



**Mayor's Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes
Testimony to the New York City Council
Committees to Combat Hate
Tuesday, June 23, 2026**

Good afternoon, Chair Salaam, members of the Committee to Combat Hate, and all members of the New York City Council. My name is Vijah Ramjattan, and I am the Executive Director of the New York City Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes (OPHC), which, under Mayor Mamdani's leadership, is now proudly part of the City's new Office of Community Safety.

Before I begin, I want to thank Mayor Mamdani the Deputy Mayor for Community Safety Renita Francois, and the Commissioner of the Office of Community Safety, Dr. Ayesha Delany-Brumsey for their bold vision and for making the prevention of hate a genuine priority of this administration. The decision to bring OPHC into the Office of Community Safety was not a routine reorganization. It was a clear statement of values: that preventing hate before it ever takes hold is not peripheral to public safety, it is central to it. That commitment has finally given offices like ours the mandate, the partners, and the support to do this work at the scale our city deserves.

For too long, hate prevention has often been treated as an afterthought, expected to solve growing challenges without the resources necessary to meet the moment. This Administration has made a different choice.

The Mamdani Administration has made an unprecedented commitment to hate prevention by increasing funding for OPHC by \$26 million, an increase of more than 800 percent. This historic investment recognizes that preventing hate is not simply about responding after incidents occur; it is about building resilient communities where hate cannot take root in the first place.

For the first time, OPHC is being resourced at a scale that matches both the urgency of its mission and the diversity of the city it serves. That investment will allow us to expand programming, deepen partnerships, reach more communities, hire more staff, and build a citywide prevention infrastructure.

It is an investment worthy of our City, the most diverse city in the world.

That diversity is one of our greatest strengths, but it also requires intentional investments to keep those bonds strong:

- Investments in relationship-building;
- Investments in education;
- Investments in community trust.

Today, I would like to highlight how OPHC, with the backing of the Mamdani administration, fulfills its mission to prevent hate, strengthen communities, and foster belonging across our city.

No New Yorker should ever feel unsafe because of their identity, beliefs, appearance, or background. This administration has made that principle a foundation of its community safety agenda, and OPHC is proud to help carry it forward.

One of the primary ways we accomplish this work is through Partners Against the Hate, or PATH.

PATH is the backbone of New York City's community-based hate prevention infrastructure. Through six anchor organizations and more than 40 sub-vendors, PATH provides culturally responsive programming in more than 20 languages and reaches communities across all five boroughs.

Because we believe hate prevention is not only about responding after harm occurs, PATH helps build resilient communities by creating opportunities for New Yorkers to connect, learn from one another, and recognize the common humanity that binds us together.

In Fiscal Year 2025 alone, through our PATH Initiative and OPHC-led programming, we conducted nearly 700 events, engaged more than 62,000 participants, and worked alongside over 240 community partners in over 20 different languages. These efforts included anti-hate education, victim support services, conflict de-escalation training, youth programming, and outreach to communities that have historically faced barriers to reporting hate incidents.

What makes PATH successful is that it is led by trusted organizations deeply rooted in the communities they serve. These organizations are often the first places residents turn for support, information, and healing after experiencing bias or hate. Core PATH partners—including the 67th Precinct Clergy Council, the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), the New York City Anti-Violence Project, the Arab American Association of New York, the Asian American Federation, and the Hispanic Federation—work together to combat antisemitism, anti-LGBTQ+ hate, Islamophobia, anti-Asian hate, anti-Arab hate, anti-Black racism, and other forms of bias while fostering inclusion, solidarity, and safety for all New Yorkers.

The impact extends beyond any single event. When communities have trusted relationships, know where to seek help, and feel connected to one another, they are better equipped to prevent conflicts from escalating, support victims when incidents occur, and build resilience against hate and bias.

Another way we accomplish this work is by bringing communities together through initiatives such as Unity in the Community: 7 on 7.

This initiative emerged during a period of heightened concern along Roosevelt Avenue in Queens. Public conversations about street vending, quality-of-life concerns, and changing conditions in the corridor were creating tension among residents and community groups,

threatening to erode trust and deepen division. Rather than allowing communities to retreat further into silos, OPHC chose to create spaces for dialogue and connection.

OPHC and its partners brought together diverse communities connected by the 7-train corridor, including South Asian, Southeast Asian, Latino, LGBTQIA+, and other communities. We partnered with city agencies to bring resources directly into neighborhoods while creating opportunities for residents to share experiences, learn about one another's cultures, and identify common concerns.

The goal was simple: to remind New Yorkers that there is more that unites us than divides us.

The initiative demonstrated the power of bringing communities together. By creating opportunities for residents to connect, share experiences, and build relationships, it helped strengthen trust, deepen understanding, and reinforce the sense of belonging that makes communities resilient. These connections are the foundation of community cohesion, helping neighbors see one another not as strangers, but as partners in building a stronger and more connected community.

Finally, a critical part of our long-term prevention strategy is investing in young people through our Youth Ambassador Leadership Program, or YALP.

Launched in October 2025 and in partnership with NYC Public Schools, YALP empowers young people between the ages of 8 and 18 to become ambassadors of inclusion, respect, and belonging.

