



**Written Statement of  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC**

**For the Record of the Hearing on  
“The Southern Poverty Law Center: Manufacturing Hate, Part II”**

**United States House  
Committee on the Judiciary**

**June 9, 2026**

**I. Introduction**

On behalf of Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC, we submit this statement for the record in response to the hearing titled “*The Southern Poverty Law Center: Manufacturing Hate, Part II*”. As a national organization committed to advancing civil and human rights for Asian Americans and other underserved communities, we strongly oppose efforts to politicize our government as a weapon against civil rights and permit violent hate groups to flourish.

**II. About Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC**

Advancing Justice | AAJC is a national nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that works through policy advocacy, community education, and litigation to advance the civil and human rights of Asian Americans and to build and promote a fair and equitable society for all. Founded in 1991, Advancing Justice | AAJC is one of the nation’s leading experts on civil rights issues of importance to the Asian American community. AAJC’s work spans voting rights, immigration, language access, education, and anti-hate advocacy. AAJC has long worked with civil rights coalitions in our shared mission to counter hate and extremism that endanger Americans regardless of their race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, gender, gender identity, disability, and other immutable characteristics.

**III. The Attack on SPLC Raises Public Safety and Democracy Concerns**

AAJC condemns the partisan, coordinated government effort to intimidate and retaliate against organizations working to promote civil rights and prevent hate, extremism, and political violence. Every person deserves to live free from hate and violence. The attack on the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), which has been on the front lines of fighting against violent white supremacy and extremism for the past 55 years, sends a chilling message to civil society, journalists, researchers, and nonprofit organizations alike that they must choose silence even when acting to protect public safety. SPLC has played a central role in exposing hate groups, disrupting violent extremist networks, and advancing civil rights for more than five decades. Early into President Trump’s second presidency, the Administration removed senior Department of Justice (DOJ) ethics and oversight personnel, including the Department’s senior career ethics official, raising broader concerns about the weakening of internal accountability and independent safeguards within the

agency.<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, whistleblower reports<sup>2</sup> indicate the Department of Justice (DOJ) rushed the indictment against SPLC despite strong concerns about the case, and recent news reports<sup>3</sup> found the Trump Administration's previous efforts to go after SPLC failed. Following the initial indictment and superseding indictment, this marks the Trump DOJ's third action targeting SPLC.

As a result of the government's actions, organizations that have previously worked effectively to address hate-motivated violence in coordination with government agencies and Congress are now rethinking these partnerships. The Administration's actions have raised concerns that continued engagement could subject them to politicized hearings, investigations, and prosecutions. Such hostile actions undermine our government's ability to defend Americans against domestic and foreign threats. When those working to prevent hate are silenced, violence follows, especially for historically targeted groups, including Asian American communities, undermining our democratic values.

#### **IV. Federal Efforts to Undermine Community Safety and Rally Violent Hate Groups**

This is now the third committee hearing in the 119th Congress on overlapping inquiries.<sup>4</sup> Together, this hearing and the DOJ's actions represent an unnecessary duplication of effort that diverts attention and resources away from more pressing national priorities, including addressing and prosecuting actual hate-based violence and extremist threats. Instead, the government has taken a series of concerning actions that are inconsistent with our nation's values and the safety of all Americans by normalizing extremist rhetoric, undermining democratic accountability, and emboldening violent hate groups to terrorize communities. Taken together, this pattern weakens the very civic and democratic infrastructure communities rely upon to prevent, report, and respond to hate, protect public safety, defend constitutional freedoms, and preserve an independent civil society capable of holding those in power accountable.

For example, the Trump Administration has rolled back language access requirements across federal agencies by revoking Executive Order 13166 and narrowing guidance,<sup>5</sup> thereby creating additional barriers for victims with limited English proficiency to report incidents and access services. Trump's DOJ has also terminated grants authorized by Congress under the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act and the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act,

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<sup>1</sup> Sarah N. Lynch, "US Justice Department Senior Career Ethics Official Removed From Post, Source Says," *Reuters*, January 27, 2025, <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-justice-department-senior-career-ethics-official-removed-post-source-says-2025-01-27/>.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary Democrats, "Ranking Members Raskin, Scanlon Launch Inquiry into Trump DOJ's Abusive and Baseless Prosecution of Southern Poverty Law Center," press release, May 1, 2026, <https://democrats-judiciary.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/ranking-members-raskin-scanlon-launch-inquiry-into-trump-doj-s-abusive-and-baseless-prosecution-of-southern-poverty-law-center/>.

