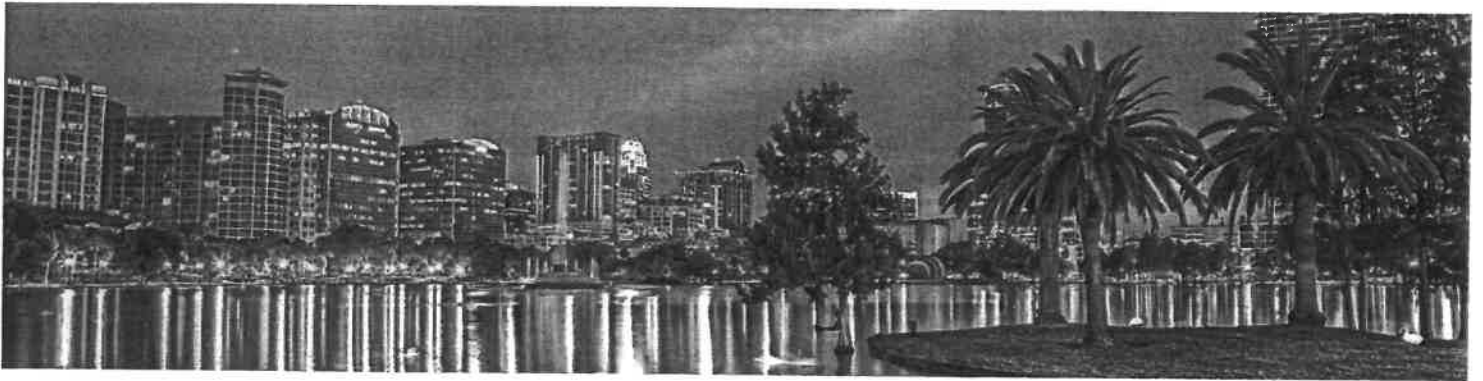


DONATE

~~A~~ADL®

FIGHTING HATE FOR GOOD



FAQ: Hate Crimes And Florida Legislation

Why Are Hate Crime Laws Needed?

Hate crimes target victims simply for who they are. In these crimes, violence is not used as a means for victim compliance. Rather,

inflicting maximum violence is the goal. All that matters to the assailant is that the victim appears to be of a particular race, religion, or other group. Because hate crime victims are interchangeable and random, these crimes terrorize the entire victim's community and often lead to similarly terrorizing retaliatory hate crimes against the perpetrator's community. So hate crime laws, which increase sentences for criminals who commit them, are a way for society to recognize that these crimes strike special fear within victimized groups, fragment communities, and tear at the very fabric of our democratic way of life.



Who Does Florida's Hate Crime Laws Exclude?

Although Florida already has a hate crime law, it is not comprehensive. Floridians are not protected by it if they are targeted for a crime because of **physical disability, gender, or gender identity**. And the law does not cover "**association with**" hate crimes where, for example, a person is victimized for being at a bar or restaurant with African American or Hispanic friends. It also does not cover "**mixed motive**" hate crimes. So, for instance, if a perpetrator involved in a fender-bender assaults the other driver while yelling racial epithets and angry remarks about the accident at the victim, a hate crime cannot be charged. The legislation that the Florida Hate Crime Coalition supports – SB 940 and HB 655 – closes these critical gaps in the law.

How Many Hate Crimes Occur in Florida?

According to the most recent hate crime statistics, Florida has witnessed **significant increases** in hate crimes in recent years. The FBI

reports that hate crimes in Florida have remained at record highs for the past two years – with 141 reported hate crimes in 2018 and 145 in 2017, compared to 96 in 2016 and 72 in 2015. The **Florida Attorney General's 2017 Hate Crime Report**, the most recent available, reflects a **36.3% increase** from 2016 to 2017. And due to the gaps in Florida's hate crime laws, these statistics do not account for hate crimes that were committed because of physical disability, gender, gender identity, as well as "association with" or "mixed motive" hate crimes. Furthermore, there is significant underreporting of hate crimes in America. In fact, a U.S. Department of Justice survey estimates that 250,000 hate crime victimizations annually occur in the United States.