The program brings together youth, parents, educators, mentors, and city leaders from across all five boroughs. Participants receive training in leadership development, civic engagement, public speaking, community organizing, and restorative practices.

What makes YALP particularly powerful is that young people are not simply learning about leadership, they are practicing it. Participants return to their schools and communities to lead projects, facilitate discussions, and serve as positive role models for their peers.

At a time when many young people are exposed to misinformation, division, and online hate, YALP provides an opportunity to equip the next generation with the tools necessary to build stronger and more inclusive communities.

The young people we engage today will become the community leaders, educators, public servants, business owners, and parents of tomorrow. By teaching empathy, leadership, civic engagement, and respect for differences now, we are investing in the long-term prevention of hate and bias before it takes root.

All told, our programming, which includes interfaith engagement, youth art projects, community dialogues, anti-hate education, and victim support services help build trust, strengthen



relationships across communities, support victims, and create opportunities for New Yorkers to engage across differences before conflict occurs.

As part of the Office of Community Safety, and with the support of Mayor Mamdani, Deputy Mayor Francois, and the newly appointed OCS Commissioner Dr. Ayesha Delany-Brumsey, OPHC is working closely with our partner offices to strengthen coordination, share data and best practices, and identify new opportunities to advance community safety. Together, we are helping shape a coordinated approach to prevention that recognizes the important role community engagement, education, and relationship-building play in keeping New Yorkers safe.

Mayor Mamdani's historic investment in OPHC will allow us to expand and enhance our work. We are exploring ways to deepen engagement within emerging communities, strengthen community-based hate prevention efforts, broaden access to culturally responsive programming, and build upon successful initiatives such as PATH, YALP, and Community Project Grants.

Finally, I want to emphasize that preventing hate is not the responsibility of any one agency. It requires collaboration across government, schools, faith communities, nonprofit organizations, community leaders, and everyday New Yorkers. We are fortunate to do this work under an administration that shares that belief and has backed it with real attention and investment.

OPHC is proud to serve as a convener and connector in that work.

Every day, we witness communities choosing understanding over division, dialogue over conflict, and unity over hate. Those moments may not always make headlines, but they are the foundation of a safer and stronger New York City,

Under Mayor Mamdani's leadership, we have a true opportunity to build a city where belonging is strengthened, communities are connected, and neighbors see one another as partners in a shared future. By investing in prevention, we can address the conditions that allow hate to take root and create communities that are more resilient, inclusive, and safe.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. I look forward to answering any questions you may have.

Testimony from Phylisa Wisdom, Executive Director
Mayor's Office to Combat Antisemitism
Community-based Prevention and Response to Hate and Bias - Committee to
Combat Hate
Tuesday, June 23, 2026 – 1 p.m.
250 Broadway, 8th Floor Hearing Room 1

Thank you, Chair Salaam and esteemed members of the Committee to Combat Hate.

The Mamdani Administration is deeply grateful to all of you for the work you do—both in this committee and outside of it—to ensure that our city remains safe and welcoming for every single New Yorker, regardless of their background.

Our city is in a delicate moment, even amidst the joy that so many of us have felt this summer. While hate crimes as a whole are on the decline, we see a distressing trend of rising hate crimes targeting the Jewish community—making up over 50% of the sum total.

As you may know, my office—the Mayor's Office to Combat Antisemitism—is in the midst of a listening tour with members of the Jewish community across the five boroughs. While we've heard universal appreciation for the diversity of this city and its rich Jewish culture, we've also heard some distressing anecdotes. Nearly every single “visibly Jewish” person we've spoken to (for example, someone who wears a kippah) has said that they've personally been the victim of an antisemitic incident. These incidents have left entire communities shaken, afraid to proudly do what they've done for years—to simply be who they are in the greatest city in the world. Whether or not these rise to the level of crimes, they represent a tear in the fabric of our city.

It's wrong, it's unacceptable, and it's something that my office—in collaboration with the NYPD, OPHC, CCHR, the Office of Mass Engagement, and many other offices, up to and including the Mayor himself—is working day in and day out to chip away at.

When this administration entered City Hall, the Mayor's Office to Combat Antisemitism was a six-month-old office consisting of a single employee. The work was not designed to stand the test of time, beyond any one administration.

We have set out to remedy that. I am joined in this work by Deputy Director Josh Binderman, and we are in the midst of growing our staff to at least one or two others. This office will be equipped to advance meaningful and proactive policy, programming, and messaging—with the goal of lasting for years after we leave City Hall.

We've revitalized this office's interagency work, meeting individually with nearly every single member of the interagency taskforce while also convening an initial group meeting to discuss how antisemitism arises in the contexts of various agencies. Previously, this taskforce had a single meeting, and members are enthusiastic about working together in pursuit of shared goals. We maintain strong, consistent open lines of communication with the NYPD, OPHC, CCHR, OME, and other relevant agencies. We've also served as a facilitator for conversations on these issues with a variety of agencies.

