

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **HATE CRIMES TASK FORCE LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE IN CONJUNCTION WITH USAO CIVIL RIGHTS FORUM**

(Tucson, Arizona) – **The Southern Arizona Hate Crimes Task Force is pleased to announce the launch of a new website ([www.sahctf.org](http://www.sahctf.org))** designed to provide community members with factual information about hate crimes and links to important local resources.

“Too often hate crimes go unreported. Victims are afraid to come forward and speak out. Survivors of these crimes often don’t know where to turn to for help. They are afraid that people won’t believe them or won’t support them. Thus, this website is an important resource to help raise awareness about hate crimes while also providing victims with information about where they can get help.” **George Miller**, former Mayor of Tucson and member of the Southern Arizona Hate Crimes Task Force Executive Committee.

The website launch is set to coincide with the **Civil Rights Forum**, sponsored by **the US Attorney’s Office and Federal Bureau of Investigations**, in collaboration with the Southern Arizona Hate Crimes Task Force. The Civil Rights Forum will take place on **Tuesday, January 31<sup>st</sup> from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the YWCA of Tucson, 525 N. Bonita Ave.**

“The YWCA is pleased to host this Civil Rights Forum. It is a natural fit with our mission of eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. The YWCA commends the US Attorney’s Office and the FBI for sponsoring this forum to raise community awareness about bias crimes and help empower community members to speak out against bigotry and support those who have been harmed by hate incidents.” **Janet Marcotte**, Executive Director of the YWCA of Tucson.

The design of the new website was made possible through the support of **Pima County Attorney Barbara LaWall**. The Southern Arizona Hate Crimes Task Force also thanks and recognizes the **YWCA of Tucson** for continuing to serve as the fiscal agent and host for the Task Force.

The Hate Crimes Task Force has an intentionally broad, multi-disciplinary membership comprised of governmental, nonprofit and religious organizations. Membership in the Hate Crimes Task Force is open to religious organizations, ethnic and cultural groups, victim service organizations, law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies that support the Task Force’s mission. Any group interested in becoming a member of the Hate Crimes Task Force should contact Tim Jefferson, Acting Hate Crimes Task Force Coordinator, at 520-620-7461 or [sahctf@gmail.com](mailto:sahctf@gmail.com).