Do Hate Crime Laws Punish Thought or Speech?

No – Americans are free to believe and say whatever they want. Hate crime laws only punish criminal acts, such as aggravated assault or vandalism. Just like any criminal case, hate crime laws require the underlying criminal act and bias motive to be proven with evidence beyond a reasonable doubt. In 1994, the Florida Supreme Court upheld Florida's hate crime law against a First Amendment challenge. The year before, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously upheld a Wisconsin hate crime law against a similar constitutional challenge.

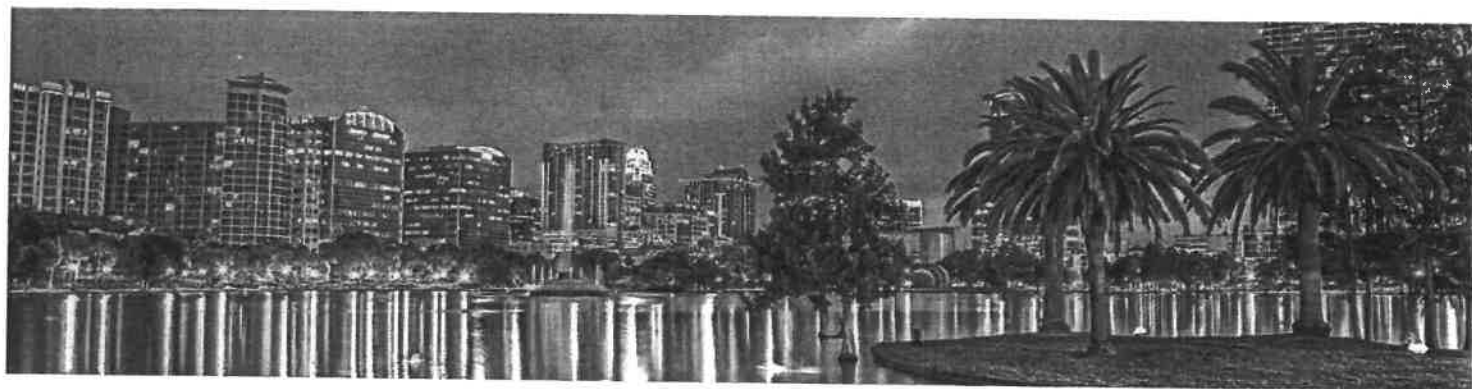
Do Hate Crime Laws Give Special Rights to Special Groups?

No – Hate crime laws are color blind. They cover victims whether they are in the majority or minority. In fact, based on the FBI's 2017 national hate crime statistics, 22% of race-based hate crimes were against white people, 12% of religious-based hate crimes were against Christians, 48% of gender-based hate crimes were against men, and 3% of sexual-orientation based hate crimes were against heterosexuals.

DONATE

~~ADL~~®

FIGHTING HATE FOR GOOD



Members Of The Florida Hate Crime Coalition

As of 12/15/19:

ADL

ACLU of Central Florida

Adolph & Rose Levis JCC
Alpert Jewish Family & Children's Service
ALSO Youth Center
Alzheimer's Care Resource Center
America Israel Chamber Of Commerce
American Jewish Committee, Florida
Americans for Immigrant Justice
Aqua Foundation For Women
Arianna's Center / Translatina FL
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
A Wider Bridge
Big Brothers Big Sisters Of Miami
Broward Board Of Rabbis
Broward County Chiefs Of Police Association
Broward County Human Rights Board
Captain Mauricio Escarra, Bal Harbour Police Department
Center For Independent Living of South Florida
Center For Judaic, Holocaust, And Genocide Studies At Florida Gulf
Coast University
Center for Psychological Growth
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers
Chief Nelson Andreu, West Miami Police Department
Chief Jorge Colina, Miami Police Department
Chief Brian Dugan, Tampa Police Department
Chief Raleigh Flowers, Jr., Bal Harbour Police Department
Chief Armando Guzman, Miami Springs Police Department
Chief Edward Hudak, Coral Gables Police Department
Chief Larry Juriga, North Miami Police Department
Chief Robert G. Mangold, Atlantis Police Department
Chief Sarah J. Mooney, West Palm Beach Police Department

