

November 24, 2025

Pam Bondi
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Bondi:

We write to express our significant concerns that the Department of Justice is refusing to properly enforce federal hate crime statutes and to urge you to prioritize the Department's work to prevent, respond to, and prosecute hate crimes against *all* marginalized communities.

On August 5, 2025, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) released its Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program data from 2024 for its participating law enforcement agencies. 2024 was the second-highest year for reported hate crimes in the United States since the FBI started keeping data.¹ Despite a 1.5 percent decrease in reported overall hate crimes from 2023 to 2024, Black, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, and LGBTQ+ Americans remained the most targeted groups.² Anti-Asian hate crimes also remain alarmingly high, with 2024 among the top three worst years, with levels nearly three times higher than the pre-pandemic annual average from 2013-2018.³ Notably, reported hate crimes targeting Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (NHPI) communities increased by 93 percent from 2023 to 2024, marking the highest number of incidents recorded since the FBI began disaggregating this data in 2013.⁴ Equally alarming is that reported gender-based hate crimes increased by 416% over the past decade.⁵ Additionally, thousands of law enforcement agencies continue to fail to report hate crimes or report zero hate crimes per jurisdiction, meaning UCR data is likely underrepresenting the number of hate crimes and hate incidents that occur in the country, including many hate incidents that do not meet the legal definition of a hate crime but are still unlawful and effect marginalized communities.

Congress has passed numerous statutes to address bias-motivated crimes, making it a federal crime to commit such acts and by improving the federal response to them. These laws recognize bias based on race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or

¹ Russell Contreras, *Hate crimes hit second largest record in 2024: FBI*, AXIOS (Aug. 5, 2025), <https://www.axios.com/2025/08/05/hate-crimes-2024-black-antisemitism-muslim-fbi>.

² *Id.*

³ *Asian American Hate Incidents Remain Alarmingly High According to Newly Released FBI Hate Crime Data*, ASIAN AMERICANS ADVANCING JUSTICE – AAJC (Aug. 5, 2025), <https://www.advancingjustice-aaajc.org/press-release/asian-american-hate-incidents-remain-alarmingly-high-according-newly-released-fbi>

⁴ See, *Table 1 Incidents, Offenses, Victims, and Known Offenders by Bias Motivation, 2023*, Hate Crime Statistics, FBI (2024), <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/downloads>; *Table 1 Incidents, Offenses, Victims, and Known Offenders by Bias Motivation, 2024*, Hate Crime Statistics, FBI (2025), <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/downloads>.

⁵ *Are hate crimes on the rise?*, USAFACTS (Sept. 5, 2025), <https://usafacts.org/articles/which-groups-have-experienced-an-increase-in-hate-crimes/>.

disability.⁶ This includes the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which, among other provisions, expanded federal hate crime protections to include crimes based on gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability;⁷ and the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act, to improve hate crime reporting and enforcement.⁸ In addition, Congress passed the Hate Crime Statistics Act, which requires federal collection of hate crimes based on race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, or disability.⁹

Congress' intent that the Department of Justice prevent and respond to hate crimes could not be clearer. Despite this, the Department appears to be walking away from its statutory responsibilities. In April, the Department cancelled over 370 grants from the Office of Justice Programs, totaling an estimated \$500 million.¹⁰ These grants supported local law enforcement agencies, victims' services organizations, substance use and mental health treatment, research and evaluation, public safety initiatives and more. In addition, the Administration's FY26 budget calls for cutting all grants authorized under the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, the Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act, and other Bureau of Justice Assistance programs that would combat and prevent hate crimes.

Since January 20 of this year, the Community Relations Service (CRS) website has been revised to remove numerous references to its work to address hate crimes based on race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, or disability¹¹ and the CRS training video on "Engaging and Building Relationships with Transgender Communities" has been removed.¹² This latter act may have been in response to President Trump's anti-transgender Executive Order No. 14168, which directs agencies to refuse to acknowledge the existence of transgender people. This Executive Order, which cannot override federal law, is incompatible with the Department of Justice's statutory obligations to address and collect data on hate crimes against the transgender community, pursuant to the Matthew Shepard Act.

⁶ E.g., 18 U.S.C. § 245(b)(2); 18 U.S.C. § 247; 42 U.S.C. § 3631; 18 U.S.C. § 249.

⁷ Public Law No. 111-84, Division E.

⁸ Public Law No. 117-13.

⁹ 34 USC § 41305.

¹⁰ *DOJ Funding Update: A Deeper Look at the Cuts*, COUNCIL ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE (May 2025), <https://counciloncj.org/doj-funding-update-a-deeper-look-at-the-cuts/>.

