



THE HATE CRIMES ADVISORY COUNCIL OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Submitted pursuant to Subsection d of Section 51-279f of the Connecticut General Statutes

3 October 2023

Co-Chairs Hon. Douglas Lavine / Amy Lin Meyerson, Esq.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Created by state law under [Connecticut Statute § 51-279f](#), the Connecticut Hate Crimes Advisory Council (HCAC or Council) is responsible for encouraging and coordinating programs that increase community awareness and law enforcement reporting of hate crimes to combat such crimes. It also is responsible for making recommendations for legislation concerning hate crimes, including recommendations on restitution for victims, community service designed to remedy damage caused by any such crime, and additional alternative sentencing programs for first-time offenders and juvenile offenders. A roster of members serving on the Council is available at Appendix 1. The Council’s website URL is <https://portal.ct.gov/hatecrimes/The-Council>.

The Council undertook an extensive review of hate crime laws and law enforcement reporting practices in Connecticut and around the country in its first year and made recommendations to prevent hate crimes, enforce hate crimes statutes, and create a more tolerant and accepting society. This work included interviews of law enforcement, community groups, individuals who had been on the receiving end of hate-based crimes and incidents, and legislative officers around the country to determine best practices in reducing hate crimes. The Council submitted its recommendations in the 2022 HCAC Annual Report (First Report) to Governor Lamont and the Legislature as of October 1, 2022.

The First Report provided “a comprehensive and rigorous guide to the measures that Connecticut can take to become a national leader in combating and preventing hate crimes and building a more inclusive society in which every resident is equally protected and secure.”¹ All of the Council’s recommendations are detailed in the First Report and organized into five common themes: Community Awareness, Hate Crimes Reporting and Analysis, Restitution Programs and Sentencing, Law Enforcement Training and Best Practices, and Funding Resources. Additional information is available on the HCAC website at <http://portal.ct.gov/hatecrimes>.

While the First Report detailed extensive recommendations and findings, for the 2022-2023 year, the Council elected to prioritize work on the following key recommendations:

1. A complete and thorough review of the Connecticut Hate Crimes statutes to simplify and clarify the language, including the intent standard.
2. The creation of a Model Policy for Investigation of Hate Crimes through the Connecticut Police Officer Standards and Training Council (“POST-C”) to provide all members of Connecticut Law Enforcement, state and local, with guidelines for identifying, responding to, and investigating incidents and crimes that may be motivated by hatred or other biases.
3. The standardization through POST-C of a bias crime reporting template for use throughout Connecticut that distinguishes between and records information on “Hate Crimes,” “Hate Incidents,” and “Crimes with Bias Elements.” A training program for in-service officers and basic recruits will familiarize law enforcement with this reporting form which by statute must be sent to the Connecticut State Police Hate

Crimes Investigative Unit and UConn-Institute of Municipal Policy and Research within 14 days of the incident.

4. The adoption by police departments in Connecticut of a community policing model concerning hate crimes that includes engaging with at-risk communities, identifying points of contact in the community, holding meetings with community leaders, requesting guidance on their preferred responses to hate crimes, and listening actively to the concerns of the community.
5. The establishment of a statewide community-oriented hate crimes reporting system, with available appropriations, that collects and refers information on hate crimes, bias incidents, and crimes with bias elements in cooperation with existing community organizations that collect or respond to hate crime and incident information reported by individuals.
6. The inclusion of a restorative justice approach in hate crimes sentencing.
7. The establishment and funding of regional and local community action teams charged with increasing public awareness and developing public mural projects designed to celebrate and improve the visibility of communities that are often targeted by hate crimes and facilitating community dialogue about effective hate crimes responses.

In this Second Report, the 2023 HCAC Annual Report, we present the efforts and accomplishments in connection with this group of recommendations.

