



Civil Rights Department • Commission on the State of Hate

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COMMISSION ON THE STATE OF HATE

Community Forum Minutes

November 9, 2023, 6:00 pm PT

The Commission on the State of Hate conducted its meeting via teleconference and at the address below:

Japanese American National Museum
100 N. Central Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Commissioners Present

Commissioner Regina Cuellar
Commissioner Cece Feiler
Commissioner Brian Levin
Commissioner Shirin Sinnar
Commissioner Damsky

Ex-Officio Members Present

Abby Browning, Governor's Office of Emergency Services

Civil Rights Department Staff Present

Becky Monroe, CRD Deputy Director
Alec Watts, CRD Assistant Deputy Director
Gregory Mann, CRD CCRU
Marquez Equalibria, CRD CCRU
Alex Hernandez, CRD Information Officer
Fernando Ponce, CRD Staff Services Manager II
Taylor Whitely, Associate Governmental Program Analyst
Monica Chavez, Associate Governmental Program Analyst
Rebecca Goodsell, Research Data Specialist

Others Present

An estimated 116 members of the public participated virtually.
An estimated 70 members of the public participated in person.

I. Welcome

Commissioner Cuellar welcomed everyone to the third community forum and introduced the in-person interpreter for the meeting. She reviewed the process for translated closed captioning and provided a land acknowledgment.

A. Call to Order

Commissioner Cuellar introduced herself and had the following Commissioners introduce themselves: Commissioner Feiler, Commissioner Damsky, Commissioner Levin, and Commissioner Sinnar.

Commissioner Cuellar shared the CA vs. Hate Resource Line and reviewed the public comment process.

B. Remarks from the Japanese American National Museum

James Herr, Director of the Nation Center the Preservation of Democracy at the Japanese American National Museum provided opening remarks.

II. Informational Presentations on Experiences with Hate and Bullying Among California Youth

A. Islamic Network Group (ING): *Saman Ali*

Saman Ali presented the following information:

- Defined bullying and emphasized identity-based aspects of bullying. Shared statistics on bullying and hate crimes.
- Explored the profound impact of hate on mental health.
- Advocated for recognizing diversity, addressing stereotypes, and promoting education.
- Stressed a multifaceted approach to create safer environments.

B. Black Youth Leadership Project (BYLP): *Laila Anderson, Sherman Gay, and Tevin Tyler*

Laila Anderson, Sherman Gay, and Tevin Tyler presented the following information:

- Discussed the history and background for the Black Youth Leadership Project.
- Shared data highlighting disciplinary disparities, especially for black boys, calling for the dismantling of stereotypes and promotion of equity.
- Discussed biased perceptions of black girls, as revealed by the US Department of Education in 2018.
- Presented cases illustrating mistreatment of black students, emphasizing the immediate need for intervention.

- Illustrated how their content creation utilized Instagram and other platforms to share stories and graphics.

C. La Puente High School Dream Resource Center: Krystal Maldonado and Isaiah Mancia

Isaiah Mancia presented the following information:

- Opened with a quote and shared personal experiences relating to the hate they received.
- Questioned the motive behind hurting others and its impact.
- Reflected on personal experiences as a Hispanic person, emphasizing the need for cultural understanding.
- Advocated for initiatives fostering empathy and diverse opinions to combat cruelty.

Krystal Maldonado presented the following information:

- Shared an original poem about her experience as a Latina.

D. Israeli-American Civic Action Network (ICAN): Misha Keyvanfar and Miya Zborovskiy

Miya Zborovskiy presented the following information:

- Discussed her experience with anti-Semitism.
- Advocated for the need to ensure schools are a safe space.
- Encouraged everyone to stand up against hate.

Misha Keyvanfar presented the following information:

- Shared 2022 FBI data on anti-Semitism.
- Discussed the history of anti-Jewish propaganda and lack of general knowledge surrounding Judaism.
- Shared her personal experience and fears regarding anti-Semitism.
- Emphasized the importance of words and that there must be steps to stop hate.

E. AAPI Youth Rising: Mina Fedor, Jaslene Lai, Hudson Lee, and Kriste To

Mina Fedor, Jaslene Lai, and Huson Lee presented the following information:

- Provided an overview of AAPI Youth Rising, sharing why the organization originated and discussed the organization's goals and actions taken.
- Shared information about youth engagement and emphasized the importance of speaking out.
- Spotlighted stories that illustrate hate experienced by Asian American and Pacific Islanders.
- Encouraged multiple calls to action and initiatives to address societal change.
- Highlighted the importance of understanding, unity and made a general call for the recognition of diverse experiences.

F. INGYouth (Islamic Network Group Youth): Saman Ali, Naiel Ahmed Chaudry, and Minal Jalil

Saman Ali, Naiel Ahmed Chaudry, and Minal Jalil presented the following information:

- Discussed general misunderstandings and lack of knowledge regarding Islam.
- Shared about the diversity and spectrums in Islam.
- Highlighted stereotypes about Islam.
- Discussed challenges and solutions to addressing Islamophobia.
- Provided examples of rising incidents of Islamophobia.
- Called for spreading love, kindness, and inclusivity.

G. Los Angeles LGBT Center: Max Figueroa

- Defined "Transcendence" and spoke about the challenges of having a transgender identity in a conservative environment.
- Discussed data on bullying and struggles faces by transgender youth.
- Performed an original song as an expression of resilience against bullying.
- Shared personal experiences overcoming bullying.

- Emphasized the importance of supporting trans and LGBT organizations.

Public Comment

There were 14 in-person public comments, 2 written public comments, and 3 public comments on Zoom.

III. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

The Commission may not discuss or act on any matter raised during the public comment section that is not included on this agenda, except whether to decide to place the matter on the agenda of a future meeting.

Two public comments were provided.

IV. Adjournment of the Meeting

Commissioner Cuellar reminded the public of the CA vs. Hate Resource Line.

The meeting adjourned at 9:01pm.