

**Questions for the Record from Senator Charles E. Grassley**  
**Hearing on “Combating the Rise in Hate Crimes”**  
**March 8, 2022**

*The Honorable Kristen Clarke*  
Assistant Attorney General  
Department of Justice  
Washington, D.C.

- 1) How can the Civil Rights Division bring more proactive prosecutions of hate crimes?  
What are you doing as Assistant Attorney General to encourage a shift to interdicting violence before it occurs?

**RESPONSE:** The Division works with its federal and other partners to identify and disrupt criminal plots that may constitute hate crimes and acts of domestic terror before they come to fruition. By working closely with the Justice Department’s National Security Division, United States Attorney’s Offices (USAOs), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), as well as other Federal, State, local, and Tribal enforcement agencies, the Civil Rights Division leverages resources across the Department to detect and interrupt plots. For example, in recent years, the Department detected and disrupted a conspiracy to bomb a Kansas apartment complex housing Somali immigrants, as well as a plot to blow up a Colorado synagogue. In both cases, those responsible were prosecuted.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, because the FBI has elevated hate crimes to its highest-level national threat priority, there are increased resources for proactive hate crimes investigations in all 56 FBI field offices.

In addition, Attorney General Merrick Garland named a Justice Department Anti-Hate Coordinator and designated the Chief of the Civil Rights Division’s Criminal Section to facilitate the expedited review of hate crimes and reports of any such crimes to Federal, State, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies. Because most hate crimes are prosecuted at the state and local level, the Department works closely with, and provides training to, its state, local, and tribal partners to ensure that hate crimes are effectively investigated and prosecuted. These trainings, given by Department prosecutors and FBI agents, provide information and guidance regarding the applicability and use of federal hate crimes statutes, and impart basic investigative concepts applicable to both federal and state law.

- 2) To bring sting cases, do you need strong conspiracy and attempt charges that can be brought even if the criminal objective isn’t achieved?

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<sup>1</sup> See Press Release, Department of Justice Office of Public Affairs, Three Southwest Kansas Men Sentenced to Prison for Plotting to Bomb Somali Immigrants in Garden City (Jan. 25, 2019), <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/three-southwest-kansas-men-sentenced-prison-plotting-bomb-somali-immigrants-garden-city>; [Press Release, Department of Justice Office of Public Affairs, Southern Colorado Man Sentenced to more Than 19 Years for Plotting to Blow Up Synagogue \(Feb. 26, 2021\)](https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/southern-colorado-man-sentenced-more-19-years-plotting-blow-synagogue), <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/southern-colorado-man-sentenced-more-19-years-plotting-blow-synagogue>

**RESPONSE:** As noted, the Justice Department works to prevent violent acts of hate before they occur. Conspiracy, attempt, solicitation, and threat statutes are all used to pursue this goal. Inchoate offenses do not require proof that the criminal objective was achieved.

- 3) Will you commit to keeping my office informed of legislative proposals that you consider in the area of hate crimes?

**RESPONSE:** The Department commits to sharing relevant, cleared legislative proposals with the Senate Judiciary Committee.

- 4) Senator Ossoff proposed a single point of contact for HCBUs experiencing threats in Georgia. Will you create a single point of contact for the country? Should there be a national coordinator when there is a string of related threats or attacks?

**RESPONSE:** When any institution receives a threat, the FBI recommends immediately reaching out to law enforcement, including their local Field Office, to report the incident. FBI Headquarters Divisions and every one of the 56 Field Offices has strong community outreach and works with minority groups, academic institutions, and religious, civic, and non-profit organizations to prevent crime. The FBI relies heavily on our partnerships with affected communities to receive threat information and provide training on preventive measures to those communities. Prevention means working closely with community groups and their leaders. The FBI directly reaches out to various communities to hear their concerns, build cultural understanding, and foster trust. This is an ongoing effort, 365 days a year.

