



Press Release
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California DOJ Review Leads to Full Hate Crime Policy Compliance Among 105 Law Enforcement Agencies ***Advocates Call for Mandatory Officer Training***

All 105 city and campus police departments and county sheriff's departments in the five counties of Los Angeles, Orange, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura have adopted strong hate crime policies binding on every officer as required by state law, according to a new California Department of Justice (DOJ) [data report](#).

The DOJ posted the report to its [Open Justice Data Portal](#) under the title "[Hate Crime Policy Compliance](#)."

During the first round of policy checks by the DOJ, the report found that 98 of the 105 law enforcement agencies in those counties had hate crime policies that **fell short of full compliance** with [Assembly Bill 449](#) (AB 449) by Assemblymember Phil Ting, which was passed in 2023.

The DOJ identified the policies' shortcomings and directed the agencies to correct them. Only seven originally had fully compliant policies. While all law enforcement agencies in the first five counties being reviewed by the DOJ are now complaint, the remaining agencies in 53 counties across the state are also being reviewed through January 1, 2028.

AB 449 requires every law enforcement agency in California to adopt comprehensive hate crime policies meeting statewide standards established in the Penal Code. The policies establish how officers identify, investigate, document and respond to hate crimes, aimed at ensuring consistent treatment of victims across California.

Regardless of the good news of agencies' adoption of detailed policies, **there is no law requiring agencies to train their officers on how to follow the policies and otherwise deal with hate crimes**. This is despite the 2021 passage of [Assembly Bill 57](#) (AB 57) by Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel aimed at requiring police hate crime training. **There is no data available on how many agencies use the state's hate crime police training materials**. The state report mandated by AB 449 was passed by unanimous votes of the Legislature.

This followed a three-year campaign by 42 civil rights and community groups led by The Arc & UCP California Collaboration (a statewide developmental disability coalition) and the California Asian American Bar Association.

Another report on the second round of state policy-checking covering another 16 counties is due July 1, 2027. All other state and local law enforcement agencies' are required to be reviewed by January 1, 2028. Supporters believe that many more agencies will have fully compliant policies in these future rounds of policy checking as agencies follow the examples of the first five counties.

The Arc of California's civil rights advocate, Greg deGiere, thanked the law enforcement agencies that have adopted the fully compliant policies and those that have trained their officers, despite not being mandated to do the training. He also thanked the DOJ for its careful policy review. But, he said, mandatory training is needed.

"Hate crimes are much more traumatic to immediate victims than similar crimes committed for non-bias motivations, and they often traumatize entire communities," deGiere said.

California has the national model hate crime law, according to one [comprehensive study](#). "But laws and policies alone aren't enough. We need consistent, repeated training of all officers throughout the state," deGiere said.

"Anti-disability hate crimes in particular are known as the invisible hate crimes because they are very rarely reported, making much better policy training necessary," he added.

Charles H. Jung, executive director for the Asian Pacific American Bar Association commented on how AB 449 addresses anti-Asian hate crimes.

"The pandemic brought an unprecedented wave of hate and fear to the Asian American community, leaving scars that are still healing today. We are grateful to the Department of Justice and the 105 law enforcement agencies that have successfully adopted compliant hate crime policies under AB 449. Having strong, standardized protocols is an important step. But we must bridge the gap between written policies and on-the-ground interactions. We look forward to continuing our collaborative work to ensure every officer receives the training necessary to compassionately and effectively protect our communities," Jung said.

AB 57 by Assemblymember Gabriel was aimed at mandatory hate crime training of all officers but made the mandate conditional on adequate funding, which the Legislature has never provided. The bill also passed the Legislature unanimously and was supported by the The Arc & UCP California Collaboration, and many of the same groups that two years later won enactment of AB 449.

The Arc & UCP California Collaboration intends to seek a mandated training bill in 2027 with a new approach avoiding substantial costs.

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About The Arc & UCP California Collaboration

The Arc & UCP California Collaboration is a statewide coalition dedicated to advancing the rights, inclusion and opportunities of Californians with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Through public policy advocacy, education and coalition-building, the Collaboration works to promote equitable access, civil rights and community inclusion across California.