



**PREVENTING
YOUTH HATE
CRIMES &
BULLYING**
An OJJDP Initiative

Virtual Symposium: *Understanding and Preventing Youth Hate Crimes and Identity-Based Bullying*

October 17–18, 2023

Meet Our Presenters

DAY 1: *Opening and Welcome*



Chyrl Jones

*Deputy Administrator
Office of the Administrator
Office of Juvenile Justice and
Delinquency Prevention*

Chyrl Jones is the Deputy Administrator for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), where she oversees several programs and initiatives, including mentoring, Tribal youth, gang prevention, internet crimes against children, missing and exploited children, child advocacy centers, drug courts, reentry, and formula grant programs. She also oversees training and technical assistance, communications, and budgeting activities. Ms. Jones previously served as the Deputy in OJJDP's former State Relations and Assistance Division and worked on behalf of designated state agencies for 15 years. Before coming to DOJ, she worked at the National Governors Association on maternal and child health issues, the University of Maryland on environmental health concerns, and C-SPAN. Ms. Jones holds a bachelor's degree in cultural anthropology from the University of the District of Columbia.



DAY 1: Opening and Welcome



Saeed Mody
*Deputy Associate
Attorney General
Office of the Associate
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice*

Saeed Mody, Esq., is the Deputy Associate Attorney General in DOJ's Office of the Associate Attorney General. When he assumed this role in May 2022, he was designated as DOJ's first-ever Anti-Hate Crimes Resources Coordinator. Previously, he served as Deputy Chief of the Civil Rights Division of DOJ, managing a team of federal prosecutors investigating civil rights crimes, including police misconduct and bias-motivated crimes across the country. He was also a Trial Attorney for the Civil Rights Division of DOJ, where he served as a federal civil rights prosecutor investigating and prosecuting hate crimes, police misconduct, and human trafficking cases nationwide. In 2021, he completed an assignment as Counsel for the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, where he developed and executed legislative and policy priorities on civil rights, national security, and cybersecurity for Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Richard Durbin. He began his career as an Assistant District Attorney at the Kings County District Attorney's Office in Brooklyn, NY. Mr. Mody has a bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Austin and a Juris Doctor from the University of Texas School of Law.

Keynote Presentation



Dennis Shepard
*Board Member Emeritus
Matthew Shepard Foundation*

Dennis Shepard is the father of Matthew Shepard and Board Member Emeritus of the Matthew Shepard Foundation. He has publicly spoken out against hate and bigotry since the 1998 hate-motivated murder of his son in Laramie, WY. Born in Scottsbluff, NE, Mr. Shepard earned a degree in education from the University of Wyoming before marrying his wife, Judy, in 1973 and settling in Casper, WY, to raise their family. An oil industry safety specialist, he worked for more than 16 years in safety operations for Saudi Aramco in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, before retiring in 2009. He has served on the Matthew Shepard Foundation Board of Directors since the organization's inception in 1998. The Matthew Shepard Foundation's mission is to amplify the story of Matthew Shepard to inspire individuals, organizations, and communities to embrace the dignity and equality of all people. Through local, regional, and national outreach, they empower individuals to find their voice to create change and challenge communities to identify and address hate that lives within their schools, neighborhoods, and homes. He currently speaks to audiences nationwide, particularly victims' advocacy organizations and law enforcement audiences, about his experiences and the importance of equal treatment of LGBTQ crime victims and their loved ones.



DAY 1: Introduction—NIJ Research and Highlights on Youth Hate Crimes and Bullying



Dr. Nancy La Vigne
Director
National Institute of Justice

Nancy La Vigne, PhD, is the Director of the Office of Justice Programs' (OJP) National Institute of Justice (NIJ). As head of NIJ, Dr. La Vigne leads DOJ's research, technology, and evaluation agency, overseeing a wide array of social science research projects, technology initiatives, and forensic activities focused on improving public safety and ensuring the fairness and effectiveness of the justice system.