<sup>2</sup> Sarah N. Lynch, "'No Tax Charges Filed in Southern Poverty Law Center Probe, after IRS Lawyers Determined Informant Program Legally Structured, Sources Say'" " CBS News, May 29, 2026, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/tax-probe-southern-poverty-law-center/>.

<sup>4</sup> *Partisan and Profitable: The SPLC's Influence on Federal Civil Rights Policy: Hearing before the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Limited Government of the House Committee on the Judiciary*, 119th Cong. (Dec. 16, 2025) and *The Southern Poverty Law Center: Manufacturing Hate: Hearing before the House Committee on the Judiciary*, 119th Cong. (May 20, 2026).

<sup>5</sup> Executive Order No. 14224, "Designating English as the Official Language of the United States," 90 Fed. Reg. 11363, 11363–64 (March 6, 2025), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/03/06/2025-03694/designating-english-as-the-official-language-of-the-united-states>.



which included the Khalid Jabara and Heather Heyer NO HATE Act. Grants that were authorized by Congress with overwhelming bipartisan support and intended to counter hate violence.<sup>6</sup> Furthermore, on April 22, 2025, the Justice Department usurped Congressional power by abruptly canceling the Community-Based Approaches to Prevent and Address Hate Crime grant program to community-based organizations.<sup>7</sup> In March 2025, the DOJ also sought to eliminate the Community Relations Service (CRS), a cornerstone of community conflict resolution on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, and disability, including preventing and responding to hate crimes and civil unrest since 1964.<sup>8</sup> More recently, the White House’s May 2026 counterterrorism strategy is shockingly silent on the need to address racially motivated violence<sup>9</sup>, despite repeated Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) warnings that it is a leading threat.<sup>10</sup>

Similarly, the Administration moved to dismantle oversight bodies and professional staff within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), including the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, a congressionally mandated oversight body responsible for investigating civil rights complaints and ensuring constitutional compliance across the agency.<sup>11</sup> Within the first six months of the Trump Administration, federal efforts to prevent targeted violence and terrorism were scaled back.<sup>12</sup> The White House redirected violence prevention and counterterrorism personnel and funds to their unpopular and violent deportation campaign.<sup>13</sup> It also eliminated terrorism-related law enforcement training funds<sup>14</sup> and ended studies that tracked terrorism related attacks.<sup>15</sup> President

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<sup>5</sup> The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, “Hate Crimes Task Force Letter to Senate on Hate Crime Grants and the Community Relations Service,” May 5, 2025, <https://civilrights.org/resource/hate-crimes-task-force-letter-to-senate-on-hate-crime-grants-and-the-community-relations-service/>.

<sup>7</sup> Conrad Hoyt, “‘Yet Another Overreach of Power’: Trump Administration ‘Usurped’ Congress’ Authority by Canceling Anti-Hate Crime Grants, Lawsuit Says,” *Law & Crime*, July 9, 2025, <https://lawandcrime.com/lawsuit/yet-another-overreach-of-power-trump-administration-usurped-congress-authority-by-canceling-anti-hate-crime-grants-lawsuit-says/>.

<sup>8</sup> *Ethical Society of Police et al. v. Pamela J. Bondi and U.S. Department of Justice*, No. 1:25-cv-13115-IT (D. Mass. filed Oct. 24, 2025).

<sup>9</sup> The White House, *United States Counterterrorism Strategy* (Washington, DC: The White House, May 2026), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/2026-USCT-Strategy-1.pdf>.

