Hate Map Criteria & Expansion:

- SPLC’s hate-group criteria centers around “beliefs or practices that attack or malign an entire class of people, typically for their immutable characteristics.”

- In 2010, SPLC added both “anti-LGBT” and “anti-Muslim” designations to the existing classes of groups on its hate map.
  - Anti-LGBT criteria: “Engage in crude name-calling and disseminate disparaging propaganda and falsehoods about this population...”
  - Anti-Muslim criteria: “Exhibit extreme hostility towards Muslims and attribute to Islam’s followers an inherent set of negative traits.”

- SPLC’s most recent hate map identifies 101 “anti-Muslim” groups, 52 “anti-LGBT” groups, and 14 “radical” Catholic groups.

Ideological Motivation:

- SPLC openly admits it pays little attention to groups and people on the political left; “We are focused, whether people like it or not, on the radical right.”

- SPLC claims its “Hatewatch” program “monitors and exposes the activities of the American radical right.”

- SPLC calls its Intelligence Report publication the “preeminent periodical monitoring the radical right in the U.S.”

- Extremism researcher J.M. Berger: “[SPLC] wears two hats, as both an activist group and a source of information.”

- SPLC seeks total destruction of the groups and people it targets; “We absolutely take no prisoners” and “our aim in life is ... to completely destroy them.”

Credibility Among Media & Major Institutions:

- SPLC is consistently cited as the authoritative source on hate-group data by the largest news organizations in the country.

- SPLC has a major presence in widely read newspapers, influencing dozens of stories every year with their lists and reports.

- SPLC reports often cited by credible third-party groups seen as unbiased or politically neutral.
• SPLC has also influenced law enforcement agencies, the military, and hundreds of thousands of school teachers and classrooms.

## HATE MAP CRITERIA AND EXPANSION

**SPLC’s Hate-Group Criteria Centers Around Attacking “An Entire Class Of People, Typically For Their Immutable Characteristics”:**

“All Hate Groups Have Beliefs Or Practices That Attack Or Malign An Entire Class Of People, Typically For Their Immutable Characteristics.” [SPLCenter.org, Accessed 7/7/17]

• “Hate Group Activities Can Include Criminal Acts, Marches, Rallies, Speeches, Meetings, Leafleting Or Publishing.” [SPLCenter.org, Accessed 7/7/17]

**In 2010, SPLC Added Both “Anti-LGBT” And “Anti-Muslim” Designations To The Existing Classes Of Groups On Its Hate Map:**

SPLC Started Tracking “Anti-LGBT” Groups In 2010. “The SPLC began adding anti-gay-rights groups to its list in 2010. It doesn’t list groups for saying that homosexuality is a sin or opposing same-sex marriage, [SPLC’s Mark] Potok said; organizations must go further and ‘engage in really vicious and regular defamation of LGBT people with total falsehoods,’ like claims that gay men are more likely to sexually abuse children.” (“Dozens Of ‘Hate Groups’ Have Charity Status, Chronicle Study Finds,” The Chronicle Of Philanthropy, 12/22/16)

• **Criteria:** “Engage In Crude Name-Calling And Disseminate Disparaging Propaganda And Falsehoods...” “Opposition to equal rights for LGBT people has been a central theme of Christian Right organizing and fundraising for the past four decades. These groups are not listed on the basis of opposition to same-sex marriage or the belief that the Bible describes homosexual activity as sinful. Anti-LGBT groups engage in crude name-calling and disseminate disparaging propaganda and falsehoods about this population, such as the claim that gay men molest children at vastly higher rates than straight men.” [SPLCenter.org, Accessed 7/7/17]

  o **SPLC Directly Associates Groups Like Alliance Defending Freedom With Groups Like The Westboro Baptist Church.** [SPLCenter.org, Accessed 7/7/17]
SPLC Started Tracking “Anti-Muslim” Groups In 2010. “Anti-Muslim hate groups are a relatively new phenomenon in the United States, with many appearing in the aftermath of the World Trade Center terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. Beginning in 2010, anti-Muslim legislation increased and opposition to the development of an Islamic Center in lower Manhattan made headlines.” (SPLCenter.org, Accessed 7/7/17)

