

# HATES CRIMES TASK FORCE



**2023 Annual Report**

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## Membership

Seat	Member	Appointed By
Secretary of EOPSS	Secretary Terrence M. Reidy Co-Chair	EOPSS
Person with expertise or experience in hate crimes issues 1	Josh Kraft Co-Chair	Governor
Person with expertise or experience in hate crimes issues 2	Timothy Moran, Esq.	Governor
AG Appointee	Jennifer Cotter	Attorney General
Representative of victim assistance agencies 1	Vacant	Governor
Representative of victim assistance agencies 2	Ana Javier	Governor
Advocate for communities affected by hate crimes 1	Vacant	Governor
Advocate for communities affected by hate crimes 2	Robert Trestan	Governor
Advocate for communities affected by hate crimes 3	Dara Kaufman	Governor
Advocate for communities affected by hate crimes 4	Nawal Nour, M.D.	Governor

Representative from district attorneys' offices 1	DA Anthony Gulluni	Governor
Representative from district attorneys' offices 2	Margaret Rwaramba	Governor
Representative from state, local or university police departments 1	Kelly Nee	Governor
Representative from state, local or university police departments 2	Israul "Izzy" Marrero	Governor
Educator	Vacant*	Governor
Student	Anna Johnson	Governor
At-Large 1	Tonomey Coleman	Governor
At-Large 2	Genevieve Nadeau	Governor
At-Large 3	Chief Jody Kasper	Governor
At-Large 4	Emily Todisco	Governor
At-Large 5	Anne Gilligan	Governor
Chairs of Joint Committee on Judiciary or designees	Representative Brandy Fluker Oakley	Ex Officio
Chairs of Joint Committee on Judiciary or designees	Senator Rebecca Rausch	Ex Officio
Chairs of Joint Committee on Racial Equality, Civil Rights, and Inclusion or designees	Bethany Li	Ex Officio
Chairs of Joint Committee on Racial Equality, Civil Rights, and Inclusion or designees	Bishop Talbot W. Swan II	Ex Officio
Senate Minority Leader	Former Sheriff Frank G. Cousins	Ex Officio
House Minority Leader	Representative Steven Howitt	Ex Officio

\*After 3 years of serving as a valuable member of the Task Force, Dr. Margery Davies found it necessary to resign on August 24, 2023, due to other obligations.

## Executive Summary

Governor Bill Weld established the Governor's Task Force on Hate Crimes in 1991 in response to the Hate Crimes Report Act. Governor Paul Cellucci then formalized the Task Force in 1997 through Executive Order 401. In 2021, Governor Baker signed legislation that codified the Task Force on Hate Crimes into a statutory Hate Crimes Task Force under Section 221 of Chapter 6 of the General Laws. At the time of entering office, Governor Healey reaffirmed the Task Force and supported its continued efforts.

## Mission and Objective

Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 6, Section 221:

(b) The task force shall advise on:

- (i) issues relating to hate crimes, including the prevalence of hate crimes;
- (ii) ways to prevent hate crimes; and
- (iii) how to best support the victims of hate crimes.

(c) The task force shall:

(i) promote full and effective cooperation and coordination among law enforcement agencies and communities affected by hate crimes to improve prevention, investigation and prosecution of hate crimes;

(ii) develop best practices related to technical assistance for school districts that may seek to incorporate hate crime education into their curricula;

(iii) recommend policies, procedures and programs to ensure state and local governments provide enhanced support for victims of hate crimes and their communities;

(iv) encourage and assist law enforcement agencies in reporting hate crimes pursuant to sections 32 to 35, inclusive, of chapter 22C, including assistance in gathering, analyzing and publishing hate crime reports;

(v) encourage law enforcement agencies to better enforce section 39 of chapter 265; and

(vi) recommend any appropriate legislation, regulations, policies or procedures to better combat hate crimes.

(d) The task force shall meet not less than quarterly at the direction of the co-chairs.

(e) Annually, not later than December 31, the task force shall submit a report to the governor, the clerks of the senate and house of representatives, the senate and house committees on ways and means, the joint committee on the judiciary and the joint committee on public safety and homeland security. The report shall address the mission of the task force, targeted objectives, options, recommended actions and

metrics to measure the effect of such recommendations on hate crimes. The report may also include any recommended legislation, regulations, policies or procedures to better combat hate crimes.

(f) The co-chairs may establish subcommittees comprised of members of the task force and nonmembers drawn from various groups and organizations with expertise or experience in hate crimes issues.

## 2023 Summary

For calendar year 2023, the Task Force held its first quarterly meeting on March 20<sup>th</sup> where the members reviewed their legislative mandate and collectively expressed their goals and objectives for the upcoming year.