Through these trusted partnerships, the FBI works to empower citizens to protect themselves from ongoing threats and crimes. The FBI works proactively, using a wide array of intelligence and other resources, in concert with our Federal, State, local, and Tribal law enforcement partners, to disrupt and stop bias-motivated violence before it happens. At Director Wray's direction, the FBI has also created a domestic terrorism/hate crimes fusion cell, which brings together both our domestic terrorism expertise and our hate crimes expertise and ensures that the multidisciplinary nature of the problem is effectively addressed—including a proactive and preventive approach.

From the law enforcement partner perspective, the FBI works through its Joint Terrorism Task Forces (JTTFs) to foster collaborative relationships with State, local, and Tribal authorities. These engagements establish real-time information-sharing and allow the FBI to provide additional resources to affected institutions when the threat of violence or violent acts crosses into the federal criminal space. DHS, with whom the FBI is a close partner, may be able to offer additional perspective regarding their community outreach programs.

- 5) Do many international terrorism movements such as jihadist movements have anti-Semitic ideology?

**RESPONSE:** Many racially or ethnically motivated violent extremists (RMVEs) and Islamist extremists share the anti-Semitic belief in an international Jewish conspiracy with a perceived Zionist imperialism, whereas RMVEs generally associate it with complicity in White genocide.

Anti-Semitism is one of the core principles of many global jihadist groups. It was promoted by the jihadist movement's ideological founders Ibn Tammiyah, Sayed Qutb, Maddudi, Hassan al-Banna, to name a few. It is also a core principle of Shia extremist groups.

6) If all hate crimes enforcement is focused only on the actions of white supremacists, won't we be missing many of the hate crimes that are committed?

**RESPONSE:** The Justice Department prosecutes hate crimes motivated by all statutorily-protected characteristics, including race, color, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, and familial status. Examples of the many prosecutions the Department has pursued to fight back against hate crimes with these bias motivations are described in Assistant Attorney General Clarke's March 8, 2022 testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee. More case examples can be found on the Department's website. *See* <https://www.justice.gov/hatecrimes/hate-crimes-case-examples>.

The Justice Department is deeply committed to developing and strengthening relationships between law enforcement and the communities they serve. The intent of these efforts is to encourage the reporting of all crimes, including hate crimes, and ultimately lead to greater public trust and safety.

7) How do we ensure that the FBI will recognize hate motives more easily when they encounter them?

**RESPONSE:** The FBI's Civil Rights Unit is spearheading regional conferences across the United States to reach our law enforcement partners and to provide training to them, as well as current FBI agents and professional staff, on these violations. Further, new agents will receive additional civil rights-based training at the FBI academy.

8) You stated that the Justice Department does not support the "defund the police" movement. Do you personally support shifting funding away from local, state, and federal law enforcement?

**RESPONSE:** Like President Biden and everyone in the Department's leadership, I support funding the police. In addition, the President has proposed a total of more than \$30 billion in new investments over the next decade to support law enforcement by funding the police, preventing crime, and accelerating criminal justice reform. For FY 23 alone, the President's Budget requests more than \$8 billion in grants for states, localities, and tribal law enforcement agencies nationwide to fund the police, including by putting more police

officers on the beat and to implement community-based strategies to prevent crime and gun violence.

9) What effect does being under-resourced have on police departments that are trying to combat hate crimes during a national crime spike?

**RESPONSE:** The Justice Department consistently works to ensure that resources are allocated appropriately to protect the communities we serve. The Department pursues a holistic approach to combating hate, using all Departmental enforcement and non-enforcement tools. We are focused on putting our resources and authorities to use to improve hate crime reporting; to make better use of criminal and civil enforcement mechanisms; to scale up targeted grant funding to empower state and local partners and communities to combat hate; to expand our community engagement and support for victimized communities; and to advance evidence-based restorative and community efforts to prevent hate crimes.