Criteria: “Exhibit Extreme Hostility Towards Muslims And Attribute To Islam’s Followers An Inherent Set Of Negative Traits.” “Earlier anti-Muslim groups tended to be religious in orientation and disputed Islam’s status as a respectable religion. Anti-Muslim groups listed here exhibit extreme hostility towards Muslims and attribute to Islam’s followers an inherent set of negative traits.” (SPLCenter.org, Accessed 7/7/17)

• “...Portray Those Who Worship Islam As Fundamentally Alien And Attribute To Its Followers An Inherent Set Of Negative Traits.” (SPLCenter.org, Accessed 7/7/17)

• “Muslims Are Depicted As Irrational, Intolerant And Violent, And Their Faith Is Frequently Depicted As Sanctioning Pedophilia, Coupled With Intolerance For Homosexuals And Women.” (SPLCenter.org, Accessed 7/7/17)

• “These Groups Generally Hold That Islam Has No Values In Common With Other Cultures, Is Inferior To The West And Is A Violent Political Ideology Rather Than A Religion.” (SPLCenter.org, Accessed 7/7/17)

In The Past Six Years, SPLC’s “Anti-Muslim” Hate Group List Has Grown From 5 To 101. (SPLCenter.org, Accessed 7/7/17)

SPLC’S “ANTI-LGBT” AND “ANTI-MUSLIM” LISTS

SPLC’s Most Recent Hate Map Identifies 101 “Anti-Muslim” Groups, 52 “Anti-LGBT” Groups, And 14 “Radical” Catholic Groups:

Anti-Muslim (101 Claimed; 47 Listed Below By Disregarding Local Affiliates):

NOTE: SPLC counts the group “ACT for America” 45 times and the group “Soldiers of Odin” 11 times by including both the parent organization and local affiliates. (SPLCenter.org, Accessed 7/7/17)

• III% Security Force (Henry County, GA)
• ACT for America (Virginia Beach, VA et al)
• Altra Firearms (Jackson Center, PA)
• American Constitution Center (Nashville, TN)
• American Freedom Alliance (Los Angeles, CA)
• American Freedom Defense Initiative (New York, NY)
• American Freedom Law Center (Ann Arbor, MI)
• American Security Rally of Montana (Helena, MT)
• Bare Naked Islam (Marina del Rey, CA)
• Bomb Islam (Phoenix, AZ)
• Bosch Fawstin (New York, NY)
• Bureau on American Islamic Relations (Irving, TX)
• Center for Security Policy (Washington, DC)
• Christian Action Network (Forest, VA)
• Citizens for National Security (Boca Raton, FL)
• Citizen Warrior (Nashville, TN)
• Clarion Project (Washington, DC)
• Committee to End the CSI Refugee Center (Buhl, ID)
• Counter Jihadist Coalition of Southern California (Santa Monica, CA)
• The Crusaders (Garden City, KS)
• David Horowitz Freedom Center (Los Angeles, CA)
• Faith Freedom (Bellevue, WA)
• Family Security Matters (Washington, DC)
• Fortress of Faith (Bellingham, WA)
• Foundation for Advocating Christian Truth (Bronx, NY)
• Islamthreat.com (Pleasant Hill, CA)
• Jihad Watch (Sherman Oaks, CA)
• Keep South Dakota Safe PAC (Aberdeen, SD)
• Lincoln County Citizen Action Network (Fayetteville, TN)
• Pig Blood Bullets (Priest River, ID)
• Political Islam (Nashville, TN)
• Radio Jihad/Global Patriot Radio (New York)
• Refugee Resettlement Watch (Fairplay, MD)
• Religious Awareness Network (Washington, DC)
• Secure Michigan (New Baltimore, MI)
• The Shoebat Foundation (Newtown, PA)
• Silver Bullet Gun Oil (Courtland, VA)
• Soldiers of Odin (Flagstaff, AZ et al)
• Stop the Islamization of the World (Houston, TX)
• The Straight Way and More (Venice, FL)
• Sultan Knish - A Blog by Daniel Greenfield (New York, NY)
• Team America Political Action Committee (Littleton, CO)
• Treasure Valley Refugee Watch (Meridian, ID)
• Truth in Love Project (Chattaroy, WA)
• Understanding the Threat (Vienna, VA)
• The United West (Lake Worth, FL)
• Virginia Christian Alliance (Henrico, VA)

