

PARTNERING »» AGAINST HATE

RESOURCES



»» A Grassroots Toolkit from Interfaith Alliance

All people deserve to feel safe in our communities. Learn more about how you can challenge extremism and help realize an inclusive vision of religious freedom.



**INTERFAITH
ALLIANCE**

PROTECTING FAITH AND FREEDOM

Resources: Partnering Against Hate

» Introduction

ALL PEOPLE, NO MATTER WHERE WE LIVE OR who we are, deserve to feel safe in our communities. But all too often, the lives of our friends and neighbors are forever changed by hate-based violence. As an organization committed to combating religious discrimination, Interfaith Alliance is acutely aware that overcoming hate and bigotry is a collective endeavor.

The Partnering Against Hate is a curriculum designed to support individuals and faith groups to become better partners in combating hate in their local communities. The following additional resources will deepen your understanding of hate crime in the United States and build your toolkit for successful intervention.

TRACKING HATE-BASED VIOLENCE IN THE UNITED STATES

WHAT IS A HATE CRIME?

The term “hate crime” refers to a crime (often violence like an assault or arson) motivated by the perpetrator’s bias against the victim because of their membership in a protected group (like their race, gender, religion, or disability). The U.S. Department of Justice prosecutes violations of federal hate crimes laws and tracks these crimes nationwide. [Learn more.](#)

WHERE DO HATE CRIMES OCCUR?

The Department of Justice consolidates hate crimes data from across the country, but this information is likely incomplete. State and local law enforcement agencies define and classify incidents differently, while some victims may be nervous to come forward based on past experiences or distrust of the police.

- [Explore hate crimes statistics by state](#), collected by the Department of Justice.
- Does your state have a hate crimes law in place? [Find out here.](#)
- Many cities and states maintain their own statistics. Here are a few examples from the state of [Massachusetts](#); [Chicago, Illinois](#); and [Norman, Oklahoma](#).

WHO ARE THE VICTIMS OF HATE CRIMES?

According to the [FBI’s 2019 Hate Crime Statistics report](#), hate crimes rose to the highest level in more than a decade. Nearly 60% of victims were targeted because of their actual or perceived race or ethnicity, followed by religion (20%) and sexual orientation (16%). But concerns about this data have led some advocacy groups to collect community-specific information.

- Hateful rhetoric tied to the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a dramatic increase in harassment and violence against Asian American and Pacific Islanders. Read the [Stop AAPI Hate National Report](#).



- State hate crimes laws vary in their protection of LGBTQ+ people. [This map created by the Movement Advancement Project](#) illustrates where sexual orientation and/or gender identity are treated as protected classes.
- Bias incidents can take place in person or online. Explore the Anti-Defamation League's report, [Online Hate and Harassment: The American Experience 2021](#).



Safe Interventions

We all have a stake in keeping ourselves and our neighbors safe. By taking an active stand and working in partnership across our differences, religious leaders and people of faith can send the message that hate speech and hateful violence should never be tolerated.

WHAT CAN I DO TO INTERVENE IN PERSON?

[The 5 D's of Bystander Intervention](#) from Hollaback!

HOW CAN I INTERVENE IN ONLINE HARASSMENT?

[Online Harassment Field Manual: Best Practices for Allies and Bystanders](#) from PEN America. Also, check out Connect Safely's [Parent and Educator's Guide to Combating Hate Speech](#).

HOW CAN I ENGAGE STUDENTS AND YOUNGER MEMBERS OF MY COMMUNITY?

[Learning for Justice](#), a project of the Southern Poverty Law Center.

WHO IS DOING THIS WORK IN MY CITY OR TOWN?

[Community Resources](#) from the James Byrd Jr. Center to Stop Hate at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

Multimedia Resources

Religious leaders and people of faith are uniquely positioned to diffuse hateful rhetoric before it escalates to violence by providing an alternative message of love, inclusion, and mutual respect. Here are a few ways that Interfaith Alliance and others are speaking out.