Chief Jeffrey M. O'Dell, Kissimmee Police Department
Chief Bryan Pegues, Aventura Police Department
Chief Orlando Rolón, Orlando Police Department
Chief Anthony W. Rosa, Sunrise Police Department
Chief Daniel Slaughter, Clearwater Police Department
The Children's Movement Of Florida
City Of Bartow City Commission
City of North Miami Beach City Commission
City of Tampa Office Of Human Rights
City Of Wilton Manors City Commission
Commissioner Anthony Caggiano, Margate City Commission
Commissioner Julie Carson, Wilton Manors City Commission
Commissioner Angelo Castillo, Pembroke Pines City Commission
Commissioner Ken Cutler, Parkland City Commission
Commissioner Gregory Davila, Key West City Commission
Commissioner Steven Glassman, Fort Lauderdale City Commission
Commissioner Mary Lou Hoover, Key West City Commission
Commissioner Gail Johnson, Gainesville City Commission
Commissioner Michele Lazarow, Hallandale Beach City Commission
Commissioner Massimo "Max" Pulcini, Cooper City Commission
Commissioner Gary Resnick, Wilton Manors City Commission
Commissioner Joshua Rydell, Coconut Creek City Commission
Commissioner Patty Sheehan, Orlando City Council
Commissioner Fortuna Smukler, North Miami Beach City Commission
Commissioner Becky Tooley, Coconut Creek City Commission
Commissioner Howard Weinberg, Aventura City Commission
Compass Community Center
COSMOS – Coalition Of South Florida Muslim Organizations
Council Member Denise Horland, Plantation City Council
Council Member Ilan Kaufer, Jupiter Town Council

Council Member Skip Overdier, Destin City Council
Council Member Prebble Ramswell, Destin City Council
Council Member Judy Wertz Strickland, Arcadia City Council
Council Member Andy Thomson, Boca Raton City Council
Counselors For Change
Dave & Mary Alper JCC
David Posnack JCC
Disability Independence Group, Inc.
Disability Rights Florida
disAbility Solutions for Independent Living, Inc.
The Dru Project
EMGage USA
Equality Florida
FAITH – Foundation To Advance Interfaith Trust And Harmony
Florida Alliance Of Planned Parenthood Affiliates
Florida Armenians
Florida Association For The Deaf
Florida Atlantic University – Center for Autism and Related
Disabilities
Florida Atlantic University – Center For Holocaust And Human Rights
Education
Florida Atlantic University – Women in Finance Organization
Florida Council Of The Blind
Florida Disabled Outdoors Association
Florida Immigrant Coalition
Florida NOW
Florida Society of Jewish Deaf
Florida State Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police
Florida Trans Proud
F.R.I.E.N.D.S. Down Syndrome West Florida

FSU Hillel
Gay Men's Chorus Of South Florida
Gulf Coast Minority Chamber Of Commerce
Gwen S. Cherry Black Women Lawyers Association
Hadassah Florida
Harmony Development Center
Heller CRC Of The Jewish Federation Of Sarasota-Manatee
Hillel At FIU
Hillel Of Broward And Palm Beach
Hillel Of The Florida Suncoast
Hindu American Foundation Fort Lauderdale Chapter
Hindu American Foundation Tampa Chapter
Hispanic Services Council
Hispanic Unity Florida
Holocaust Documentation & Education Center, Inc.
Holocaust Learning and Education Fund, Inc.
Holocaust Memorial Resource And Education Center Of Florida
Hope, Inc. – Housing Opportunities Project For Excellence
IGLTA – The International LGBTQ+ Travel Association
Inspire Recovery
Institute for LGBT Health and Wellbeing
Interfaith Council Of Central Florida
Jacksonville Coalition For Equality
JASMYN, Inc.
Jewish Community Alliance of Jacksonville
Jewish Community Relations Council Of The Greater Miami Jewish
Federation
Jewish Community Relations Council Of The Jewish Federation Of
Greater Naples
Jewish Community Relations Council Of The Jewish Federation of