“Anti-LGBT” (52 Claimed; 45 Listed Below By Disregarding Local Affiliates):

• Abiding Truth Ministries (Springfield, MA)
• Alliance Defending Freedom (Scottsdale, AZ)
• American College of Pediatricians (Gainesville, FL)
• American Family Association (Tupelo, MS; Franklin, PA)
• Americans for Truth About Homosexuality (Naperville, IL)
• American Vision (Powder Springs, GA)
• ATLAH World Missionary Church (New York, NY)
• The Campus Ministry USA (Terre Haute, IN)
• Center for Family and Human Rights (Washington, DC; New York, NY)
• Chalcedon Foundation (Vallecito, CA)
• Citizens for Community Values (Cincinnati, OH)
• Conservative Republicans of Texas (Houston, TX)
• D. James Kennedy Ministries (Fort Lauderdale, FL)
• Faith Baptist Church (Greenville, GA)
• Faith2Action (North Royalton, OH)
• Faithful Word Baptist Church (Tempe, AZ)
• Family Research Council (Washington, DC)
• Family Research Institute (Colorado Springs, CO)
• Family Watch International (Gilbert, AZ)
• Generations With Vision (Elizabeth, CO)
• Heterosexuals Organized for a Moral Environment (Downers Grove, IL)
• Illinois Family Institute (Carol Stream, IL)
• Illinois Family Institute, Tri-County chapter (Peoria, IL)
• Liberty Counsel (Orlando, FL)
• Mass Resistance (Waltham, MA et al)
• Mission: America (Columbus, OH)
• Pacific Justice Institute (Sacramento, CA)
• Pass the Salt Ministries (Hebron, OH)
• Pilgrims Covenant Church (Monroe, WI)
• The Pray in Jesus Name Project (Colorado Springs, CO)
• Probe Ministries (Plano, TX)
• Providence Road Baptist Church (Maiden, NC)
• Public Advocate of the United States (Falls Church, VA)
• Ruth Institute (San Marcos, CA)
• Save California (Sacramento, CA)
• Stedfast Baptist Church (Fort Worth, TX)
• Traverse City Family (Traverse City, MI)
• Tom Brown Ministries (El Paso, TX)
• Traditional Values Coalition (Washington, DC; Anaheim, CA)
• True Light Pentecost Church (Spartanburg, SC)
• United Families International (Gilbert, AZ)
• Verity Baptist Church (Sacramento, CA)
• Westboro Baptist Church (Topeka, KS)
• Windsor Hills Baptist Church (Oklahoma City, OK)
• World Congress of Families (Rockford, IL)

“Radical Traditional Catholic” (14):

• Catholic Counterpoint (Broomall, PA)
• Catholic Family News/Catholic Family Ministries, Inc. (Niagara Falls, NY)
• Christ or Chaos (West Chester, OH)
• Culture Wars/Fidelity Press (South Bend, IN)
• International Fatima Rosary Crusade (Constable, NY)
IDELOGICAL MOTIVATION

SPLC Makes No Pretense Of Political Balance, With One Official Stating That The “Radical Right” Is “Uniquely Threatening To Democracy”:

SPLC Openly Admits It Pays Little Attention To Groups And People On The Political Left; “We Are Focused, Whether People Like It Or Not, On The Radical Right.” “Heidi Beirich, the head of the SPLC’s Intelligence Project, says the group’s criteria are clear and transparent ... While Beirich cites several left-wing organizations the SPLC has designated as ‘hate groups,’ she concedes that the SPLC prioritizes the other end of the political spectrum. ‘We are focused, whether people like it or not, on the radical right,’ she says. ‘We believe that it’s uniquely threatening to democracy.’” (“Has A Civil Rights Stalwart Lost Its Way?” Politico Magazine, July 2017)

- SPLC Claims Its “Hatewatch” Program “Monitors And Exposes The Activities Of The American Radical Right.” (SPLCenter.org, Accessed 7/7/17)

- SPLC Calls Its Intelligence Report Publication The “Preeminent Periodical Monitoring The Radical Right In The U.S.” “The Intelligence Report is the Southern Poverty Law Center’s award-winning magazine. The quarterly publication provides comprehensive updates to law enforcement agencies, the media and the general public.” (SPLCenter.org, Accessed 7/7/17)

