



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – November 21, 2017**

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### **PRESS CONFERENCE PROMOTES PASSAGE OF INDIANA HATE CRIME LEGISLATION**

**INDIANAPOLIS** – The Central Indiana Alliance Against Hate (CIAAH) joins with supporting organizations and fellow Hoosiers to host a press conference during the General Assembly’s Organization Day on Tuesday, November 21, 2017. The press conference will take place in the South Atrium of the Indiana State Capitol/Statehouse building on the second floor between 11 a.m. and 12 p.m.

The press conference will raise needed attention to Indiana’s lack of a comprehensive hate crime law. 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.

“It is important that the General Assembly prioritize bias crimes legislation in 2018 and finally pass a comprehensive bill,” stated David Sklar of the Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council. “It is wonderful to see that so many Hoosiers, and Hoosier organizations and businesses, are rallying around this issue. It is clear that not only is it a criminal law issue, but it’s also a quality of place issue for the State. People want to know that they are safe and hate motivated crimes will be dealt with as they are in a vast majority of the rest of the country,” he continued.

Representatives of several supporting organizations are scheduled to speak including:

- Indiana Latino Institute
- Indiana Statewide Independent Living Council
- Indiana Youth Group
- Indy Chamber
- Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council
- Indianapolis Urban League/ Exchange at the Indianapolis Urban League
- Marion County Prosecutor’s Office
- Muslim Alliance of Indiana
- SikhsPAC

“Hoosiers need to know that they have recourse when confronted with hate like they would in 45 other states,” explained Amy Nelson of the Central Indiana Alliance Against Hate. “The Fair Housing Center of

Central Indiana launched the Central Indiana Alliance Against Hate to draw additional attention to this important topic and to bring organizations together who want to take a stand against hate,” 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/>*

***About the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana***

*The Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) is a private, nonprofit fair housing organization founded in 2011 and based in Indianapolis, Indiana. Its mission is to ensure equal housing opportunities by eliminating housing discrimination through advocacy, enforcement, education and outreach. More information on the FHCCI is at: [www.fhcci.org](http://www.fhcci.org)*