The Task Force met again on June 26, 2023, during which the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS), at the Task Force's request, provided a legislative overview on pending legislation. Per subsection (c), paragraph (vi), the Task Force can recommend legislation, regulations, policies, or procedures to better combat hate crimes.

At the June meeting, the members of the Task Force created three subcommittees to streamline their approach to the Task Force's mandate: the Data Oversight Subcommittee; the Victim Support Subcommittee; and the Legislative Subcommittee. Each subcommittee addresses different aspects of the Task Force's enabling statute. The subcommittees have met to identify the scope of their work and their planned approach. The Task Force met two additional times in 2023, once on September 18, 2023, and again on December 18, 2023, during which the newly established subcommittees updated the Task Force on their work.

In addition to the work of the subcommittees discussed below, the Task Force has received presentations, training, and announcements that further the work to combat hate crimes.

In November 2023, Task Force members were invited to attend the Healey-Driscoll Administration's announcement of \$461,920 available funds designed to support or expand programs that help educators, staff, administrators, and students reduce incidents of bias in schools through the Hate Crime Prevention grant. The creation of the new Massachusetts State Police (MSP) Hate Crimes Awareness and Response Team (HART) unit was also announced at this event. Task Force member, Emily Todisco, is assigned to the HART unit which is dedicated to enhancing federal, state, and local partnerships and liaising with community leaders to strengthen the statewide response to hate crimes and hate-based incidents, enhance statewide data collection and information sharing to identify statewide, national, and global patterns and trends, and increase stakeholder collaboration and educational outreach.

In December 2023, Task Force members were invited to join the Commonwealth Fusion Center's 5th Annual Faith-Based Seminar. The seminar covered various topics such as grant funding for faith-based organizations, threat reporting, and an overview of the HART.

## Overview of Subcommittees

### Data Oversight Subcommittee Membership

1. Josh Kraft
2. Bishop Talbert Swan II
3. Emily Todisco
4. Representative Brandy Fluker Oakley
5. Jennifer Cotter

This subcommittee was created with the intention of assessing and improving available hate crime and hate-based incident data. Members will vote for a chair and the subcommittee's goals and objectives at a future meeting.

### Victim Support Subcommittee Membership

1. Robert Trestan, **Co-Chair**
2. District Attorney Anthony Gulluni, **Co-Chair**
3. Dara Kaufman
4. Nawal Nour
5. Izzy Marrero
6. Ana Javier
7. Margaret Rwaramba
8. Anna Johnson

The Victim Support Subcommittee was established to canvas the landscape of current victim support agencies in the Commonwealth. The Subcommittee identified two objectives to focus on:

(1) Conducting a statewide assessment of service providers/agencies for victims of hate crimes and hate-based incidents

(2) Exploring a broader institutional or statewide victim response model for victims of hate crimes and hate-based incidents.

Based on these objectives, each Subcommittee member is tasked with completing a regional assessment of providers/organizations/agencies that service victims of hate crimes and hate-based incidents.

### Legislative Subcommittee Membership

1. Robert Trestan, **Chair**
2. District Attorney Anthony Gulluni
3. Kelly Nee
4. Bethany Li
5. Tonomey Coleman
6. Emily Todisco

The Legislative Subcommittee has convened multiple times to discuss pending bills related to hate crimes. Representatives and Senators were invited to attend a meeting to present on their filed bills and respond to any questions from the Subcommittee. Based on these presentations and discussions during the Subcommittee meetings, the Subcommittee presented its findings and recommendations to the Task Force on December 18, 2023. Below are the bills that were discussed:

1. HB1392 - An Act to amend the definition of hate crime
2. HB1704 / SB996 - An Act to reform the hate crime statutes
3. HB1418 - An Act relative to restraining orders as they pertain to hate crimes
4. HB1473 - An Act to advance hate-crime protection for victims who are targeted due to their gender
5. HB1766 - An Act regulating sentencing for hate crimes
6. HB2315 - An Act further defining a hate crime
7. SB914 - An Act relative to the addition of sex and gender as protected class categories for hate crime prosecutions
8. SB986 - An Act relative to hate crimes against police officers
9. SB1121 - An Act relative to hate crimes
10. HB1985/ SB1244 An Act building resiliency in communities through mental health

At the December 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Task Force affirmed the recommendations of the Subcommittee and voted to send a letter to the Legislature expressing its support of certain pending hate crimes legislation. The letter was sent on February 1, 2024, and is attached hereto as [Appendix A](#) and [Appendix B](#).

## Recommendations

The Task Force will continue researching and examining hate crimes and efforts to combat hate crimes in Massachusetts. The subcommittees will continue with their specialized work and will report any findings to the Task Force. As mentioned above, the Task Force voted to support pending hate crimes legislation as outlined in the attached letter (see [Appendix A](#) and [Appendix B](#)).