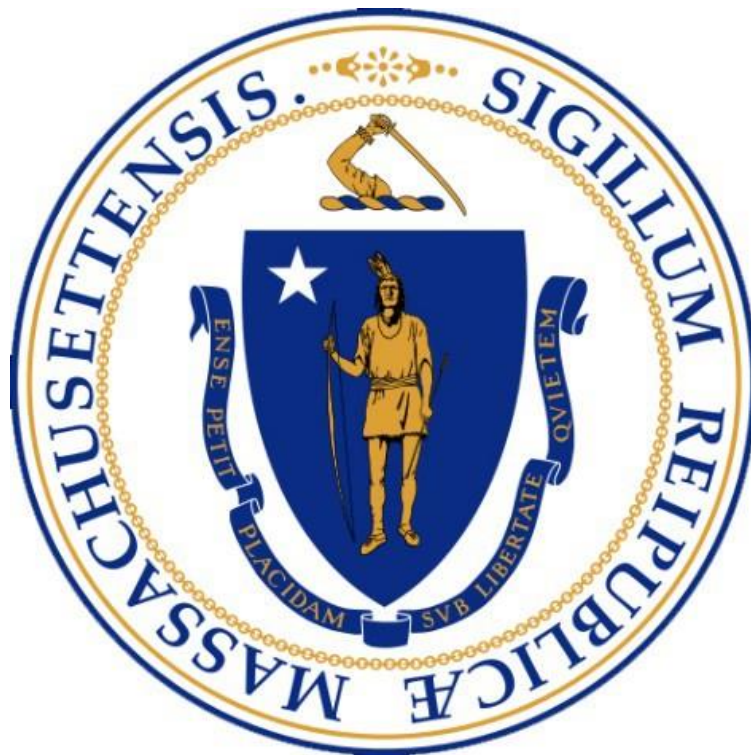


# HATES CRIMES TASK FORCE



**2024 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	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

\* Anne Gilligan, a valuable member of the Task Force, retired from state services in June of 2024.

## 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 committed to combatting 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.

## 2024 Summary

The Task Force held its first 2024 quarterly meeting on February 5, 2024. At that time, the task force voted on the 2023 annual report and discussed their goals and objectives for the upcoming year, including legislative recommendations. Despite the thoughtful recommendations, none were ultimately adopted by the legislature in 2024. The members expressed a strong interest in hearing from experts in the Commonwealth and across the nation as it relates to hate crimes.

During this first meeting, task force member Emily Todisco of the Massachusetts State Police presented on the Hate Crime Awareness and Response Team (HART). The mission of HART is to enhance federal, state, and local partnerships; to work to strengthen relationships with community leaders for a more effective and efficient response to hate crimes and hate-based incidents; to enhance statewide data collection and information sharing to identify statewide, national, and global patterns and trends; to increase stakeholder collaboration and educational outreach, and partner with the Municipal Police Training Committee to equip law enforcement with best practices for hate crime response. HART is currently working with MPTC on a new in-service curriculum, and HART will begin a train-the-trainer program in June. HART is looking at an online system for law enforcement to report bias incidents and working to build a curriculum for communities that is focused on site safety, and resources for victims and communities.

The task force held its second quarterly meeting on May 6<sup>th</sup>. During which, [Fay Stetz-Waters](#), the Civil Rights and Social Justice Director for the Oregon Department of Justice from the Office of the Attorney General of the Oregon Department of Justice, presented on the implementation of a reporting mechanism and a statewide hotline service that is victim-centered, trauma-informed, culturally responsive and support services.

On August 5<sup>th</sup>, the task force held its third quarterly meeting. Team members from LA vs. Hate presented to the task force. The goals of the LA vs. Hate system are to address the normalization of hate and inspire people to stand up to it, build understanding about what constitutes a hate act and how to report it, and support individuals and communities as they heal from the trauma of hate. LA vs. Hate also uses the 211 phone number for Reporting Hate Acts Countywide. Calls can be made 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The reporting center is multilingual and confidential, linking callers to resources and case managers. The organization uses the data they gather to determine resource allocation and support.

At the task force's fourth quarterly meeting on November 4th, Timothy Moran and Torey Cummings from the United States Attorney's Office District of Massachusetts presented on Civil Rights and Human Trafficking Unit and Organized Crime Unit.

In addition to the work already discussed, the Task Force was invited to attend the following trainings:

1. The EOPSS-MPTC Civil Rights Symposium on August 28, 2024. The EOPSS-MPTC Civil Rights Symposium is a one-day event where experts across disciplines provide training to over 200 law enforcement officers on identifying, investigating, and prosecuting hate crimes under the MA Statue and Federal Law.
2. The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Faith-Based Organizations Safety & Security Seminar on November 12, 2024. The Annual Faith-Based Organization Safety and Security Seminar provides a forum for faith-based organizations to discuss best practices and strengthen networking. This seminar supports organizations and allows them to leverage the tools and resources to support their communities, which include funding, threat reporting, safety planning materials, and guides.

## 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.

### **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.

The Victim Support Subcommittee met twice during the calendar year 2024. The first meeting was on April 25, 2024, to discuss the subcommittee's goals and objectives for the remainder of the year. In this meeting, the subcommittee agreed to examine the Commonwealth's hate crime laws and services before reviewing other states. They met again on July 22, 2024, to gain an overview of the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office Civil Rights Division. The subcommittee was joined by an AAG of the division to learn of the Attorney General's oversight and the Attorney General's Hate Crimes Hotline. The Attorney General's Office enforces the Massachusetts Civil Rights Act and states anti-discrimination laws to address instances of hate and bias. The Attorney General's Office also operates a hate crimes hotline as well as a constituent complaint process where people can report incidents of hate, bias, and discrimination. An individual report can be made confidentially and may result in civil enforcement, referral to legal and other resources, or contributions to ongoing information-gathering and information-sharing efforts. The hotline is 1-800-994-3228, and online reporting is at <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/file-a-civil-rights-complaint>.

### **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 subcommittee was created to review pending bills related to hate crimes and make recommendations to the legislature.

The Legislative Subcommittee met in February 2024 to draft a letter to the legislature requesting their consideration of the task force's recommendations. The letter was sent in February 2024 and is attached hereto as [Appendix A](#) and [Appendix B](#). During the last session, the legislature did not act on any recommendations put forth by the Task Force. It will reconvene once the legislative session starts in 2025.

## **Recommendations**

The 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.