



## Hate Crimes and Bias Incidents Hotline Advisory Committee

### MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY 6/10/2025

10:00 AM- 12:00 PM

#### Welcome

The Advisory Committee did introductions, reviewed the purpose of the day's meeting, and received a reminder from AGO staff on the Open Public Meetings Act and the Public Records Act. The Advisory Committee also received a reminder of the purpose of the committee.

#### Public Comment Period

There was one registered verbal public comment made at this meeting.

#### Update on Project Progress & Timeline

- Adopt agenda
  - First: Jeremiah Miller
  - Second: Hershel Zellman
- Vote to approve minutes from April
  - First: Jasmit Singh
  - Second: Jeremiah Miller
- Review of project progress: Staff provided an update on the project progress and timeline for the pilot launch.

#### Hotline Updates and Review

Staff provided an update for the hotline's deliverables, including a phone number, website address, and online reporting form.

- **Phone number:** 855-225-1010 (toll-free)
  - Accepting calls beginning July 1, 2025
  - Language interpretation will be available in over 240+ languages via LanguageLink
  - Voicemail only line during pilot phase
  - Response within 2 business days or less if follow-up requested
  - Can report completely anonymously if the reporter chooses.
- **Website address:** ATG.WA.GOV/REPORT-HATE
  - Website includes answers to frequently asked questions, definitions of a hate crime and bias incident, and information on what happens on the hotline as well as information about the advisory committee. Will go live and be available to the public beginning July 1, 2025.
- **Intake reporting webform:** Found at the address above, includes the intake form questions developed and approved at the April Advisory Committee Meeting. The reporting form will be available online and is functional for both mobile and standing devices, and has a safe exit button for people to easily click out of.

**Next Steps:**

A press release is pending and will be available to the public and Advisory Committee members when it is ready. Thank you to all of those who filled out the survey to provide a quote on the press release. The survey will be open until 5pm today. The press release will be translated into the 26 languages that the AGO's Civil Rights Division used for its Know Your Rights info sheets, which encompasses the top 17 spoken languages in WA

Marketing materials are being drafted with King County. Those will also be translated and sent to members and available to the public when they are ready upon the hotline's pilot launch in King, Clark, and Spokane counties on July, 1 2025.

**Q&A**

- Q: How is the hotline being funded and are the hotline's operations funded by state or federal funds?
  - A: The hotline's operations and staff are fully funded by state budget, and was funded for the biennium
- Q: Is the press release going to be made available beforehand and can service providers and Advisory Committee members use the language in the press release on their own materials to advertise the hotline?
  - A: AGO staff will check with their Public Affairs Unit if they are able to provide the language before it is released, and service providers can use the language in their own materials.
- Q: Will the press release be done in regular intervals or just on July 1?
  - A: The press release for the pilot launch will only be done on July 1, and will be made available on the AGO's website. Please continue to advertise with your communities about the hotline to increase public awareness.
- Q: Will people be able to retroactively report hate crimes or bias incidents that have happened before July 1, 2025?
  - A: Yes, people can report things that have occurred at any time, even retroactively, though the kinds of support available may differ based on how long ago the incident was.
- Q: Will other media like the Seattle Times or others release articles on the hotline's pilot launch?
  - A: We are currently unaware of any articles being written in the press about the hotline's pilot launch.
- Q: What supports are available for Advisory Committee members in case they receive hate for their involvement with the Advisory Committee?
  - A: AGO staff ask that you make them aware of any incidents and reach out to discuss safety if you are concerned.
- Q: When will the hotline go live statewide?
  - A: As per the statute, the hotline will be available statewide on January 1, 2027. The pilot phase duration is from July 1, 2025 to December 31, 2026.
- Q: Is it possible to push for legislation to create a short 3-digit phone number for the hotline?

- A: This can be something we discuss in future meetings, but we should keep in mind the pilot phase is short and there is only one legislative session between the pilot and statewide launches. The Anti-Hate team will discuss this possibility with the AGO's legislative team.
- Q: Does the intake form populate a spreadsheet that can be analyzed by AGO staff?
  - A: Yes, the intake form leads to a spreadsheet that will be analyzed by AGO staff into a report for the legislature, governor, and public by July 2027, as per RCW 43.10.305.

