

Redefining Hate Crimes

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Executive Summary

The last few years have seen a rise in hate crimes. Yet, many often go unreported, and for cases that successfully make it into the hands of the justice system, many often do not receive hate convictions. This White Paper Report will dive into what constitutes a hate crime and explore barriers that exist between the victims at hand and law enforcement agencies.

The federal definition of hate crime is “willfully causing bodily injury to any person or ... attempting to cause bodily injury to any person, because of the actual or perceived race, color, religion, or national origin of any person”¹. Many hate crimes target people of color and trace back to a history of systemic racism. There exists federal policy in place for hate crimes, and states have their own varying definitions and punishments for convicted offenders. However, the journey from the hate crime itself and conviction is extremely difficult, especially since victims come from marginalized communities and laws themselves can be vague and unclear. One aspect of hate crime laws that set it apart from other laws regarding acts of violence is the specification of a motive. Therefore, the motive is incredibly hard to prove. If a person from a marginalized community becomes the target of a hate crime, their mere identity is not enough to prove a motive. Furthermore, even prior connections from the perpetrator to hate groups or ideologies cannot prove a motive for a hate crime. A motive must be shown at the scene of the crime to prove that the specific incident is directly related to hatred towards that particular community. The main concern for this paper in particular is the redefinition of what constitutes a hate crime, as well as strategies aimed at tackling hate crimes.

Policies enacted to advance civil rights have been in place since the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments granted after the Civil War. The *Enforcement Act of 1871* fought against the Ku Klux Klan, a white supremacist hate group targeting minorities, specifically black Americans. A massive roadblock in collecting hate crime data is that many go unreported. In fact, there are issues with both victims coming forward and law enforcement taking accountability for crimes committed in the community. The 1985 *Hate Crimes Statistic Act* required the Department of Justice to publish data on hate crimes, yet local law enforcement is not held to the same standard of responsibility. More recently, the *Hate Crime Prevention Act*, passed in 1997, was redefined in 2009, updating the federal definition of a hate crime.

The main proposition in this paper deals with redefining hate crimes, expanding upon the *Hate Crime Prevention Act*. Furthermore, there will be a look at new and upcoming measures taken on the federal level to combat the difficulty of reporting hate crimes, as well as research from graduate students that promotes collaboration between artificial intelligence and law enforcement.

¹ Christopher Coble, E. (2019, March 21). *What are the penalties for a hate crime?* FindLaw. Retrieved August 31, 2022, from <https://www.findlaw.com/legalblogs/criminal-defense/what-are-the-penalties-for-a-hate-crime/>

Introduction

Within the last decade we have seen an increase in hate crimes. Hate crimes have become the newest form of crimes² and 2020 has had the highest hate crime report rate we have seen since 2008³. These hate crimes seem to be targeting people of color and minority groups such as Asian American and African-Americans. However this is not new news or new events, the United States has had a long history of hate crimes which at one point were not seen as crimes and people were able to commit heinous acts of violence against others on the basis of their race, sexual orientation and other identity factors. The American history is filled with a lot of racial terror and violence as seen through the events of salvery of Africans, the removal of Indigenous tribes, the lynchings of Chinese American, and Zoot Suit Riots against Chicanos⁴. After the freedom of slaves in America came the era of Jim Crow Laws, during this time many laws were past in order to continue to oppress people of color and during this time lynchings were public acts of torture that traumatized black communities and were largely tolerated by state and federal officials⁵. To this day 99% of the offenders who committed these acts were able to continue with their life without facing any kind of legal punishment⁶. Today, the same acts are perceived through the institutionalized racism that upholds certain individuals in power and keeps others, such as minorities and people of color, outside of these communities. But why are these crimes reoccurring in different forms? Why have we fallen back into old habits? What is permitting these kinds of crimes to still occur? Many factors turn into play when it comes to laws regarding hate crimes and the policies that are implemented by our government in order to deter hate crimes.