The Council must stress, however, that reducing hate is not a one-off effort that can be neatly completed in one year. Rather, the reduction of hate crimes and hate-based incidents and increasing awareness and respect of others will take time, agency reform, and an ongoing and concerted effort to implement. Effective responses to hate crimes and hate-based incidents require a coordinated, sustained, and multi-faceted approach engaging law enforcement, the education system, state and federal government, and the active participation of the citizenry. The recommendations set forth in the Council's First Report provide an effective road map that, if implemented in full, will put Connecticut on the cutting edge of nationwide efforts to identify the root causes of hate crimes, provide culturally sensitive care for victims, and enhance law enforcement's ability to identify and effectively respond to hate crimes. While the Council has taken numerous steps along that path, the journey is not yet complete, and we are continuing our work.

The Council reiterates its request that the Legislature closely study these recommendations and deliberate on them. Council members welcome the opportunity to explain in further detail the basis for these recommendations, which advance pragmatic, cost-effective, creative, and robust approaches to the problems posed by hate crimes.

Our shared goal is, and will remain, to make Connecticut a safer, more peaceful, and more humane place for all its members. We call on Connecticut, and its proud residents, to work together to advance our national motto *E Pluribus Unum*, that we are, "Out of Many, One."

INTRODUCTION

Since the First Report's submission, acts of hate and discrimination in Connecticut and around the country continue to be massively and systematically underreported. Combating and preventing hate crimes requires a multidisciplinary approach that identifies the root causes of hate crimes, provides culturally competent care for victims, and enhances law enforcement's ability to identify and effectively respond to hate crimes.

Connecticut's goal is to prevent hate crimes and bias incidents before they occur. The citizens of Connecticut deserve the opportunity to live their lives without fear of hate simply because of who they are. Since the submission of the First Report, the HCAC focused on the implementation of the following recommendations:

1. A complete and thorough review of the Connecticut Hate Crimes statutes to simplify and clarify language, including the intent standard.
2. The creation of a Model Policy for Investigation of Hate Crimes through POST-C to provide all members of Connecticut Law Enforcement (state and local), with guidelines for identifying, responding to, and investigating incidents and crimes that may be motivated by hatred or other biases.
3. The standardization of a bias crime reporting template through POST-C for use throughout Connecticut that distinguishes between and records information on "Hate Crimes," "Hate Incidents," and "Crimes with Bias Elements."
4. The adoption by police departments in Connecticut of a community policing model concerning hate crimes that includes engaging with at-risk communities, identifying points of contact in the community, holding meetings with community leaders, requesting guidance on their preferred responses to hate crimes, and listening actively to the concerns of the community.
5. The establishment of a statewide community-oriented hate crimes reporting system, with available appropriations, that collects and refers information on hate crimes, bias incidents, and crimes with bias elements in cooperation with existing community organizations that collect or respond to hate crime and incident information reported by individuals.
6. The inclusion of a restorative justice approach in hate crimes sentencing.
7. The establishment and funding of regional and local community action teams charged with increasing public awareness and developing public mural projects designed to celebrate and improve the visibility of communities that are often targeted by hate crimes and facilitating community dialogue about effective hate crimes responses.

A report of the Council's work follows.

IMPLEMENTATION OF MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

I. Review of Connecticut Hate Crimes Statutes

Connecticut law enforcement has identified statutory ambiguities that hinder the reporting and investigation of hate crimes. The boundary between three adjacent categories is unclear: hate crimes as defined in statutes; crimes that have bias elements that are insufficient to classify these crimes as hate crimes; and bias incidents that do not rise to the level of crimes. The public is usually not aware of the distinction between hate crimes and hate speech, nor informed of the fact that not all slurs, even when committed in the course of an offense, constitute hate crimes. Both law enforcement and public awareness would benefit from language clearly distinguishing between statutory hate crimes, crimes with bias elements, and bias incidents that may be serious and are worthy of monitoring, but that do not constitute actual crimes.

Codifying the definitions of “Crimes with Bias Elements” and “Non-Criminal Bias Incidents” in the statewide POST-C Model Policy provides agility in subsequent modification as circumstances evolve. This agility would not be present were the definitions to be codified in statute.