Our office has developed and retained close relationships with clergy, organizations, and other community leaders to understand how antisemitism impacts their day-to-day work and the New Yorkers they serve. Moreover, our office—along with the Office of Mass Engagement—plays a critical role in constituent services, ensuring that Jewish communities around New York City are able to access functions of government, while also ensuring cultural competency around agencies. Our office seeks to combat antisemitism with a robust, whole of government approach, with education on the front end and enforcement on the backend.

As I mentioned at the beginning of my testimony, my office is deep in the throes of our listening tour, having met with scores of Jewish New Yorkers from across the religious and political spectrum. We are using these sessions, in part, to help us develop what may be the first municipal strategy to combat antisemitism in the United States. We are tracking to have this released by the end of summer. Any New Yorker who is interested in joining a listening session or otherwise connecting with our office can reach out via the contact form on our website: <https://www.nyc.gov/main/combatantisemitism>.

On that note, this administration strongly believes that government should be accessible. Under the previous iteration of this office, there was no website, no way to contact the Office unless you had an existing connection. Therefore, it was a priority for us to develop a website, where New Yorkers could get in touch with us while also demonstrating details of some of the day-to-day work of the Office. The website will continue to be updated over the coming months and years, and we look forward to further developing and formalizing all of our communications practices from scratch.

Finally, I'd be remiss if I did not mention one of the most exciting priorities and accomplishments of the Mamdani Administration: the massive influx of funding into the OPHC. OPHC's funding has dramatically increased under this administration from \$3 million annually to *\$29 million annually—an increase of 886%*. We are in close communication with OPHC and the OCS regarding how to best use this increased funding to meaningfully combat antisemitism alongside our administration's work to combat all other forms of hate.

Thank you, again, for inviting my colleagues and I to testify before this critical committee. I look forward to answering your questions and to continuing our shared work over these coming years.



New York City Anti-Violence Project

55 Exchange Pl, Suite 404

New York, NY 10005

212.714.1184 voice | 212.714.2627 fax

212.714.1141 24-hour hotline

**Committee to Combat Hate Oversight Hearing: Community-Based Prevention and
Response to Hate and Bias
June 23, 2026**

Testimony of Leslie Allen, Director of Legal Services at the New York City Anti-Violence
Project (AVP)

Good afternoon Chair Salaam and members of the Committee.

My name is Leslie Allen, and I am the Director of Legal Services at the New York City Anti-Violence Project, or AVP. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on the importance of community-based responses to hate and bias.

For more than 40 years, AVP has supported LGBTQ+ and HIV-affected survivors of violence across New York City. We operate a 24-hour, 7-day-a-week bilingual hotline that serves as a lifeline for people experiencing hate violence, intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and other forms of harm. For many survivors, particularly transgender people, immigrants, and LGBTQ+ people of color, AVP is the first place they feel safe asking for help. As this Committee recognizes, many incidents of hate and bias never reach law enforcement. Survivors may fear retaliation, discrimination, outing, immigration consequences, or simply not being believed. That is why New York City needs trusted, community-based, non-carceral options where people can report harm, receive support, and connect with resources. AVP's hotline provides exactly that. Every day, our advocates help survivors navigate crisis, safety planning, counseling, legal services, and community support without requiring engagement with the criminal legal system.

Prevention is equally important. Through City Council support, AVP provides community safety trainings focused on de-escalation, bystander intervention, upstander skills, online safety, ICE preparedness and responding to hate violence. By the end of this fiscal year, AVP will have provided more than 40 workshops reaching hundreds of New Yorkers. We have also expanded our outreach directly into LGBTQ+ nightlife spaces. In Jackson Heights, Queens, AVP staff have conducted bar safety outreach events with Spanish-speaking LGBTQ+ bar staff and patrons, sharing information on violence prevention, community safety, immigration-related concerns, and access to AVP's services. These efforts meet people where they are and help build safer, more connected communities before violence occurs. Combating hate requires more than responding after harm has happened. It requires trusted relationships, culturally responsive services, and investments in community organizations that people know and rely upon. AVP is proud to serve as one of those trusted partners, and we thank the Council for its continued support of LGBTQ+ survivors and hate violence prevention efforts across New York City.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



WRITTEN TESTIMONY FOR SUBMISSION

Marisa Bearak
Assistant Director, AJC New York
American Jewish Committee (AJC)

The Jacob Blaustein Building
165 East 56th Street, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10022

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

To:
The Honorable Yusef Salaam
Chair, New York City Council Committee to Combat Hate

RE: Oversight Hearing — Community-Based Prevention and Response to Hate and Bias

Dear Chair Salaam and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of AJC New York, the regional office of the American Jewish Committee (AJC), thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding community-based prevention and response to hate and bias.

For more than a century, AJC has worked to enhance the well-being of the Jewish people and advance democratic values through advocacy, diplomacy, education, and coalition-building. In New York City, AJC engages regularly with elected officials, law enforcement agencies, educators, faith leaders, and community stakeholders to address antisemitism and strengthen relationships across diverse communities.

Through these partnerships, AJC convenes dialogues across religious and ethnic lines, provides expertise and training on antisemitism and contemporary hate trends, works with government officials on policy solutions, and engages civic and faith leaders on issues affecting the Jewish community. This work provides insight into the role that public policy, education, and cross-sector partnerships can play in preventing hate and strengthening social cohesion.