Dr. La Vigne is a nationally recognized criminal justice policy expert and former nonprofit executive whose expertise ranges from policing and corrections reform to reentry, criminal justice technologies, and evidence-based criminal justice practices. Her previous position was Senior Fellow at the Council on Criminal Justice (CCJ), where she served as Executive Director of the Council's Task Force on Policing. Prior to joining CCJ, she served as Vice President of Justice Policy at the Urban Institute, a nonprofit social policy research organization based in Washington, DC. Over the course of a decade, she directed Urban's Justice Policy Center, and from 2014 to 2016, she also served as Executive Director of the congressionally mandated bipartisan Charles Colson Task Force on Federal Corrections Reform.

Before being appointed as Director of the Justice Policy Center in 2009, Dr. La Vigne served for 8 years as a Senior Research Associate at Urban, leading groundbreaking research on prison reentry. Prior to joining Urban, she was the Founding Director of the Crime Mapping Research Center at NIJ and was Special Assistant to OJP's Assistant Attorney General. She previously served as Research Director for the Texas Sentencing Commission.

Dr. La Vigne holds a doctoral degree in criminal justice from Rutgers University-Newark, a master's degree in public affairs from the Lyndon B. Johnson School at the University of Texas-Austin, and a bachelor's degree in government and economics from Smith College.



DAY 1: Session 1—Research and Trends: Identity-Based Bullying, Youth Hate Crimes, and Hate Groups Two Years Later



Dr. Dorothy Espelage
*Professor of Education
University of North Carolina*

Dorothy Espelage, PhD, is a William C. Friday Distinguished Professor of Education at the University of North Carolina and the recipient of the American Psychological Association (APA) Lifetime Achievement Award in Prevention Science and the 2016 APA Award for Distinguished Contributions to Research in Public Policy. Over the last 22 years, she has authored more than 230 peer-reviewed articles, 7 edited books, and 80 chapters on bullying, homophobic teasing, sexual harassment, dating violence, and gang violence. Her research focuses on translating empirical findings into prevention and intervention programming. Dr. Espelage advises members of Congress and the Senate on bully prevention legislation and conducts regular webinars for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institutes of Health, and NIJ to disseminate research. Her research findings are guiding state, national, and international efforts to prevent youth violence and promote positive school climates. She earned her doctoral degree in counseling psychology from Indiana University in 1997.



Michael Lieberman
*Senior Policy Counsel for
Hate and Extremism
Southern Poverty Law Center*

Michael Lieberman, Esq., is the Senior Policy Counsel for Hate and Extremism at the Southern Poverty Law Center. He is the former Washington Counsel for the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), a position he held for more than 30 years. Mr. Lieberman led domestic policy advocacy for the League, including hate crimes and confronting hate groups and extremism, religious liberty and church-state separation, gender, LGBTQ equality, and voting rights. As ADL Washington Counsel, he led their civil rights coalition-building efforts and advocacy on domestic policy issues, including hate crime prevention, religious freedom and church-state separation, LGBTQ and women’s equality, and voting rights issues. He received DOJ’s 2015 Meritorious Public Service Award for his leadership work in helping to enact and implement the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr., Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009 and his work building coalitions to combat hate violence.



Dr. Tom Scherer
Independent Consultant

Thomas Scherer, PhD, is a research-practitioner of foreign policy and international intervention. Dr. Scherer directs research on improving foreign policy analysis and decision-making processes at fp21, a nonprofit think tank dedicated to transforming the processes and institutions of U.S. foreign policy. He has previously worked on peace, conflict, and data issues at the University of California San Diego and the U.S. Institute of Peace. He holds a doctoral degree in politics from Princeton University.