Greater Orlando

Jewish Community Relations Council Of The Jewish Federation Of
Palm Beach County

Jewish Community Relations Council Of the Jewish Federation of
Pinellas & Pasco Counties

Jewish Community Relations Council Of The Jewish Federation Of
South Palm Beach County

Jewish Community Services Of South Florida

Jewish Family And Children's Services Of The Suncoast

Jewish Family Services Of Orlando

Jewish Federation of Broward County

Jewish Federation of Jacksonville

Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties, Florida

Jewish Women's Foundation Of The Greater Palm Beaches

Jewish Women's Foundation Of South Palm Beach County

JFCS Of Southwest Florida

Latino Leadership, Inc.

League of Women Voters Florida

LULAC Council Of Central Florida #7265

LULAC Florida Council 7258

MAC – Mexican American Council

Mandell JCC of the Palm Beaches

Maura's Voice

Mayor Jose Alvarez, City Of Kissimmee

Mayor Russ Barley, City Of Freeport

Mayor Bill Barnett, City Of Naples

Mayor Philippe Bien-Aime, City Of North Miami

Mayor Scott Brook, City Of Coral Springs

Mayor Stephanie Bruder, Town Of Bay Harbor Islands

Mayor Karyn Cunningham, Village Of Palmetto Bay

Mayor John Dailey, City Of Tallahassee
Mayor Daniel E. Dietch, Town of Surfside
Mayor Buddy Dyer, City Of Orlando
Mayor Justin Flippen, City Of Wilton Manors
Mayor Eugene Fultz, City Of Lake Wales
Mayor Dan Gelber, City Of Miami Beach
Mayor Michelle J. Gomez, City of Tamarac
Mayor Howell Grimm, Jr., City Of Everglades
Mayor Gabe Groisman, Bal Harbour Village
Mayor Rex Hardin, City Of Pompano Beach
Mayor Carlos Hernandez, City of Hialeah
Mayor Christine Hunschofsky, City of Parkland
Mayor Capt. Gary Jarvis, City of Destin
Mayor Teri Johnston, City Of Key West
Mayor Bernard Klepach, Village of Indian Creek
Mayor Josh Levy, City of Hollywood
Mayor Sean Lynch, Town of Baldwin
Mayor Johnny Miller, U.S. Navy (Ret.), City of Fernandina Beach
Mayor Gregory Oravec, City of Port St. Lucie
Mayor Frank Ortis, City of Pembroke Pines
Mayor Lauren Poe, City of Gainesville
Mayor Greg Ross, Cooper City
Mayor Michael Ryan, City Of Sunrise
Mayor Jaccarie D. Simons, City of Arcadia
Mayor Scott Singer, City of Boca Raton
Mayor Daniel J. Stermer, City of Weston
Mayor Matt Surrency, City of Hawthorne
Mayor Dean Trantalis, City of Fort Lauderdale
Mayor Tracy Truppman, City of Biscayne Park
Mayor Raúl Valdés-Fauli, City of Coral Gables

Mayor Enid Weisman, City of Aventura

Mayor Morris West, Haines City

MCCJ

Mental Health Association of Central Florida

Miami-Dade County Commission Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson

Miami-Dade County Commission For Women

Miami-Dade County Commissioner Sally A. Heyman

Miami-Dade County Commissioner Eileen Higgins

Miami-Dade Police Department

Miami Lighthouse for the Blind

Michael-Ann Russell JCC

Mini Mitzvahs

NAACP, Florida State Conference

NAMI Broward County

National Council Of Jewish Women, Florida

New Hope For Kids

One Orlando Alliance

Orlando Deaf, Deaf-Blind, Blind, Hearing Community Connect

Orloff Department of Jewish Education & Engagement Of Jewish
Federation Of Broward County

Palm Beach County Board Of Rabbis

Palm Beach County Commission Vice Mayor Robert Weinroth

Palm Beach County Commissioner Hal Valeche

Palm Beach County Human Rights Council

Pasco Pride Inc.

