

Statements on “Exposing White Supremacy in New Jersey”

Colonel Patrick Callahan, Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police:

Within law enforcement ranks, there is no room for bias, bigotry, or hatred of any kind. But we cannot build trust with the public unless we make ourselves available for candid discussions. The State Police have taken enormous strides to build, foster, and maintain trust in the communities that we serve. We are committed to doing the work.

Richard Smith, President, New Jersey State Conference of the NAACP:

The NAACP NJ State Conference applauds the continued efforts of the Attorney General in preparing this Report which sheds further light on the real and present dangers of white supremacy in New Jersey. The Report and its findings should be widely distributed and emphasized throughout the State. White supremacy continues to thrive in the shadows and in the open throughout New Jersey. Long ago, science and civilized society rejected the theory that one race could be more superior than another on the sole basis of such genetic and social characteristics. The fallacy of white supremacist ideology is nothing more than a fairy tale told again and again. Yet, here we are again renewing our continued calls on the Attorney General and everyone reading this Report that the hate spread from these white supremacists are a continued and growing threat to all of us. Generations of NAACP members have warned about this threat since our founding over a century ago in 1909, and too many have turned a deaf ear. That white supremacy movement upon which we formed to counteract is the same white supremacy movement we talk of today. When the Supreme Court unabashedly – and illogically – declares racism to be over in the United States, white supremacy undeniably has power and momentum today. Our work continues, but it will take all of us to root out white supremacy wherever it thrives or hides.

Amol Sinha, Executive Director, ACLU of New Jersey:

We commend Attorney General Platkin, Director Iyer and the Division on Civil Rights for committing to exposing white supremacy and advancing racial justice for the people of New Jersey. This comprehensive report makes clear an unavoidable truth: white supremacy remains a danger in every community across the state, including law enforcement, and we must take urgent action to uproot it. As we strive to be anti-racist in every facet of our work, the ACLU-NJ remains committed to joining DCR, our partners, and community members in dismantling white supremacy in New Jersey.

Scott Richman, Regional Director – New York and New Jersey Region, Anti-Defamation League:

At a time when white supremacist propaganda efforts in our Nation have more than doubled, we are grateful that New Jersey's Division on Civil Rights is responding to the needs in New Jersey, where bias incidents continue to rise each year and where ADL's Audit showed a record number of antisemitic incidents for 2022 – the third highest across the nation.

Selaedin Maksut, Executive Director, CAIR New Jersey:

White supremacy has very tangible and measurable harms. We see it manifest on a systematic level, like when non-white groups are trapped in cycles of poverty, and in the everyday, like when Muslims experience targeted harassment and discrimination in public, at school, and in their places of employment. This past year, we've seen a sharp increase in anti-Muslim incidents – a 46 percent increase from 2021 to 2022 – in the workplace, schools, at the hands of law enforcement, and more. This is partially due to white supremacy, and it has cost average Muslims their jobs, inflicted traumas on Muslim students in schools, and hindered Muslims from travel and other daily activities. We can't keep waiting for white supremacy and systemic racism to dissipate on their own. It requires active work, and it is absolutely imperative for allies to take direction from targeted communities, as this report suggests, when working to dismantle white supremacy.

Cuqui Rivera, Criminal Justice Reform Chair, Latino Action Network:

This report is tragically necessary to memorialize in 2023 just how challenging it is in New Jersey, this country & frankly this world to treat each other as human beings. This white supremacist thirst for dominance and power over others is simply evil. The more we can combat hate in real and enforceable ways, the better this world will be. Thank you, Attorney General Platkin, Director Iyer, and team for this work.

Amber Reed, President, and Jeffrey Chang, Chair of the Advocacy Committee, AAPI Montclair:

We applaud the Division on Civil Rights (DCR) for this path-breaking report on the roots and signs of white supremacy and the impact of bias and hatred on communities of color. The Asian American and Pacific Islander community is all too familiar with the toll of white supremacist violent extremism, and stands in solidarity with other historically marginalized communities and the youth who courageously contributed to this report. All New Jerseyans – including in schools, workplaces, and state and local government – must fully utilize every tool we have to combat white supremacy, including in addressing white supremacist infiltration of positions of public trust. We encourage everyone to take

advantage of DCR's trainings and resources and connect with community organizations like ours as we work together to develop resources, policies, and programs that will address the causes and harms of racialized hatred and create upstanders of us all.

Christian Fuscarino, Executive Director, Garden State Equality:

This report unequivocally confirms that white supremacist violent extremists pose a persistent, hostile, and lethal threat to our State and our Nation. We applaud Attorney General Platkin and his office for prioritizing this report and shining a light on this dark evil within our state's borders. The details of this report are a call to action for all New Jersey residents to unite against hate, dismantle white supremacy, and hold ourselves, each other, and our institutions accountable. At Garden State Equality, we see daily the harsh realities that white supremacy has on LGBTQ communities, especially for Trans and BIPOC individuals. We must listen to the voices of those targeted by white supremacy, refuse to normalize or mainstream hate, proactively address racism with our youth, recognize signs of radicalization, and provide resources and support systems to combat white supremacy. When all of those whom are targeted by white supremacy unite, we can protect our communities and strive for a more inclusive and equitable future.