

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – January 16, 2018**

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**STATEHOUSE RALLY TO URGE PASSAGE OF  
INDIANA HATE CRIME LEGISLATION**

**INDIANAPOLIS, IN:** The Central Indiana Alliance Against Hate (CIAAH) joins with supporting organizations and fellow Hoosiers to host a Hate Crime Law Statehouse Rally Press Conference on Tuesday, January 16, 2018. The rally will take place on the third floor of the Indiana Statehouse between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

The rally will raise needed attention and kick off grassroots advocacy in support of [SB 418](#) and [SB 271](#), this session's two proposed hate crime bills. With the FBI indicating an increasing number of hate crimes in Indiana, and across the country, Indiana still remains one of only five states without a comprehensive hate crime statute.

"We're looking forward to coming together with Hoosiers from around the state today to urge lawmakers to pass a hate crimes bill this session," stated David Sklar of the Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council. "We believe this is the year where Indiana can finally remove itself from the extremely small list of states that do not have a hate crimes law, and the wind is at our back. More and more legislators from both sides of the aisle agree that it's time, and multiple state-wide opinion polls taken before the session show that Hoosiers overwhelmingly agree. We also believe that with more attention being paid to horrific hate motivated incidents like Charlottesville over the last year, this is a debate we must win," he continued.

Representatives of several supporting organizations are scheduled to speak including:

Indiana Association of the Deaf  
Indiana Statewide Independent Living Council (INSILC)  
Indiana Youth Group  
Indy Chamber  
Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council and the organized Jewish Community  
Indianapolis Urban League/Exchange at the Indianapolis Urban League  
Marion County Prosecutor's Office  
Members of the Greater Indianapolis Hindu community  
Muslim Alliance of Indiana  
SikhsPAC  
Women4Change Indiana

“Hate crimes are meant to send a message of fear, hatred, and intolerance. They can and do tear apart the fabric of communities that experience them,” explained Amy Nelson of the Central Indiana Alliance Against Hate. “Across Indiana we have been hearing of an increasing number of hate crimes occurring. The number of hate groups that call Indiana home have also increased in recent years. Let’s send a message once and for all that we don’t welcome these groups here, and we as a state will not tolerate hatred and bigotry in any form,” she continued.

Representatives from other organizations will also be present. For more information or updates about this event, visit the Central Indiana Alliance Against Hate’s [Facebook page](#).

#IndianaNeedsAHateCrimeLaw

***About the Central Indiana Alliance Against Hate***

*The Central Indiana Alliance Against Hate (Alliance) formed in March 2017 and is a group of individuals, nonprofits, and businesses that exist to reduce the occurrence and combat the consequences of hate crimes and hate-based incidents. The Alliance is a project of the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana. More information on the Alliance is at: <https://www.fhcci.org/ciaah/>*