DAY 1: Session 2—Understanding the Nexus of Hate and Targeted Violence



Dr. Peter Collins
*Forensic Psychiatrist
Ontario Provincial Police*

Peter Collins, MCA, MD, has been a Forensic Psychiatrist with the Ontario Provincial Police since 1995. From 1990 to 1995, he was a member of the first profiling unit of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (Violent Crime Analysis Section). He was involved in developing the Violent Crime Linkage Analysis System. Since 1992, he has been a member of the crisis/hostage negotiation team of the Toronto Police Service Emergency Task Force. His clinical appointment is with the Complex Care and Recovery Program at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. Dr. Collins is an Associate Professor in the Division of Forensic Psychiatry at the University of Toronto’s Temerty Faculty of Medicine. He is a Certified Threat Assessment Professional (Canada) through the Canadian Association of Threat Assessment Professionals. In 2023, the Minister of Public Safety of Canada appointed him to the National Expert Committee on Countering Radicalization to Violence. He is an authority on violent crime and has worked with and instructed numerous criminal justice agencies in North America and 26 countries internationally, including the FBI, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Interpol, and Europol. Dr. Collins obtained his master’s in applied criminology (MCA) from the University of Ottawa, his medical degree from McMaster University, and completed his postgraduate medical training in psychiatry and forensic psychiatry at the University of Toronto.



Jordan Garza
*Regional Prevention
Coordinator
U.S. Department of
Homeland Security*

Jordan Garza is the Regional Prevention Coordinator at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships. He works to form partnerships between federal, state, and local governments and society to build local prevention frameworks that prevent targeted violence and terrorism. Mr. Garza has held multiple positions within various local, state, and federal government levels, specializing in reentry, community outreach, and crime prevention. While with DOJ, he served as the Program Coordinator for multiple agencywide initiatives. One specific initiative was the National Public Safety Partnership, which provided an innovative framework to enhance federal support of state, local, and Tribal law enforcement and prosecution authorities to help reduce violent crimes and enhance public safety. This work resulted in a national case study. He has his bachelor’s degree in health science from the American Military University, specializing in communication, healthcare delivery, data analysis, and strategic planning. Mr. Garza has completed Basic and Advanced SWAT/SRT school and is a Certified Master Trainer in Behavior Threat Assessment and Threat Management through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Office of Intelligence and Analysis.



DAY 1: Session 2—Understanding the Nexus of Hate and Targeted Violence



Jeff Schoep
*Founder and President
Beyond Barriers USA*

Jeff Schoep is the Founder and President of Beyond Barriers USA, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing hate and violent extremism through education, community outreach, and personal interventions. Before starting Beyond Barriers, Mr. Schoep led the largest neo-Nazi organization in the United States. For 25 years, he was infamous for stoking the flames of division and hate as the national leader of America's largest neo-Nazi party, the National Socialist Movement (NSM). His life was changed forever through interpersonal relationships and dialogue with those he once vilified. In 2019, he left the NSM and publicly denounced the ideology he once espoused. He transitioned from mastering propaganda that promoted hatred and fear to total dedication to our shared humanity. He provides unique insights into the inner workings of far-right extremism from firsthand knowledge and personal experience. Mr. Schoep has spoken nationally and internationally, from synagogues to universities and from broadcasts such as Jada Pinkett Smith's *Red Table Talk* to speaking at the Nobel Peace Center in Oslo, Norway. Today, he is a consultant for the Simon Wiesenthal Center and an inspirational speaker for Conscious Campus. He works alongside community and government agencies, mental health professionals, academic research and development teams, and religious and educational institutions across the United States and abroad.



DAY 1: Session 3—It Ends with Me: Identifying and Confronting Religious-Based Hate and Identity-Based Bullying: Antisemitism and Islamophobia



Marwa Abdalla
Independent Consultant

Marwa Abdalla, MA, is a researcher, educator, and public speaker whose work focuses on media, culture, and communication. She is currently a PhD candidate in the School of Communication at the University of California San Diego, where she is a Jacobs Fellow. Her research focuses on the sanctioning and resilience of Islamophobia in American media and political discourses and the historical erasure of Black Muslim experiences in the United States. Her work has been recognized with several top paper awards, the President’s Award for Research, the Young Scholar Award for Outstanding Research on American Muslims, and the National Communication Association’s John T. Warren Award. She is the co-recipient of the 2022 National Communication Association’s Advancing the Discipline Grant and the 2021–2022 Waterhouse Family Institute Research Grant. She speaks regularly to diverse audiences about the challenges of racism, Islamophobia, and xenophobia. Ms. Abdalla received her bachelor’s degree in political science from Southwestern University in Georgetown, TX, and her master’s degree from the School of Communication at San Diego State University.

