

Testimony on S.19 Hate Crime Bill

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Addressing hate crimes in Vermont

- This conversation is important to me/communities I represent. The story of a family in Barre.
- Impacted not only this family but the Hispanic community in VT. Palestinian students were shot in Burlington while speaking Arabic and wearing keffiyehs.

**Historically marginalized communities
across VT suddenly questioned their
safety in what they considered home.**

Statistics for Hate Crime in VT

According to the U.S Department of Justice



In Vermont, hate crimes have risen from 41 incidents in 2021 to 52 in 2023, affecting the **whole community**.



Race, ethnicity, and ancestry-based crimes increased from 30 to 36 incidents.



Religious-based hate crimes more than doubled from 5 to 13



S.19: the importance of recognizing group impact.

- Hate crimes not only target an individual – they're sending a message to every member of that community.
- We appreciate the shift toward person-centric terminology in S.19.

This is one step in the long-line of steps

to preventing hate crimes and supporting historically excluded communities in VT.





- "**White supremacy** has been noted as a potential driving force **escalating hate and discrimination** at disproportionate levels, especially for communities of color." (Briscoe ,2024, p.425)
- We must acknowledge this reality while working to create systemic change.

How can we attract diverse talent if people who look and sound like me don't feel safe here?

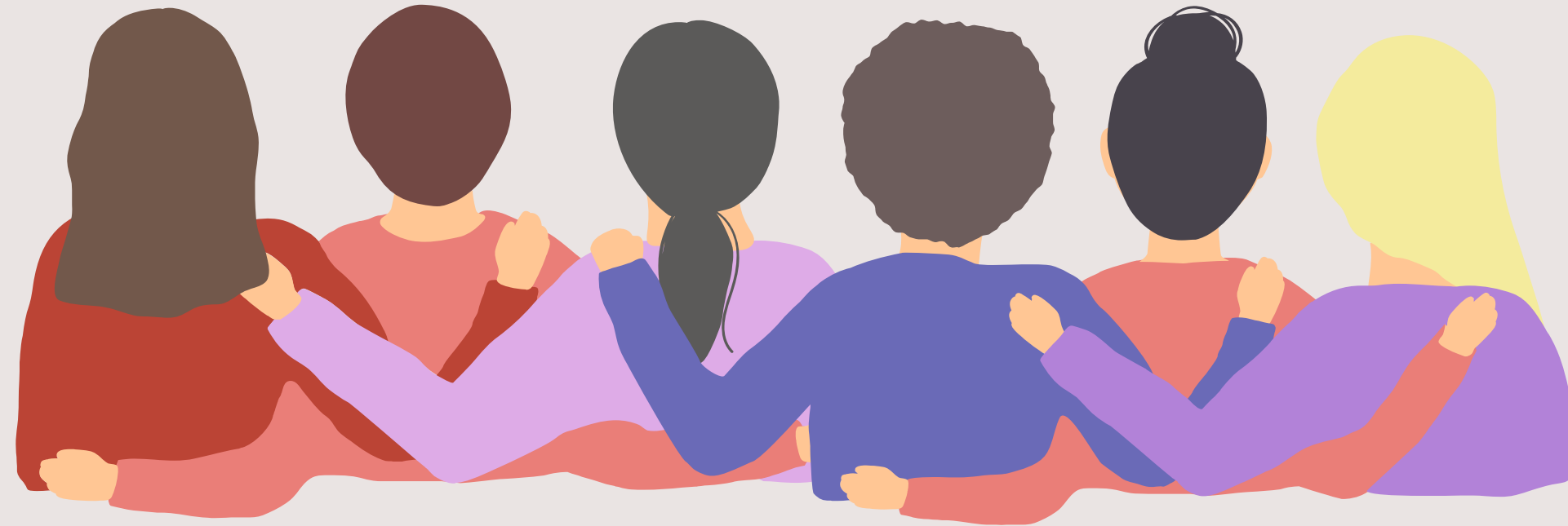
Making VT truly welcoming isn't just the right thing to do – it's economically vital for our state's future.



All hate is harmful

I want to close by expressing solidarity with all victims of hate crimes in VT. (Race, religion, gender identity, disability, ethnic origin, immigration status, or national origin)





When we make VT safer and more inclusive for historically marginalized communities, we create a better VT for everyone.