As an advocacy organization, our work has reinforced a critical lesson: effective responses to hate cannot begin only after an incident occurs. Sustainable progress requires investments in prevention, trust-building, and institutional coordination long before communities find themselves in crisis.

As home to the largest Jewish population outside of Israel and one of the most diverse cities in the world, New York City occupies a unique position in the fight against hate. The city's successes and failures often reverberate far beyond its borders. Efforts to strengthen prevention, improve coordination, and build trust across communities therefore carry implications not only for New Yorkers, but for other jurisdictions grappling with similar challenges.

The need for prevention is not theoretical. One finding from AJC's 2025 State of Antisemitism in America Report should give every New Yorker pause: more than half of Jewish New Yorkers—56 percent—reported changing their behavior out of fear of antisemitism, up from 36 percent in 2021. When members of a community feel compelled to conceal visible expressions of their identity, avoid certain places, or alter their daily routines because of fear, the impact extends far beyond individual incidents. It reflects a broader erosion of trust, belonging, and civic confidence.

Antisemitism provides a particularly important lens through which to understand this challenge. Historically, antisemitism has often served as an early warning sign of broader societal dysfunction. When antisemitic rhetoric, conspiracy theories, or acts of bias become normalized, other forms of hatred and intolerance frequently gain legitimacy as well. For this reason, combating antisemitism is part of the broader effort to protect a diverse and democratic society.

As the Council evaluates the city's approach to preventing and responding to hate, AJC encourages consideration of four priorities.

Strengthening Government-Community Partnerships

The most effective responses to hate are built on relationships that exist before a crisis emerges. Government agencies should continue investing in sustained engagement with community organizations, faith institutions, and civic leaders representing New York City's diverse populations. These relationships foster trust, improve communication, and enable more effective responses when incidents occur.

Partnerships are most successful when they are ongoing rather than transactional. Communities that have established relationships with public officials and agencies before a crisis are better positioned to share concerns, access resources, and work collaboratively toward solutions when challenges arise.

Expanding Education and Training

Hate and bias are constantly evolving. Public officials, educators, and law enforcement personnel benefit from ongoing opportunities to better understand the manifestations of antisemitism and other forms of prejudice, as well as the distinct ways different communities experience hate.

Education remains one of the most effective tools available for prevention. Training should equip stakeholders not only to respond to incidents, but also to recognize emerging trends, understand the historical context of various forms of hate, and engage effectively with impacted communities.

Improving Coordination Across Institutions

Preventing hate requires a whole-of-society approach. City agencies, law enforcement, educational institutions, and community organizations each play important roles, but these efforts are most effective when they are coordinated. Strengthening mechanisms for collaboration and information-sharing can help ensure that responses are timely, informed, and responsive to community needs.

Too often, organizations and agencies work toward similar goals without sufficient communication or coordination. The city can play an important convening role in bringing stakeholders together and fostering collaboration across sectors.

Enhancing Data Collection and Transparency

Reliable data is essential for understanding trends, identifying emerging threats, and allocating resources effectively. Continued efforts to improve reporting mechanisms and increase public transparency regarding incidents of hate and bias will better equip policymakers and community leaders to respond proactively rather than reactively.

Data alone will not solve these challenges, but effective policymaking depends upon a clear understanding of where incidents are occurring, which communities are being affected, and how trends evolve over time.

New York City's diversity is one of its defining strengths. Preserving that strength requires more than condemning acts of hate after they occur. It requires sustained investment in the relationships, institutions, and policies that make hate less likely to flourish in the first place.

At a time when many New Yorkers feel increasingly disconnected from one another and when hate and prejudice continue to threaten our shared civic life, the importance of prevention cannot be overstated. Building trust, strengthening institutions, and fostering meaningful relationships across communities are not ancillary to combating hate; they are among the most effective tools we possess.

AJC New York appreciates the Committee's attention to these issues and looks forward to continuing to work with city leaders and community partners to strengthen New York City's efforts to prevent and respond to hate and bias.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.



Testimony of the Arab American Association of New York

New York City Hall
Committee to Combat Hate

June 23, 2026

Thank you, Chair Yusuf Salaam, and members of the Committee to Combat Hate, for holding this hearing and providing us with the opportunity to testify. My name is Maryam Shuaib, and I am the Coalition Organizer at the Arab American Association of New York.

Since our inception, AAANY has been on the frontline fighting against the continued rise in hate violence in New York City. Since 2021, AAANY joined the Partners Against the Hate Forward Initiative (P.A.T.H) under the Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes (OPHC), sub-anchoring 5 organizations including Adhikaar, Malikah, Council of American Islamic Relations New York (CAIR NY), Jews for Racial & Economic Justice (JFREJ), and the Sikh Coalition.

AAANY and our sub-anchor partners are playing a leading role in addressing, preventing, and responding to the continued increase of hate violence in NYC. We have facilitated hundreds of community safety trainings, trained thousands of community members, provided victim services and legal support to victims of hate, and advocated on the legislative level for laws that protect our communities.

