

Month day, 2019

Donald J Trump
US President
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington DC 20500

Mr Trump,

According to US Department of Justice data¹, hate crimes in America have increased 17% from 2016 to 2017. The “race, ethnicity and ancestry” category show the largest increase.

I am asking you to take effective, concrete actions to quell this rise in crime and acknowledge that your rhetoric has been adopted by those who resort to violence. Effective, concrete actions include:

- Consistent, long-term personal statements from you that clearly denounce hate against immigrants, refugees, people of color and the media at press conferences, rallies and on Twitter. A single teleprompter-based statement is not adequate.
- Encourage consistent hate crime reporting by state and local law enforcement
- Consistently denounce groups who seek to divide us along racial and ethnic lines
- Enact legislation to increase penalties for hate crimes
- Enact legislation to expand detection and removal of hate crime posts from social media

I do not view your past and current actions to date as helpful. Your words that a “small group of people with very serious problems” are responsible for hate crimes against minorities and immigrants ignores the data and denies the rise of hate crimes by white terrorists, both abroad and in our own country.

Many news reports indicate a rise in hate crimes during your campaign and since your election:

- The Southern Poverty Law Center, in a CBS News report dated November 19, 2016², reported “at least 700 cases of hateful harassment or intimidation since the election”.

¹ <https://www.justice.gov/hatecrimes/hate-crime-statistics>

² <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/hate-harassment-incidents-spike-since-donald-trump-election/>

- On February 10, 2017, Think Progress³ analysis of the hate crimes they tracked, which were required to have police or media confirmation, indicate that 42% of them “included specific references to Trump, his election, or his policies”.
- On February 15, 2017, the Southern Poverty Law Center⁴ said “2016 was an unprecedented year for hate”, citing an increase in Muslim hate groups from 34 to 101 and the statement “The number of hate groups in the United States rose for a second year in a row in 2016 as the radical right was energized by the candidacy of Donald Trump”.
- On November 14, 2017, the Independent⁵ said “the number of hate crimes in America spiked last year for the first time after years of decline, according to new FBI data”.
- On November 13, 2018, the Independent⁶ reported “US hate crimes up third year in a row with antisemitism particularly on the rise, FBI report reveals”. The article says the FBI data includes a 23% increase in religion-based hate crimes, more than half of which targeted Jewish people.

Many blame you directly. There are several public records of your rhetoric which support their claims, for example:

- Mexicans are rapists
- Muslims dancing in the streets after 911 – a statement of yours with no basis in fact
- Your statement of “good people, on both sides” regarding the white supremacist demonstration in Charlottesville
- Most recently, the New Zealand terrorist who shares your word “invaders” to describe non-whites. In fact, he said you are “a symbol of renewed white identity and common purpose”⁷. You may deny you inspired him, but this person clearly links you directly to his white terrorist actions. How many others will be so inspired by your words?

³ <https://thinkprogress.org/mapping-hate-in-trumps-america-9b166b2c52c2/>

⁴

<https://www.splcenter.org/news/2017/02/15/hate-groups-increase-second-consecutive-year-trump-electrifies-radical-right>

⁵

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/hate-crimes-us-trump-election-surge-rise-latest-figures-police-a8055026.html>

⁶

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/hate-crimes-us-fbi-report-antisemitism-jewish-attacks-discrimination-a8632526.html>

⁷ <https://www.newsweek.com/new-zealand-mosque-shooting-manifesto-trump-1364488>

Is it coincidence that an avid supporter of yours, Cesar Altieri Sayoc⁸, chose to send mail bombs to many people who you have publicly called out as your enemy, including the news offices of CNN?

How long before your attacks on the media as “the enemy of the people” will inspire another of your followers to kill journalists?

How are your statements against American journalists any different than Iran’s “death to America” rhetoric?

Jonathan Greenblatt, of the Anti-Defamation League said “it’s time for all leaders to step forward and clearly denounce hate”⁹. I agree, and am calling on you to lead that effort. A single statement, read by you from a teleprompter, is not enough. Your words at press conferences, rallies and on Twitter must become hate free.

I have sent copies of this letter to my Members of Congress, calling on them to amplify my voice, to denounce your past and current rhetoric and to call on you to lead a campaign to reduce hate crimes in America. You have indicated you want to be President for all Americans. To be credible, you must change your rhetoric to no longer inspire white supremacist terrorist attacks on immigrants, refugees and people of color.

Very sincerely,

Your Name

Your Contact Info

Cc: Your US Senator
Your US Senator
Your US Representative

⁸ <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/26/nyregion/cnn-cory-booker-pipe-bombs-sent.html>

⁹ <https://www.cnn.com/2018/12/11/us/hate-crimes/index.html>

Consider donating to:

Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law [Stop Hate Project](#)

[Southern Poverty Law Center](#)

[American Civil Liberties Union](#)

Articles and research:

Published Federal hate crime reports:

** <https://www.justice.gov/hatecrimes/hate-crime-statistics>

Articles:

2016:

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/hate-harassment-incidents-spike-since-donald-trump-election/>

2017:

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/hate-crimes-us-trump-election-surge-rise-latest-figures-police-a8055026.html>

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<https://thinkprogress.org/thinkprogress-has-been-tracking-hate-since-trumps-election-here-s-what-we-found-e0288ed69869/>

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<https://www.splcenter.org/news/2017/02/15/hate-groups-increase-second-consecutive-year-trump-electrifies-radical-right>

2018:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-nation/wp/2018/03/23/hate-crimes-rose-the-day-after-trump-was-elected-fbi-data-show/?utm_term=.2163fe765113

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/hate-crimes-us-fbi-report-antisemitism-jewish-attacks-discrimination-a8632526.html>

<https://www.cnn.com/2018/12/11/us/hate-crimes/index.html>

Florida bomber & Trump supporter:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/26/nyregion/cnn-cory-booker-pipe-bombs-sent.html>

2019:

<https://americasvoice.org/trumphatemap/>

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/opinion/new-zealand-trump-xenophobia-brenton-tarrant/>

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/what-the-new-zealand-shootings-tell-us-about-the-rise-in-hate-crimes>

<https://www.newsweek.com/new-zealand-mosque-shooting-manifesto-trump-1364488>