

Recommendation #1: The Legislature should establish a state program focused on preventing and addressing all forms of hate-fueled and targeted violence in Washington State using a public health and community-centered approach.

- The Hate-Fueled and Targeted Violence Program should be established in either the Department of Health's Injury and Prevention Program or the Washington Attorney General Office's Policy Division.
- The Program will serve as a statewide subject-matter expert and resource hub on hate-fueled and targeted violence prevention efforts and initiatives, including but not limited to developing educational programming and campaigns, conducting training, doing outreach, developing policy and legislative recommendations, overseeing grant funding, and other duties as developed.
- The Program will lead the implementation of the primordial and primary prevention recommendations of the Domestic Extremism & Mass Violence Task Force, and work in partnership with entities tasked with implementing the Task Force's secondary and tertiary recommendations, as appropriate.
 - The Program will use [community-based participatory research](#) (CBPR) to test and evaluate the recommendations within the public health framework to contribute data on the efficacy and success of primordial and primary prevention efforts based on protective factors, as well as secondary and tertiary prevention efforts working to mitigate risk factors and strengthen protective factors.
 - The Program will partner with government agencies implementing secondary and tertiary recommendations rooted in risk assessment and management to develop policies and procedures for reevaluation, case closure, data privacy, and records governance to ensure the balance of protecting individual privacy, avoiding indefinite risk labelling of individuals, and maintaining public safety.
- The Program will develop and maintain a publicly accessible database on instances of hate-fueled and targeted violence that have occurred across Washington State, updated on an annual basis and accompanied by a publicly available report detailing trends and recommendations for violence prevention.
- The Program will develop and implement policy and legislative recommendations for hate-fueled and targeted violence prevention based on community needs and data.
- The Program will coordinate and lead collaborative efforts with other state agencies, local and Tribal agencies, and non-governmental and non-profit organizations to pursue and advance multi-disciplinary prevention activities against hate-fueled and targeted violence.
- The Program will manage the Prevention of Hate-Fueled and Targeted Violence Advisory Board, established to advise the Program on prevention efforts and initiatives, community outreach and engagement, and the development of the hate-fueled and targeted violence database.

Public Health Framework

Primordial Prevention

Recommendation #2: The Legislature should pass the [Youth Development Fund](#), an initiative that establishes an account to distribute grant funding to invest in equitable and positive youth development programming across Washington, giving youth the opportunity to foster friendships and peer-to-peer relationships, build active engagement and interpersonal skills, and decrease screen time and isolation.

- Programming funded by the Youth Development Fund should ensure that program leads have access to:
 - Trauma-informed training that enhances leadership, interpersonal, and mentorship skills,
 - Service provider information to provide to youth who are seeking support for their wellbeing,
 - Knowledge about youth safety and wellbeing topics, such as online safety, fostering healthy relationships and communication skills, and other relevant topics.
- Programming funded by the Youth Development Fund should explore and develop pathways for older youth to become program leaders, providing an opportunity to practice leadership, interpersonal, and mentorship skills.
- Consistent with the Youth Development Fund, partnerships with foundations, local companies, and governments should be leveraged to ensure adequate funding, and to reduce barriers to participation, such as transportation and food costs, making programs accessible to any youth.

Recommendation#3: The Legislature should develop and prioritize grant funding for **programs and community-based organizations that facilitate healthy and connected communities of all ages**, creating an increase in social capital, reduced isolation, peer-to-peer connections, improved social cohesion, and an overall sense of inclusion and belonging.

- Specific types of programs that fall under primordial prevention against targeted violence are:
 - Civic engagement programs that focus on building bridges between differences of opinion and reducing polarization or polarizing rhetoric.
 - Law enforcement outreach programs that strengthen ties and build trust between law enforcement and community.
 - Similar to youth after-school extracurricular activities, programs that support hobbies, health and wellbeing, faith-based/interfaith connections, cultural connection, networking, and mentorship foster peer-to-peer connections and senses of belonging and identity.

Primary Prevention

Recommendation #4: The Hate-Fueled and Targeted Violence Program should develop and deploy **digital media literacy curricula and materials** for different age ranges and constituencies that assist the population in staying safe when navigating online spaces.