Over the past decade, we've continued to witness an alarming increase of hate violence attacks in NYC. In January 2026, 3 Muslim women were violently attacked in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn due to their visibly Muslim identity shown through the hijabs they wore. The AAANY team worked with the victims, who were all Arabic speakers, by offering mental health services, ensuring the predator is held accountable, and facilitating referrals to the Council on American-Islamic Relations of New York for reporting and legal support. When community based organizations respond to hate crimes, the approach is accessible and culturally competent, and the impact is evident. In response to this attack, AAANY organized a rapid response self defense training with Malikah, to train our community members on bystander intervention, situational awareness, and equip them with the skills needed to protect themselves.



Testimony of the Arab American Association of New York

New York City Hall
Committee to Combat Hate

June 23, 2026

Most recently, we also witnessed the violent shooting attack rooted in hate on the Islamic Center of San Diego, and observed the following hate violence attacks that took place in NYC, including a predator throwing eggs targeting Muslim worshippers at a Brooklyn Mosque and another threatening Muslim men with a knife at a Brooklyn restaurant. These incidents are a reminder that hate violence attacks continue to be on the rise against the Muslim, Arab and BIPOC communities.

The P.A.T.H. program has been an essential tool in supporting our organizations to respond to and prevent hate violence, and today we come to urge Council Members to join the mayor in backing the NYC Against Hate Violence proposal by investing funding into OPHC and the P.A.T.H. program. This program is essential and enables our organizations to formulate evidence-based and community oriented solutions to rising hate crimes. AAANY is dedicated to our continued advocacy, education, and empowerment to ensure all community members are safe from hate in NYC.

Testimony re: Funding for Hate Crime Prevention through the PATH Program

Submitted to New York City Council Committee on Public Safety

Submitted by Julio Cesar Herrera, Government Operations Director, Hispanic Federation

June 23, 2026

Chairman Salaam and all members of the Committee to Combat Hate—thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony before you today. My name is Julio Cesar Herrera, and I serve as Government Operations Director at Hispanic Federation (HF), a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering and advancing Hispanic communities through programs and legislative advocacy. Our testimony today reflects the collective experiences and insights of HF and our more than 100 New York City community-based partners, especially those involved in the city’s *Partners Against the Hate Forward* (PATH) Initiative.

Hispanic Federation has proudly served as a bedrock organization for the PATH Initiative, in partnership with the Mayor’s Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes. Since 2021, this initiative has allowed us to fund, convene, and work alongside trusted community-based organizations that are helping New Yorkers understand, report, and prevent hate crimes and bias incidents.

Through PATH, Hispanic Federation and our partners have reached immigrant workers, tenants, low-income New Yorkers, youth, LGBTQ+ individuals, and other residents who are too often vulnerable to harassment, discrimination, and targeted violence. Our partners consist of community-based organizations who intimately engage their own communities across the five boroughs.

In 2023, HF deployed more than ten community canvassers and surveyed more than 10,000 New Yorkers, and 31 percent (31%) didn’t know what legally constitutes a hate crime—and once they did, most realized (78%) they had already experienced one and never reported it. PATH exists to close that gap. Combating hate requires more than enforcement after harm has already occurred. It requires proactive education, prevention, trust-building, and sustained investment in the organizations that already have relationships with the communities most at risk.

To date, through this work, Hispanic Federation and our subgrantees have reached millions of individuals across New York City. That reach reflects thousands of moments where community members were able to learn their rights, ask questions, better understand available resources, and feel less alone.

Hispanic Federation is able to achieve this impact because PATH supports trusted subgrantees that bring culturally responsive, anti-bias, anti-discrimination, and anti-hate education into programming their communities already know and rely on. Through partners throughout the five



boroughs, hate crime prevention and reporting information has been incorporated into youth programming, community safety workshops art-based outreach, and Know Your Rights trainings for undocumented day laborers. HF has also expanded this work through broader outreach, including its Three Kings Day Dinner for newly arrived families, English and Spanish PSAs, radio placements, social media, and peer-to-peer text messaging campaigns connecting New Yorkers to hate crime prevention and reporting resources.

Despite the reach and measured deliverables of the PATH initiative, this endeavor remains deeply vulnerable without sustained investment. If support is reduced or eliminated, many of our subgrantees carrying out this work will be forced to scale back programming, limit outreach, or suspend services altogether. For these organizations who already operate with limited resources, even a modest disruption in funding can have significant consequences.

The loss of PATH funding would not only reduce programming but weaken years of trust-building in communities that have long experienced fear, underreporting, and disconnection from formal systems. Education efforts that help residents identify, report, and recover from hate incidents could disappear. Communities that already face language barriers, immigration concerns, housing insecurity, economic hardship, or discrimination would be left with fewer trusted places to seek help.

Hispanic Federation adamantly believes that combating hate is both a public safety responsibility and a statement of who we are as a city. Continued funding for PATH sends a clear message to our communities that New York City stands for dignity, inclusion, solidarity, and safety for all. It demonstrates that we will not look away from violence or discrimination that targets people because of who they are, where they come from, what language they speak, how they worship, or who they love.