<sup>10</sup> Hannah Allam, “Counterterrorism Czar’s Blueprint Targets Leftists, Ignores Far-Right Violence and Heaps Praise on Trump,” *ProPublica*, May 14, 2026, <https://www.propublica.org/article/trump-counterterrorism-plan-ignores-far-rights-gorka>; Erin Donaghue, “Racially Motivated Violent Extremists elevated to ‘national threat priority,’ FBI director says,” *CBS News*, February 5, 2020, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/racially-motivated-violent-extremism-isis-national-threat-priority-fbi-director-christopher-wray/>.

<sup>11</sup> Rebecca Beitsch, “DHS Eliminates Civil Rights Office,” *The Hill*, March 21, 2025, <https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/5208342-dhs-eliminates-civil-rights-office/>.

<sup>12</sup> Hannah Allam, “‘The Federal Government Is Gone’: Under Trump, the Fight Against Extremist Violence Is Left Up to the States,” *ProPublica*, May 29, 2025, <https://www.propublica.org/article/trump-doj-domestic-terrorism-extremism-states-michigan>.

<sup>13</sup> Ken Dilanian and Ryan J. Reilly, “FBI Field Offices Ordered to Shift Agents to Immigration Crackdown,” *NBC News*, May 14, 2025, <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/justice-department/fbi-field-offices-ordered-shift-agents-immigration-crackdown-rcna206859>.

<sup>14</sup> Hannah Allam, “Killing Grants That Have Saved Lives: Trump’s Cuts Signal End to Government Work on Terrorism Prevention,” *ProPublica*, March 20, 2025, <https://www.propublica.org/article/trump-doge-budget-cuts-terrorism-prevention>.

<sup>15</sup> Ellie Silverman, “Trump Administration Cuts National Database Tracking Domestic Terrorism,” *The Washington Post*, March 25, 2025, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2025/03/25/domestic-extremism-database-trump-cuts/>.



Trump pardoned white nationalists from the Proud Boys and Oath Keepers<sup>16</sup> who participated in the violent insurrection on our nation’s Capitol. In September of 2025, the Administration’s NSPM-7 directive signaled a troubling shift toward politicized domestic terrorism enforcement that could enable the targeting of civil society organizations, advocacy networks, protesters, immigrant communities, and other groups based on ideology or protected activity rather than credible evidence of violence.<sup>17</sup> These concerns have been heightened by a broader pattern of government communications and personnel decisions within the Administration<sup>18</sup> that appear to legitimize or amplify extremist and anti-immigrant narratives historically associated with white nationalist movements.

A recent state law enforcement agency bulletin has also raised concern over the DHS social media posts promoting Immigration and Customs Enforcement recruitment with white supremacist-aligned language and imagery. Such messaging heightens the risks to communities by emboldening extremist hate actors, potentially leading to bias-motivated violence or efforts to infiltrate law enforcement agencies.<sup>19</sup> Independent reporting and civil rights monitors have documented executive branch use of anti-immigrant and extremist-coded messaging, including imagery and rhetoric historically associated with white nationalist and far-right movements, raising serious concerns that government communications are normalizing or legitimizing extremist narratives within public institutions.<sup>20</sup> The DOJ has also failed to bring hate crime charges against individuals illegally impersonating immigration officials and terrorizing victims and communities on the basis of their perceived nationality.<sup>21</sup> Taken together, these actions have weakened hate crime prevention, victim support, and confidence in government safety efforts when many communities continue to face elevated levels of hate and bias. The resulting actions further risk declines in communities reporting crimes to law enforcement and undermine community peacekeeping efforts.

The federal government’s actions come at a concerning time when many communities continue to experience persistently elevated levels of hate crimes. Last year ranked as the 5<sup>th</sup> highest year on

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<sup>16</sup> Peter Charalambous, “Oath Keepers, Proud Boys Leaders Out of Prison After Trump Pardons,” *ABC News*, January 21, 2025, <https://abcnews.com/Politics/oath-keepers-proud-boys-leaders-prison-after-trump/story?id=117940370>.

<sup>17</sup> Solcyre Burga, “White House Anti-Terror Order Targets ‘Anti-Capitalist’ and ‘Anti-American’ Views. Here’s What To Know,” *Time*, Oct 2, 2025, <https://time.com/7322106/trump-nspm-7-domestic-terrorism/>.

