

# YOU BELONG.

Quarterly Newsletter

October 2024

Welcome to the Oregon DOJ Civil Rights Unit's **You Belong.** newsletter. Our office is excited to relaunch this newsletter where we will share about our [Bias Response](#) and [Sanctuary Promise](#) Programs.

## A NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

We had a busy summer! In July, I attended Portland Pride and marched with our incredible Civil Rights Unit to bask in a glorious day of celebration, shared Pride, community, and belonging. (It didn't hurt that we had great weather, too!) We asked fellow Pride marchers what belonging means to them and were blown away at their responses. Check out [this video](#) of what people had to say about belonging. We couldn't agree more! Throughout the summer, we've tabled at dozens of community events around the state. Check us out on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) to see where we've been.

In our programs, we hear on our hotlines directly from [thousands of community members across the state](#) about your experiences being targeted with hateful words, despicable attacks, and [violations of Oregon's sanctuary laws](#), simply for living as a person of color, an immigrant or refugee, a religious minority, a person with a disability, and/or a member of the LGBTQIA2S+ community—simply for being you.

Here at CRU, we believe the antidote to this hateful and discriminatory targeting is belonging.

You may have seen or heard our You Belong. Campaign over the summer on billboards, buses, tv, radio, and social media. Our multi-lingual [You Belong. Toolkit](#) is on our website for your use and sharing. Find the AG's press release about the campaign in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

If you witness or experience hate, bias, or violations of Oregon's sanctuary laws, there is a safe place to report it:

Have you experienced or witnessed a hate crime or a bias incident due to race, color, disability, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity?

**REPORT HATE & BIAS IN OREGON**

**1-844-924-BIAS**

StandAgainstHate.Oregon.gov

**YOU BELONG.**

**Oregon's Sanctuary Promise**

- Call Us**  
Sanctuary Promise Hotline:  
1-844-924-7829  
Monday-Friday | 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Services available in**  
240+ languages.  
We accept all Relay calls.
- You can leave a message** after hours.
- Find us online**  
Visit [SanctuaryPromises.Oregon.gov](#) to learn more about Oregon's Sanctuary Promise Laws.

**YOU BELONG.**

### Hate has no place in our state.

Please keep reading for more information about what's happening at Oregon DOJ Civil Rights. We are honored to serve you.

Sincerely,

*Fay Stetz-Waters*

ODOJ Director of Civil Rights and Social Justice

## THE BIAS RESPONSE HOTLINE 1-844-924-BIAS

Anyone can report to the hotline either [bias incidents](#) or [hate crimes](#), targeting a person due to their perceived race, color, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or religion, whether you [experience](#) or [witness](#) it. You can call our support hotline at 1-844-924-BIAS (2427) Monday-Friday from 9am-5pm if you'd like to speak with an advocate, chat online with an advocate during those same hours, leave a voicemail any time, or report online at [StandAgainstHate.Oregon.gov](#). We have access to interpreters in 240+ languages. We accept all Relay calls. Our web portal reporting form is readily available in 9 languages, and we can translate into additional languages upon request. Our chat feature is currently available in 4 languages.

On the hotline, we can help talk through next step options, connect you with resources in your community, and help you report to local, tribal, or federal law enforcement if you choose. The hotline is confidential, and we don't take any next steps without your permission. [Here is more information about what to expect on the hotline.](#)

## OREGON IS A SANCTUARY STATE

As a sanctuary state since 1987, Oregon stands for the safety, dignity and human rights of all Oregonians. Oregon was the first state in the nation to pass a statewide law stopping state and local police and government from helping federal authorities with immigration enforcement.

Whether it happened to you or to someone else, we can all help track sanctuary promise violations. If you or someone you know was targeted in violation of Oregon's Sanctuary Promise laws, please call 1-844-924-STAY/1-844-6-AMPARO or report online at [SanctuaryPromise.Oregon.gov](#) or [PromesaSantuario.Oregon.gov](#).

On the Oregon Department of Justice's Sanctuary Promise hotline, you can report a suspected violation, receive support, and be connected to resources. The Oregon Department of Justice may open an investigation on behalf of the state into the violation.

