The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
One Ashburton Place, Room 2133
Boston, Massachusetts 02108
Tel: (617) 727-7775
TTY Tel: (617) 727-6618
Fax: (617) 727-4764
www.mass.gov/eopss

MAURA T. HEALEY
Governor

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
Lieutenant Governor

GINA K. KWON
Secretary

MEETING MINUTES
HATE CRIME TASK FORCE

Date: February 2, 2026
Time: 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm
Microsoft Teams: Join the meeting now **Meeting ID**: 272280252765 **Passcode:** Lbpwfa
Dial in by phone +1 857-327-9245,,813708751# **Phone conference ID:** 813 708 751#

Agenda Items:

1. Call to Order

Secretary Gina Kwon called the meeting to order at 2:15 pm.

	Membership	Present	Absent	Meeting Minutes	2025 Annual Report	Resubmit letters of advocacy & direct outreach with the legislature
1	**Co-Chair** Secretary Gina K. Kwon	X		X	X	X
2	**Co-Chair** Josh Kraft	X		X	X	X
3	Ariella Hellman	X		X	X	X
4	Ana Javier	X		X	X	X
5	Vacant					
6	Margaret Rwaramba	X		X	X	X
7	Chief Kelly Nee	X		X	X	X
8	Officer Israel "Izzy" Marrero*	X		X	X	X
9	Vacant					
10	Timothy Moran	X		X	X	X
11	Genevieve Nadeau		X			
12	Emily Todisco	X		X	X	X
13	Vacant					
14	Representative Brandy Fluker Reid	X		X	X	X
15	Senator Rebecca Rausch	X		X	X	X
16	Bethany Li		X			

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17	Vacant					
18	Vacant					
19	Chief Jody Kasper		X			
20	Bishop Talbert Swan II		X			
21	Sheriff Frank Cousins		X			
22	Representative Steven Howitt	X		X	X	X
23	Jennifer Cotter	X		X	X	X
24	Robert Trestan	X		X	X	X
25	Dara Kaufman		X			
26	Dr. Nawal Nour		X			
27	DA Anthony Gulluni		X			

EOPSS Staff: Anjeza Xhemollari, Ryan Mingo and William Ramsdell

2. Welcome

Co-Chair Secretary Gina Kwon and Co-Chair Josh Kraft welcomed all members, and attendance was taken.

3. Review and Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes from November 3, 2025

Kelly Nee moved to approve the draft meeting minutes, which Robert Trestan seconded. The meeting minutes were approved.

4. Update on Hate Crime Legislative Bills

William Ramsdall shared an update on how each of the bills the Task Force decided to support is doing this legislative cycle.

Bills sent to the Judiciary are:

1. **HB1675 – An Act to advance hate-crime protection for victims who are targeted due to their gender**
- New draft substituted HB1675, a slight technical change, but carries the same effect as the previous bill.
- JUD Redraft is HB4636 – Identical to original bill.

2. **HB1995 – An Act regularizing sentencing for hate crimes**
- Received a hearing in front of the JUD Committee – Rep Sousa and DA Ryan offered supporting testimonial remarks.

3. **SB1246 – An Act to add sex and gender as a protected class for crime prosecutions**
    - Had a hearing in front of the JUD Committee, and supporting testimony was offered.

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4. HB1589/SB1056 – An Act to amend the definition of hate crime

- Had a hearing in front of the JUD Committee - DA Ryan offered supporting remarks for both bills.

Bills sent to Mental Health are:

1. HB2207/ SB1388 – An Act building resilience and increasing access to mental health services

- HB2207 - Received a hearing, and Rep. Fluker-Reid offered testimony in support of the bill. The bill reported out favorably by committee with a substituted new draft | Bill HB4667

5. Legislative Subcommittee Update

Robert Trestan, Chair of the Legislative Subcommittee, informed the Task Force that EOPSS has sent letters of support to the Chairs of both the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery, and the Joint Committee on the Judiciary.

Robert indicated that on January 9, 2026, the Legislative Subcommittee received brief guidance on legislative outreach from EOPSS legal counsel Ryan Mingo regarding open meeting laws. Ryan stated that if members of the Task Force designate a small number of members to advocate on the Task Force's behalf as a unified voice under quorum, and if it aligns with the Task Force's wishes, they can proceed.

Today, the entire Task Force received the same guidance, which sparked a meaningful conversation about next steps and how we want to move forward.

The Task Force is looking to be more engaged with the legislature and to designate a small group of members to conduct outreach. The outreach could involve resubmitting letters of support to the Committees on Ways & Means and meeting in person with the Chairs to express their support of the pending bills.

Senator Rebecca Rausch made a motion to resubmit letters of support and conduct direct engagement with the legislature. Jennifer Cotter seconded the motion, and a roll-call vote was taken.

Representatives of the Hate Crimes Task Force Working Group Membership

1. Robert Trestan
2. Kelly Nee
3. Josh Kraft

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1. Vote on 2025 Annual Report

The 2025 annual report was created by EOPSS staff. Task Force members were invited to provide comments and give feedback, as in previous years. They inquired about adding data to the report and how they could help promote it among legislators and stakeholders throughout the Commonwealth. Going forward, the Task Force wants to play a larger role in drafting the report and making recommendations. They approved the current report and expressed an interest in becoming more involved in future efforts.

Robert Trestan made a motion to approve the annual report. Kelly Nee seconded the motion, and a roll-call vote was taken.

2. 2026 Goals and Objectives

Members of the Task Force discussed goals and objectives for the current year and are looking forward to revamping the Victim Support Subcommittee. The Victim Support Subcommittee has two purposes. (1) Conducting a statewide assessment of service providers and agencies serving victims of hate crimes and hate-based incidents. (2) Exploring a broader institutional or statewide victim response model for victims of hate crimes and hate-based incidents. The subcommittee will be co-chaired by DA Anthony Gulluni and Josh Kraft. In addition to the current members, a formal email will be sent to invite others to join. Robert Trestan will step away from this subcommittee.

The Task Force is also looking to create the Annual Report Subcommittee, in which members of the Task Force can lead the drafting of the report, ensure it focuses on data, and work collectively. The Annual Report Subcommittee will be chaired by Robert Trestan, and halfway through the year, additional subcommittee members will be added if they choose to participate.

As for next steps, Secretary Gina Kwon also offered a presentation by EOPSS on the Cross Tracking System. Members of the Task Force look forward to the presentation at the next meeting.

3. Open Session for Topics not Reasonably Anticipated within 48 Hours of the Meeting

N/A

4. Adjourn

The meeting ended at 3:19 pm.