



Domestic Extremism and Mass Violence Task Force

Friday, March 13, 2026

Adopted Friday, June 12, 2026

<https://tvw.org/video/domestic-extremism-and-mass-violence-task-force-2026031048/?eventID=2026031048>

1. Welcome (9:00 – 9:15)

Staff welcomed the Task Force members and members of the public to the March meeting of the Domestic Extremism and Mass Violence Task Force.

Staff announced that 4 written public comments were received by 5pm Thursday, March 12, and had been distributed to Task Force members before the meeting. Staff noted that the public comment portal will remain open for one week after the meeting, and close the following Friday, March 20. Additional comments received will be distributed to the Task Force after the portal closes and posted to the Task Force website.

Staff reviewed the agenda. Faaluaina moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by Sharonne.

Staff reviewed the meeting minutes from the last task force meeting on Friday, September 26. Faaluaina moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Karl.

2. Youth and Targeted Violence (9:15 – 10:00)

The Task Force received a presentation about the rising concerns and cases of targeted violence and online extremism impacting and recruiting youth. **Please note content warnings for discussions of gun violence, mass shootings, youth violence, gore, sexual exploitation of minors, and coercion.**

The presentation provided an overview of what nihilistic violence is, the difference between nihilistic violence and nihilistic violent extremism (ideologically-motivated nihilistic violence), what the ecosystem and threat landscape looks like, and case studies.

Nihilistic violence began rising in the last 5-10 years, starting with groups such as 764, CVLT, the Com, and other online networks. Nihilistic violence differs from nihilistic violent extremism through motivation: nihilistic violence can be thought of as committing “violence for violence sake,” while nihilistic violent extremism is ideologically motivated, though shares the same aesthetic call signs (specific tactics of manipulation, sexual exploitation and extortion of minors, and bodily mutilation).

Nihilistic violence exists in a hybrid landscape, with recruitment, communications, and planning taking place online in a variety of social media platforms (ranging from mainstream to extremist-operated), and acts of violence taking place in the real world, with 34 of 41 high

risk activity briefs submitted by the Institute of Strategic Dialogue to law enforcement in 2025 being tied to nihilistic violence.

The threat landscape online has recently become harder to define due to a blurring of lines between extremist and nihilistic subcultures, both sharing ideas freely with one another, making it hard to tell in chatrooms and other online spaces if violence is based in ideology (extremism) or aesthetics (nihilism).

A variety of subcultures of nihilistic violence exist. Two highlighted as examples in the presentation were the primary subcultures: True Crime Community (TCC) and the Com/764. The TCC can be differentiated by its glorification and emulation of mass-casualty perpetrators, such as those responsible for Columbine, Christchurch, Quebec City, Macerata, and others, with seemingly no ideology motivating their plots or acts of violence. The Com/764 also glorifies violence, using sextortion, doxxing, swatting, harassment, and intimidation campaigns to silence and manipulate their victims into committing acts of violence, including, at the most extreme level, suicide on livestream.

The presentation ended with a couple of case studies, including one September 2025 case of a teenager in Pierce County planning a mass school shooting, which was prevented by intelligence and law enforcement action.

The Task Force had a Q&A session with the presenters.

1. Does your group have an ongoing daily 24/7 watch out for these things?
 - Not 24/7, it's mostly Monday-Friday, unless something horrible happens because we don't have funding to keep it 24/7.
2. What are the factors that are attributed to the growth in the last 10 years?
 - Social media is the biggest one, also how we've seen the shift of extremism online, how groups are organized and always find a new place to go to when they are taken down. Kids are still looking for communities online they identify with, and Com and other groups take advantage of this, develop manuals and the network. Studies in the last few years show that youth mental health is not in a good place, and these groups are taking advantage of that.
3. One of the themes that keeps coming up is that a lot of the youth who are joining these groups are still looking for communities. It implies that these youth are looking for a community where they fit. Does disruption of these platforms create a meaningful amount of disruption of these activities that result in prevention, or will it lead to the creation of groups that are even worse?
 - It's part of the solution, but not the final solution. For example, the neo-Nazi groups have been removed from Telegram, which pulled them down for a while and broke their activities for a while. There is always a chance they will find another platform and come back. There should be a way to keep these groups out of these platforms, and that's why prevention is so important.