# EVENTS AROUND OREGON

**September 15th - October 15th** is [Hispanic Heritage Month](#). This month celebrates the contributions and culture of Latino Americans. The observation of this month started as Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968 and was extended to a month-long celebration in 1988. September 15th marks the Independence Day for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, while Mexico and Chile celebrate their Independence Days on September 16th and September 18th, respectively.

**September 28** - [¡Viva Salem! Todos Unidos: Salem's annual festival](#)  
This annual event celebrates Hispanic culture with live music, performances, and food and craft vendors. Join us noon-6 p.m. Saturday, September 28 at Riverfront Park in Salem

**October 2** - [Be Informed to Work in Solidarity Against Islamophobia](#) presented by the American Bar Association  
Join us for the inaugural episode of Defining Muslim Hate: A Virtual Series on Combatting Islamophobia webinar series. In the first webinar, our distinguished panel of national experts and scholars will unpack the complex realities of Islamophobia, exploring what it truly is - and what it is not. Learn more and register [HERE](#).

**October 5** - [El Tigre Fest: Tigard's Hispanic Heritage Month](#)  
This celebration will include authentic Latin American food, arts and crafts, dancing, live music, and activities in a family-friendly environment. Join us noon-9 p.m., Saturday, October 5th at Cook Family Park in Tigard.

**October 12** - [Wine Country Pride and ODOJ Bias Response Hotline Info Session](#)  
Join us at the Chehalem Cultural Center at 5pm to learn about Oregon's confidential statewide Bias Response Hotline, Oregon's hate and bias laws, and resources available in the aftermath of a hate crime or bias incident.

Additional Hispanic Heritage Month events are outlined in the Oregonian [here](#).



## JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **OYA Bilingual Victim Advocate Position**

We are looking for someone who is passionate about providing services and support to crime victims and survivors as well as strengthening community-based resource access for underserved and underrepresented communities. This position is part of our Victim Engagement Program Team and will work alongside other experienced victim services professionals and juvenile justice practitioners to support the development and implementation of trauma-informed, culturally responsive, person-centered services.

In addition to direct advocacy work, this position offers a unique opportunity to support the implementation of victim-centric restorative justice opportunities within the juvenile system intended to aid in the healing process for both the victims and youth who have caused harm.

The application deadline is October 24, 2024.  
[Victim Advocate Application](#)

### **Bias Response and Sanctuary Promise Volunteer and Intern Program (Unpaid)**

The Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ) Civil Rights Unit ([Bias Response Program](#) and [Sanctuary Promise Program](#)) is building its [Volunteer and Intern Program](#). We are seeking community members and students to help in our work to Stand Against Hate and ensure the safety, dignity and human rights of all Oregonians. Volunteers and interns receive extensive training in anti-bias victim advocacy and sanctuary law, obtain Oregon DOJ certification as a Certified Bias Response Advocate upon completion of the program, strengthen our Oregon community to reflect belonging and inclusivity, and gain incredible experience working alongside our staff in the Oregon DOJ Civil Rights Unit.

Learn more [here](#).

# CRU's Summer in Review



## DID YOU KNOW?

On September 10, 2024, Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum and City of Portland Office of Community & Civic Life Interim Director Mourad Ratbi signed an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) to solidify the partnership between the agencies for supporting victims of hate crimes, bias incidents and those targeted in violation of Oregon's sanctuary laws. More information about this important signing and what is entailed in the IGA can be found [here](#).

## August 11, 2024 - India Festival

CRU Advocates tabled at the 2024 India Cultural Association of Portland's India Festival. It was a picnic style event, with lots of food, vendors and music! There was even a splash pad for kids! Check out their Facebook for pictures: [ICA Portland Facebook](#)

## August 17, 2024 - Falls City Pride Celebration

CRU Advocates attended the 10th annual Falls City Pride Celebration, featuring a drag duck race, multiple vendors, and a family-friendly drag show! Check out this article to learn more: [Falls City celebrates 10 years of Small-Town, Big Pride](#)

## August 23-25, 2024 - Klamath Tribes Restoration Celebration | Klamath Tribes

The 38th annual Klamath Tribes Restoration Celebration happened August 23-25! This incredible tradition is in celebration of the Klamath, Modoc, and Yahooskin Bands of the Snake Indians regaining federal recognition by Congress in 1986. There was food, a parade, royalty, and more! Be sure to attend next year!