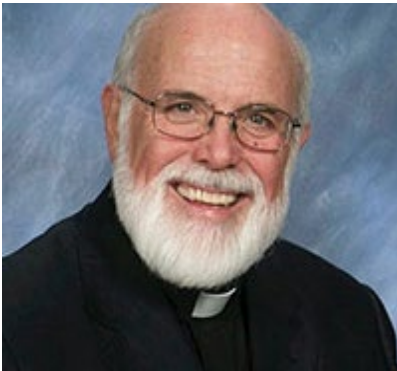


Rick Eaton
*Director of Research
Simon Wiesenthal Center*

Rick Eaton is the Director of Research at the Simon Wiesenthal Center (SWC), a Jewish global human rights organization researching the Holocaust and hate in a historical and contemporary context. As Co-Director of the Center’s Digital Terrorism and Hate Project, he has supervised the production of all 23 editions of the Digital Terrorism and Hate interactive report. He regularly meets with Facebook, Twitter, Google, YouTube, and other social networking companies to give feedback and assist in shaping policy. He has worked extensively with the California Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) and has served as a subject matter expert on 11 educational telecourses produced by POST and sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Mr. Eaton has testified in U.S. congressional hearings twice and participated in many Capitol Hill briefings. In his 37 years with SWC, he has conducted hundreds of training sessions with law enforcement, educators, civic groups, and schools.



DAY 1: Session 3—It Ends with Me: Identifying and Confronting Religious-Based Hate and Identity-Based Bullying: Antisemitism and Islamophobia



Father Joseph Muth
Reverend
St. Matthew Catholic Church
(retired)

Father Joseph “Joe” Muth, MA, is a Catholic priest and part-time campus chaplain at Notre Dame University of Maryland in Baltimore, MD. From 1990 until his retirement in 2021, he was a reverend at St. Matthew Catholic Church in Baltimore, a diverse faith community of people from 45 countries. In 2001, Father Muth helped the parish establish the Immigration Outreach Service Center to assist people with political asylum, status adjustment, and family reunification. The center is now an independent nonprofit and has expanded to provide medical services, English classes, job training, tutoring for children, and more. At St. Matthew, he served as a spiritual director of the parish outreach for gay and lesbian people, an initiative known as LEAD—LGBTQ Educating and Affirming Diversity. LEAD helps families and individuals dealing with questions of sexual orientation meet for prayer, conversation, and mutual support within the context of church teachings and traditions. In 2016, Father Muth and the St. Matthew pastoral council initiated an interfaith partnership with the Muslim community that connects and engages elementary school children in regular meetings and prayer services with the Ahmadiyya Mosque and the Al-Rahmah School, a Muslim pre-K, elementary, middle, and high school. He has a master’s degree in pastoral care from Fordham University.



DAY 2: Opening and Welcome



Liz Ryan
*Administrator
Office of Juvenile Justice and
Delinquency Prevention*

Liz Ryan, MA, became Administrator of OJJDP on May 16, 2022, following her appointment by President Joseph R. Biden. Before leading OJJDP, Ms. Ryan served as President and CEO of the Youth First Initiative, a national campaign focused on ending youth incarceration by investing in community-based alternatives. Ms. Ryan founded the Youth First Initiative in 2014; under her leadership, it achieved the closure of youth prisons in six states and redirected more than \$50 million to community-based alternatives to incarceration.

Ms. Ryan founded the Campaign for Youth Justice in 2005 and served as its President and CEO until 2014. The national, multistate initiative sought to end the prosecution of youth in adult criminal courts and the placement of youth in adult jails and prisons. During Ms. Ryan's tenure, the campaign's work led to legislative and policy changes in more than 30 states, a 60-percent decrease in the number of youth in adult courts, and a greater-than 50-percent decrease in the number of youth placed in adult jails and prisons.

