2024

BACKGROUND
PAPER

Topic: Adressing Crimes Motivated by Hate and Deep State/ Conspiracy Theories

United States Congress

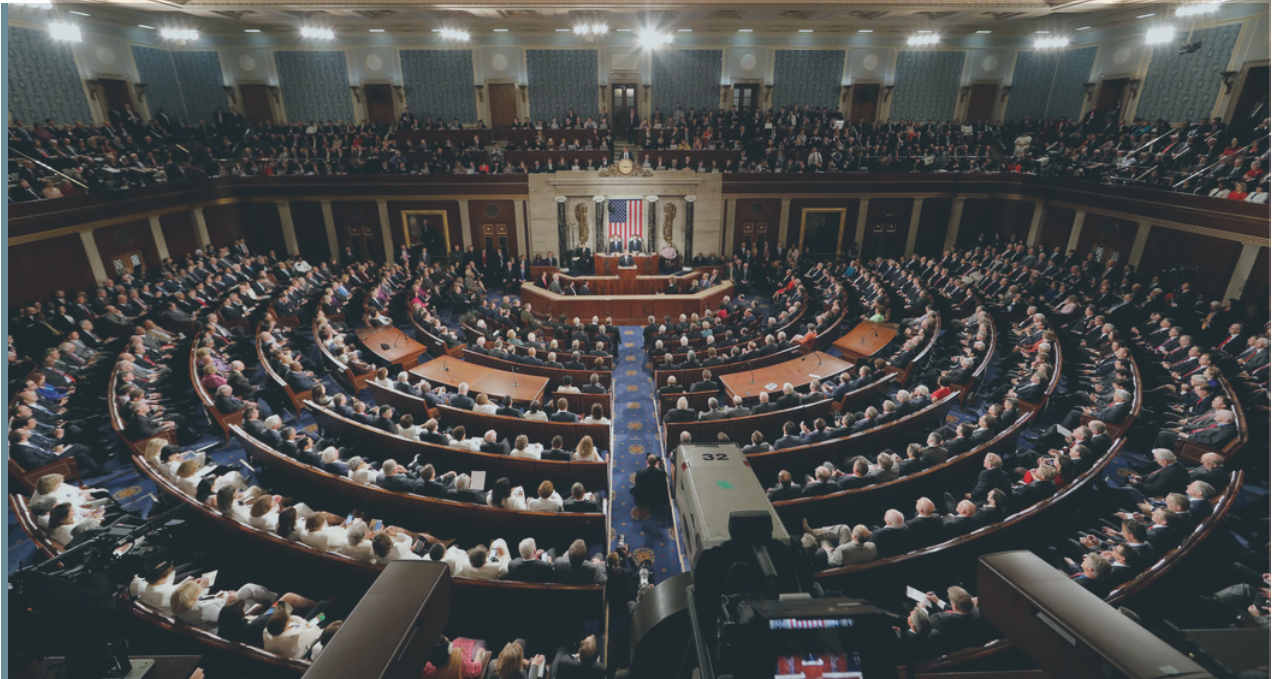**Salvador García, Brenda Maya**

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Committee Background

Examining the United States Congress, a bicameral legislative entity encompassing the Senate and House of Representatives, reveals a constitutional institution mandated to enact laws, allocate funds, and oversee the executive branch.

The committee tasked with addressing crimes motivated by hate and deep state theories in the United States Congress is crucial in understanding and combating the rising threats within the legislative branch.