Even A Former SPLC Employee Admits The Group’s Hate List Is Incomplete Because It Excludes Left-Wing Groups. “‘Hate group’ designations are invariably going to be controversial, said Brian Levin, director of the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University at San Bernardino and a former Southern Poverty Law Center employee. Though he believes the SPLC’s list is ‘principled,’ Mr. Levin said it is incomplete – leaving out, for example, groups viewed as far left.” (“Dozens Of ‘Hate Groups’ Have Charity Status, Chronicle Study Finds,” The Chronicle Of Philanthropy, 12/22/16)

Extremism Researcher J.M. Berger: “[SPLC] Wears Two Hats, As Both An Activist Group And A Source Of Information.” “I do think there is a desperate need for more objective research on hate crimes and domestic extremism—especially now,’ says J.M. Berger, a researcher on extremism and a fellow with the International Centre for Counter-Terrorism at The Hague. But like many observers, he worries that the SPLC has gone too far in some of its hate group characterizations. ‘The problem partly stems from the fact that the organization wears two hats, as both an activist group and a source of information,’ he says.” (“Has A Civil Rights Stalwart Lost Its Way?” Politico Magazine, July 2017)
SPLC Seeks Total Destruction Of The Groups And People It Targets; “We Absolutely Take No Prisoners” And “Our Aim In Life Is ... To Completely Destroy Them”:

Co-Founder Morris Dees: “We Absolutely Take No Prisoners. When We Get Into A Legal Fight, We Go All The Way.” “[Dees] has always liked a good fight. I've had my ass whipped, and I've whipped a few. ... We absolutely take no prisoners. When we get into a legal fight, we go all the way. ... Ever since I've been a kid, I've always liked a good challenge.” (“The Long Crusade,” Los Angeles Times Magazine, 12/3/89)

Senior Fellow Mark Potok: “I Want To Say Plainly That Our Aim In Life Is To Destroy These Groups, To Completely Destroy Them.” “What is not part of an honorable American tradition is the course of action prescribed by top SPLC leader Mark Potok: 'Sometimes the press will describe us as monitoring hate crimes and so on ... I want to say plainly that our aim in life is to destroy these groups, to completely destroy them.’” (Karl Zinsmeister, “Some People Love To Call Names,” Philanthropy Roundtable, Undated, Accessed 6/30/17)

• Click Here For Video Of Potok’s Comments (1:35 Into Clip)

CREDIBILITY AMONG MEDIA AND MAJOR INSTITUTIONS

SPLC Is Consistently Cited As The Authoritative Source On Hate-Group Data By The Largest News Organizations In The Country:

NBC News Cited SPLC As “A Civil Rights Group” In Article Headlined “Huge Growth In Anti-Muslim Hate Groups During 2016.” “The number of hate groups in the United States rose for the second straight year in 2016, with a sharp spike in those spreading anti-Muslim messages, according to a civil rights group. In its annual census of hate groups and extremist organizations, the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) said the overall number of hate groups grew from 892 in 2015 to 917 in 2016.” (NBCNews.com, 2/16/17)

ABC News Cited SPLC As “A Legal Advocacy Group That Monitors Extremism” In Article Headlined “Trump Cited In Report Finding Increase In Domestic Hate Groups For 2nd Year In A Row.” “A nearly three-fold increase in the number of anti-Muslim hate groups last year contributed to an overall rise in the number of hate groups in the United States for the second year in a row, according the Southern Poverty Law Center ... a legal advocacy group that monitors extremism in the United States.” (ABCNews.com, 2/16/17)

• ABC Has Also Described SPLC’s Intelligence Report As “The Nation’s Premiere Hate-Monitoring Publication.” (“The Woman Tracking Hate In America,” ABCNews.com, 5/16/17)