We are deeply grateful to the Council for its continued leadership and for understanding how imperative PATH is to bolster the voices of the most marginalized members of our communities. We urge the Council to continue supporting this critical initiative and the community-based organizations that are on the front lines of preventing hate, supporting victims, and building a safer and more inclusive New York City.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your ongoing commitment to our communities.



Testimony Before the Combat Hate Committee Hearing
June 23, 2026

Madison Mounty
Director of Government Relations and Advocacy, Northeast
Simon Wiesenthal Center

Good afternoon, Chair Salaam, and members of the Committee to Combat Hate. Thank you for convening this critical oversight hearing.

My name is Madison Mounty, and I serve as the Director of Government Relations and Advocacy for the Simon Wiesenthal Center. For decades, the Simon Wiesenthal Center has fought antisemitism, hate, and bias by focusing on the most powerful tool for long-term prevention: education.

We are at a defining moment in New York City. The data shows a sobering, persistent rise in identity-based harassment and hate crimes, particularly targeting Jewish, Muslim, Asian American, and LGBTQ+ New Yorkers. While reactive measures are necessary, true safety begins with proactive community prevention. We must reach people before bias takes root—especially our youth.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center is actively doing this work on the ground nationally. I'm here to highlight the important work that we are doing across the five boroughs through two vital, community-led initiatives:

First, our *Combatting Hate in Digital Spaces* classroom workshops. In longstanding partnership with the City Council, SWC and our team of experienced educators have reached thousands of New York City public school students through our in-classroom *Combatting Hate in Digital Spaces* educational workshops. *Combatting Hate in Digital Spaces* is a learning experience designed for grades 7–12 and offered in classrooms across the five boroughs. Through the programs under this initiative, learners explore the formation of online identities and examine how digital systems such as AI and the algorithm influence and manipulate individual actions in digital spaces. With a focus on digital identity and civic responsibility, these workshops provide students with an identity Venn diagram handout that supports reflection on how their digital selves are shaped, as well as the responsibilities and real-world consequences that accompany their online presence.

Second, our *Mobile Museums of Tolerance (MMOT)*. We know that access to high-quality, immersive education shouldn't depend on a school's budget or zip code. The MMOT is a state-of-the-art, traveling classroom that brings world-class human rights and anti-bias education directly to New York City neighborhoods through the support of the NYS Legislature and Governor Hochul. Launched in 2024, our two MMOTs bring immersive tolerance education directly to schools and communities across the state. We use cutting-edge digital storytelling to engage audiences in learning about the Holocaust, Civil Rights Movement, digital literacy,

SWC ACTION | MUSEUMS OF TOLERANCE | MORIAH MEDIA

NORTHEAST REGION 25 Broadway, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10004 tel. 212.697.1180 www.wiesenthal.com

BUENOS AIRES CALIFORNIA CHICAGO FLORIDA JERUSALEM NEW YORK TORONTO VIENNA



antisemitism, racism, bullying, and social justice.

These programs are not just concepts; they are operational blueprints for community-based prevention that build empathy and resilience directly inside our neighborhoods.

However, to scale these efforts and meet the current and growing need, community organizations cannot do it alone. We urge the City Council to prioritize sustained investments in mobile, accessible education and SWC's digital literacy workshops that can reach every public school and community center in this city.

Safety and dignity cannot be selective; they must protect every single New Yorker. We applaud this Committee's ongoing leadership and stand ready to partner with you to expand these vital educational resources.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support of our critical work. I am happy to answer any questions.

Written Testimony of CAIR-NY

Council of the City of New York

Committee to Combat Hate

Hearing on Hate Violence Prevention

June 23, 2026

The Council on American Islamic Relations-New York would like to thank Chair Yusef Salaam and the entire Committee to Combat Hate for the opportunity to provide written testimony.

CAIR-NY is the largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization in New York State. Our mission is to protect civil liberties, promote justice and empower Muslim New Yorkers. We serve the 800,000-1 million Muslim New Yorkers from extremely diverse backgrounds, racial and ethnic origins, as well as non-Muslim communities that have long been among the primary targets of hate crimes in this city.

As many of you know, Mayor Mamdani invested \$26 million into the Department of Community Safety, which includes the Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes. This investment is a meaningful step toward addressing the persistent and deeply harmful patterns of hate and violence our communities have faced and ensuring this city flourishes as a place for all who live here. One thing is clear, hate crimes do not discriminate. They affect New Yorkers of all ages, faiths, and backgrounds. That is why we are here today to urge the City Council to match the mayor's commitment and to ensure these resources reach the community-based organizations on the front lines of this work.

Since October 2023, CAIR-NY witnessed a dramatic surge in reports of bias related incidents in the subway, in schools, workplaces, and neighborhoods where community is meant to gather and feel safe. These trends reveal that we are not dealing with isolated incidents of discrimination, violence, or harassment but rather a true reflection of a broader climate of dehumanization of vulnerable communities. This requires urgency and coordination between the City and Community-based organizations.