Peace, Justice And Human Rights (PJHR) Initiative At F.A.U.

PFLAG Gainesville

PFLAG South Miami

Pinellas County Office Of Human Rights

The Pride Center At Equality Park

Pridelines

Puerto Rican Bar Association Of Florida

Puerto Rican/Hispanic Chamber Of Commerce Of Palm Beach County

QLatinx

Rabbinical Association Of Greater Miami

Ridge Area ARC

Ruth & Norman Rales Jewish Family Services, Inc.

Rosen JCC

The Roth Family JCC Of Greater Orlando

Safe Schools South Florida

Saint Petersburg Police Department

SALDEF

Santa La, Haitian Neighborhood Center

Sarasota Pride

Satellite Beach Police Department

SAVE LGBTQ

Sheriff Ric Bradshaw, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Sadie Darnell, Alachua County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff John Mina, Orange County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Walter McNeil, Leon County Sheriff's Office

Sikh Coalition

Sikh Society Of Central Florida

South Florida People Of Color

Special Committee On Gender Bias Of The Florida Bar

SPLC Action Fund

State Attorney David Aronberg, 15th Judicial Circuit

State Attorney Aramis Ayala, 9th Judicial Circuit

State Attorney Jack Campbell, 2nd Judicial Circuit

State Attorney Katherine Fernande Rundle, 12th Judicial Circuit

State Attorney Michael Satz, 17th Judicial Circuit

State Attorney Dennis Ward, 16th Judicial Circuit
State Attorney Andrew Warren, 13th Judicial Circuit
Stay Weird Be Kind Studios
Stetson University Hillel
Tampa Bay Diversity Chamber of Commerce
Tampa JCCs & Federation
Tampa Rabbinical Association
Together We Remember
TransInclusive Group
TransKids Purple Rainbow Foundation
Trans-Miami Center
TransSOCIAL, Inc.
21 & Change, Inc.
UF Hillel
Unitarian Universalist Justice Florida
United Sikhs
Unity Coalition|Coalición Unida
Urban League of Greater Miami, Inc.
Visuality, Inc.
Voices For Children Of Broward County
Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr. Bar Association
Women's Foundation of Florida
Zioness Of South Florida

There's No Time To Lose: Donate to ADL today to take the good fight against anti-Semitism into the new year! >



Mayors' Compact to Combat Hate, Extremism and Bigotry



The United States of America is a nation founded on principles of liberty and justice for all. We treasure our freedom, our commitment to equality, and our democratic values. These values are what has made America great for more than 240 years.

Individual Americans can, and often do, agree to disagree with each other on issues large and small. Differences should be celebrated. And our freedom of speech and the other rights enshrined in the First Amendment are among our most cherished freedoms.

But our diverse and pluralistic nation has endured and thrived for centuries because we have been able to reject the forces of extremism and bigotry that could tear us apart. The country has a long history of striving to be a more perfect union. In the face of challenges and division, we have stood together — Americans of different races, ethnicities, religions, sexual orientations, nationalities, and political persuasions — and we have found ways to move forward.

For decades, America's mayors have taken a strong position in support of civil rights and in opposition to racism and discrimination of all kinds. In the 54 years since the murder of Medgar Evers in Jackson, Mississippi, the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, which killed four young girls, and the March on Washington led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., much progress has been made in addressing past grievances and in ensuring the civil and human rights of all Americans.

Across the country, many mayors have spoken out against discrimination and injustice when it has occurred and have undertaken efforts to build tolerance and understanding within their communities. In recent years, cities have undertaken efforts to integrate immigrants into their communities and have adopted a variety of policies to include fully and treat equitably their LGBT residents.