This committee operates within the broader context of congressional oversight and security, aiming to safeguard the democratic processes and values that form the foundation of the nation.
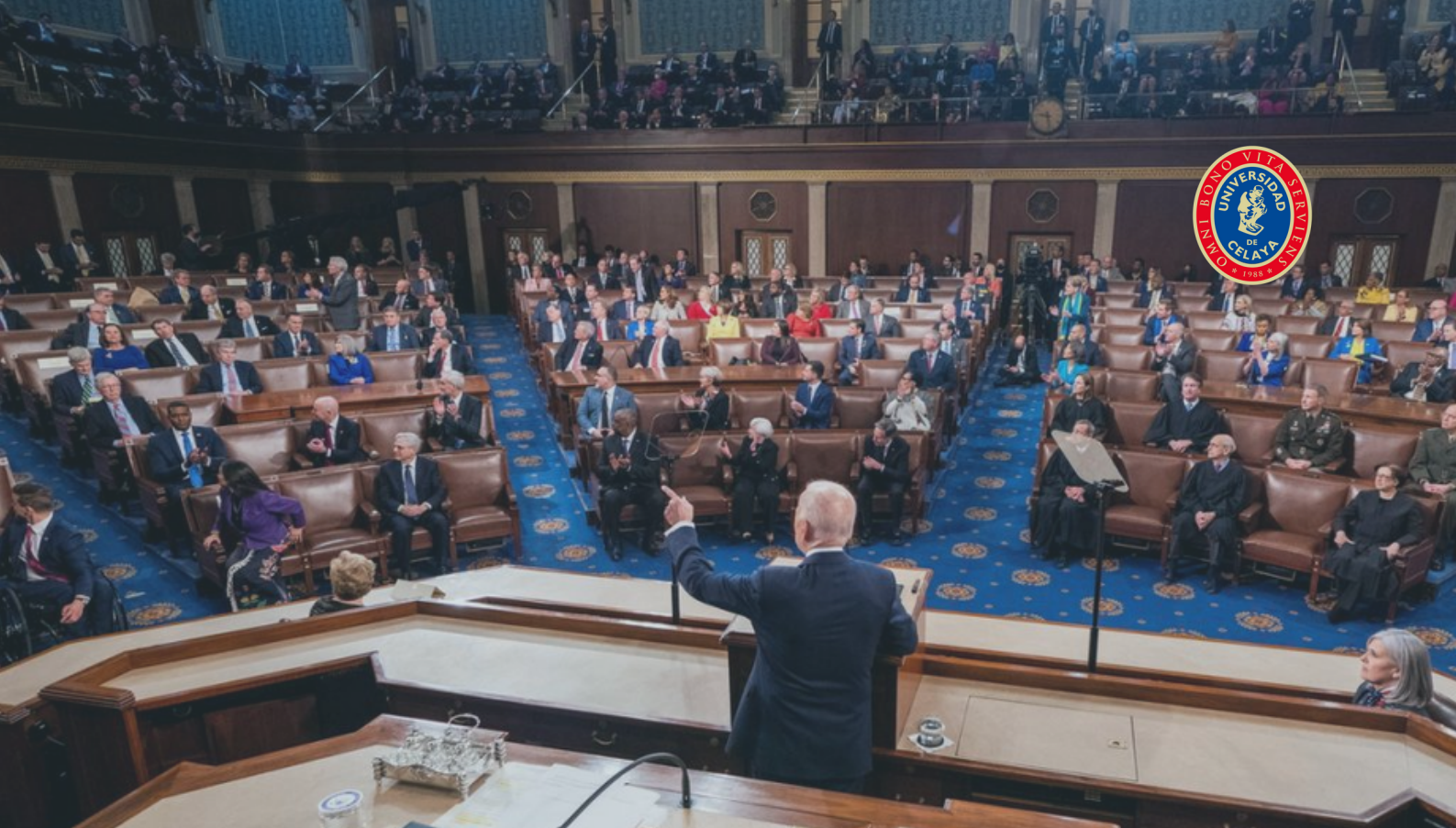
Introduction of the Topic

The UCR Program defines hate crime as a committed criminal offense which is motivated, in whole or in part, by the offender's bias(es) against a:

- Race
- Religion
- Disability
- Sexual orientation
- Ethnicity
- Gender
- Gender identity

The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program serves as the national repository for crime data voluntarily collected and submitted by law enforcement. Its primary objective is to generate reliable information for use in law enforcement administration, operation, and management. The 2022 hate crimes data, submitted by 14,631 law enforcement agencies, provide information about the offenses, victims, offenders, and locations of hate crimes. Of these agencies who submitted incident reports, there were 11,634 hate crime incidents involving 13,337 offenses.

Thousands of law enforcement agencies voluntarily submit data to the Uniform Crime Reporting Program's (UCR) Hate Crime Statistics Data Collection on crimes motivated by prejudice based on race, gender and gender identity, religion, disability, sexual orientations, or ethnicity.

This effort, which includes data from city, county, college and university, state, tribal, and federal agencies, allows the law enforcement community to recognize and document hate crimes. The collection was created after Congress passed the Hate Crime Statistics Act in 1990.

