act (S.2043 | H.R.3545) would promote more accurate hate crime data collection and assist hate crime victims and their communities.

Through the implementation of an innovative reporting framework, the Act would also promote an improved response to hate crime in the United States — not only from the federal government, but from state and local law enforcement agencies as well.

What is a hate crime?
Depending on the state where you live, the legal definition of “hate crime” varies. There are also multiple federal criminal statutes that are considered “hate crime laws.” When it comes to investigating, reporting, and collecting data on hate crime, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) uses the following definition:

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.

What is hate crime reporting and data collection?
Under the Hate Crime Statistics Act of 1990, the federal government collects data on hate crimes submitted from law enforcement agencies across the United States. The FBI administers a reporting system called the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program to collect the data.

In most states, hate crime data are submitted from law enforcement agencies to an entity within state government before they are transmitted to the federal government, which then publishes annual statistics.

In this context, “reporting” refers to the submission of hate crime data from law enforcement, while “data collection” refers to the gathering and analysis of hate crime data submissions, whether at the state or federal level.

4 MAIN PROVISIONS:
1. Promotes efforts to modernize the national hate crime reporting and data collection system.
2. Helps hate crime victims receive assistance and support.
3. Encourages state and local authorities to improve their approach to hate crime, including reporting and data collection, and requires the federal government to address underreporting and related issues.
4. Creates opportunities to restore communities and address the root causes of hate crime through alternative sentencing for offenders.

WHY IS THIS ACT NEEDED?
• Federal, state, and local authorities must improve their response to hate crime and protect our communities.
• Government statistics do not accurately reflect the nature and extent of hate crime in the United States, and hate crime victims often do not receive adequate support or assistance from law enforcement.
• This can change. The Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act (S.2043 | H.R.3545) will improve hate crime reporting and data collection while supporting hate crime victims.

#JabaraHeyerNOHATEAct

Arab American Institute