Best practices in hate crimes reporting recommend “establishing a common, simple and comprehensive definition of hate crime.”² Currently, the opaque intent language of the CGS hinders police identification of hate crimes and may discourage a prosecutor from pursuing hate crimes charges. The subjective elements of bias crimes—such as Intimidation in the First, Second, and Third Degree in CGS § 53a-181j-l—are not fully consistent with federal hate crimes statutes.³ This difference between Connecticut and federal hate crime statutes may potentially obstruct the reporting and prosecution of hate crimes. For instance, CGS § 53a-181j-k requires three subjective elements: malicious intent, “specific intent,” and that the crime is motivated “in whole or in substantial part” by bias or bigotry. This is vague and also creates an unduly high evidentiary threshold of intent. Therefore, the removal of the words “maliciously,” “specific,” and “substantial” in § 53a-181j-k, and “substantial” in § 53a-181l, would establish a more reasonable general intent burden and bring Connecticut statutes into line with the federal intent standard of “motivated in whole or in part” by bias or bigotry. Clarifying the intent language is necessary to achieve consistency with and across federal and Connecticut hate crime laws.

With the support of the Chief State’s Attorney, the HCAC submitted a request to the [Connecticut Sentencing Commission](#) to undertake a thorough review of the criminal statutes on hate crimes. The Sentencing Commission accepted the HCAC’s request and is undertaking the review of the hate crimes statutes in 2023. Questions to be answered during the Sentencing Commission’s review include:

1. Are the statutes constitutional under federal law?
2. Are they coherent?
3. Are they consistent with one another?
4. Are they comprehensive and do they cover the majority of types of hate crimes?

With support from members of the Council and student researchers from UConn Law School, the Sentencing Commission began its process of reviewing all the hate crimes statutes in the CGS in the summer of 2023. The results of this thorough review process with any recommendations will be made available in December 2023. If accepted by the full Sentencing Commission, proposals for statutory changes may be ready for the 2024 legislative session.

II. Statewide Model Policy for the Investigation of Hate Crimes

Council members worked with POST-C to produce a statewide Hate Crimes Model Policy for the Investigation of Hate Crimes for the Connecticut State Police (CSP) and all local and municipal police departments that identifies best practices in hate crimes policing. The policy defines key terms and includes detailed guidance on special initial response procedures and investigative techniques, handling of evidence of bias or bigotry, training on hate crimes, prevention of hate crimes, and the provision of appropriate victim resources. Additionally, the new policy facilitates the continued sharing of information among and between the CT State Police-Hate Crimes Investigative Unit and other law enforcement agencies, both state and local. It also promotes initiatives by police departments to inform the public of its right to report any criminal activity or suspected criminal activity and how to report hate crime incidents. This new policy was sent to POST-C for review in September 2023 and will be voted on at its November meeting. If passed, training will begin for new recruits and in-service officers beginning in earnest in early 2024.

III. Statewide Reporting Template for Bias Crimes including “Hate Crimes,” “Hate Incidents,” and “Crimes with Bias Elements”

Council members working with POST and UConn-Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy (IMRP) staff, produced a Bias Crime Reporting Form that will collect information on bias crimes, bias incidents, and crimes with bias elements. The form includes fields to document general information and the type of incident, the type of bias, the observed indicators of bias, the target of the incident, suspect information, suspect’s weapons, relationship between suspect and victim, extent of injury/damage to person or property, and whether video was seized as evidence. This Bias Crime Report form replaces 2009 DPS-323-C which fell into disuse in the 1990s. By statute (PA-22-9), the completed form must be sent within fourteen (14) days to the Hate Crimes Investigative Unit of CSP and UConn-IMRP for data analysis. The protocol will both facilitate real-time monitoring and analysis of hate crimes and incidents in the state by CSP and UConn-IMRP and improve police investigative procedures.

IV. Statewide Community Response Model

In the 2022 HCAC Annual Report, the Council recommended that the Governor of Connecticut (the “Governor”) constitute regional and state-level community response, comprising of community leaders and law enforcement, to build regular and substantive dialog about their communities and the contours of effective local implementation of impactful policies and programs. A community response approach could improve relationships with targeted groups and provide public awareness of hate crimes and important education.

