

Talking Points: The Improving Reporting to Prevent Hate Act

At National Council of Jewish Women, we work to uphold the value of *Kavod habriot*, respect and dignity for all human beings. We know that protecting our own and other communities from hate is integral to our mission of creating a world where every person is free to live with dignity and in safety. Violent antisemitism is escalating. From the brutal murder in Washington, DC to the terrifying attack in Boulder, Colorado just before Shavuot, Jewish communities are under threat. No community should have to live in fear. We need the bipartisan Improving Reporting to Prevent Hate Act to better understand and prevent this rise in hate.

Background

- Hate crimes are rising every year, impacting the Jewish community and other religious minorities, people of color, immigrants, and LGBTQ+ individuals, women, and people with disabilities. Yet, while the FBI collects data on hate crimes every year to better understand and help mitigate this trend, thousands of law enforcement agencies nationwide continue to fail to accurately and consistently report hate crimes to the FBI. This means that we have little to no information about levels of hate in huge swaths of the country.
- And yet, even with incomplete data, the FBI continues to account for alarming increases in hate crimes. In 2023, the most recent year of data, the FBI recorded 11,862 hate crimes -- the highest number of recorded hate crimes for the third year in a row.
- Alarming, between 2022 and 2023, hate crimes targeting Jews increased by 63% to the highest number ever recorded (1,832); anti-Muslim hate crimes rose by 49%, and anti-Arab hate crimes rose 34%.

Talking Points

- Introduced by Representatives Don Beyer (D-VA) and Don Bacon (R-NE), **the bipartisan Improving Reporting to Prevent Hate Act** (HR 2588) would make hate crime data more accurate and consistent by requiring law enforcement agencies to report hate crimes to the FBI or provide substantial hate crime public education and awareness initiatives, in order to be eligible for certain federal funding.
- Better data would equip legislators, law enforcement officials, community advocates and non-profits with the information necessary to improve efforts and mobilize community resources to protect communities from hate.
- As Jewish advocates, we are guided by the value of *Kavod habriot*, respect and dignity for all human beings. We are obligated to build a society where everyone can live with safety, dignity, and freedom from violence and persecution. **Congress must pass the Improving Reporting to Prevent Hate Act to ensure our communities have the information and tools they need to fight hate.**