4. I know it's not possible to get into all possible causes for this. I was wondering about the research on social economic reasons, family of origin, connected to these cases. Is it unique to the youth or connected to the youth's background?
 - In many of the cases we were able to collect information from, there are often other things happening in the youth's lives. There is the idea that school shooters are usually kids who are from good families, but have been bullied, but this is not always the case. The case in WA for instance, the kid was homeschooled, had access to guns, and other things that allowed him to commit the crime. It goes beyond race and ethnicity and is more connected to other factors that lead youth to be targeted.
5. Are there any societies/countries/states that found a way to use social media in a good way?
 - Australia had recently banned social media for kids a certain age. There are mixed feelings about the total social media ban due to its impact on isolation. This is not a good solution, rather we need to find a way for young people to have a healthy relationship with social media. TBD in terms of what the solution is and how to make this work.
6. Can you share about the age range of youth who are impacted?
 - Age ranges between 8 to 20. I don't want the route to be law enforcement, because once involved in the justice system, chances are they will continue to come back. These kids are also victims, and we need to find opportunities to refer them to other organizations that are not law enforcement. Last week we had a case of a junior-high youth, we sent the info to the school counselor, and they contacted law enforcement, which is not what we wanted, but the school didn't know what to do.
7. The primary draw to youth to these communities seems to be a low-risk sense of belonging. That raises the question about prevention models and offline intervention models that require in-person exposure. How do we create pathways that match the type of environment the kids are used to, and don't require so much exposure?
 - There are resources in the ISD website that highlight what you said. We recognize kids need help, but they also need to understand they need help as well.
8. Comment from task force member: I appreciate you mentioning not referring cases to the police. But liability to the schools may lead them to contact law enforcement. This is a hurdle we need to think about.
 - Agree. This is a concern we have as well.
9. It's a challenge for youth to identify what communities they belong to. How do we better navigate communities kids feel they belong without exploiting them?
 - There are several organizations trying to fill this gap. There is no easy solution, and these problems wouldn't exist if we invested in education and support. I don't have a solution, but I will make sure to share any solutions my group come up with.

10. Comment from task force member: When there are legit concerns, law enforcement needs to be included.

- Agree, but law enforcement can't be the only solution.

3. Break (10:00 – 10:05)

4. Panel: Prevention and Intervention for Youth (10:05 – 10:30)

The Task Force heard from a panel of professionals whose work include or center around early prevention efforts, as well as interventions for youth who begin exhibiting signs of potential pathways to violence and/or radicalization. The panel consisted of representatives from the Eradicate Hate Global Summit, Boston Children's Hospital, and the WA Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

PQ1: To kick the panel discussion off, can you each introduce yourselves and tell us about your work, including how often your work interacts with youth and how it fits into the public health approach & four levels of prevention?

- Brette: Eradicate Hate is a comprehensive, global initiative with programming focused on combatting hate and violence of all forms and at all levels. Youth programs consist of online components, such as toolkits, that can be taken offline and implemented in day to day life, trainings, convenings, and more. Youth programs are primarily targeted for youth ages 12-22 (middle school to college).
- Heidi: Does work at the community level. One of our programs is based on an outpatient facility and works with youth who have demonstrated risk of violence. We work with the family to identify how to address their needs. They collaborate with schools and other partners and work directly with youth.
- Amber: Supports school safety training. As a system, OSPI works with districts to support all students. Our tier 1 is how to build safety and belonging. Tier 2 is to support youth demonstrating concerning behaviors. Tier 3 is support and intervention.

PQ2: Heidi and Amber, both of your work in secondary prevention relies, either in part or wholly, on risk and need assessments. We've seen assessments of individuals and communities under previous CVE programs result in harmful profiling. How does your work differ from those previous programs, and what safeguards do you have in place to avoid that replication of harm?

- Heidi: A systematic threat assessment system is a good way to ensure we are not engaging in bias. There have been times when we received a referral that displayed some bias involved. We work with the schools when this happens, as well as the families. Our work is about helping kids and families on a path of success. We focus on diversion to ensure families and kids don't need to engage with law enforcement.
- Amber: We take a two-level approach like the Salem-Keizer model. Level one is building support - if students demonstrate concerning behavior, we focus on the behavior and develop a management plan to ensure the child receives the support they need and is set up to success. Level two includes a multidisciplinary team outside of the school, that could include law enforcement, mental health providers and CBOs.

We investigate the behavior to get the student out of the path of violence to avoid something more significant happening. We check if the student has access to weapons, take a look at social media and other cyber places to assess if there is a threat and develop an intervention strategy when needed. It's a multidisciplinary decision-making process.