The President's FY 23 Budget also prioritizes the protection of civil rights. We are seeking a 32 percent increase in funding for the Civil Rights Division, as well as additional resources for our U.S. Attorneys, the FBI, the Community Relations Service and our Office for Access to Justice. Our civil rights work remains vital to prosecuting hate crimes, ensuring constitutional policing and addressing unlawful discrimination.

**Written Questions for the Record – Honorable Kristen Clarke**  
**Submitted by Senator Patrick Leahy**  
**March 8, 2022**

1. Assistant Attorney General Clarke, in your testimony you spoke about the longstanding problem the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) have had with non-reporting and underreporting of hate crimes. In fact, you testified that over 12,000 law enforcement agencies reported zero hate crimes for the 2020 calendar year, including dozens of agencies with populations over 100,000 people. This is a startling statistic because accurate data reporting is crucial to identifying and preventing hate crimes.

**a. How has the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act, which included the Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act catalyzed the Department's efforts to improve hate crime and hate incident data reporting and collection?**

**RESPONSE:** The COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act and Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act provided additional tools for the Justice Department's work to combat hate crimes and hate incidents. This includes authorization for new grants for law enforcement transition to the FBI's more sophisticated system for hate crime reporting and establishing state-run hate crime reporting hotlines. Earlier this year, the Justice Department's Office of Justice Programs announced the release of \$10 million in grant solicitations in newly created grant programs to address hate crimes and hate incidents.

**b. How does the DOJ use the grantmaking process to incentivize law enforcement agencies to prioritize the collection of hate crimes data? What other measures could the Department take to encourage non-reporting law enforcement agencies to prioritize the collection and recording of hate crimes data?**

**RESPONSE:** The Justice Department's Office of Justice Programs will expand its efforts to assist State, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies to report to the FBI's hate crime data collection program through Jabara-Heyer Act grant funding enacted in the FY22 budget.

The Department also deploys its resources to help train State, local, and Tribal law enforcement to identify hate crimes and to encourage members of the community to report hate crimes. For example, the Department's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services has developed a new training curriculum to help local law enforcement respond to, investigate, and report acts of hate.

In addition, the FBI has been holding trainings for law enforcement across the country, and these trainings help local police agencies better understand federal civil rights and hate crimes laws; encourage reporting; strengthen relationships between law enforcement and local civil rights organizations; and build trust within communities. The FBI has made available to law enforcement agencies resources for data integration support, technical expertise, no-cost training,

and subject matter expertise. We will continue to look for new ways to deploy Justice Department resources to increase reporting of hate crimes and hate incidents.

**c. Are there additional resources required for to ensure better cooperation from law enforcement agencies with its hate crime data collection program?**

**RESPONSE:** Earlier this year, the Justice Department's Office of Justice Programs (OJP) announced the release of \$10 million in grant solicitations in newly created grant programs to address hate crimes and hate incidents. Through these programs, OJP will provide up to \$5 million in grants for the Bureau of Justice Statistics to support the transition of state and local law enforcement agencies to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) and reporting of hate crimes through NIBRS, and for the Office of Victims of Crime (OVC) to fund states to establish and run state-run reporting hotlines for victims of hate crimes.

**d. In addition to hate crimes, hate incidents are also on the rise. Do these incidents deserve the same level of prioritization for data collection and reporting by the Department?**

**RESPONSE:** Although some hate incidents may not meet the statutory elements of hate crimes or may not be enforceable under civil anti-discrimination statutes, some jurisdictions are moving toward tracking them, and the Justice Department is developing guidance for state, local, and tribal law enforcement on the establishment of online hate crime and hate incident reporting mechanisms, pursuant to the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act. Identifying and understanding hate incidents can be a useful tool for identifying non-enforcement responses by federal, state, local, and tribal actors, such as engaging in public education campaigns, and deploying mental health professionals, mediators, and trainers to assist communities address the harms caused by hate incidents, deescalate tensions within communities, and prevent crimes from occurring.