Evolution of
the Topic

The number of reported hate crimes — crimes motivated by bias against someone's race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, or gender identity — rose by 7% between 2021 and 2022, according to updated 2022 hate crime data from the FBI.

Black and/or African American people were the most frequent targets overall. Among gender-motivated hate crimes, anti-transgender hate crimes increased 35% year over year. Religiously motivated hate crimes increased 27%, and specifically, antisemitic hate crimes increased by 36% from 2021 to 2022.

Although crimes motivated by race, ethnicity, or ancestry decreased 1% between 2021 and 2022, they were the largest category of hate crimes, accounting for 56% of all reported hate crimes.

External Actions

Strong law enforcement-community partnerships are critical to preventing hate crimes. Some useful ways to begin or strengthen a partnership include:

- Network with others in the community and ask who they recommend including in the partnership.
- Research and understand how involved your local law enforcement agency is with community policing and identify a liaison officer or deputy at local law enforcement agencies who might serve as a community policing point of contact.
- Reach out to the chief of police or sheriff, as well as any other key personnel you would like to participate in the partnership.
- Focus on solutions rather than problems when meeting with your local chief of police or sheriff.

Create a community-wide public awareness campaign that provides information, awareness, and resources for community members and victims of hate crimes. The awareness campaign can range from identifying intolerance to providing resources for potential victims.

Committee Focus

- Increase in Hate Crimes: The data reveals that hate crime incidents increased by 794 in 2022. There were 11,634 cases, compared to 10,840 in 2021.
- Race-Based Crimes: Hate crimes rooted in race, ethnicity or ancestry remain the most common. There were 6,557 reported incidents in 2022. Anti-Black or African American incidents —numbering 3,421 — were more than three times higher than the next highest racial or ethnic category.
- Religion-Based Crimes: There were 2,042 reported incidents based on religion. More than half of these (1,122) were driven by anti-Jewish bias. Incidents involving anti-Muslim (158) and anti-Sikh (181) sentiments remained at similar levels compared to 2021.
- LGBTQI+ Targeted Crimes: Incidents targeting gay men reached 1,075, while anti-lesbian incidents numbered 622. Both categories recorded their highest totals in the past five years and increased by more than 10% since 2021. A significant increase of nearly 40% was observed in reported anti-transgender incidents (totaling 338) compared to 2021.

Reporting suspected hate crimes is vital to support victims and send a clear message that such actions are unacceptable. Law enforcement can also use this information to prevent future incidents.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program's Hate Crime Statistics Data Collection, initiated after the passage of the Hate Crime Statistics Act in 1990, plays a crucial role in documenting and understanding hate crimes in the United States. The 2022 hate crime data, derived from the voluntary contributions of over 14,000 law enforcement agencies, sheds light on the persisting challenges of bias-motivated offenses. The reported 7% increase in hate crimes from 2021 to 2022 underscores the ongoing need for vigilance and targeted efforts to combat prejudice.

Notably, the data highlights specific areas of concern, with Black and/or African American individuals being the most frequent targets, and alarming rises in anti-transgender and antisemitic hate crimes. Despite a 1% decrease in crimes motivated by race, ethnicity, or ancestry, these still constitute the majority of reported hate crimes, emphasizing the continued prevalence of discrimination.

The importance of strong law enforcement-community partnerships emerges as a key theme in preventing hate crimes. Collaboration is essential, and community members are encouraged to take proactive steps in networking, understanding local law enforcement practices, and fostering positive relationships with law enforcement agencies. By shifting the focus towards solutions and initiating public awareness campaigns, communities can create environments that discourage hate crimes and provide support for victims. Addressing the root causes of bias-motivated offenses requires a collective and sustained effort from both law enforcement and the communities they serve.

Participation list

- Jerry L. Carl
- Marry Sattler Peltola
- Nathalian Moran
- Frank Mrvan
- Donal Davis
- Jared Huffman
- Doug Lamalfa
- Eleanor Norton
- Matt Gaetz
- Nick LaLota
- Brad Finstad
- Jack Bergman
- Matt Gaetz

- Diana DeGette
- Lisa Blunt Rochester
- Jahana Hayes
- Greg Landsman
- Mary Peltota
- Doug Lamborn
- Tracey Mann

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