The numbers speak for themselves. Based on figures CAIR-NY has carefully collected, hate crimes against Muslims has risen an alarming 130% between 2020 and 2025 nationally. This represents only a fraction of actual incidents, as our communities consistently underreport due to fear, distrust, and lack of accessible resources.

Our Feeling the Hate report demonstrated:

- 64% of Muslims have experienced a hate crime, bias incident, or both.
- 66% believed that they were targeted because of their religion.
- Only 4% of those who experienced a hate crime reported it to law enforcement because they either do not trust law enforcement or feel it is not productive to report to such agencies.

- 34% of bias and hate crimes occurred in educational institutions.
- 75% of Muslim women have experienced a hate crime, bias incident, or both.

In 2024, the NYPD recorded 43 anti-Muslim hate crimes in New York City, yet CAIR-NY received significantly more reports from our community that same year. We are capturing more incidents than official police data reflects, which means there is a persistent and troubling gap between official data and reality on the ground. On a state-wide level, the New York State Comptroller reports hate crimes against Muslim New Yorkers rose 106% between 2018 and 2023. These are not abstract data points; these are people and entire communities.

Community-based organizations have been leading hate violence prevention efforts for years, fighting identity-based violence and providing trauma informed support to hate crime survivors long before dedicated city funding existed for this purpose. Truth be told, they have been compensating for reporting systems that still fail to support New York's most vulnerable communities.

CAIR-NY is a direct reflection of the communities we serve. We know our communities. We speak their language. We know their friends, their families, and we know the horrors many have faced while simply trying to go to work on time, take the subway with their children, learn in an unsupportive academic environment, and exercise their First Amendment rights.

We continue to receive consistent reports of Muslim women physically attacked in public spaces across all boroughs. We have had young New Yorkers reach out after being ostracized, insulted by instructors, and physically assaulted by their peers because of their faith. We have seen the worst of these incidents recently, after a shooting in a local Mosque in San Diego killed adult community members who were shielding hundreds of children. A hate filled tragedy fueled by anti-Muslim rhetoric from both online spaces and among elected officials. We should not wait until, God forbid, a similar horrific scene unfolds in NYC.

Speaking on behalf of many immigrant and Muslim New Yorkers we serve, many individuals share feeling apprehension and/or distrust of law enforcement and are unlikely to interact, self-advocate or self-report. This extends to government entities, including even city agencies that are designed to assist and alleviate day-to-day issues New Yorkers are facing. When a hate crime survivor does not trust that calling 911 will make them safer, their trauma is absorbed and path to healing runs through organizations like ours.

We understand the barriers and historically seen extreme discrepancies in the number of hate crimes reported to authorities and the number of hate crimes Muslim New Yorkers reportedly face annually. It is a severe problem, but it is not the only issue. It takes cultural sensitivity, community education, healing, empowerment, and collaboration within and across communities to prevent the climbing number of hate crimes taking place here in New York City.

The OPHC, Partners Against the Hate NYC program is the kind of initiative this city needs to keep expanding and resourcing. This initiative has been dedicated to channeling efforts of organizations with deep roots in affected communities to document what law enforcement is missing, educate and empower communities, and to help prevent hate crimes. Government agencies must work with grassroots organizations to reach neglected communities and achieve the level of impact we make every year for New York City.

In alignment with our NYC Against Hate Coalition partners here today, we urge Council Members to join our mayor in committing the full \$26 million investment. Dedication to building a stronger New York City starts with community safety, and we desperately need your support to back the [NYC Against Hate Violence](#) proposal.

Hate violence is not a new issue for our city, and it will take more than government action to resolve it. With appropriate investment, we can do much more preventive work that the city urgently needs.

New York does not stand for hate. Brutal acts of violence can be avoided with your support to direct these resources where they matter the most and maximize impact on communities. Mayor La Guardia once said, "I want justice on the broadest scale. Not the justice that is handed out in police courts, but the justice that gives everyone some chance for the beauty and the better things of life."

No New Yorker should have to choose between their safety and their fear of the systems meant to protect them. Fund community-based hate violence prevention today and make New York City a safer place tomorrow.

**The New York City Council
Committee to Combat Hate**

Oversight – Community-based Prevention and Response to Hate and Bias.

June 23, 2026

Written Testimony

Good afternoon. My name is Anmol Aulakh, and I am speaking on behalf of the Sikh Coalition in support of meaningful, sustained investments in hate crime and violence prevention in New York City.

For the Sikh community, this issue is not abstract. The Sikh Coalition was founded in the aftermath of 9/11, when Sikh Americans - especially those who wear turbans and maintain articles of faith - were targeted with violence, harassment, discrimination, and profiling. More than two decades later, Sikh Americans remain one of the most targeted religious communities in the country. National FBI data continues to indicate Sikhs as the third-most targeted religious group, even though we are a small community relative to the broader population.

Hate violence remains a serious and persistent threat, yet our current systems still do not fully capture the scope of the problem. Many incidents are not reported, and others seem to be misclassified or misunderstood. For communities like ours, where bias is often rooted in perceived and mistaken identity, racism, xenophobia, Islamophobia, and religious ignorance, better reporting and community trust are essential.