CBS News/Associated Press Cited SPLC As “A Civil Rights Advocacy Group” In Article Headlined “Hate Groups, Militias On The Rise, Monitor Warns.” “Leaders of a civil rights advocacy group say the number of hate groups and anti-government militias increased in 2015 - and they say the rise coincides with the increasing presence of fear and hate speech in mainstream politics. Southern Poverty Law Center released its Year In Hate and Extremism report Wednesday. The report says the number of hate groups in the U.S. increased to 892, up from 784 in 2014.” (CBSNews.com, 2/17/16)
SPLC Has Major Presence In Widely Read Newspapers, Influencing Dozens Of Stories Every Year – Amid Little Pushback On Sourcing – With Their Lists And Reports:

As Of July 7, SPLC’s “Intelligence Report” Has Already Been Cited At Least 39 Times In Domestic Newspapers In 2017. (Nexis News Search, 7/7/17)

- **The Washington Post**: “Hate Groups Rise With Anti-Muslim Sentiment, Report Finds”
- **San Francisco Chronicle**: “More Hate Groups Infiltrate Bay Area”
- **Pittsburgh Post-Gazette**: “Report: Hate Group Numbers In Pa. Stay Steady In 2016”
- **San Diego Union Tribune**: “Hate Groups Reportedly On The Rise”
- **Indianapolis Recorder**: “Hate Groups Increase For Second Consecutive Year As Trump Electrifies Radical Right”
- **Christian Science Monitor**: “2016 Witnessed Surge In Anti-Muslim Hate Groups, SPLC Report Says”
- **Spokesman-Review [Spokane, WA]**: “SPLC Says Hate Groups On Rise In America”

SPLC’s “Intelligence Report” Was Cited At Least 54 Times In Domestic Newspapers In 2016. (Nexis News Search, 7/7/17)

- **The New York Times**: “Law Center Finds Surge In Extremist Groups In U.S. Last Year”
- **Philadelphia Inquirer**: “Report: Hate Groups Up In Pennsylvania”
- **Denver Post**: “Report: Colorado Home To 16 Hate Groups”
- **The Tennessean**: “Tennessee Ranks 4th In Hate Groups”
- **Dayton Daily News**: “Anti-Government, Hate Groups Increase In Ohio; 9 Named By Southern Poverty Law Center Operating In This Region”
- **Lexington Herald Leader**: “Hate Groups Flourishing”

SPLC’s “Intelligence Report” Was Cited At Least 30 Times In Domestic Newspapers In 2015. (Nexis News Search, 7/7/17)

- **Rutland Herald**: “Hate In Vermont: It’s Here, But It’s Quiet”
- **Eastern Express Times (Pa.)**: “State Has Fourth Highest Number Of Hate Groups”
- **The Star-Ledger**: “N.J. Ranked No. 4 As Home To Hate Groups”
- **Las Vegas Review-Journal**: “Report: Hate Groups In US Decline But Violence Increases”

**SPLC Reports Often Cited By Credible Third-Party Groups Seen As Unbiased And Politically Neutral:**

SPLC Information Used By “SafeHome.org, An Organization Of Home Security Experts ... Aimed At Making Communities Safer.” “A study released this week shows that social media engagement by groups labeled as ‘hate’ organizations has been booming in the last two to three years ... The study titled ‘Hate on Social Media: A Look at Hate Groups and Their Twitter Presence’ was conducted by SafeHome.org, an organization of home security experts that conducts research aimed at making communities safer. The study used data collected by the Southern Poverty Law Center, a non-profit based in Montgomery, Ala., that tracks hate groups nationwide.” (‘Study: ‘Hate’ Groups Explode On Social Media,” USA Today, 2/23/17)
• USA Today Headline: “Study: 'Hate' Groups Explode On Social Media.” (USA Today, 2/23/17)

• Safe Home Describes Itself As An Organization That Performs Studies “To Help Identify At-Risk Communities.” “Safe Home is an organization dedicated to making communities [sic] safer. With that, we do studies all over the country to help identify at-risk communities.” (SafeHome.org, Accessed 7/7/17)

SPLC Information Is Used By GuideStar, Which Recently Flagged Nonprofit Groups On SPLC’s Hate List; GuideStar Has Backtracked “For The Time Being.” “Earlier this year, in order to provide even more information to our users, we noted that 46 of the 1,676,746 active nonprofit groups we track had been flagged by the Southern Poverty Law Center, a long-standing civil rights advocacy organization. ... Dismayingly, a significant amount of the feedback we’ve received in recent days has shifted from constructive criticism to harassment and threats directed at our staff and leadership. With this development in mind ... we have decided to remove the SPLC annotations from these 46 organizations for the time being.” (“Update Regarding SPLC Flags On GuideStar Nonprofit Profiles,” GuideStar.org, 6/23/17)

