

Friends,

I hope the new year has brought you renewed and abundant energy. I'm excited to share a few updates that we've been working toward together, in writing and in holding space, to explore the possibility of a hate crimes law in Indiana. Some of these updates mean that the next hateration will not be until mid-February, but for good and exciting reasons.

Bills Bills Bills

As of the filing deadline, lawmakers in the House and Senate have filed 9 bias motivated crime bills. The two to watch are [Sen. Greg Taylor's SB469](#) and [Sen. Sue Glick's SB75](#). I'll be reading through all 9 bills tomorrow afternoon between 3p-5p ET and will share some notes on SB469 and SB75 and any highlights of interest. **If anyone wants to contribute to this research effort, let me know by email! We can meet up in person or work using Google docs remotely.**

The New Player

Mike Delph, the former senator who helped tank Sen. Glick's bill last year, was unseated by newcomer Sen. JD Ford. His presence in the statehouse is a potential game changer as the first openly gay and pretty left-leaning senator, especially in light of the momentum behind a hate crimes law this session. Though lobbying is not where I am investing energy this year, Sen. Ford has personally reached out to talk about what we've uncovered in the Against Hate Crimes Legislation series and in the hateration teach-ins. I appreciate his willingness to listen, and owe thanks to fellow organizers who are former campaign staffers of Ford's and have materially contributed to hateration. Relationship is everything! JD and I have scheduled a meeting to chat this week. I will be joined by comrades at AFSC Indiana and Jewish Voice for Peace Indiana, and I will let you know what comes of this meeting next week.

Indiana Forward

Right now, it is unclear whether the [Indiana Alliance Against Hate](#) is a separate entity from [Indiana Forward](#), a new coalition and campaign that surfaced before the holidays. Indiana Forward is somewhat more formidable, joining forces with United Way of Central Indiana and Indy Chamber to push for "a clear, specific and inclusive hate crimes law that allows judges to enhance criminal sentences when the crime was motivated by bias toward a victim's characteristics that include: race; ethnicity; religion; national origin; sex; disability; gender identity; and sexual orientation." This coalition hosted one statehouse event so far last week to kick-off the legislative session.

Counter Campaign

hateration is growing with help from AFSC Indiana and national staffers, Jewish Voice for Peace Indiana, and Muslim Youth Collective. We are in the process of writing concise and clear talking points based on our teach-ins about the dangerous impact of hate crimes legislation in a collaborative effort to counter current rhetoric from lawmakers and representatives of Indiana Forward. At the next hateration, we'll explore these talking points and dig into the connections between anti-Semitism and hate crimes legislation.

Until I have a date/time/venue confirmed, one space you can build community around this and many related issues is **Shabbat for All**, a pitch-in traditional Jewish dinner hosted by Jewish Voice for Peace, on Friday, January 25th 6:30p-8p ET at The Church Within. Bring an open mind, friends, and a dish to share!

Thank you all for sharing in and co-creating this space to think, feel, talk, uproot, and build otherwise ways of being and connecting with one another. I look forward to seeing you soon!

+ elle

elle roberts

writer, artist, facilitator

elleiswrite.co

"The job of the writer is to make revolution irresistible." – Toni Cade Bambara