- Curricula and materials should teach and reinforce critical thinking and online safety skills that help users identify and build resilience against manipulative content, such as misinformation, disinformation, rumors, conspiracy theories, propaganda, scams, violence, extreme rhetoric, and other harmful content. Curricula and materials should have a component on data privacy and safety to teach users how to keep their personal information safe.
- Curricula and materials should be developed with entities who have subject-matter expertise in digital media literacy. Curricula and materials should include feedback from stakeholders and partners who may be deploying and/or receiving curricula and materials.
- Curricula and materials should be tailored to different groups of constituencies, including, at a minimum:
 - **Students:** curricula and materials should be endorsed by the Washington State Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and/or higher education institutions, and available to educators to adopt for classroom learning, librarians for library resources, or student-led clubs for club resources.
 - **Adults:** curricula and materials can be based on curricula developed for students, particularly of high school or higher education age, and tailored to the lifestyles of adults, such as being able to identify scams. Curricula can be deployed at local libraries, community centers, and online portals.
 - **Workplace:** curricula and materials should be integrated into workplace training standards, including new hire onboarding training and technology safety modules.
 - **Elected officials:** curricula and materials should be tailored to the unique needs and requirements of an online presence that holding a public office requires and can be integrated into annual safety training opportunities or other mandatory training courses.
- Curricula and materials should be readily accessible through multiple mediums, developed in plain language, include definitions of key and/or technical terms, translated into at least the top 20 spoken languages in Washington, and accommodate impairments and disabilities.

Recommendation #5: In partnership with relevant subject-matter experts, the Hate-Fueled and Targeted Violence Program should develop and deploy publicly accessible **training and coaching** specific to addressing and preventing violent extremism and targeted violence.

- Create **active bystander training** for recognizing early warning signs relating to violent extremism and targeted violence.
 - In addition to general bystander training, training specifically for intimate bystanders and bystanders in the workplace should be developed that considers the proximity, settings, and relationship dynamics one has with an individual potentially on the pathway to violence.
 - Training should be free to low-cost, accessible through multiple mediums, translated into at least the top 20 spoken languages in Washington, and accommodate impairments and disabilities.
- Create **detailed, in-depth training related to nihilistic violence, sadistic online exploitation, and other forms of violent online predation.**
 - Training should be easily accessible for individuals who encounter youth in their professional capacity or with a duty to report in Washington State under [RCW 26.44.030](#).

Recommendation #6: Working in partnership with subject-matter experts, the Hate-Fueled and Targeted Violence Program should develop **public awareness and educational campaigns and materials** on topics related to violent extremism and targeted violence.

- Campaigns should be based on facts to inform the reader about the topic and provide actionable prevention steps, as applicable. At a minimum, campaigns should cover key topics, including but not limited to:
 - Violent extremism;
 - Targeted violence, including mass violence;
 - Nihilistic violence and sadistic online exploitation;
 - Violence prevention; and
 - Public health approach.
- Additional topics, such as specific ideologies, movements, trends, tools for upstream prevention, etc. should be identified for public awareness and educational campaigns.
- Campaigns should be accessible to anyone to ensure widespread awareness and education.
 - Campaign materials should be accessible both in-person and via mass media to reach individuals in urban and rural areas.
 - Campaign materials should be developed in plain language, translated into at least the top 20 spoken languages in Washington, and accommodate impairments and disabilities.
 - Campaign materials should be in both short and long forms, providing summary, high level information and in-depth information.

- Campaigns and educational materials should include a public service announcement (PSA) message that can be added to an email signature, news article, radio ad, television commercial, advertisements played at public events, and other online campaigns, similar to PSA messages on suicide prevention and domestic violence.

Recommendation#7: The Legislature should **restore funding for [HearMeWA](#)**, a vital primary prevention resource addressing youth safety and well-being before tragedy occurs by connecting callers with trained crisis counselors and providing opportunity for early off-ramping from harm and strengthening protective factors.

- In addition to restoring full operational and staff funding for HearMeWA, additional funding should be granted to implement training and upskill the program's responders to recognize, respond to, and guide callers through understanding the warning signs and indications associated with nihilistic violence, sadistic online exploitation, radicalization, extremism, and pathways to violence.
 - Training and additional policies and procedures associated with responding to nihilistic violence, sadistic online exploitation, radicalization, extremism, and pathways to violence should be developed in partnership with subject-matter experts and practitioners engaged in this work.

Secondary Prevention

Recommendation #8: The Legislature should provide funding and support to strengthen and expand the reach of Washington's [School-Based Threat Assessment Program](#).