• GuideStar Describes Itself As A “Public Charity That Collects, Organizes, And Presents [Information] ... While Remaining Neutral.” “Many people think that we are a charity evaluator or a watchdog. We aren’t. Instead, we are a 501(c)(3) public charity that collects, organizes, and presents the information you want in an easy-to-understand format while remaining neutral.” (“About Us,” GuideStar.org, Accessed 6/30/17)

• GuideStar Lists SPLC Itself As A “Gold Star” Organization For Its Commitment To Transparency. (GuideStar.org, Accessed 7/7/17)

SPLC Has Also Influenced Law Enforcement Agencies, The Military, And Hundreds Of Thousands Of School Teachers And Classrooms:

SPLC Boasts Of Its Assistance To Law Enforcement Agencies; “Our Hate Map Helps [Law Enforcement] Officials Locate Extremist Groups Within Their Communities.” “Our free law enforcement trainings teach officers how to recognize hate groups, symbols and activity; the threat potential of specific groups; and how to respond to hate group activity. The Extremist Files contains updated biographical profiles of leading hate groups and extremist leaders, plus background on the various extremist ideologies. And our Hate Map helps officials locate extremist groups within their communities.” (SPLCenter.org, Accessed 7/7/17)

In 2013, A Public Records Request Uncovered Defense Department Training Documents Citing SPLC “As An Approved Source For Information” On Extremism Within The Military. “Judicial Watch used a FOIA request ... to obtain a document from the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI), which is part of the Department of Defense. In this 133-page training document, entitled ‘Extremism,’ on pages 32-33, under ‘Lesson Emphasis,’ it claims to: ‘provide[s] information that describes sources of extremism information, definitions, recruitment of DoD personnel, common themes in extremist ideologies, common characteristics of extremist organizations’ ... On the same page, it cites the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) as an approved source for information – and its affiliate Teaching Tolerance.” (Ken Klukowski, Op-


SPLC Once Served As A Public “Resource” On The FBI’s Website For Information On Civil Rights And Hate Crimes; The Bureau Removed The Links In 2014. “This week it emerged that the FBI, which has included SPLC data as ‘a resource,’ has finally severed its link with the organization and dumped SPLC from the bureau's Hate Crime Web page. The FBI offered no explanation of why now, but the dumping follows appeals of 15 family groups to Attorney General Eric Holder Jr. and FBI Director James B. Comey to sever the connection. We think that was a good day's work.” (Editorial, “The FBI Dumps A 'Hate Group,'” The Washington Times, 3/28/14)

- FBI’s Decision May Have Been Influenced By Concerns Over The 2012 Attack On Family Research Council Headquarters By An SPLC-Inspired Gunman. “The FBI, based on dates in the email, made the decision almost immediately after meeting with congressional staffers regarding concerns expressed by the head of the Family Research Council ... The FRC’s head complained in February 2014 that its presence on the SPLC’s ‘hate-watch’ list inspired a terrorist attack against the organization. ... The FBI email requesting the SPLC and ADL’s removal from the resources page came March 18, 2014, just days after agents met with congressional staffers to communicate FRC concerns about the SPLC.” (“FBI Removed SPLC, ADL From Resources Pages Over 'Number Of Concerns,'” The Daily Caller, 2/3/17)

SPLC Sends Its “Teaching Tolerance” Magazine To 450,000 Teachers Twice A Year While “Tens Of Thousands Of Educators” Use Their “Free Curricular Kits.” “Founded in 1991 by the Southern Poverty Law Center, Teaching Tolerance is dedicated to reducing prejudice, improving intergroup relations and supporting equitable school experiences for our nation's children. We provide free educational materials to teachers and other school practitioners in the U.S. and Canada. Our self-titled magazine is sent to 450,000 educators twice annually, and tens of thousands of educators use our free curricular kits. More than 5,000 schools participate in our annual Mix It Up at Lunch Day program.” (Tolerance.org, Accessed 7/1/17)