**e. Twenty states do not have laws requiring law enforcement to collect and report hate crimes data. In the states without mandatory data collection and reporting requirements, the number of hate crimes are believed to vastly unreported. What tools and strategies are the Department using to encourage the states to prioritize the fight against hate?**

**RESPONSE:** The Department has close relationships with State, local, and Tribal law enforcement partners across the nation. We use a number of tools and strategies to work collaboratively to reduce hate crimes and incidents.

The Attorney General designated the first-ever Department-wide Hate Crimes Coordinator to lead the creation and coordination of the Department's anti-hate crime and incident resources. The Coordinator is helping to focus, streamline, and maximize the effectiveness of the Department's relevant resources, including by ensuring that U.S. Attorney's Offices (USAOs) and local partners have ready access to relevant training and outreach materials. The coordinator also serves as the central hub for Department attorneys, law enforcement partners, community organizations, and other stakeholders interested in accessing relevant Department resources. The

Coordinator continues to engage with community-based organizations and stakeholder groups, focused on answering questions and connecting people with relevant anti-hate resources, and overseeing the development of new resources where needed.

Resources that encourage and support state and local officials to address hate have and continue to be developed. For example, the Civil Rights Division and the Executive Office for United States Attorneys (EOUSA) have developed a toolkit with customizable community outreach materials, information about the Department's grant opportunities and technical assistance programs, and other materials to improve relationships with communities, and promote local reporting of potential hate crimes and incidents. The Community Relations Service has developed several toolkits, including Preventing and Responding to Bias and Hate Incidents in K-12 Education Settings and Preventing and Responding to Bias and Hate Incidents Against Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Communities, that can be used by law enforcement, government officials and school administrators, community members, and others to address and reduce hate crimes and incidents.

The Attorney General also directed other strategies, such as encouraging each U.S. Attorney's Office to create district-wide alliances against hate and revitalizing the Department's Community Relations Service, directing increased resources and coordination to combat hate crimes and incidents, and directing the chief of the Criminal Section of the Department's Civil Rights Division to facilitate the expedited review of hate crimes. All of these steps share common objectives: deterring hate crimes and bias-related incidents, addressing them when they occur, supporting those victimized by them, and reducing the pernicious effects these incidents have on our society.

The Department also looks forward to using the finding and guidance mandates under the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act, including the Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act, to increase reporting by law enforcement.

2. Since early January, dozens of HBCUs have received bomb threats, causing classroom disruptions, incalculable fear, and unexpected security expenses for institutions that have been chronically underfunded for many years. The number of hate crimes reported nationwide spiked to the highest level in 2020 in nearly two decades, including crimes motivated by race and ethnicity. Of those crimes, more than half targeted Black Americans.
  - a. **Although the FBI is leading the effort to hold the perpetrators responsible for these acts of hate against Black colleges and universities accountable, more needs to be done to prevent these insidious crimes from happening in the first place. What is the Department doing to proactively engage with the affected communities to build trust and deepen partnerships between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve?**

**RESPONSE:** The FBI and the Civil Rights Division coordinate closely to ensure that proper and thorough handling of hate crimes doesn't begin the moment they are

reported—it begins before they even occur, with a solid and trusting relationship between the community and law enforcement.

Rebuilding community trust in law enforcement is a critical predicate for ensuring that communities, especially frequently targeted communities, will bring forward reports of hate incidents and hate crimes so that law enforcement can help address them. For that reason, the FBI is commencing fresh outreach to community groups, including those in historically underrepresented and targeted populations. Our agency is focused on building a collaborative and trusting relationship between our agency and the community so they know members of the community can talk to us before, during, and after a crisis.

The FBI has also launched a nationwide anti-hate media campaign that aims to reach vulnerable communities. The goal of this campaign is to encourage these communities to report hate crimes to the FBI, as well as to reassure the public that the FBI takes these cases seriously and takes a victim-centered approach to investigating these crimes.