PQ3: Brette, the work that Eradicate Hate Summit has been doing with youth through the UP End Hate and Safe School Ambassador initiatives focus on giving youth the empowerment and tools to combat hate among their peers and at school, really working across both the primary and secondary levels of prevention. Who needs to be at the table alongside youth to support this work, and why is that support important?

- Brette: We deeply believe in the power of youth to take ownership and lead these initiatives in the schools, but they can't lead this alone. Multidisciplinary work is key here along with youth leadership and trusted adults. One of the steps is identifying when to reach out to a trusted adult. One of our tag lines is "don't worry alone". We don't focus on discipline, but rather on the support the student needs. Social workers, coaches, teachers, school psychologists play an important role to meet youth where they are at and listen without judgment.

PQ4: The online world continues to grow exponentially with each passing day, with online extremism and radicalization of youth rapidly increasing and spilling over into the real world. How has this impacted your work, and what strategies should we be thinking about to protect against harmful online and offline content?

- Brette: Zero question that online is influencing the offline world, one influences the other. We have a screening hate campaign on how to intervene with youth and know when to seek help if they have concerns the youth has been radicalized.
- Heidi: We think about how we can mitigate online harm and what is going on in real life that will lead youth to be online and seek these spaces that make them feel they belong. Our work and the primary and secondary prevention level focus on creating a space where youth feel they belong.
- Amber: Help youth and schools to identify signs, create a place students feel they belong. When we don't feel this connection, how can we partner with the community to change this? How to navigate the programs we already have, to intervene early to prevent threats and violence. It's a continue changing process to ensure schools are supported and create a safe environment for students.

The Task Force had a short Q&A session with the panel.

1. How do youth at risk move out of the system and are not labeled as an extremist?
 - Heidi: We work to connect them to groups that are aligned with their passions and identities. We also work with the school to help them see the child as someone who needs help, rather than a concerning child. It's fair to say kids can graduate out of the program, and they won't be involved in the program forever.

2. Comment from task force member: We have a youth program in Pierce County and a mental health program. We use our culture to connect with youth. Most of them were born in the USA, but we ensure they are also connected with their background, because when they know who they are, that helps a lot.
3. Are there trusted individuals on campus? Do they include SROs, other public safety folks, etc.?
 - Trusted adults are the ones the youth share connection with. Could be a coach, teacher, janitor, etc. It can be anyone.
 - We encourage schools to train anyone on campus to ensure they know how to be an adult in these spaces and provide support to youth.
4. Comment from task force member: Youth are expressing anti-social feelings for being alienated from society. I'm afraid that when we focus on tier-two, we don't focus on how to re-integrate youth back into society. This community building is both level one and level two. When we identify someone who has been radicalized, we must pull them to the community and have them realize that the people they hate are just like them.

5. Break (10:30 – 10:35)

6. Presentation: HearMeWA (10:35 – 10:50)

The Task Force received a presentation from members of the AGO's youth policy team about HearMeWA, Washington's 24/7 youth-centered crisis-response program, run by trained crisis counselors who respond to youth safety and well-being needs by linking them to existing support systems. The Youth Policy Team provided an overview of the program and shared information about what types of calls the line receives, how many calls have been received, how calls are routed to the appropriate tip responders based on severity, and how the Youth Advisory Group plays an active role in providing input on the operations and marketing of the line.

The Task Force had a short Q&A session with the Youth Policy Team.

1. How do you identify and select the members of the Youth Advisory Group?
 - The team worked with a human-centered design firm to create a youth-centered survey and conduct focus groups with youth across Washington to understand what a Youth Advisory Group should look like, as well as develop the bylaws and charter for the YAG. The team also met with over 50 youth-led groups in Washington to learn how those groups operated and if the youth participating felt as if they had decision-making power.
2. What is the growth plan for HearMeWA to expand its outreach so that there's broader awareness and utilization of the program?
 - Leading up to the launch of the program in 2024, the outreach team (of 2) primarily focused on outreach to schools and law enforcement to ensure readiness as tip responders for providing holistic services. In 2025, the team switched from broad statewide outreach to annual targeted outreach, focusing

on 3-5 counties each year to bring more awareness to organizations and individuals about the line.