To start the major issue is the fact that hate crime does not have a set definition for the term which then causes the issue of which crimes can be considered hate crimes. Both Federal law and State laws have varying definitions for hate crime as well as length of punishment. Under

² Walters, M. A. (2010). A general theory of hate crime? strain, doing difference and self control. *Critical Criminology*, 19(4), 313–330. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10612-010-9128-2>

³ Carrega, C., & Krishnakumar, P. (2021, October 26). *Hate crime reports in US Surge to the highest level in 12 years, FBI says*. CNN. Retrieved August 30, 2022, from <https://www.cnn.com/2021/08/30/us/fbi-report-hate-crimes-rose-2020/index.html>

⁴ In the name of hate: Examining the federal government's role in responding to hate crimes, a report of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Chapter 1: Introduction and Overview of Applicable Laws. *SSRN Electronic Journal*. (2019) <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3485077>

⁵ In the name of hate: Examining the federal government's role in responding to hate crimes, a report of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Chapter 1: Introduction and Overview of Applicable Laws. *SSRN Electronic Journal*. (2019) <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3485077>

⁶ In the name of hate: Examining the federal government's role in responding to hate crimes, a report of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Chapter 1: Introduction and Overview of Applicable Laws. *SSRN Electronic Journal*. (2019) <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3485077>

Federal law, U.S. Code section 249 defines a hate crime as “willfully causing bodily injury to any person or ... attempting to cause bodily injury to any person, because of the actual or perceived race, color, religion, or national origin of any person”⁷. Under Federal Law the punishment for hate crimes can be up to 10 years in prison however if the act of violence is involved in a serious crime such as a felony then the maximum punishment can be life in prison⁸. The approach in prosecution in states are different, on the other hand, due to the fact that states' hate crime laws can vary on the grounds of the crime. Meaning dependent on the specific characteristic of the crime, there are also varying lengths of punishment for these hate crimes⁹. There are already some forms of punishments for crimes committed on the basis of bias and each criminal justice system can impose any sentence on specific characteristics of the crime¹⁰. For a crime to be considered a hate crime certain factors have to be included in the act of violence for it to qualify as a hate crime. As stated previously hate crimes have to be caused on the basis of bias meaning that someone or a group has to be targeted on the basis of specific characteristics which becomes the basic element of the crimes. The specific characteristic that can be used against victims that leads them to become targets of hate crimes are race, nationality, religion, sexual orientation and more. These kinds of characteristics are known as protective characteristics. Hate crime laws can be divided into two separate categories: Substantive offenses and Penalty enhancements. Substantive offenses include crimes that are defined by violence or threats against a group or individuals on the basis of a protected characteristic¹¹ such as race. The emphasis in this aspect of hate crimes is that the crime must include a biased motive. Penalty enhancements focus more on the general enhancement of penalties for crimes committed by the element of bias¹². Taking this into account some states like California do have settled hate crime laws but yet there are some states that do not however this does not mean that they cannot punish someone who commits a hate crime. If a state that has no published law against hate crimes can take into account the motives of the offender and the seriousness of the crime then they can

⁷ Christopher Coble, E. (2019, March 21). *What are the penalties for a hate crime?* FindLaw. Retrieved August 31, 2022, from <https://www.findlaw.com/legalblogs/criminal-defense/what-are-the-penalties-for-a-hate-crime/>

⁸ Christopher Coble, E. (2019, March 21). *What are the penalties for a hate crime?* FindLaw. Retrieved August 31, 2022, from <https://www.findlaw.com/legalblogs/criminal-defense/what-are-the-penalties-for-a-hate-crime/>

⁹ Christopher Coble, E. (2019, March 21). *What are the penalties for a hate crime?* FindLaw. Retrieved August 31, 2022, from <https://www.findlaw.com/legalblogs/criminal-defense/what-are-the-penalties-for-a-hate-crime/>

¹⁰ OSCE, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. (2014). In *Prosecuting hate crimes: A practical guide*. Chapter 2.4: Characteristic

¹¹ OSCE, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. (2014). In *Prosecuting hate crimes: A practical guide*. Chapter 2.3: Hate Crime Laws

¹² OSCE, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. (2014). In *Prosecuting hate crimes: A practical guide*. Chapter 2.3: Hate Crime Laws

impose prosecution policies such as increasing the crime of these factors and more¹³. As you can see the confusing policies implemented by each state and federal laws make it very difficult to be able to prosecute hate crimes. One way to help against this is by implementing official definitions that can be used by all states as a basic foundation.