When bias incidents occur, these response teams will have the trust of the public and experience to respond with a diverse community of stakeholders who understand the challenge of healing and are committed to a future that is just, peaceful, and prosperous.⁴ Building community across differences must occur in times of peace, as well as during times of trauma and crisis.⁵ These community response teams would primarily build trust across communities. Models of this work exist in interfaith coalitions but need to be broader and extend beyond faith communities.⁶

In support of this goal and to continue developing community awareness and foster tolerance and acceptance of all cultural groups within the state, the Council contributed amendments to two education bills this past legislative session as highlighted below:

- **HB 6758** - Directs the Commissioner of Education to hire curriculum coordinators at SDE for section 10-16b of the general statutes, in accordance with sections 10-16pp, 10-16qq, 10-16ss to 10-16ww, inclusive, and 10-18f of the general statutes.⁷

The Council supported this bill, which was intended to assist in the completion and delivery of Ethnic Studies and LGBTQIA+ curriculum as well as the hiring of the AAPI Curriculum Coordinator position that was created last year in SB-1.

- **HB 6760** - Directs the formation of the Connecticut Civics Education and Media Literacy Task Force to study and develop strategies to improve how public schools provide instruction on civics, citizenship, media literacy, and American government to students.⁸

The Council also supported this bill as a vehicle for improving the development of skills-based educational interventions to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion; to deter hate speech and confront bias; to teach techniques of de-escalation and peaceful conflict resolution; and to teach the skills of respect for opposing views, compromise, and collaboration to achieve a goal. The Council provided written testimony in support of both [HB6760](#) and [HB6758](#).

On June 28, 2023, Public Act 23-150 (the “Act”), which combines elements of both bills, passed. Pursuant to the Act, the Connecticut Civics Education and Media Literacy Task Force (“CEML Task Force”) was created to develop strategies to improve and promote civic engagement and instruction on civics, citizenship, media literacy, and American government. This continues the curriculum-development work done in previous years to address the Holocaust and genocide education and awareness, the Great Famine in Ireland, African-American and Black studies, Puerto Rican and Latino studies, Native American studies, and Asian American and Pacific Islander studies.

Pursuant to PA 23-150 sec. 6(c)(14), Council Co-Chair Amy Lin Meyerson, Esq. and Co-Chair Judge Douglas Lavine's designee, Andrew Feinstein, Esq., will serve on the CEML Task Force.

V. Community-Based Statewide Hate Crimes Reporting System

The Council successfully submitted a request to the Appropriations Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly for funding to support a Statewide Public Hate Crimes Reporting

Portal to increase the reporting of hate crimes in the state by constructing an online community-facing portal that would collect information on a crime or incident and send this information to the Connecticut State Police-Hate Crimes Investigative Unit and/or the UConn-Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy. The HCAC Law Enforcement, Reporting and Data Analysis Subcommittee, working with DESPP, HCIU, and UConn-IRMP, is currently drafting a Citizens' Hate Crimes Reporting Form for hate crimes, bias incidents, and crimes with bias elements. Council members are currently engaged in numerous sessions to plan a prototype community-based reporting system to encourage community-wide reporting of both hate crimes and hate-based incidents for those citizens who do not wish to interact with law enforcement.

As discussed in the First Report, hate crimes are currently underreported as many victims are hesitant to report a hate crime or bias incident directly to law enforcement. A statewide online portal will gather basic information on a hate crime or bias incident and send that information simultaneously to two locations. First, the reports will be transmitted to the UConn-Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy which will retain and analyze the data and provide summaries to law enforcement and state agencies such as the Hate Crimes Advisory Council. If the individual reporting the matter consents, the information would also go to the Connecticut State Police-Hate Crimes Investigative Unit for review and, if appropriate, investigation and referral to a local police department.

The online portal with the Citizens' Hate Crimes Reporting Form will appear on the Council's web page and also be available for posting on the websites of state agencies, town councils, police departments, schools, hospitals, and community organizations.

The HCAC made a bi-annual budget request for the construction of the online portal in the amount of \$150,000. This request for \$150,000 was approved and included in the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2025, stating the "sum of \$150,000 to The University of Connecticut, for Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, for the institute to develop a hate crimes database."¹ Maintenance and updating of the portal together with data analysis will be addressed once the portal has been developed and launched in early 2024.

