

# HATES CRIMES TASK FORCE



## 2025 Annual Report

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## Membership

Seat	Member	Appointed By
Secretary of EOPSS	Secretary Gina Kwon Co-Chair <i>Appointed: November 12, 2025</i>	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	Ariella Hellman <i>Appointed: February 21, 2025</i>	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 <i>Resigned: August 28, 2025</i>	Governor
At-Large 1	Tonomey Coleman <i>Resigned: October 2, 2025</i>	Governor

At-Large 2	Genevieve Nadeau	Governor
At-Large 3	Chief Jody Kasper	Governor
At-Large 4	Emily Todisco	Governor
At-Large 5	Vacant	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

The Task Force welcomes their new Chair, Public Safety Secretary Gina Kwon, and member, Ariella Hellman, and would like to thank former members who, unfortunately, could no longer serve in 2025. The Task Force thanks former Chair and Public Safety Secretary Terrence Reidy for his leadership and commitment since the Task Force's inception.

### 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. In 2023, Governor Healey reaffirmed the Task Force, supporting its continued efforts and committing to combating hate crimes.

### 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.

## 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 to assess and improve existing hate crime and hate-based incident data.

#### **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:

- Conducting a statewide assessment of service providers and agencies for victims of hate crimes and hate-based incidents
- Exploring a broader institutional or statewide victim response model for 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 was created to review pending hate crime-related bills and make recommendations to the legislature.

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

## **2025 Summary**

The Task Force met three times in calendar year 2025, although it typically meets a minimum of four times annually. However, the Task Force was unable to reach quorum during their August 4th meeting which was subsequently cancelled. The Task Force held its first quarterly meeting on February 3, 2025. During that meeting, the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) provided a detailed

overview of pending bills related to hate crimes that were filed in the 2025-2026 legislative session. The overview informed the Task Force on the current legislative landscape and led to a vote recommending an advocacy strategy with bill sponsors and co-sponsors.

The Task Force's Legislative Subcommittee met on April 14, 2025, with members of the legislature presenting on their bills. The subcommittee convened again on May 16, 2025, to examine and develop a list of recommended pending legislation to endorse. The Chair of the Legislative Subcommittee presented the Subcommittee's recommendations to the Task Force during its second quarterly meeting on June 16, 2025. The Task Force voted and agreed to endorse the bills indicated in [Appendix A](#) and [Appendix B](#).

The Task Force convened once again on November 3, 2025. During this meeting, Sergeant Matthew Owens from the State Police Hate Crimes Awareness Response Team (HART), presented case overviews and national partnerships as well as data and trends tracked by the HART unit. He also discussed the launch of the new web-based portal for Massachusetts law enforcement to report hate crimes and hate-based incidents. The portal was created to achieve the shared goals of making the reporting process easier, standardizing data collection, and empowering intelligence analysts to rapidly identify statewide trends. Additionally, Executive Director Rick Rathbun and Deputy Executive Director Amy Fanikos of the Municipal Police Training Committee (MPTC) presented an overview of their in-service and recruit training offerings related to freedom and hate-speech crimes and groups.

In addition to the work already discussed, members of the Task Force participated in external Hate Crimes events such as the Civil Rights Symposium hosted by EOPSS and MPTC on August 6, 2025. The Civil Rights Symposium is a one-day event with specialized training designed for Civil Rights Officers and other professionals responsible for enforcing civil rights protections. The course provides comprehensive instruction on recognizing, investigating, and prosecuting hate crimes in accordance with both Massachusetts state law and federal statutes.

## Recommendations

The Task Force's 2025 recommendation is focused on designing and implementing an advocacy strategy to address legislative gaps in hate crimes. The Task Force will be identifying proposed and pending bills to weigh in on and build upon to maximize the legislative impact on improving hate crimes awareness and resources.

The Hate Crimes Task Force will continue researching and examining hate crimes and efforts to combat hate crimes in Massachusetts. The subcommittees will continue their specialized work and report any findings to the Task Force.