The primary engagement with communities occurs at our 56 Field Offices located across the country. Leaders and professionals in the field understand their communities best and leverage their understanding and awareness to engage a broad spectrum of citizens and leaders in their area of responsibility (AOR). These efforts are supported strategically by FBI headquarters divisions and personnel. This rhythm of local relationships, backed by the strategic resources of the FBI, is reflected in each of our major engagement programs.

### **Faith-based Communities**

Nationally, outreach to faith-based communities is coordinated through the Department's Office of Public Affairs (OPA) in coordination with FBI's Office of Partner Engagement (OPE). Each component maintains relationships with various organizations like the Secure Community Network, which is the largest faith-based security organization devoted to protecting the Jewish community. At the local level, each FBI Field Office has Community Outreach Specialists who interact with faith-based communities, advocacy organizations and members of underserved communities in their AOR.

### **Law Enforcement**

OPE works with 24 major police associations, such as the Major Cities Chiefs Association and the International Association of Chiefs of Police. FBI program managers also work closely with HBCU Law Enforcement Executive and Administrators and the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators. In addition, members of the FBI sit on the Department of Justice's HBCU Working Group and DHS's Security Campus Safety and Resiliency Cluster.

### **Additional Engagement**

OPA oversees and implements the FBI's community engagement strategy, as well as the outreach efforts of more than 65 Community Outreach Specialists who serve in the Field Offices. Community Outreach Specialists develop and maintain relationships with



community leaders and organizations, develop strategic outreach plans, and organize community outreach initiatives and events.

Additionally, the FBI created a Multi-Cultural Engagement Council, composed of ethnic, religious, and minority leaders, to better understand and devise solutions to support our communities.

The FBI recognizes that hate crimes remain a concern for communities across the country, and we collect mandatory reporting from federal law enforcement agencies. Reporting remains voluntary for state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies.

The FBI also supports victims' assistance professionals, who work at both the national and local levels, to address the needs of those impacted by crimes.

3. The Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009 created a new federal criminal law criminalizing the willful causation bodily injury or attempting to do so against a broader group of protected individuals. As you mentioned in your testimony, the legislation does not, however, criminalize threats of hate violence. Such threats may be prosecutable under other federal laws.

**a. Is this a barrier to prosecutors holding the perpetrators of hateful threats accountable? If so, what does the Department do to hold these individuals accountable for their hateful threats?**

**RESPONSE:** The Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, enacted in 2009, is the most expansive federal hate crimes statute. But as noted, it does not cover threats, which is a gap in federal hate crimes enforcement authority. Where possible, the Justice Department attempts to use narrower hate crimes statutes such as 18 USC §§ 245 and 247, and 42 USC § 3631, or general threats statutes, to hold those who make criminal threats accountable. The Department has identified this as an area where we could do more, if Congress gives us the tools to do so. We look forward to working with this committee to studying that issue further and helping to identify a path forward.

## **“Combating the Rise in Hate Crimes”**

**Hon. Kristen Clarke**  
**Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division**  
**Department of Justice**  
**Questions for the Record**  
**Submitted March 8, 2022**

### **QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR FEINSTEIN**

1. In May of 2021, the Attorney General directed the Executive Office for United States Attorneys to conduct a nationwide survey of each U.S. Attorney’s Office. The goal of this survey was to identify where more resources were needed to ensure the effective enforcement of our nation’s civil rights laws.
  - a. **Has this survey been conducted, and if so, what gaps in resources were identified as part of this review?**

**RESPONSE:** The survey was completed in July 2021. When asked to identify barriers to investigating, litigating, and prosecuting civil rights actions, the majority of U.S. Attorney’s Offices (USAOs) identified insufficient resources as a barrier. Needed resources generally fell into two categories: 1) practical assistance, such as materials, training, and guidance; and 2) funding.

To ensure the effective enforcement of our nation’s civil rights laws, the Department has already made substantial progress in responding to the first need of the USAO. As directed in the Attorney General’s May 27, 2021, memorandum, an online Toolkit for Combating Hate Crime and Incidents for USAO personnel has been created, advertised, and made accessible to all USAOs and DOJ components. The Toolkit includes links to information, guidance, samples, and training on hate crimes and incidents; information on outreach, including the United Against Hate customizable community outreach presentation and presenters guide and other sample outreach materials; and information on Department resources such as funding and technical assistance programs, victim resources, and language assistance.

However, in identifying barriers to civil rights work, USAOs consistently identified a need for additional personnel to investigate, litigate, and prosecute civil rights actions. In addressing criminal prosecution of civil rights cases, many USAOs referenced their complex and resource-intensive nature, including the frequent need for a separate filter team. In addition, many Offices identified a need for additional investigative resources, namely FBI agents, to investigate criminal civil rights violations. Approximately a third of the USAOs identified insufficient civil attorneys as a barrier to civil rights work, many noting the difficulty in pursuing affirmative civil rights work when faced with a deluge of defensive civil litigation. A number of USAOs also noted the lack of agency investigative support for civil enforcement of civil rights and identified funding to hire investigators as a key needed resource. They also identified the need for other support personnel, such as paralegals and intake specialists and funding for expenses such as interpreters, architects, and experts.

When asked what materials or resources would assist the office with community outreach for civil rights and when asked what resources and training would be helpful in creating or growing a district alliance against hate, USAOs provided similar responses. In addition to identifying materials, training, and guidance as discussed above, they overwhelmingly identified additional funding, primarily for personnel, such as dedicated outreach specialists, attorneys, and investigators, as a needed resource. In addition, a number of offices identified a need for authorized, dedicated funding for outreach events and conferences.

**b. What additional resources do you think Congress can provide to the Justice Department to help ensure that the Department has the resources it needs to enforce our civil rights law?**

**RESPONSE:** As part of the FY 2023 President’s Budget, the United States Attorneys proposed a program enhancement in direct support of civil rights. The President proposed an increase of \$8.2 million and 60 attorneys to build a sustainable level of civil and criminal civil rights prosecutions and civil enforcement actions in select USAOs. This investment will institutionalize the Department’s civil rights priority and ensure a lasting increase in enforcement levels nationally.

2. As Attorney General Garland noted in his May 2021 memo on the Justice Department’s response to hate crimes, the Department’s Community Relations Service plays a critical role in “deepening the Department’s engagement with communities across the nation.”

**a. What steps has the Department taken to strengthen the role of the Community Relations Service in engaging with local communities to prevent and respond to hate crimes?**

**RESPONSE:** The Department has ensured that the Community relations service (CRS) is an integral part of its overall strategies to prevent and respond to hate crimes. For example, last year, CRS designated a Special Assistant for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Issues who supports CRS conciliation specialists working with communities across the country in response to AANHPI-related hate incidents and hate crimes. The Special Assistant also participates in Department and inter-agency working groups focused on this critical issue. CRS recently developed a Preventing and Responding to Bias and Hate Incidents Against AANHPI Communities toolkit which may be found at: <https://www.justice.gov/file/1426866/download>.

CRS also participates in interagency working groups focused on gender and gender identity-related hate incidents and hate crimes, with CRS efforts led by a Senior Advisor for Law Enforcement and Gender Issues, and initiatives related to protecting places of worship, with CRS efforts led by a National Program Manager for Muslim, Arab, Sikh, South Asian, and Hindu (MASSAH) Issues. In addition, CRS is supporting the Department’s United Against Hate initiative, including pilot events hosted by US Attorneys Offices in New Jersey, Massachusetts, and the Eastern District of Washington state. The Department is also supporting

CRS's development of new training programs for community groups that work to prevent and respond to hate incidents and hate crimes committed against Muslim Americans and Sikh Americans (both were piloted in March 2022) and a new asynchronous training program for law enforcement officers seeking to strengthen their engagement and trust with transgender community groups (piloted in June 2022). Finally, CRS continues to support communities working to prevent and respond to hate incidents and hate crimes across the country by facilitating dialogues and working group meetings, sharing best practices, and offering other consultation services.

**b. Has the Department been able to fill vacancies within the Community Relations Service, and if not, what steps is the Department taking to fill these roles to ensure strong engagement with local communities?**

**RESPONSE:** Last year, the Office of the Associate Attorney General conducted a comprehensive review of CRS's current state and staffing needs as well as the needs of the community groups that CRS supports. This detailed review informed the development of a strategic hiring plan that is based on FBI reported hate crimes data and other federal data that can be used to identify geographical areas of increased community tension. The plan incorporates the needs of communities in areas based on population, using Census data, but also addresses the needs of more remote geographical areas that are currently underserved by CRS by using remote positions in smaller cities where CRS does not have an office building. Employees selected for the remote positions will telework when they are not engaging with community leaders in person. The Department approved the plan late last year and is prioritizing the posting of vacancy announcements to fill these vacancies as efficiently and quickly as possible.

**Senator Marsha Blackburn**  
**Questions for the Record to the Honorable Kristen Clarke**

1. Threats that force school closures create fear on college campuses and are incredibly disruptive to the learning environment. How is the Department of Justice prepared to coordinate with law enforcement agencies, like the FBI, to ensure the perpetrators of these threats are brought to justice?

**RESPONSE:** The FBI has been in close coordination with the relevant components of the Department and United States Attorney's Offices in conducting its ongoing investigation into these matters. The FBI continues to investigate the nationwide bomb threats targeting HBCUs. This investigation is of the highest priority for the Bureau and involves 31 FBI Field Offices that are actively working with our local, State, Tribal, and federal law enforcement partners to identify those involved.

The FBI has also convened four national-level partner calls to provide background and updates on the progress of the investigations to members of law enforcement, academia, HBCU police and college leadership, faith-based communities, and advocacy groups. Over 4,000 attendees have participated thus far. In addition, senior leaders in a number of FBI Field Offices have engaged with university leaders in their respective communities to maintain direct lines of communication as the investigation continues.

2. How does the Department of Justice handle complaints that are raised by institutions of higher learning about potential threats?

**RESPONSE:** Any potential threats reported to the Department are provided to the FBI. The FBI's Academia Program, managed by the Office of Private Sector (OPS), works at both a strategic and local level to engage institutions across the country. Strategically, OPS works with multiple academic associations to provide the latest updates on threats to universities, share relevant intelligence, and provide training and resources. These associations include the American Council on Education, the United Negro College Fund, the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, and the Association of American Universities, along with other key organizations.

Locally, each of the FBI's Field Offices have an appointed Academic Coordinator (AC) who serves as the regional point of contact for all academic institutions within the Field Office area of responsibility. The AC works to develop relationships with leaders at their region's academic institutions to ensure that the schools have a point of contact in the event they need support.

The FBI's OPE works closely with the HBCU Law Enforcement Executive and Administrators and the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators. In addition, members of the FBI sit on the Department of Justice's HBCU Working Group and Department of Homeland Security's Campus Safety and Resiliency

Cluster.

3. What is the Department of Justice's role in keeping institutions of higher learning a place free of threats of violence for students so that they can focus on their learning?

**RESPONSE:** The FBI engages in a broad range of efforts on both a national and local basis to connect with, and support, the communities we serve. Specifically, the FBI aims to build and strengthen relationships with members of academia through the OPS academia program and to connect with campus law enforcement through FBI's OPE, as discussed above. We also engage locally through our regional Field Offices.

The FBI engages academia to provide threat information when relevant, as well as resources and trainings to keep our public spaces and academic institutions safe.