Today, however, we are being challenged again. Dark forces of extremism and violent bigotry are rearing their ugly heads. We are now seeing efforts in our states and at the highest levels of our government to weaken existing civil rights policies and reduce their enforcement. We have seen an increase in hate violence, xenophobic rhetoric, and discriminatory actions that target Muslims, Jews, and other minorities. We will not permit them to succeed.

Mayors and their cities must continue to be a beacon for inclusion, tolerance, and respect for all. We will continue to create stronger cultures of kindness and compassion in our communities, and expect our federal and state partners to join us in this endeavor.

The Anti-Defamation League and The United States Conference of Mayors are launching a new initiative to fight extremism and bigotry and to promote the fundamental principles of justice and equality that define America.

This new initiative has 10 key components:

1. EXPRESSLY REJECTING EXTREMISM, WHITE SUPREMACY AND ALL FORMS OF BIGOTRY

Mayors will use the bully pulpit to speak out against racism, extremism, xenophobia, white supremacy and all forms of bigotry, and those who espouse such ideologies, and promote community conversations around these issues as needed.

2. DENOUNCING ALL ACTS OF HATE WHEREVER THEY OCCUR

Mayors will publicly denounce specific acts of hate and support efforts to punish bias-motivated violence to the fullest extent of the law, and provide comfort and assistance to victims of hate crimes and discrimination.

3. ENSURING PUBLIC SAFETY WHILE PROTECTING FREE SPEECH AND OTHER BASIC CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

Mayors will protect public safety while safeguarding free speech and other basic constitutional rights through the use of appropriate time, place, and manner restrictions. This might include encouraging alternative rally sites and placing limits on the rights of protestors to bring weapons to political rallies.

4. CALLING FOR FULLY-RESOURCED LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CIVIL RIGHTS INVESTIGATIONS OF DOMESTIC TERRORISM AND HATE CRIMES

Mayors will work to ensure that local police departments have the financial resources necessary to prevent, respond to and investigate domestic terrorism and hate crimes, and work with federal authorities when appropriate to ensure that the interests of justice are served.

5. ELEVATING AND PRIORITIZING ANTI-BIAS AND ANTI-HATE PROGRAMS IN OUR NATION'S SCHOOLS

Mayors will encourage schools to implement anti-bias and anti-hate content in their curricula and/or through extra-curricular activities. ADL and other groups have materials and training programs that can help make this happen.

6. SUPPORTING TARGETED COMMUNITIES AND BRINGING TOGETHER CIVIC AND COMMUNITY LEADERS TO BUILD TRUST

Mayors will reach out proactively to civil rights leaders, clergy and other community leaders to ensure that they are engaged and actively involved in efforts to build trust across neighborhood and community lines and minimize intergroup tensions.

7. CELEBRATING DIVERSITY, PROMOTING INCLUSIVITY AND CHALLENGING BIAS

Mayors will support the integration of immigrants and other new residents into the community, encourage community activities which celebrate diversity and educate city residents about the different cultures that compose a city's population, and work with creative partners to use various electronic and print media outlets to promote public messages celebrating inclusivity and challenging bias.

8. PROMOTING LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING ON RESPONDING TO AND REPORTING HATE INCIDENTS, HATE CRIMES AND DOMESTIC TERRORISM

Mayors will encourage their police departments to participate in training programs offered by ADL and others that address how to identify and respond to hate incidents, hate crimes, and domestic terrorism. Members will also encourage the collection of data on such crimes and the provision of the data to appropriate state authorities and the FBI in compliance with the Federal Hate Crime Statistics Act.

9. ENCOURAGING RESIDENTS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES TO REPORT HATE INCIDENTS AND CRIMES, INCLUDING USING HOT LINES AND ONLINE TOOLS

Mayors will encourage residents – both victims and witnesses – to report hate incidents and hate crimes to local authorities, and provide the tools necessary to facilitate such reporting, including hot lines and online tools, as possible and appropriate.