¹¹ Compare, e.g., the "Our Focus" page, as archived on December 25, 2024 (which stated "CRS works with community groups to resolve community conflicts and prevent and respond to alleged hate crimes arising from differences of race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, or disability. CRS was established by Title X of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and its mandate was expanded by the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr., Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009" and then included subpages on each protected characteristic), <https://web.archive.org/web/20241225030058/https://www.justice.gov/crs/our-focus>, to the same page, as of August 13, 2025 (only stating "For over 60 years, CRS's focus has been to promote peace by assisting communities experiencing conflict and violence. Guided by federal laws establishing jurisdictions, CRS focuses on restoring peaceful relations among communities by helping them to overcome differences and build the skills needed to prevent future disputes. CRS often responds to communities shaken by mass violence, civil disorder, and other critical incidents and offers neutral and impartial conciliation through mediation, facilitated dialogues, training, and consultation."), <https://www.justice.gov/crs/our-focus/>.

¹² Compare the "Training Programs" page, as archived on January 8, 2025, <https://web.archive.org/web/20250108113751/https://www.justice.gov/crs/our-work/training> to the same page as of August 13, 2025, <https://www.justice.gov/crs/our-work/training>.

CRS is also statutorily mandated. It was established under Title X of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and its mandate was expanded by the Church Arson Prevention Act of 1996 and the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009 to include addressing community tensions and hate crimes. Reports indicate that you have decided to eliminate CRS as a component, placing it within another component with a single employee, and sent out the Reduction in Force notice to all remaining employees on September 29.¹³ With these changes, CRS would be unable to perform its statutorily required functions with just one staff member. The dismantling of CRS is not only unlawful, it is also particularly concerning given the rise in community unrest, where CRS's peacebuilding and mediation services would play a vital role.

We understand the Civil Rights Division is continuing to pursue some hate crime cases, including those on the basis of religion.¹⁴ While it is critical that the Department address hate crimes based on religion, especially given their prevalence, we are concerned that the Department may be prioritizing certain classes of hate crimes over others. Federal efforts to investigate, prosecute, and resolve hate crimes and civil rights violations must encompass the entirety of the protected classes and cannot focus nearly exclusively on one protected class.

We urge you to properly enforce our federal hate crime statutes, including by prioritizing the Department's work to prevent and respond to *all* hate crimes, including hate crimes based on race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. This includes disbursing all appropriated funds for hate crime grants and working with Congress to increase the amount of funding for hate crime grants in FY 2026.

In order to better understand the Department's work in this area, we request answers to the following questions within 60 days of receipt of this letter:

1. How many open hate crime investigations did the Department have on January 20, 2025?
2. How many hate crime investigations has the Department opened since January 20, 2025, and how many have resulted in charges being brought? Please provide disaggregated data that includes the alleged bias or biases in each case.
3. How many open hate crime investigations does the Department have presently?
4. For each hate crime investigation closed without bringing charges between January 20, 2025, and September 30, 2025, what was the alleged bias of the perpetrator?
5. How many convenings, meetings, or listening sessions have U.S. Attorneys' Offices, the Community Relations Service, and other components held with community stakeholders in their respective regions to address hate crimes since January 20, 2025? Please provide details on the location, date, communities engaged (e.g., racial, ethnic, religious, LGBTQ+, disability, immigrant), and the purpose or outcomes of each engagement.
6. Why is DOJ seeking to implement a Reduction in Force (RIF) to nearly eliminate the workforce of the Community Relations Service (CRS), even before the fiscal year 2026

¹³ Suzanne Monyak, *DOJ Terminates Staff at Peacemakers, Access to Justice Units*, BLOOMBERG LAW (Oct. 1, 2025), <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/us-law-week/doj-terminates-staff-at-peacemakers-access-to-justice-offices>.

¹⁴ Press Releases, U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE, https://www.justice.gov/news/press-releases?search_api_fulltext=%20hate%20crime&start_date=2025-01-20&end_date=2025-08-13&sort_by=search_api_relevance&page=1.

appropriations process is completed and despite Congress having consistently funded CRS for more than six decades?