VI. Restorative Justice

HCAC Co-Chair Judge Lavine requested that Chief Justice Richard A. Robinson take steps to facilitate the implementation of all recommendations relating to restorative justice made by the Restitution Programs and Sentencing subcommittee included in the 2022 HCAC Annual Report. Chief Court Administrator Judge Elizabeth Bozutto has begun taking concrete steps in that direction.

A pilot program in the New Haven Judicial District is being developed to test the use of restorative justice approaches. This will be overseen by State's Attorney John Doyle. If it is successful, it may be replicated in other parts of the state.

¹ <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2023/TOB/H/PDF/2023HB-06941-R00-HB.PDF> at p. 61.

Judge Lavine also asked Chief State's Attorney Patrick Griffin to advance proposals to the legislature for statutes permitting (a) community victim impact statements in hate crimes cases, and (b) explicitly permitting judges to order restitution for property damage in hate crimes cases. The community impact statement is, in the Council's view, of particular importance because hate crimes targeting individuals have a deleterious impact on the victim's community as well.

VII. Establishment and Funding of Regional and Local Community Awareness Efforts

The Council continued its efforts to support community organizations, educational institutions, and arts organizations to prevent, report, and manage online abuse. These efforts included work on the Connecticut Anti-Cyber Hate Act and the #WeSustainCT project.

The CT Anti-Cyber Hate Act, [HB 5506](#), passed and was funded at \$500,000 in FY 23 (July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023). This Act provides resources to support community engagement within educational institutions to prevent, report, and manage online abuse. The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) Online Abuse Prevention Grant Program is part of this effort and was funded at \$500,000 in Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023). Council Members Professor Richard A. Wilson and Stacey Sobel participated in the development of the ARPA Grant Rubric and design of the ARPA Online Abuse Prevention Application. The program is preparing for the launch of a student-centered anti-hate campaign and has requested legislators to set up hybrid Town Meetings to market the campaign.

Council member Professor Jason Chang, via Advancing Connecticut Together (ACT), successfully applied for and was awarded a \$30,000 (12 Month) grant from ARPA and Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) for the #WeSustainCT project. The project is intended to conduct a social marketing campaign, paint a mural, and create an abuse-prevention micro-credential training program. The grant covers the employment of two project managers: a social marketing manager and a micro-credential training manager. The project aims to hire a social marketing manager to create, organize, and manage the #WeSustainCT marketing campaign with Connecticut public schools. Through coordination between the Community Awareness Subcommittee and DESPP, targeted organizations were invited to apply for the ARPA Grant to expand the geographic range and equitable coverage of vulnerable communities.

The Council's Community Awareness Subcommittee continues its efforts to dialog with and support other community and faith organizations around the state to learn about ongoing challenges and other independent efforts to curb hate-based violence. The Subcommittee's top priorities for the next year are to broaden knowledge and access to information about what a hate crime is, how it differs from hate incidents, how to report hate-based incidents and crimes, and what happens after an individual reports it. Building public dialog about this process is an important step towards building relationships with government actors and local knowledge about what is most needed to support community involvement. This year's cohort of ARPA grant recipients is also well positioned to make impacts in the areas of schools, libraries, public programming, advocacy and youth centered programming.

ONGOING AND FUTURE EFFORTS

The Council is committed to continuing its review of the implementation of the statewide law enforcement Hate Crimes Model Policy and Bias Crimes Reporting Form, and training in these new protocols at POST and local police departments. The HCAC has worked closely with UConn-IMRP in the development of the new law enforcement reporting mechanism and will review the data collection and analysis process as new data comes in on hate crimes, bias incidents, and crimes with bias elements. The HCAC is also leading the development of a Citizens' Hate Crimes Reporting Form that will, when launched in 2024, provide a non-law enforcement and community-oriented channel for hate crimes reporting.

Developing and implementing a new model policy on hate crimes statewide will require additional resources and the Council is supportive of a financial request to the legislature through the DESPP budget process that would enable the hiring of a civilian (non-sworn) support staff person at POST-Field Services to oversee the implementation of Bias Crimes Reporting Form and Hate Crimes Policy, and conduct training of police and dispatchers. This new staff person may also engage in outreach with youth groups and community organizations.

