ABOUT THE COALITION

WHO WE ARE

We are Houston-based organizations, institutions and leaders committed to addressing all incidents of hate, bias, discrimination, and violence on the basis of their religion, race/ethnicity, gender, gender identity/expression, abilities, age, sexual orientation, and immigration status. HCAH does this through education, research, relationship building, and prevention initiatives, as well as partnering with organizations to host events that celebrate the diversity that makes Houston strong.

MISSION

Houston Coalition Against Hate (HCAH) is a network of community-based organizations, institutions, and leaders who come together to reduce hate and encourage belonging.

VISION

To be a successful model for the prevention of hate, bias, discrimination, and violence.
Concerned by reports of the steady rise in incidents of hate and bias in Houston, especially incidents against African-American, Jewish, Muslim and LGBTQ communities, a group of over 30 community stakeholders came together in early 2017 to develop a coordinated community-wide plan to reduce incidents of bias and hate.

Over the past two years, the group organized itself as the Houston Coalition Against Hate (HCAH) and has worked toward strengthening connections between organizations working in this space, facilitating the exchange of information, skills and experience, and establishing partnerships with law enforcement agencies and other institutions, so that Houston can improve its systems to effectively prevent, reduce and address incidents of hate.

Key activities of HCAH in 2017 have included: mapping of resources that communities access to address incidents of hate and bias; training to develop a common understanding of bias, hate, and intersectionality of issues; meeting with Police Chief Art Acevedo to discuss law enforcement’s response to incidents of hate; and collaboration with the Department of Justice (DOJ), local law enforcement, and community leaders, about incidents of hate and bias in the Muslim, Arab, and South Asian communities, including a meeting with DOJ officials and a community forum at the Arab American Cultural Center.
Prevention and intervention through the arts, policy and community engagement.

Conduct and support research for understanding, addressing, and reducing hate and bias incidents.

Fostering relationships between law enforcement and member organizations to better serve the communities they both serve.

Create opportunities for collaboration amongst coalition members to increase capacity and the cohesion of community initiatives by serving as a convening body for local grassroots and national organizations.

Work collectively to develop best practices, including but not limited to uniform systems of response to hate and bias incidents.
EVENTS

- Co-hosted **A Day of Perspective** with the University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work. The event featured remarks from keynote speaker Patrisse Cullors - social activist, best-selling author of *When They Call You A Terrorist* & co-creator of the viral Twitter hashtag and movement, #BlackLivesMatter - followed by a Q & A and reception. Earlier the same day the Coalition hosted an exhibit showcasing the artwork of five socially relevant/conscious Houston artists followed by a panel discussion titled *Art in the Space of Social and Political Advocacy.* (September 27th)

- Co-sponsored **A Day of Perspective Read Alouds** with the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), during which volunteers and members read the anti-bullying book *One* by Kathryn Otoshi to 32 classrooms in two Houston elementary schools. The readers also led an age-appropriate Q & A session and an art activity. Each classroom was gifted the book and art materials. (September 24th-25th)

- Hosted 38 people for the Coalition’s 1st annual member retreat, a workshop titled *Undoing Racism/Community Organizing* facilitated by The People’s Institute For Survival and Beyond. (July 12th-14th)

- Co-hosted two screenings and panel discussions of the CAIR documentary, *In Their Footsteps*, at Rice University and the University of Houston-Sugar Land in collaboration with Rice, CAIR-Houston, Organizing for Action-Fort Bend, The Alliance, and UH-Sugar Land. (February 21st & 28th)

- Co-hosted with Project Curate a reading and panel discussion/Q&A facilitated by the HCAH Coordinator with Joel Goza, author of *America’s Unholy Ghosts: The Racist Roots of Our Faith and Politics.* (June 12th)
MEMBER TRAININGS

- *Strategies for Keeping Your Immigrant Clients Safe From Hate and Violence.* Presented by Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and Houston Police Department. Co-sponsored by ADL & Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative (HILSC). (January 22nd)

- *Active Shooter Training.* Presented by HPD. Co-sponsored by ADL. (October 3rd)

- *Hate Crimes: What You Need to Know.* Presented by ADL. (November 7th)

BUILDING BRIDGES

- HCAH Law Enforcement Committee made their first official invite to HPD to join the monthly coalition meetings. Executive Assistant Chief Troy Finner and Sgt. Alexandra Magnan of HPD have been invited to attend meetings on a monthly basis.