3. Is outreach only focused on public schools, or are private schools and home-school groups included in outreach?
 - Some initial outreach was done with private schools, though the primary focus in the years leading up to the 2024 launch has been public school districts. The team continues to have a primary focus on public school districts, but do hope to outreach with private schools and home-school groups as capacity allows.
4. Can you clarify the focus on immigrant and refugee communities for outreach? Is that due to fear in those communities or something else?
 - The team developed a list of youth categories to ensure that in the course of outreach and input, they weren't missing youth from populations who are historically underserved and/or marginalized during broad outreach to youth. Immigrant, refugee, and asylee are part of that list of categories.
 - List of identified youth categories shared by the Youth Program Team: Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC); disabled; formerly incarcerated (interacted with justice system); foster care; houseless/unsheltered; immigrant; English Language Learner (ELL); Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, and Two-spirit (LGBTQIA2S+); low-income; military; neurodivergent; refugees and asylees; rural; urban and rural indigenous communities; federally recognized tribes; teenage parents.

7. Break (10:50 – 10:55)

8. Task Force Administration (10:55 – 11:25)

Staff reminded the task force that subcommittees have been meeting since October 2025, with guest speakers coming to present on their work in different levels of prevention at the 2025 meetings and recommendation development happening during the 2026 meetings. All subcommittee meeting summaries can be found the DEMV website.

Staff also let the task force know that draft recommendations will be posted to the DEMV website for public comment and review. Staff anticipates that those recommendations will go up before the June 12 task force meeting. Members of the public interested in providing feedback on the draft recommendations should keep an eye out on the website closer to June for instructions on how to provide feedback, as well as their emails if they are signed up for DEMV's distribution list.

9. Next Steps & Closing (11:25 – 11:30)

Staff reminded the Task Force that the subcommittees are scheduled to meet through June and may end earlier depending on progress of recommendation development. The next Task Force meeting is Friday, June 12. The Task Force adjourned at 11:28.

10. Links & Resources Shared Throughout Task Force Meeting

- <https://www.isdglobal.org/isd-explainers/>
- <https://www.isdglobal.org/publication/spotting-the-signs-recognizing-and-responding-to-subcultures-of-nihilistic-violence/>
- <https://www.isdglobal.org/publication/networks-of-harm-a-victim-centric-information-resource-on-the-764-sex-tortion-network-2/>
- <https://www.isdglobal.org/digital-dispatch/from-sex-tortion-to-violence-the-evolving-threat-of-the-764-network-in-the-us/>
- <https://www.isdglobal.org/digital-dispatch/how-the-true-crime-community-generates-its-own-killers/>
- <https://upendhate.org/>
- <https://screenhate.org/>
- <https://hearmewa.org/>
- <https://agportal-s3bucket.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/HearMeWA/HearMeWA%20Annual%20Report%20-%20August%202025.pdf?VersionId=56gW5l42pvVJeJMDHH9vesvXSIN14V6v>
- https://agportal-s3bucket.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/HearMeWA_Co-Design_Final%20Report_October%202026.pdf?VersionId=UmgQkugqlg.dFuRwr.q6Lz9bf1XNPXJ7

Attendance List

Name	Organization	Present?
Adrianna S	UTOPIA Washington	Yes
Alli H	Parents 4 Peace	No
Amber W	Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction	Yes
Dyneeca V	Freedom Project	No
Faaluaina P	Asia Pacific Cultural Center	Yes
Jay G	WIDEN; Gairson Law, LLC	Yes
Juan P	Unidos of Snohomish County	Yes
Karen S	Muslims for Community Action and Support	No
Karl E	Planned Parenthood of Greater Washington and North Idaho	Yes
Kate B	Western States Center	No
Keara K	Jewish Family Service	Yes
Leslie C	Washington Coalition for Police Accountability	Yes
Luis M	Snohomish Citizens for Human Rights	No
Mark C	Walla Walla County Sheriff's Office	No
Mary H	Thurston County Auditor	No
Mercedes S	Cedar River Clinics	Yes
Morgan M	ADL Center on Extremism	No
Nathan W	Washington State Department of Health	Yes
Richard B	Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs	Yes
Roger K	Projects for a Civil Society	Yes
Sahej K	Khalsa Gurmat Center	Yes
Sarah W	CoLab for Community and Behavioral Health Policy Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences University of Washington	Yes
Seth L	PERIL: the Polarization & Extremism Research and Innovation Lab	Yes
Sharonne N	Equity in Education Coalition	Yes
Stacey M	WA State Emergency Management	Yes
William H	Center For Children & Youth Justice	Yes