## July 13, 2024 - 3rd Annual Samoan festival in Portland

CRU Advocates tabled at the 3rd Annual Samoan festival in Portland. Community came together to celebrate Samoan culture through dance, singing, art and food. Check out OPB's article highlighting the event here: [Annual Samoan festival fosters community connections in Portland area](#)

## July 19-21, 2024 - Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland's Tamkaliks Celebration

The Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland hosted their 32nd annual Tamakaliks Celebration from July 19-21. The celebration consisted of lots of dancing and delicious food. This annual tradition began in 1989, aiming to for the Nez Perce people and the Wallowa County community. Read more about the Tamakaliks Celebration here: [TAMKALIKS — Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland](#)

## July 20-21, 2024 – Portland Pride

The Oregon DOJ also had the honor of marching in the Portland Pride Parade on July 21. It was a lovely experience getting to share our mission and spread our support with the LGBTQIA2S+ community. There was so much love and joy at the Portland Pride Parade, and we are grateful we were able to be a part of it! Here's a KOIN 6 article that recaps the event with videos: [VIDEO: Best of Portland Pride 2024](#)

## September 1, 2024 - Arab Mahrajan

Arab Mahrajan is Arab American Cultural Center of Oregon's annual Arab Festival. CRU Advocates joined the celebration to share about our programs, eat delicious food, and listen to great music at Oaks Amusement Park in Portland.

## September 13 - 22, 2024 - Portland Welcoming Week

Welcoming Week is an annual 10-day series of events around the nation to celebrate and support immigrants and refugees. Portland's celebration started off with an opening ceremony on Friday September 13th at Ventura Park. Throughout the week, we'll be tabling, and people can attend job fairs, art shows, support groups, legal service clinics, and more! Check out Beaverton's Welcoming Week events, too!

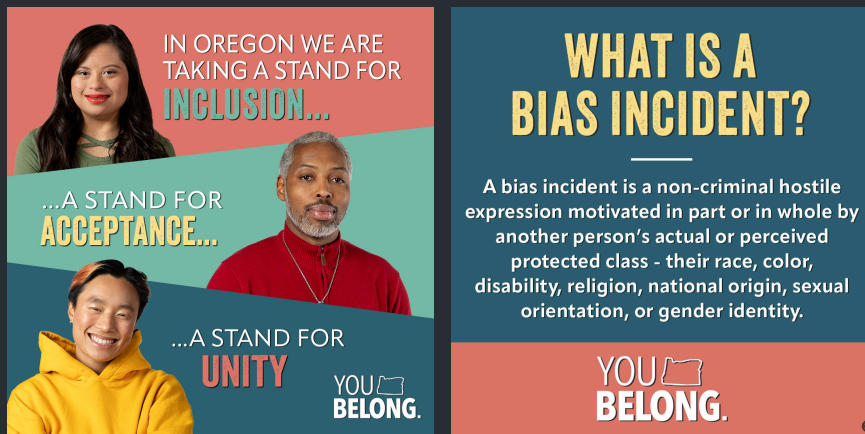
## September 20, 2024 - Hispanic Heritage Celebration

in Central Point, OR Southern Oregon hosted Central Point's Hispanic Heritage Celebration. It was a celebration with food trucks, live music, and bounce houses from 5-9pm at Twin Creeks Park.

## September 21, 2024 - Salem Capitol Pride in the Park

Salem Capitol Pride had their annual Pride in the Park event from 11-6 on September 21st! They had over 200 booths (including us!), lots of music, and fun!

# RESOURCES & TOOLS



## WHAT IS A BIAS INCIDENT?

A bias incident is a non-criminal hostile expression motivated in part or in whole by another person's actual or perceived protected class - their race, color, disability, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

YOU  BELONG.

## CRU'S COMMUNITY BIAS RESPONSE TOOLKIT

Check out our updated community Bias response toolkit, learn about how to respond when bias occurs in your community and learn about next step options for how to interact with the police, how to support victims of bias or online safety. Folks are always encouraged to contact Oregon's statewide Bias Response Hotline to talk to a live advocate either online or with a phone call.



### Language Access Planning for Deaf Survivors

Activating Change's great new [Toolkit on Language Access Planning for Deaf Survivors](#) is designed to help you develop and implement a language access plan for Deaf survivors. "It offers practical strategies to remove barriers that prevent Deaf survivors from accessing services and provides information on how to create more accessible and culturally responsive services."

