E-Mail Received on Tuesday, August 25, 2020 from Cheryl Nail, cheryln@jewishcolumbia.org

We, the undersigned, in unison, call for the passage of a Hate Crime Law in South Carolina, because we cannot rely solely on Federal law enforcement to prosecute and track hate crimes occurring in our state. Where Federal crimes have not been committed, Federal, State and Local authorities are powerless to prosecute hate crime.

It is long past time that our state enshrines in law what we already believe: that committing a criminal act motivated by hate for someone because of their real or perceived race, religion, nationality, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation or disability is unacceptable. As a non-partisan coalition, we will not support a law that does not protect all targeted groups of people.

We call for this hate crime law to contain the following:

- Criminal Penalty Enhancement

- Sentencing Increase Guidelines

- Institutional Vandalism Statutes

- Statewide Data Collection System

- Mandatory Reporting to the FBI

- Law Enforcement Training Mandates

- Explicit Protected Classes

According to the FBI, hate crimes hit a 16 year high in 2019. The FBI estimates that less than half of hate crimes are reported to the police. The limited data available to the FBI from South Carolina also indicated an increase in hate crime, however, South Carolina is one of only three states without a hate crime law to appropriately respond.

As we have witnessed in our state and across the country, making progress in how we protect those targeted by hate is also attractive to businesses hoping to maintain  preferred employer status and relocate to or expand in South Carolina.

We call on the 124th General Assembly of South Carolina to act against hate.

Signed,

Brandon Fish, Director, Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Charleston

Chase Glenn, Executive Director, Alliance for Full Acceptance (AFFA)

Eric Manning, Pastor, Mother Emanuel AME Church

Allison Goodman, Regional Vice President, Anti-Defamation League

Carmen Grace, President, Charleston Hispanic Association

Cheryl Nail, Community Relations Director, Columbia Jewish Federation

Judi Corsaro, CEO, Charleston Jewish Federation

Thomas Dixon, Co-Founder, The Coalition - People United to Take Back Our Community

Melanie Gorelick, Senior Vice President, Jewish Council for Public Affairs

Lee Anne Leland, Co-Facilitator,  Charleston Area Transgender Support

Ethan Johnstone, Lead Community Builder, Pride Link

M. Greg Green, Transgender Awareness Alliance,  Alpha Omega Kappa Fraternity, Inc.

Sara Chesley, Director, Charleston Jewish Family Services

Risa Prince, President, Lowcountry Coalition Against Hate

Stephanie Alexander, Rabbi, Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim (KKBE)

L'Shalom / Toward Peace,

Cheryl

***Cheryl Glantz Nail***

**Community Relations Director of the Columbia Jewish Federation**

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