- a. Why isn't the Department waiting until Congress enacts fiscal year 2026 appropriations into law, including funding for CRS, before determining whether this RIF action can even be taken in the first place? If, as we strongly desire, Congress continues to fully fund CRS in fiscal year 2026 as both a separate appropriations account and a nationwide agency, how can the Department implement all of the work of CRS without a CRS workforce?
7. Please provide an explanation of how CRS is planning to fulfill its statutory duty with the Reduction in Force DOJ is seeking to implement.
8. How many trainings did CRS facilitate between January 20, 2024 and January 20, 2025? Please disaggregate this data based on the type of training (e.g., Engaging and Building Relationships with Arab American Communities, Engaging and Building Relationships with Transgender Communities, etc.)
9. How many trainings did CRS facilitate between January 20, 2025 and November 17, 2025? Please disaggregate this data based on the type of training (e.g., Engaging and Building Relationships with Arab American Communities, Engaging and Building Relationships with Transgender Communities, etc.)
10. How many grants relating to hate crime prevention or response have been paused, cancelled, or rescinded since January 20, 2025? Please include for each grant, the name of the grant, the grant amount, the recipient's name, and a summary of the project that was being funded.
11. How many grants relating to hate crime prevention or response have been subsequently reinstated after the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs notified grant recipients of the termination of funding during 2025? Please include for each grant, the name of the grant, the grant amount, the recipient's name, and a summary of the project that was being funded.
 - a. Does the Department plan to release any Fiscal Year 2025 Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs) for grants related to hate crime prevention or response? If so, when will these notices be released, and what is the anticipated timeline for awarding grant recipients?

CC: Harmeet Dhillon, Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, Department of Justice

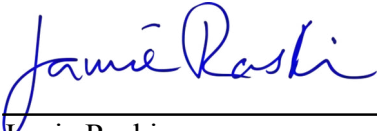
Sincerely,



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
CAPAC Chair



Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member
House Committee on the
Judiciary



Adriano Espaillat
Chair
Congressional Hispanic
Caucus



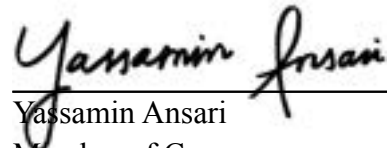
Teresa Leger Fernández
Chair
Democratic Women's Caucus



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



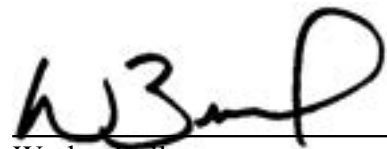
Becca Balint
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



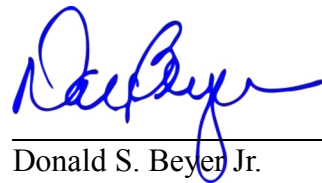
Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



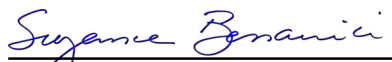
Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



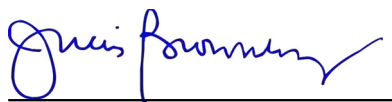
Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



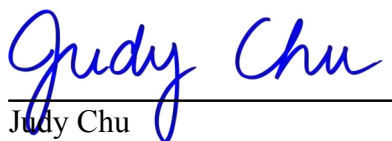
Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



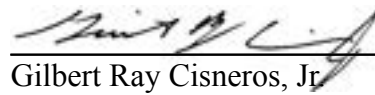
Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



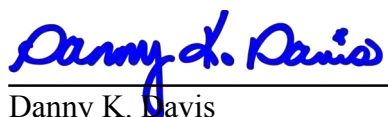
J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



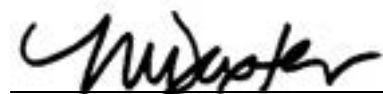
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



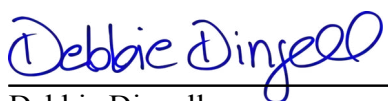
Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Maxine Dexter
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



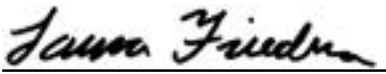
Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



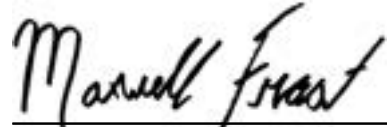
Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



Laura Friedman
Member of Congress



Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress



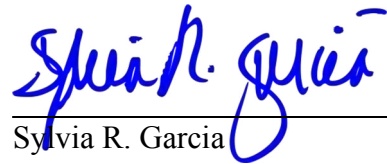
John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



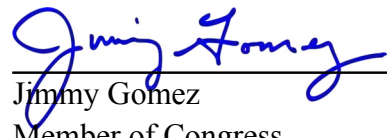
Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. García
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



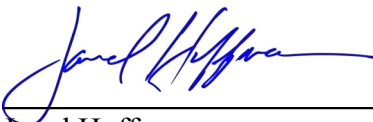
Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