<sup>18</sup> Casie Miller, “Hatewatch Analysis: Bigoted beliefs, racist ties found among some of President Trump’s appointees,” *SPLC*, March 6, 2025, <https://www.splcenter.org/resources/hatewatch/bigoted-beliefs-racist-ties-found-among-president-trumps-appointees/>.

<sup>19</sup> Colorado Information Analysis Center, *Situational Awareness Bulletin: Violent Extremists May Perceive White Supremacy Ideology in ICE Recruitment Materials, Leading to a Potentially Increased Threat Environment*, March 10, 2026, <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/28132538-colorado-information-analysis-center-2026-0000860/>.

<sup>20</sup> Liz Landers, Mike Fritz, Amna Nawaz, “Trump Administration Posts Echo Rhetoric Linked to Extremist Groups,” *PBS NewsHour*, May 21, 2026, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/trump-administration-posts-echo-rhetoric-linked-to-extremist-groups>; Evan Gorelick, “Trump Administration Social Media Posts Echo White Supremacist Themes,” *New York Times*, January 27, 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/27/us/politics/white-supremacy-trump-administration-social-media.html>.

<sup>21</sup> Sim Singh Attariwala, Cynthia Chen McTernan, and Sonia Ghura, “ICE Fraud and Abuse: Growing Concerns and a Path for Accountability,” *New York Law Journal*, March 25, 2026, <https://www.gibsondunn.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Attariwala-McTernan-Ghura-et-al-ICE-Fraud-and-Abuse-Growing-Concerns-and-a-Path-for-Accountability-New-York-Law-Journa-1.pdf>.



record, even as experts warn that official statistics significantly understate the true scope of harm.<sup>22</sup> The stakes for Asian American communities are real and life-altering. During the pandemic, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders were subjected to acts of hate violence, including shoving, beatings, stabbings, immolation, and murder.<sup>23</sup> Tragically, the hate-fueled Atlanta spa mass shooting on March 16, 2021, targeting Asian women, resulted in the murder of 8 people, including six Asian women massage workers.<sup>24</sup> South Asian communities also face elevated threats due to anti-immigrant and Islamophobic rhetoric espoused by politically motivated actors and amplified by President Trump<sup>25</sup> and sitting members of Congress.<sup>26</sup> South Asian faith communities, Sikh and Hindu, saw the highest ever recorded levels of hate crimes, according to AAJC’s preliminary analysis of the FBI’s hate crime data for 2025.<sup>27</sup>

According to AAJC’s analysis of preliminary 2025 FBI hate crime data, anti-Asian hate remained alarmingly high at approximately 2.4 times the pre-pandemic annual average, even as overall reported hate crimes declined for all bias categories combined.<sup>28</sup> The FBI statistics capture only a fraction of actual harm, as hate crimes remain widely underreported due to fear, language barriers, immigration concerns, and distrust of law enforcement.<sup>29</sup> Congress and its members have an obligation to responsibly act to prevent the further interruption of life by hate-motivated violence.

Diminished DOJ accountability over local policing, including the dismissal or rollback of federal consent decrees, has further eroded community trust in law enforcement of all types.<sup>30</sup> Overbroad immigration enforcement actions are increasing anxiety in immigrant communities and raising serious questions about whether law enforcement can be trusted when reporting crimes, including hate crimes.<sup>31</sup> Polling indicates that half of all Asian and Pacific Islander adults in the U.S. either know someone who has been affected or have been personally affected by anti-immigrant policies

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<sup>22</sup> Russell Contreras, “Hate Crimes Against Latinos and Sikhs Hit Record High in 2025,” *Axios*, April 9, 2026, <https://www.axios.com/2026/04/09/hate-crime-data-latinos-sikhs-2025>.

<sup>23</sup> U.S. Department of Justice, “Addressing Hate Crimes Against Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders,” archived content, accessed June 8, 2026, <https://www.justice.gov/archives/hatecrimes/addressing-asian-hate>.

<sup>24</sup> Asian Americans Advancing Justice–Atlanta, “5 Years Later: Remembering March 16th: A Community-Centered Response to Violence against Asian American Communities,” March 16, 2026, <https://www.advancingjustice-atlanta.org/5yrcommunitystatement>.