Efforts are also ongoing to address the issue of reticence on the part of the public to report hate crimes. The effort to combat hate crimes is undermined by massive underreporting and the national data indicate that about 50% of hate crimes are not reported to the police. Some historically marginalized communities have an adversarial relationship with the police and law enforcement generally. For this reason, the Council is committed to developing and implementing a community-oriented hate crimes and bias incidents reporting program that will gather data to be analyzed by UConn-IMRP. If the individual or group reporting a hate crime consents to the disclosure, then the report will also go to local police departments and HCIU-CSP.

The above-mentioned items are ongoing priorities for the next year. There are a number of new initiatives that the Council is considering undertaking if resources are available. A "Law Enforcement Summit on Hate Crimes" would draw in speakers with expertise in combating hate crimes from around the United States and expose Connecticut state and local police to new ideas and best practices. As part of this, participants would receive a Hate Crimes Manual for Law Enforcement that breaks the statutes into their constituent legal elements in plain English and sets out best practices in hate crime investigation and prevention. Additionally, the Council wishes to create a hate crime manual for 911 operators/dispatchers similar to New York so they can handle calls sensitively and effectively. Finally, the Council is looking into how to identify officers in departments or regions around the state who can act as a bias crime coordinator (as exists in other municipalities such as Seattle, Washington) and resource for local police departments and who will receive additional training and resources.

The Council also intends to continue to work with the Judicial Branch to incorporate restorative justice approaches to sentencing in appropriate cases. The Council will monitor the effects of the pilot program on restorative justice in New Haven and will continue its work with the Chief State's Attorney in allowing victim impact statements and restitution in sentencing for property crimes. Additionally, the Council is in the process of establishing ongoing priorities for the remaining recommendations from its First Report.

CONCLUSION

The Council once again expresses its appreciation to the Governor and General Assembly for their leadership on this very important issue and for establishing and appointing a group of Council members with a broad range of knowledge, skills, and diverse experiences. The Council's recommendations are intended to increase safety, belonging, inclusion, and equity while decreasing the experiences of racism and patterns of marginalization within and across targeted communities.

As detailed above, the Council has accomplished a great deal since its establishment in June 2021 and is particularly proud of its multi-disciplinary and cross-agency engagement on this issue. However, the reduction of hate crimes and the increased tolerance and acceptance of citizens from all cultures is an important work in progress that must continue.

The Council anticipates that the improved tracking of hate crimes and bias incidents by law enforcement will help address appropriate resource allocation and community outreach programs and looks forward to studying the data in that area to fine-tune this approach as necessary. In the coming year, it is hopeful that the development of a community-based reporting tool will increase public awareness and lead to the reduction of hate crimes and increased tolerance for all.

Connecticut must continue its investment in education and other measures to advance equity and security for all its citizens. Public awareness of hate crimes, in community, school, and government settings, must be improved to communicate to targeted communities that they are visible and valuable. We must work to educate the public on the valuable contributions, humanity, and complexity of targeted individuals and communities. Only through a reversal of the systemic devaluing of marginalized communities will we be able to reverse the trend of hate crimes and bias incidents.

The Council is honored to have this opportunity to serve all people throughout Connecticut and looks forward to continuing to work collaboratively with the Office of the Governor, the General Assembly, DESPP, the Department of Criminal Justice, the Judicial Branch, and our communities to implement the recommendations presented in this Report. The Council will track the progress made as hate crime and bias incident data is gathered from the initial reporting of the hate crime through sentencing to further protect and provide relief to the victims of hate crimes.

Together we can identify and implement effective ways to fight hate crimes in Connecticut and lead the way to a safer and more inclusive United States of America.

APPENDIX 1 – Connecticut Hate Advisory Council Roster

Co-Chairs

Hon. Douglas S. Lavine
Amy Lin Meyerson, Esq.

