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Central Indiana Alliance Against Hate Launches Tracking Hate Database *Hoosiers can confidentially report hate-based crimes and incidents*

Better data will improve response and assistance for victims

INDIANAPOLIS – August 17, 2017 – The Central Indiana Alliance Against Hate (CIAAH) today announced the launch of a new tool that will help reporting of hate-based crimes and incidents in Indiana. The [Tracking Hate Database](#) will become a resource where victims and witnesses of hate-based crimes and incidents involving violence, threats, and bullying can share their experience. The goal is to educate the public, empower others, and show service providers where help is needed, and strengthen advocacy efforts. The announcement was made at the inaugural **Indiana Response to Hate Conference**, the first of its kind event featuring national and local anti-hate crimes speakers and authorities, which brought together people committed to combating and addressing hate-based crimes and incidents as well as provided hate crime prevention training.

Victims and witnesses can access the database at: <http://www.fhcci.org/ciaah/reporting-hate-indiana/> where they will be asked to confidentially answer a number of questions, such as where the incident occurred and provide a description of the incident. They will also be asked whether or not the incident has been reported to law enforcement or another agency and to determine what group(s) were targeted from a list that includes: Disability, gender identity/expression, gender, race/color, sexual orientation, national origin/immigration status, religion or other.

“The recent hate-based violence in Charlottesville, Va. exemplifies that now more than ever we need to come together as a community to reduce hate and promote love and acceptance by creating resources for responding to hate, and by serving as a network for victims of hate to seek assistance,” said Amy Nelson, executive director at Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana. “There is insufficient hate crime data for Indiana due to the fact that we lack a hate crime law requiring agencies to report these incidents. Therefore, it’s imperative we have a tool for citizens to confidentially document these incidents when they become aware of them or unfortunately experience them firsthand, so we can monitor the depth, scope and occurrences and help improve assistance for victims,” said Nelson.

The CIAAH is a project of the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana and was created to reduce the occurrence and combat the consequences of hate crimes and hate-based incidents occurring in Central Indiana. It was formed in March 2017 thanks to a \$125,000 “Communities Against Hate” rapid-response grant awarded to Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana from the Open Society Foundations and has grown to include more than 50 nonprofits, organizations, and businesses plus individual members. The formation of the CIAAH is in response to Indiana being one of only five States in the country without a hate crimes law, despite Indiana being ranked as the 13th state with the most active hate groups in 2016. At least one time per week, on average, Hoosiers are targeted for violence or vandalism because of who they are, where they come from, and/or what they believe, according to FBI data.

About Central Indiana Alliance Against Hate

The Central Indiana Alliance Against Hate (CIAAH) 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 occurring in Central Indiana. More information on the CIAAH is at www.fhcci.org/ciaah/

About 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.

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