That is why the Sikh Coalition supports the proposed investments from the Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes and the Office of Community Safety. We urge this Committee and the New York City Council to support these additions to ensure that this funding is used to build real community-centered infrastructure. For the Sikh community, meaningful investment should include several priorities.

It should include community-based reporting pathways, so people who experience hate, harassment, or bias can seek support without being forced into systems they may not understand. This is especially important for immigrants, workers, youth, elders, and people with limited English proficiency.

It should include sustained funding for community-based organizations that already have trust within impacted communities. Programs, such as the Partners Against The Hate FORWARD initiative, are important because they allow organizations to conduct outreach, educational programs, relationship-building, and rapid response in culturally competent ways. But small grants alone cannot meet the scale of the crisis. Organizations need full-time capacity, multilingual materials, training support, and flexible funding to respond to what communities are actually experiencing.

It should include proactive relationship-building across communities. Hate violence often grows from fear, misinformation, isolation, and scapegoating. The city should fund programs and expand existing ones that bring communities together around shared goals, neighborhood safety, and mutual understanding before tensions escalate.

It should include anti-bias education that accurately reflects communities like ours. Many New Yorkers still know very little about Sikhs, our articles of faith, our history, and our contributions to this city. That

lack of understanding can have real safety consequences. Education alone will not end hate, but it is a necessary part of prevention.

It should include rapid response and survivor support, so that impacted individuals do not have to navigate trauma alone. When a Gurdwara Sahib Ji, small business, taxi driver, student, or family is targeted, the response should include language accessibility, legal referrals, mental health support, community safety planning, and clear communication from city agencies.

Finally, it should include accountability for how this funding is spent. If the Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes is receiving a major increase from its prior budget, community organizations and impacted communities must have a real role in shaping implementation. We have the opportunity to build a prevention model that is measurable, transparent, and rooted in community expertise.

The Sikh Coalition believes that all New Yorkers deserve to live, work, worship, commute, and gather without the fear of being targeted because of who they are or how they are perceived. New York City can utilize this funding to move beyond a reactive approach and invest in the long-term infrastructure that prevents hate violence.

We urge this Committee and the New York City Council to support these hate crime prevention and community safety investments to ensure that they are implemented in partnership with communities that are impacted the most. Thank you.

Dear Committee Members,

As an employee of an educational institution, I understand the concern and need to ensure the safety of students in places of learning. However, I am writing in support of Mayor Mamdani's veto with feedback for your consideration as you work to revise the 175-b bill.

Based on the information I can find, this gives a wide berth to the police commissioner and relies solely on their discretion, without any input from neighbors, community members, and stakeholders nearby. Irrespective of what kind of organization or institution is being protected, New York is a dense city. Any radius or perimeter will extend beyond the intended protected area.

The plan itself then leaves implementation entirely to the police force, again without community input or consideration for the neighborhoods density and context: "New York Police Department (NYPD) to use in determining *whether, when, and the extent to which* security perimeters may be used to protect entry to and egress from educational facilities," I am not sure what is meant by the italicized parts, but it seems to me this will lead to unnecessary confrontations between the police force and members of the public.

If K-12 schools have concerns about safety, protests, etc., they can choose to request help from the police force, or a public safety group, or a community watch group. This bill takes that choice away from citizens and gives their decision-making power to the NYPD and the commissioner. I write in favor of community leadership, as they know their neighborhood best in order to establish or request support in protecting its perimeter when needed.

My final concern is that NYPD presence on or near K-12 schools will inevitably lead to confrontation and criminalization of black and brown teen students from economically disadvantaged communities. I would urge getting additional input from students, teachers, and education providers that would be impacted before moving forward with a legislation resembling the proposals of 175-b.

Sincerely,
Grace Murray

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/23

Name: Phyllis Wisdom (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: _____

I represent: MACA

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

Name: Aliya Latif (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: _____

I represent: Office of Faith Based Partnerships

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/23/26

Name: Scott Richman (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 605 Third Avenue, New York, NY

I represent: ADL

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

6/23/20

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Anmol Aulakh

Address: 83-32 253rd St Bellerose NY 11426

I represent: The Sikh Coalition

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Madison Mounty

Address: 25 Broadway, 17th Floor

I represent: Simon Wiesenthal Center

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

Reaffirm Support ☐ in favor ☐ in opposition
for PACT Initiative

Date: 06/23/2026

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Julio Cesar Herrera

Address: 55 Exchange Pl, 5th Floor, NY, NY 10007

I represent: Hispanic Federation

Address: 55 Exchange Pl

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: VISAH RAMJATTAN

Address: [REDACTED] Jamaica NY 11434

I represent: NYC OFFICE FOR THE PREVENTION of Hate Crime

Address: 1 Center Street NY NY 10007

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/23/26

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Sofia Tobia Gage

Address: _____

I represent: CAIR-NY

Address: 233 Broadway suite 820

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Hillary Stuchin

Address: _____

I represent: UNA - Federation of New York

Address: 130 E 59th St NYC, NY 10022

◆ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◆

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/23/26

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: MARISA BEARAK

Address: _____

I represent: American Jewish Committee

Address: _____

◆ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◆