- Provided a pilot training to HPD’s Community Affairs officers facilitated by Street Poets Inc., an L.A.-based organization that has worked to reduce recidivism in juvenile and adult offenders by giving them the tools and techniques to claim and own their stories. This session was the first time that Street Poets facilitators – two of the three of whom were themselves formerly incarcerated, ex-gang-affiliated members, and alumni of the Street Poets program – have conducted the workshop for law enforcement agents. (October 10th)
Dr. Anita Kalunta-Crumpton of Texas Southern University (TSU) was selected by the HCAH Research & Response Committee to lead Phase 1 of the HCAH Research Project. The report, expected July 2020, will include:

- Baseline data that will include numbers of hate incidents and crimes over the past 10 years, compiled from a variety of sources including law enforcement agencies and HCAH member organizations, with identification of any trends identifiable by race, age, religious identification, and/or location within the region; the existing procedures for collecting hate incident data and responding to victims’ needs, from law enforcement, medical staff, communities of faith, and non-profit organizations; a landscape analysis of best practices in data collection from around the country; and how various agencies define hate crimes and any differences in definitions between jurisdictions/agencies tasked with responding to hate crimes.

- Analysis of gaps in data between hate crimes and hate incidents, identification of barriers to victims reporting hate crimes and incidents as well as the barriers to investigating hate crimes, and analysis of how the various systems in Houston (law enforcement, direct service organizations, faith-based institutions, etc.) respond to hate crimes and incidents and gaps in resources.

- Researchers will use the data and analysis from above to offer recommendations to HCAH that could inform new policies and practices in the Houston region, including better training and capacity-building for frontline responders, a uniform system of reporting hate incidents and centralized data collection, or initiatives that aim to make reporting incidents safer for victims and communities.
• Spearheaded the creation of the HCAH Logo, Branding Guide, Web Design/Content, and Member Packet.

• Unveiled new Coalition website and social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn.)

• HCAH Coordinator participated on the Houston Young Lawyers Association (HYLA) Non-Profit Law Institute Panel held at The United Way. (January 30th)

• Hired a Communications/Outreach Consultant to coordinate all internal and external communications.

• The Coalition has increased from 56 active members to upwards of 65 with monthly meeting participation increasing to 40-45 members.
COALITION MEMBERS

Al Noor Society of Greater Houston
American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
American Pakistan Foundation (APF)
Anti-Defamation League (ADL)
Arab American Cultural & Community Center
BakerRipley
Boniuk Center (Rice University)
Catholic Charities
Center for Advancing Innovative Policy (CAIP)
Center for the Healing of Racism
Chinese Community Center (CCC)
Coalition Of Community Organizations (COCO)
Contemporary Arts Museum Houston (CAMH)
Council for American Islamic Relations (CAIR)
Culture of Health Advancing Together (CHAT)
Dawn Mountain
Daya
Deborah Mouton (Houston Poet Laureate)
Dialogue Institute (DI)
Earl Carl Institute (ECI of Texas Southern University)
Educational Excellence Resource Group (EERG)
Emgage USA
Equality Texas
Fifth Ward Community Redevelopment Corporation
GLBT Political Caucus
Harmony House
Harris County Public Health
HCDVCC
Hindu American Foundation (HAF)
Hindus of Greater Houston (HGH)
Holocaust Museum Houston (HMH)
Houston Area Women's Center (HAWC)
Houston Arts Alliance (HAA)
Houston Endowment Inc. (HEI)
Houston Grand Opera (HGOco)
Houston In Action (HIA)
Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative (HILSC)

Houston Independent School District Multilingual Department
Houston Police Department
Houston Volunteer Lawyers (HVL)
Immigrant Legal Resource Center
Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston (IMGH)
Irene Greaves (Lovescaping)
Justice For Our Neighbors (JFON)
Leadership for Educational Equity
LGBTQ Advisory Board
Mi Familia Vota
Minaret Foundation
MultiCultural Center
My Brother's Keeper (MBK) - City of Houston
OCA - Greater Houston
Office of New Americans - City of Houston
Partnership for the Advancement & Immersion of Refugees (PAIR) Houston
Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church (RMCC)
Right To Justice
Rothko Chapel
SAYHU: South Asian Youth in Houston Unite
Sikh Coalition
Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom (SoSS)
Strictly Street Salsa/Flamart
Tahirih Justice Center (TJC)
Texas Civil Rights Project
Texas Organizing Project (TOP)
The Alliance Texas
The Jung Center
The Montrose Center
United Against Human Trafficking
United We Dream (UWD)
University of Houston (UH) - Graduate College of Social Work
WB Press
YMCA of Greater Houston
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