### Tribal Youth Research Center's [Strength-based vs. Deficit-based Language](#)

This new publication "illustrates the differences between strength-based and deficit-based language. Communication underlies relationships, and using respectful, appropriate language honors the spirit of those being spoken to or about."

### Allied Against Hate: [A Toolkit for Faith Communities](#)

Every day, countless faith leaders from diverse traditions are working together to counter hate and promote peace with justice. Religious leaders and faith communities are well-positioned to de-escalate conflict, foster respect for the inherent dignity of every human being and point communities toward hope and healing. This toolkit describes practical steps faith communities can take to prevent acts of hate, discrimination, and bias, and to demonstrate solidarity with targeted communities if such acts tragically do occur.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



# TRAINING & LEARNING

- **United Against Hate Week is September 21-27!** Not In Our Town's [United Against Hate Week's Community Action Toolkit](#) provides 20 action items you and your community can do during this important week or any time during the year.
- **The Department of Homeland Security is hosting the webinar [Protecting Places of Worship Weeks of Action- Fall Religious Observance Security Briefing](#).** This webinar will provide participants with a threat briefing during the period of Fall religious observances. In addition, federal partners will share practical tools and resources to help strengthen the safety and security of places of worship & community spaces. **September 19, 2024 11:00 AM Pacific**
- **The National Crime Victim Law Institute** is excited to open registration for a series on representing victims of hate and bias crimes. They will have a total of four separate sessions, with their last live session remaining:
  - **Inherited Trauma: How It Shapes Who You Are** **September 25th**. More information and registration can be found here: [Hate & Bias 101 – NCVLI](#)
- **Activating Change** is hosting a webinar: **Peeling Back the Layers: Unpacking and Combatting the Infantilization of People with Intellectual Disabilities**, **September 24th, 2024 2:00pm-3:30pm ET**. [Registration is HERE](#).

In addition to the previous webinar, **Activating Change** will also host a second webinar: **Why Your Department Needs to Be Prepared to Investigate Crimes Involving Victims with Disabilities**, **September 25th, 2024 3:00-4:30pm ET**. Join the webinar to learn more about steps leadership in law enforcement can take to support officers and investigators to address crimes against victims with disabilities. Please note: This webinar is exclusively open for individuals currently working in law enforcement. [Registration is HERE](#).

- **Further learning: To the Polls!** A brief History of Oregon Elections. Dear Oregon discusses the first elections and Oregon's participation. [Read blog post HERE](#).
- [Oregon Historical Society's Black Pioneers trunk](#) helps teachers share with students the lives of Black Oregonians who lived during the nineteenth century through seven place-based, hands-on, interactive lessons.
- **Respond to Racism** is offering workshops for the community with the goal to build capacity to meet the anti-racism needs of Lake Oswego. Please visit their website for further workshop dates/times here: [Events – Respond To Racism](#)
- [Building Bridges is hosting it's 2024 Summit: Confronting Bias Through Justice, Healing and Education](#) on **October 30th, 2024**. Building bridges is a collaborative effort of the Muslim Education Trust, law Enforcement and civil society organizations to examine and understand the racial and ethnic disparities that exist in our communities and explore way to remove them.
- **Otherring & Belonging Institute at UC Berkeley** hosts a [regular virtual book club](#), and you can join! The latest read is *Belonging without Otherring*, the recently published book co-authored by OBI Director John a. Powell and Assistant Director Stephen Menendian.
- **The Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Program's [Hate Crimes Training and Technical Assistance Program](#)** supports law enforcement and prosecution agencies, community-based organizations, and their partners in their work to develop comprehensive approaches to address hate crimes committed on the basis of a victim's perceived or actual race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or disability.



## Learning opportunities through videos and podcasts

- [The Cure for Hate](#) traces former neo-Nazi and Holocaust denier Tony McAleer's journey of atonement to bear witness to the horrors of Auschwitz and the throughline to modern day violent extremism.
- [26 Mini-Films for Exploring Race, Bias and Identity With Students](#)
- [Why aren't there more Black people in Oregon?](#) A Hidden History by Walidah Imarisha. A 50 slide timeline and audio commentary which looks at the history of race, identity and power in Oregon and the nation.
- [A podcast on teen dating violence and LGBTQ+ youth](#) addresses the unique needs of LGBTQ+ youth.