#### **Charter Adjustment: Vote**

AGO staff proposed to amend the Advisory Committee charter from meeting bi-monthly through July 2027 to meeting bi-monthly through June 2025, and meeting quarterly thereafter. Thanh Tran suggested meeting once more in August after the July 1 launch of the hotline's pilot phase, then moving to a quarterly schedule. Advisory Committee members took a vote and amended the charter to choose proposed amendment #2, below. In person meetings and the budget?

#### **Q&A:**

- Q: How will Advisory Committee members be informed of the gaps and the challenges during the pilot phase and provide technical assistance if needed? We want to be responsive if there are accessibility issues.
  - A: AGO staff will provide updates at every meeting of any challenges and inform committee members if they are in need of support. Advisory committee members can email AGO staff at any time if they have questions.
- Q: What is the mechanism for gathering feedback on how the hotline is working from hotline operators?
  - A: Hotline operating staff are internally housed at the AGO for the pilot phase duration, similar to AGO's Office of Veteran and Military Legal Assistance, and are in frequent communication with the team.

Proposed amendment #1 to the Advisory Committee charter (5 votes):

Duration: The Advisory Committee will hold bi-monthly meetings through June 2025. Thereafter, the Advisory Committee will meet quarterly.

Proposed amendment #2 to the Advisory Committee charter (14 votes – adopted):

Duration: The Advisory Committee will hold bi-monthly meetings through August 2025. Thereafter, the Advisory Committee will meet quarterly.

#### **Next Steps & Closing**

- Next meeting: August 12, 2025
- Meeting minutes to be sent by 8/6/2025

### Advisory Committee Member Attendance and Vote

Name	Organization	Vote for Meeting Frequency Change: Proposed Amendment #1 or #2
Alex Buijs	Criminal Justice Training Commission	#1
Sabrene Odeh	Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR)	Not available
Catalina Velasquez	Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network	#1
Ed Prince	Commission on African American Affairs (CAAA)	Did not attend
Emily Irwin	Refugee and Immigrant Connections Spokane	Did not attend
Floribert Mubalama	Congolese Integration Network	#2
Gabriel Neuman	GSBA, Washington's LGBTQ+ Chamber of Commerce	#2
Gabriela Ewing	Pasitos Gigantes (Hispanic Disability Support SWWA)	#1
Hannah Stearn	Spokane County PAO	#2
Hend Alhinnawi	Humanitarian Tracker	#1
Hershel Meyer Zellman	Human Rights Spokane	#2
Jasmit Singh	Khalsa Gurmata Center	#2
Jeremiah Miller	Fair Work Center	#1
Kiana McKenna	Pacific Islander Community Association of Washington (PICA)	#2
Lalita Uppala	Indian American Community Services WA	Did not attend
Marcos Martinez	El Centro de la Raza	#2
Aliza proxying for Maxima Patashnik	Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle	#2
Michelle Perez	King County Office of Equity, Racial & Social Justice	Did not attend
Miri Cypers	Anti-Defamation League Pacific Northwest (ADL)	#2
Nina Martinez	Latino Civic Alliance	#2
Pa Ousman Joof	Washington West African Center	Did not attend
Patricia D. Castaneda	Manzanita House	Did not attend

Shomya Tripathy	Asian Counseling and Referral Service (ACRS)	#2
KJ January	Spectrum Center	#2
Meera Forespring	The United Indians of All Tribes Foundation	#2
Soumyo Lahiri-Gupta	OneAmerica	Did not attend
Thanh Viet Tran	Hawaiians, Asians, & Pacific Islanders Promoting an Empowerment Network (HAPPEN)	#2
	<b>Total Votes:</b>	<b>Proposed Amendment #1:</b> <b>5 votes</b> <b>Proposed Amendment #2:</b> <b>14 votes</b>  <b>Final Vote: 14/19 votes for</b> <b>Proposed Amendment #2</b>