Members

Corrie Betts, NAACP
Michael Bloom, Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut
Prof. Jason O. Chang, University of Connecticut
John Doyle, New Haven State’s Attorney
Rabbi Michael Farbman, Temple Emanuel of Greater New Haven
Andrew A. Feinstein, Esq.
Brian Foley, Tolland Town Manager
Steve Ginsburg, August Strategic Communications
Erene Hammond, UnitedHealth Group
Steven Hernández, Commission on Women, Children, Seniors Equity & Opportunity
Rathanak M. Keo, #IAmNotAVirus
Tamara K. Lanier, NAACP, CT Racial Profiling Project, ACLU CT
Diana R. Lombardi
Duane J. Lovello, Deputy Director of Public Safety, Yale University
Gary M. MacNamara, Public Safety & Govt Affairs, Sacred Heart University
Robin P. McHaelen
John P. Merz, Advancing Connecticut Together
Aida Mansoor, Hartford International University for Religion and Peace
Fernando J. Muniz, Community Solutions, Inc.
CT Sen. MD Masudur Rahman
Precious Price, Middletown Racial Justice Coalition
Sharad A. Samy, Esq.
Jonathan S. Slifka, Connecticut Department of Aging and Disability Services
Stacey G. Sobel, Regional Dir., ADL CT
Prof. Richard A. Wilson, UConn School of Law

Ex Officio Members

Chief State’s Attorney Patrick Griffin
Chief Public Defender TaShun Bowden-Lewis
Commissioner James C. Rovella, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
Sergeant Luke LaRue, Connecticut State Police Hate Crimes Investigative Unit
Hon. Cecil J. Thomas, Connecticut Bar Association
Makana Ellis, George W. Crawford Black Bar Association
Riju Das, South Asian Bar Association of Connecticut
Michelle Querijero, Connecticut Asian Pacific American Bar Association
Leonard Rodriguez, Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association
Christopher D. Ferace, Connecticut Police Chiefs Association

APPENDIX 2 Connecticut Hate Crimes Statutes

Statute	Description	Type
§ 53a-62	Threatening in the 2 nd degree	Class A misdemeanor or class D felony (if a violation of subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of statute)
§ 53a-129e	Trafficking in personal identifying information (includes sex, sexual orientation or gender identity or expression)	Class D felony
§ 53a-180(a)(4)	Falsely reporting an incident in the 1 st degree	Class C or class D felony
§ 53a-180c(4)	Falsely reporting an incident in the 2 nd degree	Class A misdemeanor or Class E felony
§ 53a-180d(3)	Misuse of the emergency 9-1-1 system	Class B or A misdemeanor
§ 53a-181c	Stalking in the 1 st degree (includes sex, sexual orientation or gender identity or expression)	Class D felony
§ 53a-181d	Stalking in the 2 nd degree (includes sex, sexual orientation or gender identity or expression and doxing)	Class A misdemeanor
§ 53a-181j	Intimidation based on bigotry or bias, 1 st degree	Class C felony
§ 53a-181k	Intimidation based on bigotry or bias, 2 nd degree	Class D felony
§ 53a-181l	Intimidation based on bigotry or bias, 3 rd degree	Class E felony
§ 53a-183a	Harassment in the second degree	Class C misdemeanor
§ 53-37	Ridicule on account of creed, religion, color, nationality or race	Class D misdemeanor
§ 53-37a	Deprivation of a person's civil rights by a person wearing a mask or hood	Class D felony
§ 53-37b	Deprivation of a person's equal rights and privileges by force or threat.	Class A misdemeanor, Class C felony (bodily injury), Class B felony (death).
§ 46a-48	Deprivation of rights. Desecration of property. Placing of burning cross or noose on property.	Class A misdemeanor + fines or Class D felony + fines (w/property damage over \$1K). House of worship, Class D felony + fines (damages up to \$10K) or Class C felony + fines (damages over \$10K)
§ 53a-40a	Persistent offenders of crimes involving bigotry or bias	Prior conviction for a violation of section 46a-58, 53-37a, 53a-181j or 53a-181l, current conviction (in present prosecution) for violation of section 46a-58, 53-37a, 53a-181j, 53a-181k or 53a-181l, Moves up to next level of misdemeanor, misdemeanor to felony or next level of felony

APPENDIX 3 Presentations and Publications

The HCAC continues to raise community awareness of its work through press coverage and presentations throughout the state and nation.

