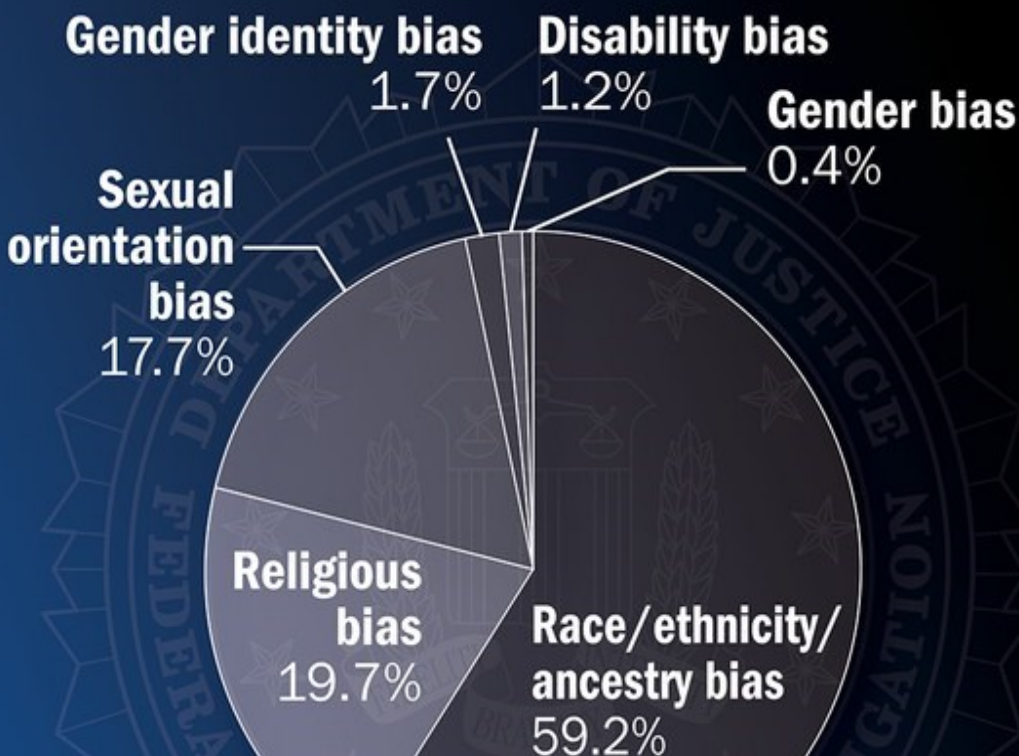


I raise chickens for eggs. They have a distinct pecking order. They also have little to no brain—they are essentially lizards with wings. What is it about us as humans that we often emulate these primitive creatures in our treatment of each other despite our clearly superior brain function? What makes it so difficult for us to accept, respect and love each other without regard to the superficial differences of race, national origin, religion, disability, sexual orientation, sex or gender identity? As people of goodwill, we must follow Nelson Mandela’s advice and teach love. For love conquers hate. Always.

Karen Richards, Executive Director

*“No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to love, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.”*

- Nelson Mandela



## In This Issue

- [From the Executive Director](#)
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- [The History of the KKK in Vermont](#)

## Did you know?

Hate crimes are motivated by racial, sexual or other bias and typically involve violence.

Recently The [Clooney Foundation For Justice](#) gave the Southern Poverty Law Center a \$1 million grant to assist in efforts to combat hate groups.

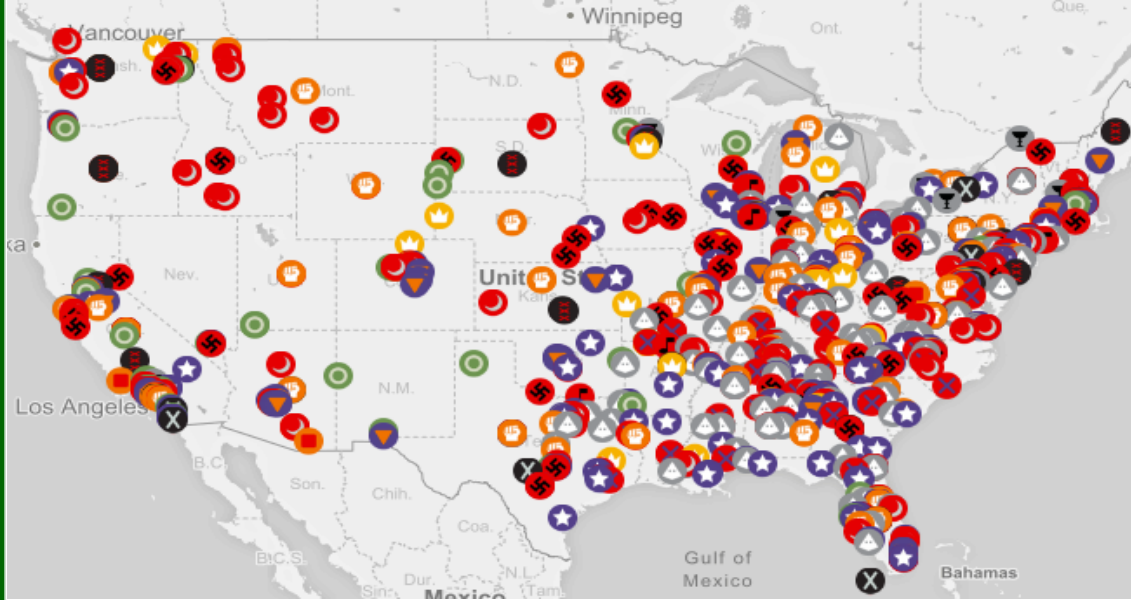
[Vermont law defines a hate motivated crime](#) as “a person who commits, causes to be committed, or attempts to commit any crime and whose conduct is maliciously motivated by the victim’s actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, ancestry, age, service in the U.S. Armed Forces, disability as defined by [21 V.S.A. § 495d\(5\)](#), sexual orientation, or gender identity.

