



FOR RELEASE: JULY 28, 2021

Media Contact: Rebecca Farmer, Communications Director, Movement Advancement Project
303-578-4600 ext. 122, rebecca@lgbtmap.org

Partner Statements on the [July 2021 Hate Crime Laws Report](#)

***Statement Anti-Defamation League,
Jonathan A. Greenblatt, CEO***

“When a person is attacked because of their race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or disability, it harms not only them, but also the group of people who share that characteristic. Because hate crimes cause unique harm, they require unique tools to respond. Hate crime laws are only one of those tools -- it is far better to prevent hate crimes in the first place. As this report highlights, we as a society need to address bias-motivated violence through a more holistic approach and center communities, as we grapple with and work to dismantle systemic racism and white supremacy.”

***Statement from Asian Americans Advancing Justice,
Marita Etcubañez, Director of Strategic Initiatives***

“We appreciate the coverage of anti-Asian hate violence in the report, including acknowledgement of its roots in U.S. history, the rise in anti-Asian harassment and hate violence during the COVID-19 pandemic, and discussion of how our communities’ responses are not singular or static but continue to evolve. This new report on hate crimes laws from the Movement Advancement Project is an invaluable resource with its analysis of federal and state laws, including synthesis and presentation of a great deal of data in a straightforward and accessible way. This report will be helpful to advocates, policymakers, and community members who wish to gain a better understanding of hate crimes and work toward more effective responses and solutions.”

***Statement from Equality Federation,
Fran Hutchins, Executive Director***

“We're proud to partner on this report that details the patchwork landscape of hate crimes laws and names some of the ways they often fail to address community needs for accountability, justice, and safety. As the report clearly demonstrates, these laws tend to have a disproportionate impact on already marginalized populations in the way they interact with a flawed carceral system. Equality Federation will continue to work with policymakers, allies, and communities to find meaningful, equitable responses to hate violence targeting LGBTQ people, especially those LGBTQ people at the intersection of multiple axes of identity-based oppression.”

***Statement from Lambda Legal,
Richard Saenz, Senior Attorney, Criminal Justice & Police Misconduct Strategist***

“Lambda Legal is proud to partner with MAP and other organizations on this groundbreaking report analyzing hate crime laws at the state and federal levels. As our LGBTQ+ community faces an epidemic of hate violence, it is crucial that we seek ways to stop and address this violence, while considering the limitations and potential harmful impact on our community of a relying primarily on the criminal system.”

***Statement from LatinoJustice PRLDEF,
Jorge Renaud, National Criminal Justice Director and Director of the SW Region***

“As this report makes clear, there is ‘little to no evidence’ that harsher sentencing actually reduces crime, and does not even begin to address the educational and racial inequalities that often gives rise to hatred manifested in senseless violence. LatinoJustice PRLDEF welcomes the opportunity to advance solutions that begin with community-based restorative justice interventions which will increase understanding and lessen the perpetual cycle of hate and violence that is perpetrated by unjust lengthy sentences based upon punishment rather than compassion & understanding.”

***Statement from Judy Shepard, mother of Matthew Shepard and Board/Chair President of the
Matthew Shepard Foundation***

“We at the Matthew Shepard Foundation believe that a comprehensive strategy to addressing hate crimes requires both preventative and enforcement components. We know that hate violence is a complicated social issue, requiring proactive community focused solutions, victim support, and a reduction on our reliance on the criminal justice system. We will continue to lend our voices to efforts that will enhance victim protections, increase community safety, and address the societal root causes that create, enable and perpetuate hate and bias.”

***Statement from National Black Justice Coalition,
David J. Johns, Executive Director, National Black Justice Coalition***

“Last year, we witnessed the epidemic of violence against Black transgender women reach historic levels; yet, this year will likely eclipse that painful record. We are weary and filled with grief over every life stolen or traumatized by hate and bias. This report takes a comprehensive look at the data to make the case for better reporting, stronger investigations, and more options for sentencing to increase hate crime prevention. These tactics are critical when it comes to preventing and solving murders and other acts of harm and harassment to our communities. We can create a world where all are treated with dignity and respect and who you are does not become a threat to your life or safety. We urge survivors, decision makers, law enforcement, and victim's advocates to use this tool to create transformative and lasting community change for all of us.”