I. PRESENTATIONS

- 10/25/22 *Hate Crimes Symposium*, Henry Lee Institute, University of New Hampshire
- 12/15/22 *Presentation to Connecticut's New Prosecutors*, the Honorable Doug Lavine
- 4/20/23 *Presentation to the AAPI Democratic Caucus*, Amy Lin Meyerson, Esq. and Michelle Querijero, Esq.
- 4/23/23 *Presentation to the Connecticut Sentencing Commission*, Amy Lin Meyerson, Esq. and Professor Richard Wilson
- 6/5/23 *Handling Hate Crimes in Connecticut*, Connecticut Bar Association Legal Conference, Connecticut Convention Center
- 6/9/23 *What is Connecticut Doing About Hate Crimes? Why Does it Matter to You?*, Connecticut Judges Institute, by the Honorable Doug Lavine, Professor Richard Wilson, Michelle Querijero, Esq.
- 11/17/23 *The Law of Hate*, Symposium at UConn Law School, Connecticut Bar Foundation. Presentations by HCAC Members CSA Pat Griffin, Attorney Amy Lin Meyerson, Judge Doug Lavine, and Professor Richard A. Wilson

II. PRESS

- 11/14/22 Paul Schott, reporter, Hearst CT Media Project on Asian Americans in CT (inquiry to Professor Jason Chang)
- 12/28/22 Richard A Wilson, United Against Hate? [Richard Ashby Wilson – Medium](#)
- 2/2/23 [HCAC Response to CT Law Trib editorial](#) posted by Michael Marciano, Bureau Chief, Connecticut Law Tribune/ALM
- 3/14/23 Jordan Fenster, Hearst CT Media/Hartford Courant (inquiry to Michael Bloom, handled by the Honorable Doug Lavine)
- 3/14/23 Jordan Fenster, Hearst CT Media (inquiry to and handled by Chief Gary McNamara.)
- 6/12/23 Press Conference with Lt. Gov. at DESPP (Comm. Rovella, Chief Bowden-Lewis, Amy Lin Meyerson, Esq., Stacey Sobel, Steve Hernandez, Esq.)

ENDNOTES

¹ HCAC Annual Report at 4. <https://portal.ct.gov/hatecrimes/-/media/CT-Hate-Crimes-Advisory-Council-Annual-Report-FINAL-93022.pdf>

² Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), *Hate Crimes Data-Collection and Monitoring Mechanisms: A Practical Guide* (2014), at 7.

³ See 18 U.S.C.A. § 249 (federal hate crime acts language pertaining to *mens rea* differs significantly from that of Connecticut statute); see also *Hate Crimes, Defining a Hate Crime*, FBI, <https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/civil-rights/hate-crimes> (FBI defines hate crime as needing only be “motivated in whole or in part by an offender’s bias”).

⁴ Building trust and fostering community relationships before bias incidents occur, rather than only focusing on trust during the response to a hate incident, is essential. *Id.* at 14-15 (“The key to a successful collaborative effort is taking the time to develop and maintain strong community relationships to build trust *outside of a crisis event.*”) (emphasis added).

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ See e.g., “Interfaith Council of Southwestern Connecticut,” <https://www.interfaithcouncil.org/> (last accessed July 7, 2022); “The Connecticut Council for Interreligious Understanding,” <https://ccfiu.org/> (last accessed July 7, 2022); “Interfaith Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence,” <https://interfaithagainstdv.org/> (last accessed July 12, 2022); “Interfaith Alliance,” <https://www.interfaithalliance.org/> (last accessed July 12, 2022) (state and national level examples of established interfaith organizations that promote community-to-community communication, understanding, and trust).

⁷ <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2023/TOB/H/PDF/2023HB-06758-R00-HB.PDF>.

⁸ <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2023/TOB/H/PDF/2023HB-06760-R00-HB.PDF>

⁹ <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2023/TOB/H/PDF/2023HB-06941-R00-HB.PDF> at p. 61.