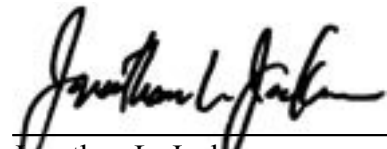
Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



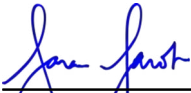
Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



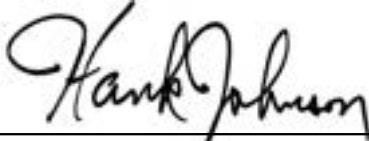
Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



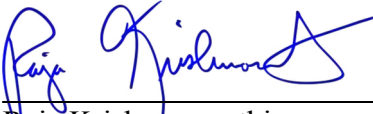
Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



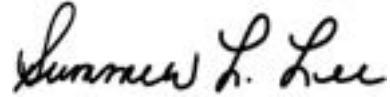
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Julie Johnson
Member of Congress



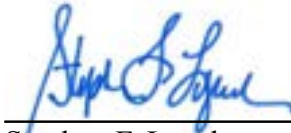
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



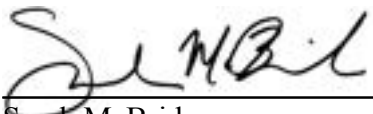
Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress



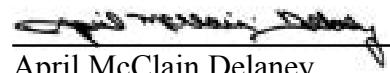
Ted Lieu
Member of Congress



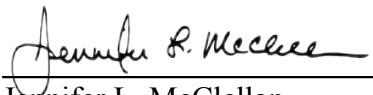
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Sarah McBride
Member of Congress



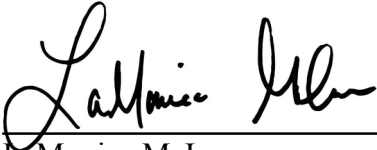
April McClain Delaney
Member of Congress



Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



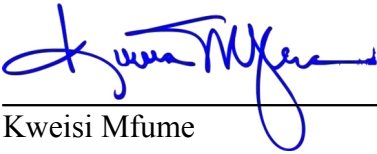
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress



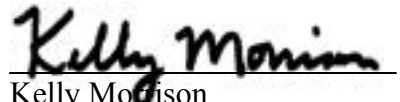
Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress



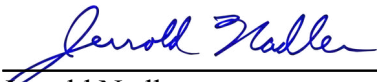
Dave Min
Member of Congress



Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress



Kelly Morrison
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



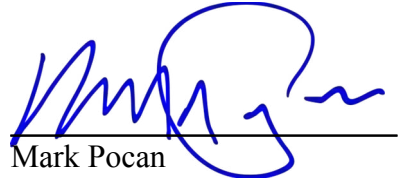
Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



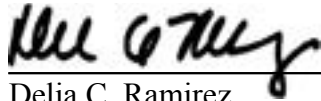
Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



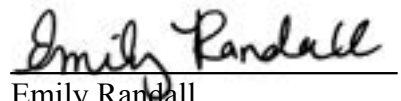
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



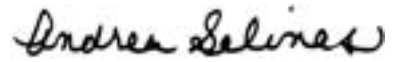
Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



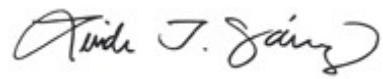
Emily Randall
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



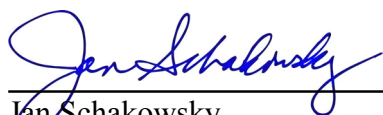
Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



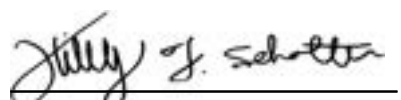
Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



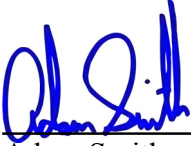
Hillary J. Scholten
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



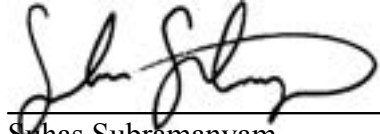
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



Suhas Subramanyam
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Emilia Strong Sykes
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



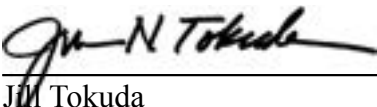
Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



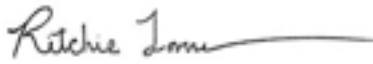
Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Jim Tokuda
Member of Congress



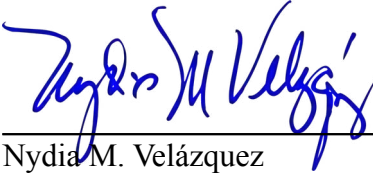
Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



James R. Walkinshaw
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress