**SPLC** ⚖ **Southern Poverty Law Center**

Fighting Hate
Teaching Tolerance
Seeking Justice

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Mr. Fernand de Varennes
UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues

*Via email:* ohchr-minorityissues@un.org

Dear Mr. de Varennes,

On behalf of the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), a human rights organization focused on racial justice in the U.S. South and beyond, I am pleased to provide you with some background information in anticipation of your visit to the United States. Because we are based in five states in the deep South of the U.S. (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana and Mississippi), we seek to provide you with insights into how minority populations are able to exercise their rights in this region. Please find below responses to your inquiries on the right to effective political participation of minorities, education and minorities, and hate crimes.

Additionally, for the last several decades, the SPLC has tracked and documented the activities of hate and extremist groups across the U.S. We have included a report as Appendix A providing information on how domestic extremist groups are targeting minority populations and violating their rights. Separately, we have provided a short report as Appendix B on the situation of minorities in Mississippi, one of the poorest states in the country with some of the most dire statistics on the economic status, health and well-being of minority populations.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for any additional information or data that might be useful in your visit and assessment.

With sincere regards,

Margaret Huang
President and CEO

**2.The guarantee of the right to effective political participation of minorities, particularly the right to vote and of political representation**

People of color in the United States, and in particular Black residents, continue to face barriers to political representation that prevent them from participating in representative democracy on an equal basis with their white counterparts. The history of voting rights for most groups in the United States involves a legal battle to be recognized as humans, then citizens, and then people deemed worthy to wield any political power. Yet, efforts to meaningfully define and enforce those rights remain elusive to communities living in the southern United States in ways that are uniquely tied to the deep history of slavery and racial segregation.

Article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides that: "Everyone has the right to take part in the government of [their] country, directly or through freely chosen representatives."  The language further states, "[t]he will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot or by equivalent free voting procedures."

In addition, the United States has ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which includes Article 25 (b) providing that "Every citizen shall have the right and the opportunity, without any of the distinctions mentioned in article 2 and without unreasonable restrictions . . . (b) To vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors."

While the United States' constitution has more provisions related to the right to vote than almost any other subject, states are steadily weakening the meaning and full application of those protections. One recent and notable example is the U.S. Supreme Court's 2013 decision in the case *Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder*, striking down a key provision of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 which required places with a history of racial discrimination in voting to obtain federal approval before implementing any changes to their voting laws.  This preclearance requirement resulted in the Department of Justice objecting to over 100 Alabama voting changes and to more than 150 discriminatory voting changes in Louisiana. We have now been living in a post-*Shelby* environment close to ten years and the voting rights landscape only grows more dire.

Today, communities of color are facing an onslaught of disinformation and misinformation about elections, increased political violence against them, and the expansion of felony disenfranchisement laws. They are also in the midst of a redistricting cycle, first national one since *Shelby,* that could expose the depths of political greed and a total consolidation of power in one political party in southern states where a significant majority of people of color still live.

Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic brought massive, unforeseen stresses to the electoral system and compounded threats that already existed. People of color have been disproportionately affected by the coronavirus, suffering more hospitalizations

and deaths than other population groups. In fact, this past September, [Mississippi had the highest rate of COVID deaths in the country](#), and it has taken the South a lot longer to see rates of contracting the virus or people dying from it go down. Thus, while voting in person remains a risk for everyone as the health crisis continues, it is an even greater one for Black Americans.

Every one of SPLC's focus states—Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, and Mississippi—needed significant changes to their election processes to create safe and accessible voting options. [Alabama](#), [Mississippi](#), and [Louisiana](#), for example, do not offer no-excuse absentee voting, and all three states have unnecessary, burdensome requirements that make absentee voting dangerous for those who do qualify. Moreover, some proposed reforms faced serious opposition such as an emergency election plan in Louisiana that legislators vehemently opposed even though it would expand voting by mail in the most modest ways.

Felony disenfranchisement, magnified by a criminal legal system that targets people of color and an economic structure that perpetuates cycles of poverty, remains one of the most pressing voting rights issues of our day. It is estimated that over five million Americans are denied the right to vote due to a criminal conviction, and almost half of that population resides in the South. Voting rights groups have brought legal cases on behalf of individuals seeking the restoration of their voting rights, but with limited success. A [2019 case involved a challenge to a Florida law](#) that requires people with felony convictions to pay off all their court fines, costs, fees, and any restitution as a precondition to getting their voting rights restored.  Several individuals, including two Black women from Jacksonville whom the SPLC represented, argued that the law was a form of wealth-based discrimination and would have a disproportionate impact on women of color given the intersection of race, class, and gender. Unfortunately, a federal appellate court rejected their claims and upheld the Florida law which has now stripped voting rights from hundreds of thousands of people, a disproportionate number of them who are also people of color. *Jones v. Governor of Florida*, 975 F.3d 1016 (11th Cir. 2020).

Redistricting, which is now underway around the country, has been one of the most effective and consistent tactics used to disenfranchise voters of color in the South. Black residents have had to combat racial gerrymandering, partisan gerrymandering, prison gerrymandering, and other sophisticated attempts to minimize their political strength in Congressional, state legislative, and local district maps. Unfortunately, as the numerous lawsuits filed during every redistricting cycle show, there continues to be a disconnect between the kinds of districts residents want to live in and the districts legislators want to run in. In a series of cases in the early 1960s, the Supreme Court confronted the reality that Black communities were being chopped up (known as "cracking") or squeezed together (called "packing") to minimize their voting strength, even when they constituted the numerical majority in a particular area. These dilutive strategies, as well others, are expected to increase this coming redistricting cycle as some seek to roll back the voting rights gains which have resulted in the election of America's first woman of color as vice president, Georgia's first Black senator, and more people of color in county and local governments.

Finally, one cannot ignore the increased threats to America's democracy carried out by white supremacist groups, many of whom were emboldened by Donald Trump's support and encouragement for their racist messages and violent tactics. Incidents such as the one in the predominately Black town of Baker, Louisiana, in which a white man waving a Trump flag and armed with an assault rifle was loitering outside a polling place, are more than just flashbacks to an uglier period in this nation's history. They are also warnings signs that our country is in danger.

## 3.Education and the linguistic rights of minorities

**Access to Education for Minority Populations with specific focus on the South**

Across the U.S. South, formal court battles and informal conversations in classrooms, homes and centers of community life have been questioning whether education is truly equal. There are several points of evidence that suggest that students from minoritized populations not only are denied equal outcomes through education, but also face unequal access and inequitable experiences at school. Some of the causes and factors that drive educational inequity in the contemporary South include:
-   racial inequities and the lasting effects of segregation,
-   LGBTQ+ exclusions and laws specifically targeting transgender youth,
-   xenophobic immigration policies and threats to language access and the safety of undocumented students,
-   social and geographic isolation tied to rural geography and urban neighborhood segregation,
-   income inequality and the South's slow recovery from the Great Recession,
-   natural disasters such as hurricanes, extreme heat, unprecedented winter storms and other weather events tied to our warming climate,
-   bias that is perpetuated through harmful speech, curriculum and policies, including legislative pushes to ban so-called "Critical Race Theory" in schools, and
-   the ongoing realities of the COVID-19 pandemic and its disproportionate impact on communities affected by all of the above

These causes and factors interact with one another, driving inequitable access to education for students whose lives are affected by many or most of these conditions.

From the educator perspective, Southern communities that are rural, low-income, or have a high population of people of color struggle to recruit and retain K-12 educators. Communities that are all three are particularly hard hit. When schools integrated in the mid-20th century, many Black educators lost their jobs, especially in rural communities. Though schools rapidly resegregated through the emergence of private academies and district reconfigurations across the South, many of those jobs never returned. These same schools continue to be among the most underfunded and the hardest to staff. Students are negatively impacted by high rates of teacher turnover and the ongoing effects of de facto segregation. COVID-19

has exacerbated these realities, including heightening challenges of access to technology, high speed internet and childcare.

If more context is needed, please see the following resources:

**Racial inequities:**
- https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2014/11/modern-day-segregation-in-public-schools/382846/
- https://www.epi.org/publication/schools-are-still-segregated-and-black-children-are-paying-a-price/
- https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/02/learning/lesson-plans/still-separate-still-unequal-teaching-about-school-segregation-and-educational-inequality.html
- https://www.vox.com/2019/9/6/20853091/school-secession-racial-segregation-louisiana-alabama
- Inequality in Teaching and Schooling: How Opportunity Is Rationed to Students of Color in America old? But feels relevant / scholarly research to pull from
- Unequal Opportunity: Race and Education same author as above (Linda Darling-Hammond)
- VOICES: Southern schools need more, not less, critical race theory
- Southern legislatures defy constitutional mandates for equal education
- https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/2332858419860152

**LGBTQ+ inclusion:**
- The Experiences of Rural LGBT Youth (GLSEN)
- We could pull state data from GLSEN: https://www.glsen.org/research/state-by-state-research-2019-state-snapshots-national-school-climate-survey

**Immigrant and undocumented students:**
- https://www.informedimmigrant.com/guides/educators/# (want to include some note about immigrant and undocumented populations in general)
- https://www.cnn.com/interactive/2019/08/us/mississippi-ice-raids-cnnphotos/index.html

**Rural education:**
- How Much Do You Know About Rural Education? Part 3: Amplifying Students of Color in Rural America
- The Tragedy of America's Rural Schools
- Commentary: Times Article on Rural School Misses Half the Story – Educational Success
- This is a little older, but still could be helpful: The Experiences of Rural LGBT Youth (GLSEN)

**COVID effects on education:**

- [“Years Don't Wait for Them”: Increased Inequalities in Children's Right to Education Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic](#) global perspective of effects of covid-19 on students but relevant to lower income Americans in the south and inequities around technology and access to internet during pandemic
- https://hechingerreport.org/special-reports/the-south/

**Hate and bias at school:**
- [LFJ Hate at Schools Report](#) uses statistics to show how groups feeling unsafe don't learn as well, which leads to inequities

## 5.Hate speech and hate crimes

In the United States, the FBI has been publishing an annual report documenting hate crimes reported to them by the 18,000 police agencies across the United States since 1991. The report provides data on the full range of hate crimes – race/ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, disability, gender, and gender identity – aggregated by states, cities, counties, and colleges and universities. Unfortunately, today the documentation of hate crimes is voluntary, and many law enforcement agencies do not provide information. Though clearly incomplete, the FBI HCSA report is the most important, most comprehensive national snapshot of hate violence in America.

In 2020, the FBI reported 8,263 hate crimes, a 13% increase over 2019 and the highest numbers since 2001.  Like every year for the past 30 years, race-based crimes were most numerous – 63% of all reported hate crimes, the highest number of these crimes since 1996 and a deeply-disturbing 32% increase over 2019.  And, like every year since 1991, the majority of the race-based crimes (55%) were directed at Black people, a significant 49% increase over 2019. Crimes directed against individuals and property in Asian American/Pacific Islander communities increased 56% over 2019.

Improved reporting requires both law enforcement agency capability and willingness to accurately report the data and trust from the community that reporting to the police will matter, that it will make a difference.  If marginalized or targeted community members – including immigrants, people with disabilities, LGBT community members, Muslims, Arabs, Middle Easterners, South Asians and people with limited language proficiency – cannot report, or do not feel safe reporting, law enforcement cannot effectively address these crimes, thereby jeopardizing the safety of all.

The consistently disproportionate number of hate crimes directed against Blacks continues our nation's sad legacy of discrimination and historical violence perpetrated against the community, from slavery, to lynchings, to the bombed churches and violent killings of the civil rights movement.

**Appendix A: Report on the threats from hate and extremist groups against minority communities in the U.S.**

United States Domestic Threat from Anti-Government Militias, Hate Groups and White Supremacists

The United States faces an increasingly dangerous threat from anti-government militias, hate groups and white supremacists.  Rightwing extremists work to marginalize and exclude minority communities. In the United States, these actors engage in voter suppression, attack inclusive education in public schools, and even employ terroristic threats. Some have acted on those threats, carrying out violent attacks in shopping centers and houses of worship in Poway, California; El Paso, Texas; Charleston, South Carolina; Oak Creek, Wisconsin; and far too many communities across the United States and the globe. Hate crimes have also continued to rise, and in 2020 reached the highest point in 12 years.[1]

Far-right extremists were energized by former President Donald Trump, who, along with his allies, propelled racist conspiracy theories and white nationalist ideology into the political mainstream. The movement was further animated by the events of 2020. Extremists leveraged the government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic to escalate antigovernment sentiment and blamed minority groups for spreading the deadly virus.[2]

The far right has become more diffuse, with more people actively participating in the movement even though they may not be card-carrying members of a hate group. In 2021, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security issued a rare National Terrorism Advisory System Bulletin in response to this growing threat from home-grown extremists. The FBI also acknowledged that far-right extremists and white

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[1] For the third year in a row, the number of police agencies participating in the FBI's annual report declined. Behind every one of the 7,759 reported hate crimes is a victim of violence, intimidation, or vandalism targeted for no other reason than their race, religion, national origin, gender, disability, gender identity, or sexual orientation. Hate crimes merit a priority focus because of their deep impact on the victim and the victim's community, causing them to feel fearful, isolated, vulnerable, suspicious of others, and of the power structure that is supposed to protect them. The Trump administration targeted transgender people with dehumanizing rhetoric and by rolling back federal level protections. The FBIs report documented a 19% increase in crimes against individuals based on their gender identity, following an 18% increase in these crimes recorded in 2019. Whenever political movements mobilize around racial equity, they have been met with racist backlash and violence. 2020 was no different, as the sharp increase in anti-Black hate crimes shows. As the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement gained momentum after the murder of George Floyd, reactionary forces marshalled, including elected officials. President Trump called BLM activists "thugs," and accused them of "trying to bully Americans into abandoning their values, their heritage and their very way of life." This kind of racist rhetoric can embolden others to act. As in every year since 1991, race-based hate crimes were most numerous, making up 4,939 of 7,759 total hate crimes reported in 2020 (64 percent) – the highest number of race-based hate crimes since 2006, and a deeply-disturbing 25% increase over 2019. As in every year since 1991, most the race-based crimes were directed at Black people – 2,755 of the 4,939 (56 percent), a dramatic 43% increase over 2019.

[2] In 2020, the SPLC identified 838 active hate groups, which organize to attack or malign people based on their immutable characteristics. The Southern Poverty Law Center also identified 566 rightwing antigovernment and Patriot groups, including 169 militias active in 2020.

supremacists pose the greatest terror threat to the United States. President Biden's administration also recognized the threat and made it a priority by unveiling a whole-of-government strategy to address extremism moving forward, starting with efforts at prevention and digital literacy.

For decades, advocacy groups like the SPLC have provided evidence to document the threat of far-right extremism, which government and law enforcement agencies often met with silence or denial.  The ineffectual response from the state is indicative of a larger pattern of discrimination. Law enforcement agencies have used their powers to surveil and punish minority communities, a problem clearly exemplified by the widespread surveillance of American Muslims after the 9/11 terror attacks.

## Anti-Immigrant and Anti-Muslim Institutional Bigotry and Extremist Activity

For centuries, nativist extremists inside and outside of government have fought to exclude people of color from equal access to schools, healthcare, and government services, and denied them fair wages, safe working conditions, protections under law, protections afforded asylees and refugees, and pathways to citizenship. Far-right extremists, as we have documented, often have cover or support from law enforcement in many cities and in border areas. Rightwing militias and hate group members have long targeted migrants and human rights advocates alike at the southern border. In 2021, SPLC documented video evidence of Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Patrol agents working in tandem with rightwing militias.

Since 9/11, bipartisan consensus has placed the United States immigration system under the purview of its national security complex, particularly the Department of Homeland Security. The state has since expanded its draconian immigration enforcement mechanisms[3], which make up a core component of America's racist criminal justice system.  The size of the country's immigration enforcement has also rapidly expanded. In the past twenty-five years, the number of U.S. Border Patrol agents skyrocketed from 4,139 to 23,645 agents in 2018.  The Trump Administration expanded the country's inhumane immigration enforcement system while stoking baseless fears of Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian communities. In addition, Trump and his allies regularly described those migrants from Mexico and Central America as "invaders."

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[3] https://www.splcenter.org/our-issues/immigrant-justice/family-separation; https://www.splcenter.org/our-issues/immigrant-justice/rights-asylum-seekers; https://www.splcenter.org/our-issues/immigrant-justice/local-policing-and-immigration-enforcement; https://www.chirla.org/what-we-do/our-priority-issues/end-draconian-immigration-enforcement-and-mass-detention/; https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/05/18/us-congress-reject-draconian-anti-immigrant-bill#; https://www.advancingjustice-alc.org/news_and_media/federal-court-blocks-draconian-immigration-rule-defended-by-biden-administration/; https://www.aclu.org/blog/immigrants-rights/trumps-executive-actions-today-demonstrate-he-will-follow-through-his

## Antidemocratic Political Bloc Negatively Impacts Minority Communities

The United States experienced extremist ideation on January 6th when animus against minority populations merged with online proliferation of conspiracy and misinformation.  The insurrection shows a shift toward decentralized radicalization, where people do not need to join a hate group to adopt its ideas or mobilize. At least one in ten people facing charges for the Capitol insurrection are current or former U.S. military members. Identified hate groups that organized or participated included Boogaloo Boys, Three Percent militias, Proud Boys, and Oath Keepers.  These ideas have become so pervasive that they now animate a large antidemocratic political bloc that is focused on upending the political order and imposing a more authoritarian system. The growth of this bloc is evidenced by broad mobilization around a variety of political issues, including opposition to mask mandates, covid-19 vaccines, and inclusive education. The far right fraudulently flips the narrative; they call healthcare workers, and democracy advocates an existential threat to the nation, as a justification to take aggressive and even violent action against them. Forces across the continuum of the political right have converged around the idea that their political opponents want to destroy the country.

Across the country, extremists have targeted the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community in all facets of life. National reporting on hate incidents from the organization Stop AAPI Hate demonstrates this, as does the work of Dr. Jennifer Lee, a professor at Columbia University. Dr. Lee told the SPLC that "Immigrants throughout our history – and Chinese immigrants in particular – have been vilified as dirty, filthy, immoral, vectors of disease, and vectors of sickness and illness. That is not new […]If you look at our history, we have a very, very ugly and brutal history of anti-Asian violence in the United States."

Hate is not easily confined to neat boxes; extremists target identities at intersections and beyond race- and ethnicity-based categories. While misogyny and male supremacy are extreme ideologies on their own, this bigotry also compounds other forms of far-right extremist ideologies. Discernable overlap between male supremacist ideologies and mainstream politics also reflects the ubiquity of bigotry aimed at female-identifying, non-binary and gender non-conforming people. The intersections of misogyny with racism, xenophobia, anti-LGBTQ hate and other forms of bigotry is captured in the definition of Patriarchal Violence developed by the Abolishing Patriarchal Violence Innovation Lab[4]. The junctions of oppression and bigotry delineated in Patriarchal Violence help define the motivating ideology of the Atlanta spa shooter who killed 8 people, 6 of whom were women of Asian descent.[5]

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[4] In brief, Patriarchal Violence is "an interconnected system of institutions, practices, policies, beliefs, and behaviors that harm, undervalues, and terrorize girls, women, femme, intersex, gender non-conforming, LGBTQ, and other gender-oppressed people in communities [....] PV is a global power structure and manifests on the systemic, institutional, interpersonal, and internalized level." This framing also connects the history of colonization, from the forced removal and genocide of indigenous peoples and the present daypresent-day epidemic of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls to the maternal mortality rate for Black women in America, which is two to three times that of their white counterparts.

[5] In a January 2021 Pew Research study, 50% of women who reported encountering online harassment believe it was due to their gender, compared to 18% of men. Roughly 50% of Black and Hispanic respondents

Indigenous persons in the United States have historically experienced brutality and continue to experience institutional and structural denial of rights. The Anti-Indigenous movement builds upon the government's historical oppression of Indigenous people and capitalizes on individual racist and bigoted beliefs. Anti-Indigenous groups work to limit and terminate Indigenous culture through "assimilation" into white, European-centric culture and publicly call Tribal sovereignty "a major legal fiction." Anti-Indigenous groups frequently hide behind organizational names that highlight citizenship and use civil rights rhetoric that draws out the unique political status of Indigenous people. This tactic mobilizes resentment for their special status, devalues their dual citizenship status and questions their patriotism.

## Extremists Target Local Communities and Online Spaces

Across the United States, local democratic institutions, including school and health boards, are facing increasing amounts of protests, threats against workers and elected leaders, and disruptive activities by rightwing extremists. Many of the activities target policies related to public health - like masking and vaccines - but targets have also included LGBTQ rights, access to sexual health education, and the teaching of accurate history regarding racism. The negative impact of this interruption and potential denial of access to education has disproportionately affected minority students. Public schools in the United States serve a larger percentage of students who are Black, Hispanic, Indigenous, and Asian American. Focusing attacks at the local level is a bread-and-butter tactic of the anti-government militia movement in the United States historically.

Tech and social media companies bear responsibility; they have not adequately addressed hate speech and harassment or misinformation and conspiracy proliferation on their platforms. Social media platforms have profited from the spread of hate and misinformation, and their negligence has allowed hate groups access to communications architecture that 1) they would be incapable of developing on their own, and that 2) has facilitated their efforts to movement-build and fundraise. The Southern Poverty Law Center has sounded the alarm for years as social media companies failed to uphold their own terms and conditions, enabling the expansion and radicalization of the far right, and its violence[6].

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believe the online harassment they experienced was due to their race or ethnicity, compared to 17% of white respondents.

[6] SPLC has underscored the role of Google's services in facilitating the radicalization of the terrorist who killed nine and injured one worshipper during Bible study at the historic Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina, in 2015 and exposed how social media companies allowed anti-democratic, rightwing extremist movements to utilize their services to organize large, sometimes violent mobilizations across the United States.

**Additional Resources in response to the Call for Inputs**

**Nativism & Migrants, Asylees, Refugees** (1e/2d "challenges; 5e, 5f, 5g)
- Nativist extremists -- inside and outside of government -- have fought to exclude people of color from equal access to schools, healthcare, government services, fair wages and safe working conditions, protections under law, and other rights, protections afforded asylees and refugees, and pathways to citizenship for centuries in the United States.
- Across the United States' history, nativist bigotry has been codified in the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882; the Immigration Act of 1924, which included the eugenic, racist "national origins quotas"; and the Immigration Reform Act of 1995. These efforts bookended the Immigration Act of 1965, which overturned "national origins quotas," and has provoked a decades-long backlash. Efforts to erode its advances include the 1995 Act; efforts to bar undocumented youth from attending public schools through attacks on US Supreme Court's 1982 decision in *Plyer v. Doe*; efforts to deport undocumented youth through the revoking of the DACA Executive Order, bipartisan failures to pass the DREAM ACT or comprehensive immigration reform more broadly; efforts to separate families by deporting adults and parents, including the targeting of those who have committed no crimes; efforts to bar undocumented persons from obtaining driver's licenses and from receiving health, child, and/or welfare services; efforts to sustain and enforce the federal bed mandate in immigration detention centers; efforts to bar those with legal claims of asylum or refugee status from ever accessing those systems; and so forth.
    - This agenda unites well-funded, politically powerful lobbying groups based in our nation's capitol with rightwing militias and grassroots nativist groups.
- Since 9/11, bipartisan consensus has drawn our immigration system under the purview of this country's national security complex, particularly the Department of Homeland. Since, the United States has embarked on expanding draconian immigration enforcement mechanisms, the scale and speed of which finds a blueprint in our mechanisms of criminal mass incarceration. According to the American Immigration Council, "Since 1993, the number of U.S. Border Patrol agents has skyrocketed from 4,139 agents to a congressionally authorized 23,645 agents in FY 2018" while "The number of ICE agents devoted to Enforcement and Removal Operations increased from 2,710 in FY 2003 to 8,201 in FY 2019."
- Both systems are emblematic of bias and racism in our society and are heralded by extremists who desire our government to drive this machinery. Such desires are driven by baseless anxieties rooted in demographic change, which bears the fingerprints of historical racism in our society.
- The Trump Administration not only employed but accelerated the "broken windows" style of immigration enforcement while also stoking baseless fears

and anger toward Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian (AMEMSA) communities and immigrants, especially those from Mexico and Central America. Stephen Miller, one of Trump's advisors has been recognized as central to such hateful rhetoric. As SPLC reported in 2019, Miller longed for a return to the 1924 act ushered into law by former-President Calvin Coolidge, including the national origins quotas. In response to an MSNBC story covering National Hispanic Heritage month, Miller wrote: "This would seem a good opportunity to remind people about the heritage established by Calvin Coolidge, which covers four decades of the 20th century."

- Extremists applauded Trumps' racist and draconian enforcement practice, as they did last month when reporters covering the human rights crisis at the southern border filmed and photographed CBP agents on horseback chasing asylum seekers and refugees from Haiti who, after fording the Rio Grande river, were carrying food and supplies back to their families.

- Rightwing militias and hate group members have long targeted migrants and human rights advocates alike at our southern border. This year, SPLC has documented video evidence of CBP agents working in tandem with rightwing militias. As SPLC wrote in July, "In eight of the 15 instances where militias intercepted migrants, Border Patrol agents appear to have responded to calls from Meyer and his allies. The nature of their relationship appears to be one where militia members have made it their job to intercept, detain and eventually call on Border Patrol to apprehend intercepted migrants."

- Reporters in recent years have documented both the extent to which rampant bigotry pervades online social media groups that include CBP agents and the relative impunity those agents enjoy when such evidence is discovered. Such incidents also rallies and emboldens extremists.

- These efforts are motivated by the nativist bigotry that, again, at its core, promotes fears and anxiety around demographic changes in the United States, which the US Census projects will become a "majority-minority" population by 2045.

- In recent years, as in times before, elected officials at varying levels of government, including the White House; rightwing television broadcasters, opinion writers, and social media influencers; and others have helped legitimize racist conspiracy theories--such as the so-called "The Great Replacement" and supposed "invasions" of people of color. Such false narratives have animated rightwing terrorists across the world over the last decade including in the United States.

- Such hateful rhetoric emanating from political parties and such powerful emblems of democracy, like the White House, emboldens extremists, whether or not they are members of hate groups or militias, convincing them their prejudices are valid, that border security begins at their front doors because their livelihoods--and their lives even--are in peril.

**Growth of an anti-democratic political bloc/radicalization of the GOP**

- Participants in the January 6 insurrection are [far less likely](#) to have ties to established extremist groups than other far-right extremists who have been arrested in recent years for committing acts of political violence. The insurrection shows that a shift toward a system of decentralized radicalization, where people do not need to join or come into contact with a hate group or its propaganda in order to adopt its ideas. Rather, these ideas have become so pervasive – across social media and mainstream television – that they now animate a large antidemocratic political bloc, focused on upending the political order and imposing a more authoritarian system in its place.

- The growth of this antidemocratic political bloc is evidenced by broad mobilization around a variety of political issues, including opposition to mask mandates, covid-19 vaccines, and inclusive education. Within the far right, teachers, healthcare workers, and progressive advocates are framed as an existential threat to the nation, thereby justifying aggressive and even violent action against them. Forces across the political right – including conservative intellectuals, elected officials, and grassroots activists – have converged around the idea that their political opponents on the left want to destroy the country.

- The right is becoming more comfortable with the idea of political violence as evidenced by:
  - 1) the framing of J6 insurrectionists as "martyrs" and "political prisoners"
    - Tucker Carlson on J6: [https://twitter.com/ndrew_lawrence/status/1453522027273408515?s=21](https://twitter.com/ndrew_lawrence/status/1453522027273408515?s=21)
  - 2) survey data
    - From the [American Enterprise Institute](#): "More than one in three (36 percent) Americans agree with the statement: "The traditional American way of life is disappearing so fast that we may have to use force to save it." Six in 10 (60 percent) Americans reject the idea that the use of force is necessary, but there is significant partisan disagreement on this question. A majority (56 percent) of Republicans support the use of force as a way to arrest the decline of the traditional American way of life."
  - 3) data
    - Threats against members of congress are [skyrocketing](#): "In a year that kicked off with the deadly Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol, threats against lawmakers are soaring. In the first three months of 2021, the U.S. Capitol Police recorded 4,135 threats against members of Congress. If that pace continues, total threats this year will double those in 2020."

**Gender-Based/Patriarchal Violence** (5e, 5f, 5g):

- Misogyny and gender-based violence manifest in innumerable ways within and alongside other forms of racially and religiously motivated hate. The ubiquity of misogyny and gender-based violence among rightwing extremists cannot be overstated. These prejudices also proliferate within our broader society. This context demonstrates how and why extremists target female-identifying, non-binary, and gender non-conforming persons in their homes and communities, in their workplaces and in social settings, et al.
- Terms such as "domestic violence" and "intimate partner violence" accurately define specific types of relational harm, but these terms largely fail to capture the roots of this cyclical violence at the intersections of race, class, religion and gender. SPLC utilizes the term "patriarchal violence."
    - The [Abolishing Patriarchal Violence Innovation Lab](#) defines "Patriarchal Violence" as "an interconnected system of institutions, practices, policies, beliefs, and behaviors that harm, undervalues, and terrorize girls, women, femme, intersex, gender non-conforming, LGBTQ, and other gender-oppressed people in our communities. PV is a widespread, [normalized] epidemic based on the domination, control, and colonizing of bodies, genders, and sexualities, happening in every community globally. PV is a global power structure and manifests on the systemic, institutional, interpersonal, and internalized level. It is rooted in interlocking systems of oppression."
    - This definition provides continuity from the genocide of indigenous populations, forced removal and lack of tribal jurisdiction to the high rates of missing and murdered indigenous women today. It contextualizes the gravity of the Supreme Court's recent [McGirt v. Oklahoma](#) ruling in the history of [allotment policies](#), like the Dawes Act, and cases limiting tribal sovereignty, such as [Oliphant v. Suquamish](#). This understanding of patriarchal violence shines a light on the through-lines from an increase in militia members working at the [North Dakota Bakken oil fields](#) and the subsequent uptick in violence perpetrated against local indigenous women and girls, as well as extremist's fervent focus on destroying families and through draconian immigration enforcement practices.
        - In 2019, for example, a border militia detained 200 migrants at gunpoint, including families and children, in New Mexico. Of the militia's leader, New Mexico Attorney General Hector Balderas said, ""This is a dangerous felon who should not have weapons around children and families."
    - Patriarchal violence also recognizes the centuries of oppression on the same land that connects the forced sterilization of indigenous women, through James Marion Sims' unanesthetized gynecological surgeries performed on enslaved black women, to allegations of [mass hysterectomies](#) in ICE detention centers. It subsequently accounts for

the injustice of memorializing Sims as the "father of gynecology" when the maternal mortality rate for Black women in America is two to three times that of their white counterparts. It draws upon iterations of misogyny, racism and homophobia across generations to contextualize and bring visibility to the on average 30- to 35-year lifespan of trans women of color in the Americas.

- This frame also helps extrapolate the attempts from the right to bar LGBTQIA+ persons from equal access to social services and civil rights while also launching attacks to erode gains in such arenas over recent decades, as evidenced by HRC and ACLU
- 2021 may also be the deadliest year ever for fatal violence against transgender and gender non-conforming persons, as tracked by HRC.

- Patriarchal violence interpenetrates all strains of extremism then, residing in the mainstream or fringes. The often-overlooked strain of "Male Supremacism" has begun to receive more attention from our research community.
  - Male supremacist groups vilify women along paradoxes: manipulative yet incompetent; genetically inferior, yet the progenitors of the white race; and deserving of violent punishment both for having sex and denying sex to men.
  - The manifestations and rhetoric can be different across ideologies, however the resultant verbal, psychological and physical violence that such views motivate against women and trans people remains steadfast.
  - Terrorists animated by male supremacist ideologies have targeted yoga studios and fitness classes, metropolitan city streets and sorority houses. Alex DiBranco, founder and executive director of the Institute for Research on Male Supremacism, has noted that these locations are often "clear symbolic target[s] for a misogyny based on thwarted male sexual entitlement, just as a synagogue is a symbolic target for anti-Semitism or a Black church for white supremacists….While some mass killers motivated by misogyny went for more general targets—campuses or busy streets—when this type of female-dominated space is selected, the symbolic association should immediately direct law enforcement to explore male supremacism as the motivation."
- Many people who hold extremist and hateful views are not members of an organized group but instead interact with like-minded individuals on various platforms across the internet, creating diffuse networks of those who hold extremist beliefs, across which violent ideation spreads. Statistics related to online harassment are alarming, especially when broken down along gender and racial demographics, and help illustrate how the negligence of social media companies leads to real harms and traumas.

- In a Pew Research study released in January 2021, researchers found that, while "men are somewhat more likely than women to say they have experienced any form of harassment online" (43% vs. 38% of all US adults), women are more likely to "report having been sexually harassed online (16% vs. 5%) or stalked (13% vs. 9%)." The study concludes that "fully 33% of women under 35 say they have been sexually harassed online, while 11% of men under 35 say the same."
- Similarly, about half of women who reported encountering online harassment believe it was due to their gender (compared to 18% of men) and roughly half of Black and Hispanic respondents believe the online harassment they experienced was due to their race or ethnicity, compared to 17% of white respondents.
- The Pew study also found that members of the LGBTQ community are particularly likely to be targeted by online harassment, with seven-in-ten lesbian, gay or bisexual adults having "encountered any harassment online." Furthermore, "51% have been targeted for more severe forms of online abuse."

**Indigenous Communities** (5e, 5f, 5g):
- Indigenous communities in the United States face both challenges to the structural government-to-government relationship and with experiences of racism due to their individual and group identities.
- Problems exist in the United States with various levels of government entities, from local to state and federal governments, respecting the sovereignty of Tribal governments. This is the case for those Indigenous governments that have official recognition by the United States government and those Indigenous Tribes that continue to demand recognition by the United States. Currently the United States government recognizes 574 American Indian and Alaskan Native Tribes or Villages. There are hundreds more non-federally recognized Tribes, Bands, and Clans in the country. In addition, recognition was terminated for more than one hundred Tribes' through a series of laws dismantling tribal sovereignty in the 1940s-1970s. For many Tribes treaties signed hundreds of years ago form the basis of the relationship with the United States government. Much of the treaty agreements have not been upheld and there are two remaining trust duties. The United States both holds and manages Tribal assets, primarily natural resource related, in 'trusts' and there is a trust obligation to assist tribal interests, particularly in the areas of health services, education, and housing. Recognition of sovereign status both creates a political status for Indigenous people that acknowledges self-government powers and treaty obligations.
- Currently an estimated 5.2 million American Indian and Alaska Native people live in the United States. Research indicates that some 40% of Indigenous people in the United States report experiencing individual discrimination, violence and harassment. Indigenous people living in majority Indigenous areas, including Reservations and Reservation adjacent 'border towns' report

experiencing more discrimination. Discrimination takes the form of racism and also bigotry associated with their political status. Indigenous people also report a bigotry that involves a romanticized stereotyping that resulted from colonialization that locks Indigenous people into narrow historical and inaccurate roles, rather than acknowledgment as people in current times.

- In addition to institutional and structural denial of rights of Indigenous persons in the United States there exists an Anti-Indigenous movement situated within the far-right extremist hate movements in the United States.
- This movement builds upon the United States government's historical oppression of Indigenous people and capitalizes on individual racist and bigoted beliefs held among the population.
- Anti-Indigenous movements, groups, and activists work to eradicate Indigenous sovereignty and treaty rights in a systematic effort to deny legally established rights to a group of people who are identified on the basis of their shared culture, history, religion, and tradition.
- These groups work to limit and terminate Indigenous culture through "assimilation," into white, European-centric culture. Anti-Indigenous groups ignore treaties and the rights enshrined in those treaties. Anti-Indigenous publicly call Tribal sovereignty "a major legal fiction."
- Anti-Indigenous groups frequently hide behind organizational names that highlight citizenship status and use civil rights rhetoric that draws out the unique status Indigenous people have politically in the United States. This tactic works to indicate to an already bias pubic that Indigenous people have a privileged status that gets them access to government benefits, thus mobilizing anti-Indigenous activists through personal resentment. At the same time, the tactic also devalues the dual citizenship status of Indigenous people and questions their patriotism to the United States.
- Anti-Indigenous organizations in the United States are most active in Reservation adjacent communities, particularly in the West, but also in the Mid-West and North-East of the United States. The activities of these organizations began in the 1970s in reaction to Indigenous efforts to regain their rights and force the United States government to uphold treaties. The anti-Indigenous movement has used various strategies to counter the efforts to guarantee the rights of Indigenous people. These strategies have recently included legal efforts to stop Indigenous attempts to solidify trust arrangements regarding natural resources like water, wildlife management, and hunting/fishing. Other legal efforts would dismantle laws that govern the rights to cultural preservation through child guardianship and restrict voting of Indigenous people.


**Roles & Negligence of Tech Companies** (5e, 5f, 5g):
- Advancements in online communications technology, particularly social media platforms, and their vast accessibility have super-charged extremists'

abilities to organize and mobilize as well as spread misinformation, disinformation and conspiracies that contribute to the targeting of minority communities, either within the mainstream or by fringe extremists in our society.

- Social media platforms have not just enabled the spread of hate and misinformation, often for free, but their negligence has allowed hate leaders and influencers access to communications architecture that 1) they would be incapable of developing on their own, and that 2) has unequivocally facilitated their efforts to movement-build and fundraise.
- Young people and young adults have often orchestrated those efforts and for those they recognize as their peers, catalyzing movements and moments of radicalization toward extremism that has resulted in waves of harassment, online and offline, murders and terrorist attacks.
- Our organization has sounded the alarm for years as social media companies failed to uphold their own terms and conditions, enabling the expansion and radicalization of the far right, and, also, violence. Repeatedly, the Southern Poverty Law Center has alerted companies like Twitter, YouTube, and Facebook to how far-right extremists organize on their platforms. These companies have often responded with half-measures, or in some cases, inaction, to what we flagged. Importantly,  in cases where social media companies do take steps to remove extremists from their platform, as they did in 2018 with Alex Jones and in 2020 with Canadian white supremacist Stefan Molyneux, these figures become limited in their ability to spread hateful propaganda and lies. These powerful, highly trafficked platforms have the power to reduce harm if they want to do it. To do so, they would have to choose responsibility to democracy and the public good over private profit.
- Twitter and Facebook present themselves as being non-ideological resources for communication but have demonstrable ties to the far right and long histories of promoting hate to their consumers. Facebook has partnered on fact checking with a group called Check Your Fact, which is linked to far-right *The Daily Caller*. Founded by FOX News' Tucker Carlson, *The Daily Caller* has in the past employed white nationalist activists, including Jason Kessler, who helped stage the deadly August 2017 Unite the Right event in Charlottesville, Virginia, and Peter Brimelow, the founder of the hate group VDARE. Pro-Trump billionaire Peter Thiel, who has promoted and funded anti-immigrant political campaigns, and is aligned with anti-Democratic figures like Curtis Yarvin, serves on Facebook's board. Facebook included the low-standard publication *Breitbart News* as part of its news section, despite its history of publishing racist, anti-immigrant posts and blogs authored by extremists.
- Research, reporting examples:
  - SPLC helped illustrate the role of Google's services in facilitating the radicalization of the terrorist who killed nine and injured one worshipper during Bible study at the historic Emanuel African

Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina, in 2015. The perpetrator targeted these worshippers because they were African American, after immersing himself in white supremacist rhetoric that he discovered using Google to search for information related to the killing of Trayvon Martin.

- Across recent years, SPLC has consistently exposed how social media companies allowed anti-democratic, rightwing extremist movements to utilize their services to organize large, sometimes violent mobilizations across our country. In August 2020, SPLC researchers published a comprehensive report on these mobilizations.
    - Extremists utilized Discord, a chat-based platform for online video gamers, for example, to orchestrate the deadly "Unite the Right" convergence of extremists in Charlottesville, Virginia, in August of 2017. One attendee was convicted of murdering Heather Heyer, an activist who was among those peacefully counter-protesting that day.
- In November 2020, SPLC reported on how "Extremists Are Cashing in on a Youth-Targeted Gaming Website." Our researchers noted that "White supremacists and other extremists have raked in hundreds of thousands of dollars through a youth-targeted, video livestreaming service called DLive, according to a researcher of online, far-right communities."
- In July 2021, SPLCs reporting demonstrated how Twitter "gave far-right extremists the platform they needed to plan an attack on the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, and the website, if it maintains its current approach, will likely enable politically motivated violence in again in the future."
- In September 2021, to document the expansion of the far-right podcast ecosystem, SPLC focused on 18 different podcasts between the years of 2005 and 2020. From there, our researchers focused on 882 cast members who appeared on 4,046 different podcast episodes. The associations between cast members of these 18 different shows reveal the interconnectivity of the movement. Our animated data visualizations demonstrate how rightwing extremists exploited the services of tech/social media companies and how, over this period, their services helped foster a transnational movement through the unabated spread of hate propaganda and recruitment online.
    - Far-right extremists have relied on audio content to promote their message of hate to audiences for decades. There are no stringent federal regulations on podcasts, unlike broadcast radio, making the barrier to entry much lower. Finally, dozens of platforms and mobile apps ("podcatchers") distribute podcasts at no cost to listeners, including those made by Google, Apple, Spotify, Stitcher, Libsyn, Soundcloud and Spreaker.

**AAPI**

- The rise in anti-AAPI (Asian American and Pacific Islander) hate incidents and hate crimes has finally started a national conversation on the history of anti-AAPI hate in this country, what might be driving the latest increase, and how to address it.
    - While there was a 7% decrease overall in hate crimes in 16 of America's largest cities in 2020, those targeting Asian people increased by almost 150%, according to an analysis by the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University, San Bernardino.
- Former President Trump's racist euphemizing of the COVID-19 virus helped contribute to a miasma of conspiracies that have swirled online and offline related to the global pandemic and stoked anti-Asian hate incidents and hate crimes.
- Dr. Jennifer Lee, the Julian Clarence Levi Professor of Social Sciences at Columbia University, spoke to SPLC earlier this year about the rising violence and hate incidents targeting Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders during the pandemic.
    - "[O]ur team at AAPI Data worked with Survey Monkey to field a survey immediately after the mass shooting in Atlanta. We surveyed not only Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, but also whites, Blacks, and Hispanics or Latinx [people]. And what we found was rates of anti-Asian hate incidents are far higher than the 4,000 self-reported to Stop AAPI Hate. So just to give you a figure, upwards of 2 million Asian American adults experienced an anti-Asian hate incident since the onset of COVID-19. We calculated that based on our survey. We found that in 2020 about one in 8 Asian American adults – these are just adults, not even children – experienced an anti-Asian hate incident."
    - "Immigrants throughout our history – and Chinese immigrants in particular – have been vilified as dirty, filthy, immoral, vectors of disease, and vectors of sickness and illness. That is not new, and it doesn't take much in a climate of increasing white nationalism or ethnonationalism to stir up anti-Asian hate. I cease to say just white nationalism, because it's not just about whites, it's about evoking a sense that the country is under threat by some outside and foreign source. In this case, that source was perceived as Asian, which resulted in the scapegoating of Asian Americans. Upon examination, there is clear history  very ugly and brutal history of anti-Asian violence in the United States."
- Direct quotes from Stop AAPI Hate's national reporting: 8/12/21 – This national report covers the 9,081 incident reports to Stop AAPI Hate from March 19, 2020 to June 30, 2021. The number of hate incidents reported to our center increased from 6,603 to 9,081 during April—June 2021. Of all

incident reports, 4,548 hate incidents occurred in 2020 and 4,533 of hate incidents occurred in 2021

- Verbal harassment (63.7%) and shunning (16.5%) — the deliberate avoidance of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders — continue to make up the two largest proportions of the total incidents reported. A majority of incidents are traumatic and harmful, but not hate crimes.
- Physical assault (13.7%) comprises the third largest category of total reported incidents, followed by being coughed at or spat on (8.5%).
- Civil rights violations — e.g., workplace discrimination, refusal of service and being barred from transportation — account for 11.0% of the total incidents.
- Online harassment makes up 8.3% of total incidents.
- National Trends:
  - A majority of incidents reported take place outside of the home and in spaces often open to the public. Public streets (31.6% of incidents) and businesses (30.1% of incidents) remain as the top sites where anti-AAPI hate occurs.
  - Hate incidents reported by women make up 63.3% of all reports.
  - Youth (0 to 17 years old) report 9.9% of incidents and seniors (60 years old and older) report 6.9% of the total incidents.
  - Chinese have reported more hate incidents (43.5%) than all ethnic groups, followed by Koreans (16.8%), Filipinx (9.1%), Japanese (8.6%) and Vietnamese (8.2%).
  - Of all hate incidents, 48.1% included at least one hateful statement regarding anti-China and/or anti-immigrant rhetoric.
- Comparison of 2020 and 2021:
  - Verbal harassment and shunning decreased from 69.5% and 20.6% in 2020 to 58.0% and 12.4% in 2021, respectively.
  - Physical assaults increased from 10.8% of the total hate incidents in 2020 to 16.6% in 2021. Vandalism increased from 2.6% in 2020 to 4.9% in 2021.
  - Online hate incidents increased from 6.1% in 2020 to 10.6% in 2021.
  - More incidents occurred in public streets (36.6% in 2021 vs. 26.7% in 2020), public transit (8.8% in 2021 vs. 8.2% in 2020), and private residences (10.0% in 2021 vs. 8.9% in 2020).
  - More seniors (60 years old and older) reported hate incidents in 2021, increasing from 6.5% in 2020 to 7.2% in 2021.


**Targeting Minority Populations Rights in Schools and Local Democratic Institutions**
- Across the United States local democratic institutions, such as school and health boards, are experiencing increasing amounts of protests, threats against workers and elected leaders, and disruptive activities by members

and supporters of anti-democratic entities, ant-government organizations, and those associated with hate movements that work to deny minority communities human rights. Many of the activities target polices related to public health, like masking and vaccines, but targets have also included LGBTQ rights issues, access to sexual health education, and the teaching of accurate history regarding racism in the United States.

- In tracking political violence in recent months and the anti-government militia movement for decades, there is documented trend of increased threats and intimidation directed at local public health officials, as well as other local officials, very concerning. While some officials report veiled harassment and intimidation, others have experienced pointed and incredibly direct threats.

- Focusing attacks at the local level is a bread-and-butter tactic of the anti-government militia movement in the United States historically.

- Schools:
  - In several states and school districts around the country hold public meetings that are central to a functioning local democracy. These meetings have been disrupted with threats and intimidation. In response, the National School Boards Association, which represents 90,000 school board members at 14,000 local public-school districts and 50 million schoolchildren, asked for help from the President of the United States. Attorney General Merrick Garland has directed the Federal Bureau of Investigation to coordinate with local schools to investigate, assess and strategize on ways to address the threats.
    - These threats and actual acts of violence are impacting the delivery of educational services to students and families, including students with disabilities, economically disadvantaged students, and the welfare of educators.
    - The negative impact of this interruption and potential denial of access to education has disproportionately affected minority students in the U.S. Public schools in the United States serve a larger percentage of students who are Black, Hispanic, Indigenous, and Asian American. Private schools in the United States serve higher income families than public schools.
    - Anti-democratic organizations like The Manhattan Institute, Turning Point USA, the 1776 Project, PragerU, John Birch Society, and Citizens Renewing America have created guides for activists to target inclusive learning in public schools.
    - Hate groups, like the Proud Boys, have participated in school protests targeting school boards.

- Public Health Offices:
  - Public health officials across the country have been threatened with violence and harassment during the pandemic
    - Beginning with the pandemic lock-down measures, militia groups in the United States began protesting and mobilizing

new supporters of their movement. Militia groups have used Nazi imagery and comparisons in their critique of public health measures.

- Some law enforcement officials, particularly sheriffs, who support the ant-government militia movement, have refused to impose the public health measures enacted by local and state governments, thus creating an internal government conflict.
- The National Association of County and City Health Officials, which represents nearly 3,000 local health departments across the nation, has expressed concern about the many new state and local laws that have limited authority to address public health. These legal and policy rollbacks have been led by far-right organizations and activists. The organization has also expressed concern about the threats and attacks from far right groups and their supporters, causing officials to hide and get security support.
- The abuse and threats have proven too much for many public health officials across the country, causing high numbers of resignations.
- Our research indicated that some of the threats have come from individuals with know affiliation with far-right organizations that have been advocating and participating in violence.
- Attacks and harassment against local public health officers provide extremist organizations with an opportunity to channel their anti-government talking points into the mainstream.
- Covid-19 conspiracies and disinformation organizing includes a mix of extreme far-right actors and organizations, as well as mainstream politicians and everyday folks. This situation has created a large pool for potential recruitment by anti-government organizations. The anti-government movement has also been coordinating with a for-profit alternative health network built on mis-trust.

- Election Officials
  - The attacks on the U.S. Capitol were not the only violent threats to democracy during the 2020 election process. A number of threats of violence plagued elections throughout the country forcing local officials to choose between publicly acknowledging threats that could potentially intimidate voters from turning out, or risking violence. Examples of elections attacks include:
    - Extremists used pickup trucks to try and block people from voting in Florida and other states.
    - Extremists seet up an armed paramilitary checkpoint at a vote drop box in Springfield, Oregon

- On the night of the election, armed Big Lie combatants attempted to stop vote counting in Arizona, Michigan, Wisconsin and Georgia.
  - In addition to direct attacks on elections systems and elections officials, there have also been a wave of attacks on government entitles, particularly state capitols. In December 2020 and January 2021, there were attacks on state capitols in Washington, Oregon, Georgia, and Idaho.
    - In Oregon, the attack on the Capitol was led by extremist groups like Patriot Prayer and former state Representative Mike Nearman, a leader of the anti-immigrant group Oregonians for Immigration Reform.
    - In Idaho, attacks on the Capitol were attempted by militia leader Ammon Bundy's People's Rights organization. Bundy is now running for governor in Idaho.
    - In Georgia, Chris Hill and the III% Security Force organized thirty people for an armed demonstration with tactical guns and military gear at the Georgia state Capitol building and were accused by political opponents of physical assaults in the streets near by following the demonstrations.

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**Notes --**
Where
**Houses of Worship & Cultural Centers** (1~; 5e, 5f, 5g):
- Oak Creek
  - Couch in historical context, periodized toward Charleston
  - Other examples, make transnational connection
- Charleston
  - Couch in "majority/minority" framing of UN, connect to noted drivers of terrorist ideation ("replacement," et al)
- Pair with targeted infiltration and surveillance of AMEMSA religious institutions, cultural centers
  - Connect with below: Effect of communities feeling trapped between their own government, RWEs....
- https://www.axios.com/hate-crimes-houses-of-worship-religion-27580b09-006b-462b-b2cc-28b7b969f5b5.html
- https://www.hsdl.org/?abstract&did=848290
- https://theconversation.com/attacks-on-houses-of-worship-are-on-the-rise-and-interfaith-dialogue-may-combat-this-150425
- https://www.abc10.com/article/news/crime/anti-semitic-fliers-synagogue-in-carmichael/103-39c91114-f005-4686-8066-b2e98fa21c75
- https://ktla.com/news/local-news/surveillance-video-shows-men-leaving-anti-semitic-flyers-at-synagogue/

## Appendix B: Report on the situation of minority communities in Mississippi

Located in the Southeastern region of the continental United States, Mississippi is 47,689 square miles of Southern charm and resilience. The soul of the ever-endearing Civil Rights Movement, Mississippi is the 32nd largest and 34th-most populous of the 50 U.S. states. Bordered by fellow contemporaries: Tennessee, Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and bordered by the Gulf of Mexico and the mighty Mississippi River, the Magnolia state is home to nearly 3 million people with a large swath living in its capital city, Jackson.

Today, Mississippi has the largest population of African Americans, more than any other state in the United States, registering at 37.8%. Which is not surprising considering that up until the Great Migration of the 1930s, African Americans were most of the state's population.

Throughout its history, Mississippi has served as ground zero of many historical events that played an integral part in shaping the American civil rights movement. These events included the Ole Miss riot of 1962 by white students objecting to desegregation; the 1963 assassination of Medgar Evers, the 1964 Freedom Summer murders of Civil Rights activists-- Michael Schwerner, Andrew Goodman, and James Chaney, the sit-ins of the Tougaloo Nine, rallies and protests for the removal of the Mississippi state flag in 2019 and countless other calls for justice and civil rights.

Mississippi frequently ranks lowest among U.S. states in measures of health, education, and economic development, while ranking high in measures of poverty. With nearly 20% of its residents living in poverty, the state ranks 38th in joblessness and imprisons a greater share of its people than almost any other state in the Union.

Despite having more Black residents than any other state, fewer than a third of its elected lawmakers are Black. Only one of four congressional districts is represented by a Black person, and there is not a single Black person serving in a statewide elected office. The power imbalance in Mississippi can be attributed to a lifetime ban on voting rights restoration as well as other draconian laws, remnants of the state's Jim Crow-era provisions, that have made voter protections virtually non-existent.

Voting rights, education, affordable childcare, hate crimes, mass incarceration, and economic security rank among the greatest concerns for people across the state of Mississippi.

Voting Rights in the state has long been as it is, steeped in discriminatory and restrictive practices. The gutting of the 2013 landmark Supreme Court case, Shelby v. Holder turned the hands-on voting rights back 50 plus years, eliminating key provisions of preclearance that were instituted to ensure full protections for voting participation of marginalized communities such as minorities and people with disabilities in states such as Mississippi, and others who had a long-demonstrated history of heinous voter suppression, and intimidation tactics. Mississippi has

historically worked to make it harder for its residents to vote. For example, Mississippi does not allow early voting, online voter registration, or no-excuse absentee voting. Additionally, the lack of fair and equitable voting district maps has allowed for the fracturing of the vote in statewide elections. These restrictive laws continue to disenfranchise Black and other voters of color.

Mississippi's public school system ranks near the bottom compared to educational systems in other states. Though graduation rates have improved in the state, public education in Mississippi continues to rank last in the nation year after year.

Affordable childcare also remains an issue for residents of the Magnolia state. Parents in Mississippi are still struggling with their ability to pay for childcare and other pertinent bills. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic triggered a crisis in adequate childcare needs and led to many families' exodus of the workforce, as the burden fell primarily on Black women*.*

The issue of hate crimes has had a devastating impact on the victims, their families, and their communities. Across the nation, including Mississippi, there has been an increase in race/ethnicity bias-motivated hate crimes both within and outside of our justice system. The number of incidents in Mississippi might seem small but it is important to note that many incidents may go unreported.

Mississippi has 21 criminal detention facilities, including three of the largest state-run facilities—Parchman, Central Mississippi, and South Mississippi. Three facilities are privately run facilities, and 15 are regional, county-run facilities. Each year in Mississippi, nearly 9,000 individuals are released from detention facilities, with more than a third predicted to return to the state prison system within just three years.

Aside from its alarming incarceration rates, Mississippi has one of the highest economic hardship index scores and high premature death rates in the country. Healthcare quality and access continue to be issues in the state. Mississippi has yet to expand Medicaid programs and many individuals fall in the gap and are unable to seek care due to lack of health insurance. Additionally, many rural hospitals face closure across the state, continuing to strain an already broken health care system. Access to affordable healthcare is inextricably linked to persistent poverty in the state, which is an epidemic that extends far beyond majority Black communities in the state.

One out of every 5 residents in Mississippi live in poverty, making it number one, among states in the U.S. On average, the per capita income in Mississippi is $24,369, which is dramatically lower than the national average. Additionally, the state has no minimum wage, but the federal minimum wage, $7.25/hour, has yet to increase as individuals are leaving the labor market due to low wages.

While embarking on his fact-finding mission in the U.S., we welcome the UN Special Rapporteur of Minority Issues to visit Mississippi in fulfillment of his desire to review the historical plight of marginalized people living under extreme strain and conditions in the U.S. and explore ways to overcome obstacles that prohibit full and effective realization of their human rights.