From April 1 through June 30, 2017 the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) [reported](#) 946 reports of potential bias incidents with 451 of the reports based on anti-Muslim bias. This is a 91 percent increase compared to the same time period in 2016.

According to a June 27, 2017 NY Post [article](#), Facebook is deleting 66K posts a week to combat hate speech.

California ranks number one as the state having the most actively operating hate groups with 79. Florida follows with 63.

In 2016 the [Southern Poverty Law Center](#) reported there were 917 active Hate Groups in the U.S. Including: 193 Black Separatist; 130 Ku Klux Klan; 101 Anti-Muslim; 100 General Hate; 100 White Nationalist; 99 Neo-Nazi; 78 Racist Skinhead; 52 Anti-LGBT; 43 Neo-Confederate; and 21 Christian Identity.



Map: Southern Poverty Law Center 2017

## HATE IS INSIDIOUS AND IT IS EVERYWHERE

Recent events in Charlottesville, Virginia have shocked people of good will across the United States. We are slowly waking up to the fact that hate (in its many forms) is alive and well in a country that has as part of its basic foundation a commitment to equality for all. While we still have a long way to go to overcome centuries of institutional bias for many of our citizens and residents, the violence and level of organization of the Charlottesville rally has raised the specter that a much more dangerous enemy—that of hate—has been seething with resentment. This resentment has been given permission by an administration that actively courted this demographic during the election, and sadly, has failed to adequately condemn it after the violence in Charlottesville, including three deaths.

The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) which tracks hate-related activities has identified 917 active hate groups defined as an entity that has beliefs or practices that attack or malign entire classes of people, typically for immutable characteristics such as race, national origin, religion, gender, sex, sexual orientation, etc. Since the initial election of President Barak Obama, active hate groups have grown exponentially. When President George W. Bush left office in 2008, there were 149 active hate groups in the U.S. Within one year, that number blossomed to 512, hit a peak high of 1360 in 2012 and now is staying comfortably just below 1000. These hate or anti-government groups include the Ku Klux Klan, Neo-Nazis, and Skinheads among others.

Vermont is not immune, much as we like to think of ourselves as a “liberal” state. While we are the only state without an active hate group, a “book club” associated with the Daily Stormer is operating in Vermont. The SPLC describes Stormfront as “the Western world’s most popular forum for so called “white nationalists” to post articles, engage in discussions, and share news of upcoming racist events. One of the secrets to Stormfront’s success is its focus on community building. Whereas typical hate sites function as one-way transfers of information — rather like a brochure that can be read but not responded to — Stormfront has always been organized as a message board. Members can post opinions, listen to others respond, then post more feedback for all to read. The potential for dialogues to develop was built in — and, therefore, so was the potential to develop a genuine white supremacist cyber-community.”

Now that we are all awake, it is time for us to get busy with taking our country back to those foundational commitments of equality, fairness, and respect. Differences make us stronger. Hatred diminishes all of us.



## TEN THINGS YOU CAN DO TO FIGHT HATE

The Southern Poverty Law Center has a publication entitled, [Ten Ways to Fight Hate](#).

These are their suggestions. Full explanations of each can be accessed at the identified pages through the hyperlink.

