

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 118

Condemning hate crime and any other form of racism, religious or ethnic bias, discrimination, incitement to violence, or animus targeting a minority in the United States.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 5 (legislative day, APRIL 4), 2017

Ms. HARRIS (for herself, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Ms. COLLINS)
submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Condemning hate crime and any other form of racism, religious or ethnic bias, discrimination, incitement to violence, or animus targeting a minority in the United States.

Whereas, in the past several years, violent crimes, threats of violence, and other incidents of hate-motivated targeting of religious, racial, and ethnic minorities have increased across the United States;

Whereas, in 2015, hate crimes targeting Muslims in the United States increased by 67 percent, reaching a level of violence targeting Muslim Americans that the United States had not experienced since the aftermath of the September 11, 2001, attacks, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

Whereas, in 2015, anti-Semitic incidents increased in the United States for the second straight year, according to the Anti-Defamation League's 2015 Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents, which describes trends such as the tripling of assaults targeting Jews since 2012 and the rise of online harassment and hate speech directed at Jewish journalists and individuals through social media;

Whereas, in 2015, anti-Semitic incidents at institutions of higher education nearly doubled compared to the number of those incidents in 2014, and during the 2016–2017 school year there has been an increase in white supremacist activity on college campuses across the United States, according to the Anti-Defamation League;

Whereas, in 2015, among single-bias hate crime incidents in the United States, 59.2 percent of victims were targeted due to racial, ethnic, or ancestry bias, and among those victims, 52.2 percent were victims of crimes motivated by their offenders' anti-Black or anti-African American bias, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

Whereas, in 2017, there have been more than 100 reported bomb threats against Jewish community centers, Jewish day schools, and other Jewish organizations and institutions in more than 38 States;

Whereas, in 2017, Islamic centers and mosques have been burned in the States of Texas, Washington, and Florida, and Jewish cemeteries have been desecrated in the States of Missouri and Pennsylvania;

Whereas, in 2017, there has been harassment and hate-based violence against individuals who are perceived to be Arab or Muslim, including members of South Asian communities in the United States, and Hindu and Sikh Ameri-

cans have been the target of hate-based violence targeting religious minorities; and

Whereas, on February 28, 2017, President Donald Trump, before a joint session of Congress, acknowledged threats targeting Jewish community centers and the vandalism of Jewish cemeteries, and stated that “we are a country that stands united in condemning hate and evil in all of its very ugly forms”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) affirms that the United States stands
3 united in condemning hate and evil in all forms;

4 (2) rejects hate-motivated crime as an attack on
5 the fabric of the society of the United States and the
6 ideals of pluralism and respect;

7 (3) condemns hate crime and any other form of
8 racism, religious or ethnic bias, discrimination, in-
9 citement to violence, or animus targeting a minority
10 in the United States;

11 (4) calls on Federal law enforcement officials,
12 working with State and local officials—

13 (A) to expeditiously investigate all credible
14 reports of hate crimes and incidents and threats
15 against minorities in the United States; and

16 (B) to hold the perpetrators of those
17 crimes, incidents, or threats accountable and
18 bring the perpetrators to justice;

1 (5) encourages the Department of Justice and
2 other Federal agencies—

3 (A) to work to improve the reporting of
4 hate crimes; and

5 (B) to emphasize the importance of the
6 agencies' collection and reporting of data pursu-
7 ant to Federal law;

8 (6) encourages the development of an inter-
9 agency task force led by the Attorney General to col-
10 laborate on the development of effective strategies
11 and efforts to detect and deter hate crime in order
12 to protect minority communities; and

13 (7) calls on the executive branch—

14 (A) to continue to offer Federal assistance
15 that may be available for victims of hate crimes;
16 and

17 (B) to continue to carry out safety and
18 preparedness programs for religious institu-
19 tions, places of worship, and other institutions
20 that have been targeted because of the affili-
21 ation of the institutions with any particular reli-
22 gious, racial, or ethnic minority in the United
23 States.

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