<sup>25</sup> Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, “CAPAC Members Condemn Trump’s Racist Post Against Indian and Chinese Immigrants,” April 24, 2026, <https://capac.house.gov/press-release/capac-members-condemn-trumps-racist-post-against-indian-and-chinese-immigrants>.

<sup>26</sup> Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, “CAPAC Condemns Anti-Muslim, Xenophobic Rhetoric from Republican Elected Officials,” December 16, 2025, <https://capac.house.gov/press-release/capac-condemns-anti-muslim-xenophobic-rhetoric-republican-elected-officials>.

<sup>27</sup> Asian Americans Advancing Justice–AAJC, “2025 FBI Hate Crime Data Reveals Threats to Asian American Communities,” April 23, 2026, <https://www.advancingjustice-aajc.org/press-release/2025-fbi-hate-crime-data-reveals-threats-asian-american-communities>.

<sup>28</sup> Asian Americans Advancing Justice–AAJC, “2025 FBI Hate Crime Data.”

<sup>29</sup> Grace Kena and Alexandra Thompson, *Hate Crime Victimization, 2005–2019*, NCJ 300954 (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, September 2021), <https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/hate-crime-victimization-2005-2019>.

<sup>30</sup> Adam Gabbatt, “The US Cities Left Behind as Trump Ends Key Police Accountability Reforms,” *The Guardian*, July 25, 2025, <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jul/25/trump-ends-police-reform-consent-decrees>.

<sup>31</sup> Asian Americans Advancing Justice–AAJC, *Anti-Asian Hate in 2024: Analysis and Recommendations for Change*, November 20, 2025, <https://www.advancingjustice-aajc.org/publication/anti-asian-hate-2024-analysis-and-recommendations-change>.



or sentiment.<sup>32</sup> Aggressive tactics, often involving masked officers and coordination with local or state law enforcement, create fear and confusion that discourage individuals from seeking help.

The predictable result is a decline in crime reporting in the very communities most vulnerable to harm.<sup>33</sup> Compounding this crisis in public safety, impersonators illegally posing as immigration or law enforcement officials are targeting individuals based on their perceived nationality, race, ethnicity, and/or religion, further terrorizing communities and eroding trust in legitimate law enforcement responses to community safety concerns. Civil rights organizations play a critical role in bridging these gaps in community safety and supporting victims. Weakening those organizations makes vulnerable communities less safe, not more.

The consequences of targeting civil society for political purposes are already evident in the erosion of democratic norms, institutional trust, and the ability of independent organizations to serve the public interest. Within days of SPLC's indictment, major financial institutions deplatformed SPLC from donor-advised funds, with no trial, no conviction, and no judicial finding of wrongdoing.<sup>34</sup> Regardless of the ultimate outcome of the DOJ's proceedings, the intended effect is to cancel civil rights organizations by draining their resources, restricting funding, and deterring others from associating with them. Asian American, Black, Latino, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, LGBTQ+, and disability rights communities, among others, all rely on civil rights organizations to document hate, provide legal support, and advocate for protection.

These hearings and prosecutions do not make communities safer. Instead, they divert resources away from addressing genuine threats of hate-based violence while undermining the independent civil society organizations that communities rely upon to document hate, support victims, defend constitutional rights, and hold government accountable.

#### **IV. Recommendations to Congress**

Congress has both the authority and the obligation to act. AAJC offers the following recommendations for the Committee's consideration:

- **Protect Civil Society and Constitutional Rights.** Congress should reject efforts to weaponize congressional oversight, criminal investigations, or federal funding authorities against nonprofit civil rights organizations engaged in lawful advocacy, research, public education, and hate prevention work. Congress should reaffirm First Amendment protections, prevent viewpoint-based retaliation against nonprofits, and ensure civil society

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<sup>32</sup> Stop AAPI Hate, "New Report: Half of AA/Pis Experienced a Hate Act in 2025, Reflecting Years-Long Pattern of Pervasive Racism," May 1, 2026, <https://stopaapihate.org/2026/05/01/new-report-half-of-aapis-experienced-a-hate-act-in-2025/>.