***Statement from National Center for Lesbian Rights,
Imani Rupert-Gordon, Executive Director***

“Recently, we have unfortunately seen a dramatic increase in the number of violent hate crimes across the country targeting the LGBTQ community, women, people of Jewish faith, Asian people, and people of color. This groundbreaking and important report will help us understand both the opportunities and limitations of hate crime laws in the United States, as well as how to improve these laws to make sure they address the root causes of hate violence while not harming the communities they are meant to make safer. NCLR was proud to partner with these racial and social justice organizations to release this

report so that we can all work together to find meaningful solutions to address the hate violence that affects too many communities.”

***Statement from National Center for Transgender Equality,
Rodrigo Heng-Lehtinen, Executive Director***

“Transgender people – and particularly Black and Latina transgender women – are marginalized, stigmatized and criminalized in our country. They face violence every day. This important report is critical in the work to stem the violence targeting transgender people. But it’s just the beginning. Our solutions must reflect the scope of the problem, which requires increased access to safe, affordable housing, policies that protect transgender people from discrimination, increased economic opportunity and improved police training.”

***Statement from National Disability Rights Network,
Curt Decker, Executive Director***

“This crucial report exposes the deficiencies in our nation’s response, recognition and prevention of hate incidents and crimes. As communities across the country contend with an increase in hate-motivated crimes, including many perpetrated against people with disabilities, it is more important than ever that we understand and address the causes of violence. We urge lawmakers, law enforcement agencies and community leaders to read this report and implement its recommendations to make our neighborhoods safer.”

***Statement from Sikh Coalition,
Nikki Singh, Sikh Coalition Senior Manager of Policy and Advocacy***

“The Sikh community is one of the most frequently targeted faith groups for bias-based incidents and hate crimes. As outlined in this report, stopping hate crimes requires not just legislative and policy fixes, but a multi-pronged approach that also includes data tracking, community support, education, and accountability with authorities.”

***Statement from Southern Poverty Law Center,
Margaret Huang, CEO***

“The Southern Poverty Law Center is pleased to partner with the Movement Advancement Project in support of their thoughtful and comprehensive new Policy Spotlight report on national hate crime laws. Under the Hate Crime Statistics Act of 1990 (HCSA), the FBI is required to compile hate crime data from the approximately 18,000 federal, state, university, city, and tribal law enforcement authorities and publish an annual report. Because reporting is voluntary, hate crimes are vastly underreported. MAP’s extensive research reveals substantial gaps in current federal and state hate crime data collection efforts; the study also elevates the need to address root causes of hate violence while promoting non-carceral responses to these bias-motivated crimes. By highlighting the limitations of hate crime laws enforced by the federal government and utilized by 46 states across the country, this inclusive report offers important policy recommendations for community-based victim services and prevention and restorative justice programs. The Policy Spotlight report is a vital resource that can contribute to federal hate crime data collection, as well as training and prevention efforts.”

***Statement from Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism,
Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner, Director***

“The unconscionable surge in hate crimes that began in 2017, including recent violent acts against Jews, is deeply felt in the Jewish community—especially among Jews of Color, LGBTQ+ Jews, people with disabilities, and others who hold multiple marginalized identities. To counter rising hate violence, we must understand the scope of this crisis and all the tools at our disposal to address it. The Movement Advancement Project’s comprehensive assessment of state and federal hate crime laws will strengthen our collective efforts to root out hate crimes and the climate of bigotry in which they occur. By examining the structural racism of our criminal justice system and the limitations of hate crime laws, the report uplifts the need for approaches that support, rather than criminalize, the communities that are most often targeted by hatred.”