Interfaith Alliance Statements on Hate Crimes

- [Interfaith Alliance calls on Senate to address roots of hate-based violence](#). (June 22, 2021)
- [Interfaith Alliance Applauds Introduction of the Justice for Victims of Hate Crimes Act](#). (Jan. 28, 2020)
- [Interfaith Alliance past president, Rev. Dr. Welton Gaddy, testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil and Human Rights](#). (Dec 9, 2014)

Video Storytelling

- [What we can do about the Culture of Hate | Sally Kohn, Ted Talk](#). We're all against hate, right? We agree it's a problem -- their problem, not our problem, that is. But as Sally Kohn discovered, we all hate -- some of us in subtle ways, others in obvious ones. As she confronts a hard story from her own life, she shares ideas on how we can recognize, challenge, and heal from hatred in our institutions and in ourselves.
- [Megan Phelps-Roper: I grew up in the Westboro Baptist Church. Here's Why I Left \(TedTalk\)](#). What's it like to grow up within a group of people who exult in demonizing everyone else? Megan Phelps-Roper shares details of life inside America's most controversial church and describes how

conversations on Twitter were key to her decision to leave it. In this extraordinary talk, she shares her personal experience of extreme polarization, along with some thoughtful ways we can learn to successfully engage across ideological lines.

■ [A Grassroots Approach to Combating Hate \(Zoom\)](#)

Sim Singh, senior manager of policy and advocacy at the Sikh Coalition; Tiffany Chang, director of community engagement at Asian Americans Advancing Justice; and Liz Peterson, assistant director of Houston Coalition Against Hate; joined Interfaith Alliance president and moderator Rabbi Jack Moline to discuss how allied individuals and organizations can fight hate on a local level.

■ [The Harvard Religion Beat: Why Hate Crimes Are on the Rise \(Podcast\)](#)

Hate crimes committed on the basis of religious identity have surged 23%, the biggest annual increase since 9/11. And while many have placed blame at the foot of political leaders and specifically President Trump for emboldening anti-Semites and white supremacists there's another, equally troubling side to the story—one that calls into question the validity of the FBI's own hate crime statistics and gives us more questions than answers.

■ [State of Belief Radio \(Podcast\)](#)

Each week, host Rev. Dr. C. Welton Gaddy offers listeners critical analysis of the news of religion and politics and seeks to provide listeners with an understanding and appreciation of religious liberty. Rev. Gaddy tackles politics with the firm belief that the best way to secure freedom for religion in America is to secure freedom from religion. State of Belief illustrates how the Religious Right is wrong – wrong for America and bad for religion. State of Belief is a project of Interfaith Alliance.

■ [“Not in Our Town” | Patrice O'Neill, Executive Producer and Working Group co-founder:](#)

Patrice O'Neill discusses the Working Group's film “Light in the Darkness,” an inspiring film about communities whose members are committing to stopping hatred altogether, and together. This film is a project of the “Not in Our Town” series promoting and supporting anti-hate efforts in communities nationwide.



■ [Countering Digital Hate | Imran Ahmed, CEO of The Center for Countering Digital Hate:](#)

The Center for Countering Digital Hate is an international organization that focuses on how the unique dynamics of online communication have been used by fringe movements to spread hate and disinformation. CEO Imran Ahmed discusses the Center's findings of failed attempts to stop anti-Semitic and other hate campaigns.





INTERFAITH ALLIANCE

PROTECTING FAITH AND FREEDOM

INTERFAITH ALLIANCE FOUNDATION IS THE only national interfaith organization dedicated to protecting the integrity of both religion and democracy in the United States. With tens of thousands of members across the country, including more than 75 different faith traditions as well as those of no faith, Interfaith Alliance represents a diverse network of Americans united by our commitment to the Constitution's promise of religious freedom.

Based in Washington, DC, with state and local affiliates across the country, our work includes public education, grassroots activism, policy advocacy, the weekly State of Belief Radio program, and resources to assist faith leaders and politicians in navigating the boundaries between faith and politics.

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