- The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) should receive additional funding and support to implement changes that strengthen Washington's School-Based Threat Assessment Program.
 - Schools required to have School-Based Threat Assessment programs and teams should be required to report the number of threat assessments made throughout the school year to OSPI to inform improvements to the school-based threat assessment program, gain a better understanding of what is triggering a threat assessment process, and identify what additional resources and support services a student may need access to.
 - Based on the reports from Washington schools about the number of threat assessments made every school year, OSPI should release a publicly available trend report every two years, with disaggregated data protected from public disclosure to ensure the safety and privacy of a minor's identity.
 - In partnership with school districts, OSPI should develop and implement an education and awareness campaign about the School-Based Threat Assessment Program to ensure parents, caregivers, and guardians have awareness and understanding of the program, which can assist in reducing surprise or uncertainty in the event that the child under their care goes through a threat assessment.
 - To strengthen overall school safety efforts, OSPI should develop and implement a standardized threat assessment and management protocol for non-student individuals who frequently interact with the school, such as parents, guardians, caretakers, school staff, and visitors.
 - To ensure that the most effective best practices are being implemented for school safety, OSPI should conduct a regular review and evaluation of different school-based and behavioral threat assessment models available, and update or affirm the recommended policies and procedures of Washington's School-Based Threat Assessment Program accordingly.
 - OSPI should develop interdistrict communication protocols and pathways to ensure a continuum of care for students who transfer schools in the midst of a management plan under the School-Based Threat Assessment Program. Protocols and pathways should focus on providing continued support for the student's success and well-being, and mitigate stigma that may arise from participation in the Program by prioritizing the student's privacy and limiting knowledge of participation to those on the student's care team.

- RCW 28A.320.123 should be updated to include private and charter schools operating in Washington, ensuring a minimum standard of school safety and student intervention pathways across the state.
- Schools conducting a School-Based Threat Assessment should be required to refer the student to HearMeWA to connect with additional resources for their safety and well-being.

Recommendation #9: The Legislature should provide funding and support to the Department of Health (DOH), community-based and nonprofit organizations, and mental health providers to increase capacity and access to **coaching and counseling services specific to off-ramping individuals on pathways to violent extremism and targeted violence.**

- DOH should convene an advisory group of relevant partners to identify and develop standardized and accessible training for mental health counseling and coaching services specific to violent extremism and targeted violence, creating a baseline level of consistency in how services are provided.
 - DOH should contract with an organization who can serve as subject-matter expert to the advisory group and provide training and technical assistance during the first two years of deployment of training to providers across the state.
 - Training should be based on evidence-supported models, such as the [Targeted Violence and Terrorism Strengths, needs, and risks: Assessment & Management Tool](#) (T-SAM).
 - Training should consider any unique counseling needs that arise among different age groups, ensuring that all individuals regardless of age will receive adequate mental health services.
 - Training and protocols should be available to organizations and providers already offering coaching and counseling services, as well as who would like to expand their services to include coaching and counseling.
 - Service providers and helplines available to provide coaching and counseling services specific to terrorism and violence should be included in any existing publicly accessible lists of health service providers that DOH maintains.

Tertiary Prevention

Recommendation #10: In partnership with the [National Mass Violence Center](#), the Washington Emergency Management Division should develop a **Mass Violence Incident State Preparedness Plan** that is integrated into the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

- The plan should focus on response, recovery, and resiliency efforts in the aftermath of a mass violence incident (MVI). Efforts should align with the appropriate protocols and definitions required to activate state and federal assistance and resources. Recovery and resiliency partnerships, plans, and efforts should be established for the immediate aftermath as well as long-term recovery and healing of the community impacted by an MVI.

Recommendation #11: The Hate-Fueled and Targeted Violence Program should work with subject-matter experts to develop **training and build capacity** specific to addressing and preventing violent extremism and targeted violence for entities who work with individuals re-entering society post-incarceration.

- Similar to training recommended in primary prevention efforts and equipping entities to recognize signs of recidivism, training should focus on understanding pathways to violence, risk and protective factors associated with violent extremism and targeted violence, de-escalation and intervention methods, and referrals to services specific to violence off-ramping.
- Build capacity through training and funding for community-based organizations providing re-entry services to expand their programming to include coaching and counseling for violence off-ramping.
- Training and education should be accessible to anyone who works with and supports individuals re-entering society post-incarceration, including but not limited to community-based organizations and non-profits, Department of Corrections staff, and mental health and wellbeing service providers.

Recommendation #12: The Legislature should prioritize **continued funding and support** to state and local government agencies, nonprofits, and volunteer organizations who develop and deploy programs currently available to incarcerated individuals that provide opportunities for positive personal growth, strengthening protective factors, and successful reentry.