With the current climate we are living in, hate crimes have become such a primary concern for public safety. With the negative stereotypes and labels placed amongst these vulnerables by the media and even leaders of this country it has caused many people to target certain individuals just on the basis of their race/ethnicity. In 2020, the FBI reported that 62% of hate crimes were motivated by race/ethnicity which is much higher than the previous year¹⁴. With the increase of hate crimes we have seen that many people have become accustomed to this way of life to the point that they do not face any serious consequences for their actions therefore since they are not deterred from committing acts on the basis of bias it has formed an environment of violence and hate. This paper will discuss a plethora of laws and policies that have been implemented by the United State government in order to address hate crimes as well as new definitions and strategies to alleviate the rates of hate crimes in our state and country.

¹³ OSCE, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. (2014). In *Prosecuting hate crimes: A practical guide*. Chapter 2.3: Hate Crime Laws

¹⁴ Carrega, C., & Krishnakumar, P. (2021, October 26). *Hate crime reports in US Surge to the highest level in 12 years, FBI says*. CNN. Retrieved August 30, 2022, from <https://www.cnn.com/2021/08/30/us/fbi-report-hate-crimes-rose-2020/index.html>

Previous Strategies

The United States has had many attempts to establish policies regarding hate crimes however many of those policies have never passed due to the external factors such as the pandemic and many controversies in regarding opposition between parties. Looking back at the lynchings of African-American where it was legal to commit these crimes many advocacy groups stood up against such violence and demanded change. During this time over 200 antilynching policies were created and none of them were passed¹⁵. This demonstrates how the United States has neglected the seriousness of hate crimes and because of this there has been no consequences for such action allowing this to grow into a bigger problem. Hate crime laws are protected under the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments. There have been different policies which have been implemented but removed over problems with the policies themselves. In the 1870s, many polciies were passed in order to help fight agaist the increase lynching rartes and other forms of violence in that time. One of those laws was the *Enforcement Act of 1871*, also known as the *Ku Klux Klan Act* which allowed the president to use the armed forces to help against the conspiracy to deny equal protection of the law¹⁶. The Ku Klux Klan, also known as the KKK, were a group of white nationalist who targeted people of color specifically African-Americans and terrorized them by attacking them. After many years and many victims of hate crimes who were targeted by groups like the KKK the United States government finally began to implement laws against these crimes. It was not until about six months past the passing of this bill that President Grant used it in states such as South Carolina in order to protect the rights of individuals under the law¹⁷. These kinds of policies demonstrate the importance of maintaining the protection and safety of citizens of the United States and it definitely helps set into motion more policies.

Another problem was the lack of research and data on these kinds of crimes. Many hate crimes till this day still go unreported. Many police departments and agencies do not have an obligation to report the number of hate crime reports therefore the statistical analysis for hate crimes has been affected. We can infer that the number of reports is a lot more than is actually reported. Looking back at 2020, during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic we saw an increase of hate crimes attacking people of Asian descent. The Stop Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI)

¹⁵ In the name of hate: Examining the federal government's role in responding to hate crimes, a report of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Chapter 1: Introduction and Overview of Applicable Laws. *SSRN Electronic Journal*. (2019) <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3485077>

¹⁶ In the name of hate: Examining the federal government's role in responding to hate crimes, a report of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Chapter 1: Introduction and Overview of Applicable Laws. *SSRN Electronic Journal*. (2019) <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3485077>

¹⁷ *The Ku Klux Klan Act of 1871*. US House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives. (n.d.). Retrieved September 1, 2022, from https://history.house.gov/Historical-Highlights/1851-1900/hh_1871_04_20_KKK_Act/

Hate reported 4,533 incidents against Asian Americans that took place only six months of the year¹⁸. In 1985, the *Hate Crimes Statistic Act* was passed which requires that the Department of Justice must collect and publish data regarding hate crime¹⁹. By requiring the collection of data we can now use that to evaluate hate crimes on a statistical level. This can help determine who is affected the most, where the most hate crimes occur, and so one having actual data to help visualize these crimes can help in the creation of new policies. Taking into account the increase of Asian hate crimes in 2020 we can pass legislation that protects Asian Americans against specific crimes that target them and other members of Asian descent. This same concept can be used in academic discrimination incidents which are motivated by bias on the basis of specific characteristics. To help address the underreporting of hate crimes we can impose new policies or regulations that will help citizens to be able to report such crimes.