Additionally, Ms. Ryan co-founded and co-chaired Act 4 Juvenile Justice, a campaign to reauthorize the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. She also served as Advocacy Director for the Youth Law Center, National Field Director for OJJDP's Juvenile Court Centennial Initiative, and as an advocate for the Children's Defense Fund. She has written extensively about juvenile justice reform, including articles, editorials, reports, and chapters in books. Ms. Ryan earned a bachelor's degree from Dickinson College and a master's degree in international studies from the George Washington University.



DAY 2: Session 1—Equipping Communities to Support Vulnerable Populations: Strategies and Tools



Dr. Edmond Bowers
*Professor of Youth
Development Leadership
Clemson University*

Edmond P. Bowers, PhD, is a Professor of Youth Development Leadership at Clemson University. Framed by the positive youth development (PYD) perspective, his research focuses on describing, explaining, and optimizing the development of young people. Dr. Bowers is particularly interested in applying and adapting the Five Cs model of PYD to understand how youth relationships with non-parental adults (e.g., mentors, teachers, coaches, youth leaders) facilitate the strengths of youth (e.g., critical reflection, hope, self-regulation) to promote healthy and positive development. Through this research agenda, Dr. Bowers has collaborated with researchers and practitioners to design, implement, and evaluate research-based programs and materials in diverse school- and community-based settings across the globe. Dr. Bowers is co-editor of the journal *Applied Developmental Science* and serves as a senior research board member for the National Mentoring Resource Center. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Notre Dame and a doctoral degree in applied developmental and educational psychology from Boston College.



Dr. Kristian Jones
*Assistant Professor
University of Washington*

Kristian Jones, PhD, is an Assistant Professor at the University Washington in the School of Social Work. His program of research examines how youth-mentoring relationships can be utilized to prevent adverse outcomes and promote positive strengths for Black youth. As a Black male scholar, his research is grounded in his passion for equity and inclusion, specifically as it relates to marginalized youth and their families. Prior to being a faculty member, Dr. Jones worked as a Foster Care Counselor at Youth Villages in Cookeville, TN, and as a Community Support Therapist in Stone Mountain, GA. He received his doctoral degree in social work from the University of Texas at Austin, his master's degree in counseling from Boston University, and a bachelor's degree in psychology from Albany State University in Albany, GA.



DAY 2: Session 2—What is Happening to Our Kids Online? Preventing Cyberbullying, Extremism, Radicalization, and Cyberhate



Lydia Bates
*Program Manager of
Partnerships
Southern Poverty Law Center*

Lydia Bates, MA, is the Program Manager of Partnerships at the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC). Her work focuses primarily on equipping communities with the tools and information they need to help young people build resilience against supremacist ideologies. Before moving into this role, Ms. Bates was a Senior Research Analyst at SPLC, monitoring several hate groups and ideologies. She has a master's degree in ethics, peace, and global affairs from American University.



Myrieme Churchill
*Executive Director
Parents for Peace*

Myrieme Churchill, MEd, CEC, is the Executive Director of Parents for Peace (P4P), where she has overseen the creation, development, and implementation of a helpline for individuals worried about a loved one falling into extremism. She has led numerous interventions with families and individuals across the extremist ideology spectrum. Under her strategic leadership, P4P has developed partnerships with various organizations from across the field, including the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Georgia State University, NORC at the University of Chicago, and the Anti-Defamation League. P4P has also been awarded significant funding and support from the Draper Richards Kaplan Foundation, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and NIJ. After majoring in counseling psychology at Institut Méditerranéen in 1986, she intervened with North African immigrants trafficked into sex work in Marseille and facilitated group therapy at a juvenile detention center in Nice. In the U.S., she earned a master's degree in counseling psychology at Cambridge College in 1996, where she created a curriculum adopted by the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health for the career development of clients with mental health disorders and/or disabilities. She directed two Boston MetroWest outpatient centers and worked as a group therapy counselor in an inpatient dual-diagnosis unit at Beth Israel Deaconess.