10. MAINTAINING CIVIL RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT AND STRENGTHENING HATE CRIME LAWS WHEN NECESSARY

Mayors will work with executive and legislative partners at the federal and state levels to assure that civil rights laws are aggressively enforced, existing hate crime laws are strengthened as needed, and new laws are enacted to ensure that all hate crimes are prosecutable in their jurisdictions to the greatest extent possible.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lonny Wilk, ADL Senior Associate Regional Director
561-988-2917 lwilk@adl.org

Boca Raton, Fla., November 18, 2019... The Florida Hate Crime Coalition (FHCC), led by ADL (Anti-Defamation League), today applauded bi-partisan sponsorship of a hate crime bill filed in advance of the 2020 Florida Legislative session. The bill would make the State's hate crime statute comprehensive by closing five major loopholes in the law.

2020 is the first legislative session that the bill secured sponsorship across party lines. Representative Joseph Geller (D – Miami-Dade) filed HB 655 with Representative Rick Stark (D – Weston), head of the Jewish Legislative Caucus, as the Co-Prime Sponsor and Representative Jackie Toledo (R – Tampa) as the First Co-Sponsor on the bill. State Senator Kevin Rader (D – Boca Raton) filed SB 940.

"Protecting Floridians from hate motivated violence should not be a Democratic or Republican issue, but one that brings us all together, therefore ADL commends the bi-partisan sponsorship of this bill" said **Sheri Zvi, ADL Florida Regional Director**. "Closing the loopholes in Florida's hate crime law is long overdue and we urge members from across the aisle to co-sponsor this critical legislation," stressed Zvi.

"On November 2, 2018, my daughter, Maura Binkley, lost her life in a shooting at a Tallahassee yoga studio where the perpetrator specifically targeted

women – a gender-based hate crime,” said **Jeff Binkley, Founder, Maura’s Voice**. Binkley pointed out that, “the reason we must legally call all hate crimes by their name and provide specific punishments is that they, above all, undermine fundamental values of a decent society in very specific ways, corroding respect for others; a sense of responsibility to all of our brothers and sisters; the freedom to live our lives without fear of being attacked simply because of who we are; and yes, freedom of individual expression.”

“It is crucial that the Florida Legislature thoughtfully consider the updates to our hate crime law proposed by this bill. Current law does not adequately or comprehensively protect those with certain disabilities in the state from crimes evidencing prejudice and hate,” said **John Bodor, President, 21 & Change, Inc.** “Ensuring that Florida’s statutory definition of disability is as broad in this regard as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), would make this an important step in dignifying the existence and experiences of all Floridians with disabilities,” added **Bodor**.

“Passing this bill in the Florida legislature is a no-brainer,” said **Jeanette Jennings, Founder, TransKids Purple Rainbow Foundation**. “Too many in our State do not currently enjoy the same protections from criminal acts motivated by bias and hate, and this directly impacts the transgender community. Anyone who is targeted in Florida specifically because of the outward expression of their gender identity, currently has no protection under our hate crime law.”

Florida’s hate crime law is not comprehensive, because it does not cover bias crimes committed because of **physical disability, gender, or gender identity**. And it does not cover “**association with**” or “**mixed motive**” hate crimes.

With a mission to make Florida’s hate crime law comprehensive, FHCC is composed of 214 members, including law enforcement leaders (14 Police

Chiefs, 4 Sheriffs, and 7 State Attorneys), elected officials (39 Mayors, 2 City Commissions, and 1 County Commissioner), civil rights groups, and other non-profit organizations. A full list of FHCC Members can be found here. The FHCC's Frequently Asked Questions (F.A.Q.) document can be found here.

 Posted in **Press Releases**.

[← Previous Post](#)

News Archives

Select Month 

[ADL NATIONAL](#) [ADL REGIONAL OFFICES](#) [PRIVACY POLICY](#)

[DONATE](#)

 [Find Your Local ADL](#)



[BLOG](#)

[CAREERS](#)

[CONTACT](#)

[PRIVACY POLICY](#)

©2019 Anti-Defamation League. All rights reserved.