One major law that was passed was the *Hate Crimes Prevention Act* which was passed in 1997 but was redefined in 2009 by Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr and passed by President Obama. The new version of this piece of legislation helped expand the federal definition of hate crimes which now includes specific victims characteristics such as race, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability²⁰. By incorporating a more specific and wider range of victimization characteristics the ability to prosecute offenders for committing hate crimes using bias against any of these factors is not more possible for both state and federal law enforcement²¹. However, because the new adjustments that were created only satisfy the factors of characterization of the victims we still need to address the definition of hate crimes to a more specific extent with a specific punishment for such crimes. This will be discussed more further in the paper with smaller policies and examples on how this can improve the violence that is happening in our society due to hate.

¹⁸ Carrega, C., & Krishnakumar, P. (2021, October 26). *Hate crime reports in US Surge to the highest level in 12 years, FBI says*. CNN. Retrieved August 30, 2022, from <https://www.cnn.com/2021/08/30/us/fbi-report-hate-crimes-rose-2020/index.html>

¹⁹ In the name of hate: Examining the federal government's role in responding to hate crimes, a report of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Chapter 1: Introduction and Overview of Applicable Laws. *SSRN Electronic Journal*. (2019) <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3485077>

²⁰ In the name of hate: Examining the federal government's role in responding to hate crimes, a report of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Chapter 1: Introduction and Overview of Applicable Laws. *SSRN Electronic Journal*. (2019) <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3485077>

²¹ In the name of hate: Examining the federal government's role in responding to hate crimes, a report of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Chapter 1: Introduction and Overview of Applicable Laws. *SSRN Electronic Journal*. (2019) <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3485077>

New Findings

The prolonged history of the law and the policies implemented by our government have not shown a concrete solution in trying to prevent and stop hate crimes. We believe that not only do the states themselves should all provide a law against hate crimes but we also need to take federal law accountable for its lack of enforcement of these laws. We need to provide a basic foundation for the creation of laws and policies in regards to hate crimes as well as having a strict punishment for these crimes and making sure they are enforced. The lack of enforcement of hate crimes laws because of the vague definition has caused many crimes that are motivated by bias to be prosecuted without the element of hate crime. We will be proposing different strategies in order to help raise awareness of the seriousness of hate crimes and hold prosecutors accountable for inaccurate convictions. We will be redefining the Hate Crime Prevention Act in order to make the concept have an official definition that can be used as a basic foundation for all hate crimes. To implement this newly defined policy in current circumstances, we will discuss the anti-Asian hate crimes in educational systems. We hope the strategic analysis of redefining these policies based on the new definition of the *Hate Crime Prevention Act*, will be able to provide some probable solutions to the recurring hate crimes committed in this country and resolve further conflicts that may occur.

Taking some of the legislature from the 2009 reformed policy of *Hate Crime Prevention Act* we can use this to redefine the definition for hate crimes which then can be used as a universal definition. Because the major concern is that the current definition for hate crimes is too vague it leaves a lot of room for interpretation causing many crimes to not be prosecuted on the basis that the criminal justice system does not find sufficient elements to the crime to be considered a hate crime. The policy defines hate crimes as “*a violent or threatening act against a targeted individual that was motivated by bias against the individuals race, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability*”²². By changing the definition of the term hate crimes and the elements that make up we can publish newer polices suing this defention in order to reduce and prevent hate crimes, discrimination, and so on. We will focus on smaller policies regarding educational discrimination and how specific policies can help reduce the barriers in place by biased regulations imposed by educational institutions.