<sup>33</sup> Fallon Roth, "911 Calls from Non-English Speakers in Montco Dropped Last Year as ICE Ramped Up Its Operations," *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, June 4, 2026, <https://www.inquirer.com/politics/pennsylvania/911-calls-interpretation-montgomery-county-pennsylvania-ice-enforcement-arrests-20260604.html> and Reva Dhingra, Mitchell Kilborn, and Olivia Woldemikael, "Immigration Policies and Access to the Justice System: The Effect of Enforcement Escalations on Undocumented Immigrants and Their Communities," *Political Behavior* 44 (2022): 1359–87, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11109-020-09663-w>.

<sup>34</sup> Ashleigh Fields, "Fidelity Blocks Fund Donations to SPLC After Federal Indictment," *The Hill*, April 29, 2026, republished by MSN, <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/politics/fidelity-blocks-fund-donations-to-splc-after-federal-indictment/ar-AA221uYY>.



organizations can continue documenting hate, supporting victims, and holding government accountable without fear of political intimidation.

- **Restore Federal Hate Crime Prevention and Victim Support Efforts.** Congress should restore and expand federal hate crime prevention infrastructure, including grants authorized under the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act, and the Khalid Jabara and Heather Heyer NO HATE Act. Congress should also pass the Community-Based Approaches to Prevent and Address Hate Crimes Act (H.R. 9066) to restore and strengthen federal support for community-based prevention and response efforts. In addition, Congress should preserve and strengthen the Community Relations Service, restore agency oversight mechanisms, including the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties within DHS, and invest in culturally and linguistically competent victim services, community-based safety programs, and hate incident response efforts.
- **Strengthen Federal Responses to Violent Extremism and Hate-Based Violence.** Congress should require the federal government to maintain a clear and evidence-based focus on domestic violent extremism, including racially and ethnically motivated violence, rather than approaches driven by political considerations or the targeting of disfavored communities or viewpoints. Federal counterterrorism strategies should explicitly address white supremacist violence and other ideologically motivated threats identified by law enforcement agencies, while restoring federal research, training, funding, and data collection related to the prevention of terrorism and hate-motivated targeted violence in a manner that protects civil rights and civil liberties and avoids the investigation or monitoring of individuals or organizations based solely on lawful expression, association, or ideology.
- **Rebuild Community Trust and Improve Access to Public Safety Systems.** Congress should also conduct oversight hearings and investigations into the use of extremist-coded rhetoric, imagery, or messaging by federal officials and agencies, including DHS communications that may legitimize or embolden white supremacist activity or bias-motivated violence. Congress should also strengthen language access protections, improve hate crime reporting systems, and ensure that immigrant and limited-English proficient communities can report crimes and seek assistance without fear. Congress should pass the Language Access for All Act of 2026 (H.R. 7223) and the Language Access Board Act of 2026 (H.R.8604) to ensure meaningful access to federal programs and services for individuals with limited English proficiency, as well as the Improving Reporting to Prevent Hate Act (H.R. 2588 / S. 3724) to improve hate crime reporting, data collection, and community access to reporting mechanisms. Congress should also support policies that separate access to victim services and public safety resources from immigration enforcement activities and invest in community-based reporting and prevention initiatives that improve trust between communities and government institutions.

## **V. Conclusion**

The prosecution of SPLC raises profound concerns about constitutional norms, the politicization of the DOJ, and the use of government power against civil society organizations. Recent federal actions have weakened hate crime prevention infrastructure, dismantled oversight and



accountability mechanisms, normalized extremist rhetoric, and undermined the community trust necessary to prevent and respond to hate-based violence, among other community safety needs. Congress has a responsibility to ensure that civil rights organizations can operate free from intimidation, retaliation, and viewpoint-based targeting, and that federal efforts to prevent terrorism and hate-based violence remain evidence-based, threat-focused, and consistent with constitutional and civil rights protections rather than political retaliation or ideological targeting. Efforts to undermine independent civil society organizations, normalize extremist rhetoric, weaken democratic accountability, or erode public trust in public safety institutions make communities less safe and weaken the nation's ability to respond effectively to hate and extremist violence.

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