DAY 2: Session 2—What is Happening to Our Kids Online? Preventing Cyberbullying, Extremism, Radicalization, and Cyberhate



Dr. Sameer Hinduja
*Co-Director
Cyberbullying Research Center*

Sameer Hinduja, PhD, is a Professor in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Florida Atlantic University, Co-Director of the Cyberbullying Research Center, and Faculty Associate at the Berkman Klein Center at Harvard University. He is recognized internationally for his groundbreaking work on the subjects of cyberbullying, sexting, social media, and gaming abuse, concerns that have paralleled the exponential growth in online communication by young people. He has written seven books, and his interdisciplinary research has been cited approximately 22,000 times in various fields, including pediatrics, information technology, computer science, business, psychology, education, and nursing. As a noted researcher and speaker on youth and social media issues for the last 20 years, Dr. Hinduja trains technologists, educators, mental health professionals, youth specialists, parents, and students worldwide on how to promote the positive use of technology and build healthy online communities. He has worked with numerous corporations and organizations on how best to shape policy, programs, and other initiatives related to youth and social media. He has received Auburn University's Global Anti-Bullying Hero Award, won Florida Atlantic University's Researcher of the Year award, presented on cyberbullying at a Congressional Briefing on Capitol Hill, testified in front of the Attorney General and the U.S. Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, and Homeland Security, and served as a Fulbright Specialist Scholar at Dublin City University. He has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of Central Florida and master's and doctoral degrees in criminal justice from Michigan State University.



DAY 2: Session 3—Raising Your Voice for Good: Youth Against Bullying and Hate



JAH'keem S. Gladney

11th Grade
Louisville, KY

I was bullied in school from a very young age throughout elementary school. I would say it started in the first grade, in primarily minor ways, with just a few degrading remarks from the same few classmates, but I still had friends and was mostly happy, but as time went on, things only got worse. From being jumped in the second grade to feeling suicidal by the fifth, bullying has heavily affected me since early on in my life. To a victim of bullying, a friend can make all the difference. Even if it's only one, it can be the difference between here and gone.



Eurrich Grimes

10th Grade
Little Rock, AR

I have been chosen because I have a powerful voice and I know how to catch others' attention. I am 16 years old, and I know I can make a big impact on others' lives just by being who I am. I am a free spirit-type of person. I am part of a lot of activities. I love to challenge myself with things I've never done before. I'm also a big risk-taker. I love taking risks because that's how I find out what I can and can't do. I have been told by many people that if I keep inspiring my voice the way I do then I will be a motivational speaker. Although I want to be an OB/GYN, I would love to be a motivational speaker because I wish I had a teen motivational speaker when I was younger; maybe then I would know what was to come. I want to inspire young people to speak up about their problems and other things.



Montez Hardaway

College Freshman
Little Rock, AR

I am currently a first-year college student majoring in Human Services. I have embarked on a journey in the field of public speaking, aiming to inspire and positively influence the youth in our community. As a role model, I strive to demonstrate the power of education and the impact of community involvement. My goal is to empower the next generation to become active, responsible, and compassionate members of society.



DAY 2: Session 3—Raising Your Voice for Good: Youth Against Bullying and Hate



Anthony Patterson

11th Grade
Little Rock, AR

I believe I was chosen to be a part of this panel because of my ability to use my voice and explain the needs of other kids. I know that there are people who have had a positive influence on my life, and I would like to influence others for good. I love sewing and embroidery. It helps to keep me calm and happy. I am excited to be a part of this panel and hope that I can use my voice to help others.



Everett Wong

10th Grade
Roseville, MN

I am kind and caring. I believe everyone deserves to be treated with respect and compassion. Everyone deserves their school space to feel safe. Everyone deserves to feel seen and heard. I write poetry about kindness and the power of care and support. I've been through a lot. Everyone is coming from different places, so we should all be respectful and caring with each other.