An example of the lack of definition and accountability in precedent hate crimes, are those committed on education grounds. Liberal arts colleges to large public univerisities across the nation have faced many forms of discrimination and have had many events of hate crimes, however, not many have spoken or brought importance to it. The hate crimes committed on educational grounds are examples of anti-hate crimes, through admission processes, mass shootings, and lack of opportunities based on racial discrimination. Examples of hate crime cases that have been hushed or hardly spoken about in the media are *United States v. Samar*, *United*

²² In the name of hate: Examining the federal government's role in responding to hate crimes, a report of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Chapter 1: Introduction and Overview of Applicable Laws. *SSRN Electronic Journal*. (2019) <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3485077>

States v Machado, United States v Little.²³ In *United States v Samar*, a college student named James Samar, was indicted for three counts of force to interfere the federally protected rights of three college students attending Massachusetts college, in which Samar used anti-Semitic slurs, threatened to kill one fellow student and threatened with violence on the other two students. In the end, Samar took a plea agreement. The lack of accountability enforced on these crimes is due to certain academic institutions withholding a reputation. No school wants to be perceived as the institution that allows racism and discrimination to occur, especially those of higher education. For that reason the lack of communication amongst students and staff professors, results in the inability to understand and alleviate further conflicts.

The United States Justice Department recently revealed new measures to alleviate certain difficulties of reporting hate crimes. The new measures consist of three main initiatives²⁴. The Justice Department will hire its first Language Access Coordinator for the Office for Access to Justice. An unnamed Justice Department official noted that many hate crimes often go unreported due to a language barrier, since many victims of hate crimes come from communities where English may not be their first language. With access to translators and people who will be able to effectively communicate with non-native English speakers, victims will feel more comfortable reporting hate crimes. One of the biggest concerns as listed in these hate crimes committed on educational institutions is the communication/language barrier, ensuring that all individuals of all backgrounds will understand the extent of the problem, and assist in alleviating further concerns as well as the steps in order to rightfully convict those who have committed such crimes. The more communication, the better the understanding of the problem, resulting in better finding solutions to the problem. There have been reports made by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, including mass emails to every student informing them of the current circumstance will assist in raising awareness to the conflict.²⁵ However, it is not just the awareness that is of concern, it is the understanding of the issue. Better communication in terms of educating those of current circumstances, providing informative events that will bring social awareness and understanding of the concern. The thought of assemblies came to mind, where in elementary school all the way until high school, students were brought together to raise awareness of matters and invoke community activities that can connect all students of different age ranges and backgrounds. However, there are obviously no assemblies being held in college and university institutions, so a probable solution to this circumstance would be holding a live event, by the Student government organizations in corporation to the mass emails sent to all University/college attendees.

²³ Wessler, S., & Moss, M. (2001, October). *Hate Crimes on Campus: The Problem and Efforts To Confront It*. U.S. Department of Justice. Retrieved September 1, 2022, from <https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/bja/187249.pdf>

²⁴ Schneider, Jessica. (2022, May 20). *Justice Department unveils new efforts to combat hate crimes*. CNN. Retrieved August 30, 2022, from <https://www.cnn.com/2022/05/20/politics/justice-department-hate-crimes/index.html>

²⁵ Wessler, S., & Moss, M. (2001, October). *Hate Crimes on Campus: The Problem and Efforts To Confront It*. U.S. Department of Justice. Retrieved September 1, 2022, from <https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/bja/187249.pdf>

In regards to the other two initiatives, one targets law enforcement and community leaders, whereas the other aims to motivate states to create hate crime reporting hotlines. In terms of the former strategy, the Justice Department will provide guidance for communities to tackle the issue of rising numbers in hate crimes. In terms of the latter strategy, the Justice Department will provide funding for states to create the hotline. One potential issue that arises with this specific strategy is that it appears to be optional. Currently, law enforcement is not required to submit data to the FBI, despite the fact that the FBI is required to submit an annual report on hate crimes. The two strategies targeting law enforcement and states appear to be suggestive, acting as mere encouragement for tackling acts of hate and violence, rather than enforcing policy that would close the many gaps that exist between the victim and the justice system.

An interesting aspect of the issue of combating hate crimes is how data and artificial intelligence (AI) can be used alongside law enforcement and researchers. In 2020, during the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Aida Mostafazadeh Davani, a computer science graduate student from USC, and her team used AI to research hate crimes, as well as hate speech²⁶. Hate speech, in particular, can be tricky to determine, as the boundary between what is and is not protected under the First Amendment can be blurry at times. In fact, since hate speech is not mentioned in the First Amendment, determination as such is usually up for interpretation, which can be vague and subjective. One key issue with determining whether or not a statement can be labeled as hate speech is that humans withhold implicit biases. Despite AI being computer-run, it is created by humans, and can adopt the same implicit biases. Davani and her team compared the technology to the stereotype content model, a theory in psychology that scales stereotypes amongst two categories, warmth and competence. Essentially, the stereotype content model argues that stereotypes develop around how friendly and intelligent a group of people are known to be. Hate speech is much more likely to be identified if a certain group is perceived as more warm and less competent. These groups include marginalized people such as women and immigrants.