### 1 ACT

Do something. In the face of hatred, apathy will be interpreted as acceptance by the perpetrators, the public, and — worse — the victims. Community members must take action; if we don't, hate persists. **page 4**

### 2 JOIN FORCES

Reach out to allies from churches, schools, clubs, and other civic groups. Create a diverse coalition. Include children, police, and the media. Gather ideas from everyone, and get everyone involved. **page 7**

### 3 SUPPORT THE VICTIMS

Hate crime victims are especially vulnerable. If you're a victim, report every incident — in detail — and ask for help. If you learn about a hate crime victim in your community, show support. Let victims know you care. Surround them with comfort and protection. **page 8**

### 4 SPEAK UP

Hate must be exposed and denounced. Help news organizations achieve balance and depth. Do not debate hate group members in conflict-driven forums. Instead, speak up in ways that draw attention away from hate, toward unity. **page 10**

### 5 EDUCATE YOURSELF

An informed campaign improves its effectiveness. Determine if a hate group is involved, and research its symbols and agenda. Understand the difference between a hate crime and a bias incident. **page 13**

### 6 CREATE AN ALTERNATIVE

Do not attend a hate rally. Find another outlet for anger and frustration and for people's desire to do something. Hold a unity rally or parade to draw media attention away from hate. **page 17**

### 7 PRESSURE LEADERS

Elected officials and other community leaders can be important allies. But some must overcome reluctance — and others, their own biases — before they're able to take a stand. **page 19**

### 8 STAY ENGAGED

Promote acceptance and address bias before another hate crime can occur. Expand your comfort zone by reaching out to people outside your own groups. **page 22**

### 9 TEACH ACCEPTANCE

Bias is learned early, often at home. Schools can offer lessons of tolerance and acceptance. Host a diversity and inclusion day on campus. Reach out to young people who may be susceptible to hate group propaganda and prejudice. **page 25**

### 10 DIG DEEPER

Look inside yourself for biases and stereotypes. Commit to disrupting hate and intolerance at home, at school, in the workplace and in faith communities. **page 28**



Photo: Ku Klux Klan— Montpelier, Vermont 1927

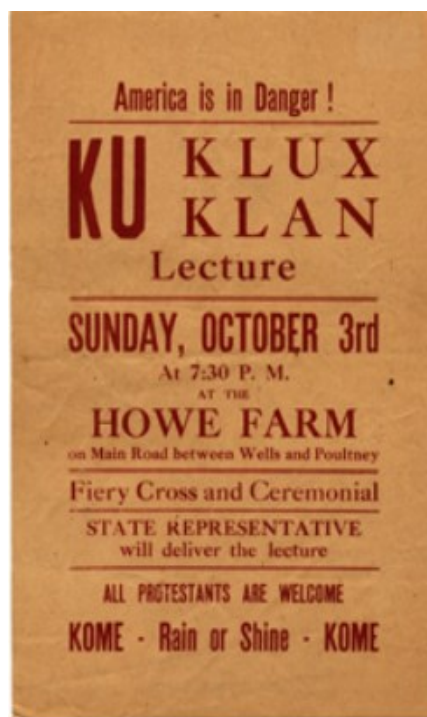
### HISTORY OF THE KKK IN VERMONT

The KKK had a foothold in Vermont for about four years from 1923-1927. The first chapter was in Springfield, but there were also chapters in Bellows Falls, Rutland, Bennington, Barre, Montpelier, Northfield and St. Johnsbury. The Klan in Vermont was primarily anti-Catholic.

During its heyday, various estimates put the number of Klansmen at between 2,000 and 10,000 out of a population of a little over 350,000 people. Catholics in Montpelier were subjected to cross burnings at their cemetery and on the steps of the church.

Communities, alarmed primarily by the violence, both threatened and real, began to take steps designed to limit the effectiveness of Klan activities, including passing ordinances that outlawed parading in the streets in masks or hoods, publishing the names of Klansmen and boycotting their businesses, and writing editorials criticizing the group and their activities. Internal dissension, mishandling of chapter funds, and the national organization's growing identification with violence all seem to have been factors in the gradual fading of the Klan. Read more of the history here: <http://vermonthistory.org/research/research-resources-online/green-mountain-chronicles/the-k-k-k-in-vermont-1924>

By taking similar steps as a community, ostracizing those whose violence against others is based solely on their immutable characteristics or religion. These actions are antithetical to American values. We can protect our communities and raise our children in an atmosphere that honors respect and love for all. Those are American values we can all support.



K.K.K. announcement poster for a rally near Wells and Poultney.

## Contact Us

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[hrc.vermont.gov](http://hrc.vermont.gov)

### RESOURCES

[Vermont Human Rights Commission](#)

[ACLU of Vermont](#)

[Southern Poverty Law Center](#)

[Pride Center of Vermont](#)

[Vermont Attorney General's Office](#)

### NEWS

[Hood's Off: Burlington White Nationalist Attended Charlottesville Rally](#)

[No, Neo-Nazi Website the Daily Stormer is Not Based in Burlington](#)

[Vt. Officials: Hate has 'no place in our nation'](#)

[Three dead after white nationalist rally in Charlottesville](#)

[Sanders blames Trump for Charlottesville violence](#)