



United Against Hate

Community Outreach and Engagement Program

2022–2023

“Throughout our history, and to this day, hate crimes have a singular impact because of the terror and fear they inflict on entire communities. No one in this country should have to fear the threat of hate-fueled violence. The Justice Department will continue to use every resource at its disposal to confront unlawful acts of hate, and to hold accountable those who perpetrate them.”

—Attorney General Merrick B. Garland

In September 2022, the Attorney General announced that the Justice Department’s *United Against Hate* community outreach and engagement program would be launched in every U.S. Attorneys’ Office (USAO) over the coming year.

During the last year, USAOs have engaged thousands of people across the country, providing education about hate crimes and bias-motivated incidents and strengthening connections between community and law enforcement through dialogue.

United Against Hate

Program Goals



- 1. Increase community understanding and reporting.**
- 2. Build trust between communities and law enforcement.**
- 3. Create stronger alliances to prevent and combat hate crimes.**



Senior Justice Department leadership at a memorial for victims and survivors of the May 14, 2022, attack in Buffalo, New York.

Combating unlawful acts of hate

Responding to growing unlawful acts of hate, Attorney General Garland, in his first directive in March 2021, ordered the Justice Department to boost efforts to fight hate crimes and hate incidents. To answer this call, the Department designed the *United Against Hate* community outreach and engagement program.

The Department's Civil Rights Division developed the *United Against Hate* program with critical assistance from the Executive Office of U.S. Attorneys' Offices (EOUSA), the Community Relations Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Community Oriented Policing Services Office, and the Office of Justice Programs.

United Against Hate **Milestones**

94

USAOs

300+

Events

10,000+

Participants

The *United Against Hate* program connects federal, state, and local law enforcement with local communities, including those that have been historically marginalized and may be especially vulnerable to hate crimes and bias-motivated incidents. The program not only educates community members about hate crimes and hate incidents, but also helps to build trust between community and law enforcement and strengthen local networks to combat unlawful acts of hate.

An all-hands-on-deck strategy

“The stronger the ties between communities and law enforcement, the more faith that communities will have that their allegations will be investigated and taken seriously. This moment requires an all-hands-on-deck strategy to fully confront unlawful acts of hate.”

—Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Kristen Clarke

Each of the 94 federal districts has a U.S. Attorney who works to enforce the nation’s laws. By hosting *United Against Hate* events, U.S. Attorneys are essential to building bridges between local communities and federal, state, and local law enforcement. All 94 USAOs hosted these events in an array of settings, including churches, local schools and universities, libraries, art galleries, and community centers. Participants and co-hosts included religious groups; educational institutions; advocacy organizations; national, state, tribal, and local civil rights organizations, and local chambers of commerce, among many others. The events ranged in size from as few as a dozen to more than two hundred participants.

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“The Sikh community of Charlotte greatly values the relationship it has built with the U.S. Attorney’s Office With the Office’s help, we have always been able to reach out to federal law enforcement for assistance with any challenge our community faces, whether it is school bullying, diversity training at the airport, security of the Gurdwara, or civil rights matters Our community is grateful for everything this Office has done for us.”

—Pushpinder Garcha, United Sikhs



The U.S. Attorneys' Office in South Dakota hosted a United Against Hate event at the Hindu Temple of Siouxland.

The *United Against Hate* program covers a range of topics, including:

- defining hate crimes versus hate incidents;
- the importance of reporting unlawful acts of hate;
- options for responding to hate incidents that are not crimes; and
- distinguishing unlawful conduct from speech protected by the First Amendment.

Each USAO district tailored their own *United Against Hate* program to meet the unique needs and experiences of the local community. Some events focused on specific audiences, like faith leaders, high school students, or the LGBTQI+ community. Others highlighted the impact on survivors and importance of victim support.

Building bridges together

“Our UAH community engagements reflect our district’s diverse fabric. Our unique conversations with community members underscore our ongoing work to improve hate crime prevention, reporting, and law enforcement response, and to encourage communities to work with us as equal partners. When we listen to, understand, and respond to our communities’ concerns, challenges, and needs, we can break down barriers, find common ground, and help build communities that are strong, resilient, and safe.”

—U.S. Attorney Dena King, Western District of North Carolina

USAOs focused on a wide range of community partners representing diverse equities and interests in their *United Against Hate* events. Several events were victim-focused, where survivors, victim advocates, and resource providers raised awareness about the impact of hate crimes on communities. Many USAOs hosted at least one event focused on issues facing one or more religious communities. And with the recent rise and persistent threat of antisemitic hate, more than 30 USAOs focused on the issues faced by their local Jewish communities and places of worship.

With the focus on enhancing the reporting hate crimes and hate incidents, most USAOs partnered with state and local law enforcement agencies in their *United Against Hate* events.



Participants listen during a United Against Hate workshop given by the U.S. Attorneys’ Office for the Eastern District of North Carolina.

Testimonials

A helping hand

“After an event geared toward the LGBTQI+ community one of the student attendees reached out to the AUSA. The student said that the event was the first time in his life that he felt like law enforcement was offering him a helping hand. He said he was aware of unreported hate crimes on campus and was so inspired by the event that he was hoping to start a working group at the law school with student leaders and local law enforcement designed to increase the reporting of hate crimes and incidents.”

—USAO District of Arizona



The U.S. Attorneys’ Office for the Northern District of Georgia hosted a series of United Against Hate events with communities across their district.

Survivors speak

“We had a listening session with members of the Afghan and Muslim communities after a string of murders impacted those communities. It helped us check in and determine whether we could address community concerns in the aftermath, and it provided a forum for community members to report on recent incidents.”

—USAO District of New Mexico

Centering victims

“Our UAH event partly focused on the trauma experienced by hate crime victims, how long the trauma lasts, and the importance of victims speaking up and speaking out. Our Victim Witness Coordinator and people who were victims of hate crimes spoke at our program. It was moving and powerful for our audience to hear from victims and to see the damage hate crimes leave behind. The program was very well received.”

—USAO Eastern District of North Carolina



Prosecutors gave a presentation about hate crimes laws at a United Against Hate event given by the U.S. Attorneys’ Office for the District of Rhode Island.

A direct line

“Our UAH outreach has already borne fruit, as it facilitated helpful communication between the U.S. Attorney and a local rabbi, whose congregation was the target of recent threats. On June 8, 2023, we hosted a virtual UAH event with Jewish leaders across the district. About a week later, on June 16th, a 19-year-old suspect was arrested by the FBI for making antisemitic threats of a mass shooting targeting a local synagogue. The rabbi of the targeted synagogue had participated in our UAH meeting and had a direct line of communication with the U.S. Attorney. Not only did UAH strengthen the office’s relationship with the targeted synagogue, but it helped build trust and goodwill with Jewish leaders and community members across the district and state.”

—USAO Western District of Michigan



The U.S. Attorneys’ Office for the Western District of North Carolina and law enforcement officials met with representatives from the Sikh Community at the Gurdwara Khalsa Darbar in Charlotte.

Additional Information

Report a hate crime or incident.

- If you are a victim of a hate crime or incident, or witnessed one, call 911 or your local police station.
- Follow up your report with the FBI [online](#) or call the FBI at 1-800-CALL-FBI (1-800-225-5324).

Connect with your U.S. Attorney.

- Many USAOs are hosting additional *United Against Hate* programs.
- To learn about events in your USAO district, [contact](#) your local United States Attorney.