Prior to her work with AI tools and hate speech, Davani researched the underrepresentation of hate crimes in law enforcement data²⁷. She found that major cities, such as Miami, reported zero incidents of hate, which she noted was unrealistic. For cities where hate crimes go massively unreported, Davani used machine learning, an aspect of AI, to predict hate incidents. Her techniques and research can potentially be used in future crime detection algorithms and would be especially useful in communities where hate crimes go unreported. Machine learning also has the potential to bypass the ambiguity of vague hate crime laws.

²⁶ Dawson, Caitlin. (2020, September 10). *USC Student Develops AI Tools To Tackle Hate Speech, Hate Crimes*. USC Viberti. Retrieved August 30, 2022, from <https://viterbischool.usc.edu/news/2020/09/usc-student-develops-ai-tools-to-tackle-hate-speech-hate-crhttps://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/bja/187249.pdfimes/>

²⁷ Dawson, Caitlin. (2020, September 10). *USC Student Develops AI Tools To Tackle Hate Speech, Hate Crimes*. USC Viberti. Retrieved August 30, 2022, from <https://viterbischool.usc.edu/news/2020/09/usc-student-develops-ai-tools-to-tackle-hate-speech-hate-crhttps://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/bja/187249.pdfimes/>

Conclusion and Recommendations

Hate Crime is a concept that is deep and widespread throughout our nation. The crimes have transgressed through centuries, and only recently has the importance of accountability and prosecuting those who violently act upon bias and discrimination been brought to light. The issue of the matter, as discussed, is the vague definition of hate crime in policies implemented to combat these incidents. Diluting the variance in the description of hate crimes between state and federal officials will assist in promoting a more accountable and inclusive environment for all. Examples that were listed as prior approaches such as following: the silence of 200 lynchings during the Jim Crow Law era, the Enforcement Act of 1871, or the Ku Klux Klan Act permitting civil armed forces to assist in alleviating concerns amongst those in denial of “equal protection of the law”, as well as the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, most importantly, that federally defined, the characteristics that constitute a violent incident as a hate crime. All prior examples of policies and laws that have been implemented in order to supposedly alleviate the inequities of the law have been used to support the systematic oppression that has been upheld for centuries. The importance of redefining the term Hate Crime in policies and laws is reiterated through the instances provided. One cannot coincide in a society that does not have a coherent understanding in what is perceived as illegal, otherwise, a lack of accountability, awareness, as well as simple understanding would result in this. Lack of collection of data and accountability in the federal standard for those who have committed such crimes are problems that have been found within what is currently enacted through the current laws and policies involving hate crime.

Within the new findings, we have discovered that probable solutions to ensure more accountability to the crimes committed are that of the following: with the varying versions of hate crime policies by state, requiring each state to report all incidents regarding to hate crimes will hold those in authoritative position more accountable for resolving the conflicts; ensuring there is no language barrier between the victims and the prosecuted to better understand the level of crime as well as level of punishment; creating hate crime hotlines; and law enforcement and community leaders are ultimately more proactive in reporting such crimes.

Ultimately, the importance in redefining hate crimes in the legislative process as well as the criminal system is to resolve rates and increase the safety and concern of U.S. residents. The United States has been driven by a melting pot of cultures, and without the diversity, inclusivity and security for all, the nation would cease to exist as capitalistically as it does. The hate crimes committed against minorities, people of color, immigrants, women, race, should not even be a rising concern in this day and age, where individuals from all around more and more move to this country. Ensuring safety for not only those who have resided here for centuries but for those who are new and coming, is the biggest factor in motivating the redefining of hate crimes through the legislative process. Hate crimes, should not be a confusing discussion, as it is simply put the act of violence upon bias based on one's identity, to ensure that no one translates it

towards their own benefit the federal government should hold these states accountable, to provide reassurance to every citizen that when a crime is committed against bias, that their nation will hold them accountable as any of their peers.

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