

A photograph of a person from behind, wearing a black jacket and a grey and white striped beanie, holding a large American flag on a wooden pole. The US Capitol building is visible in the background under an overcast sky. The entire image is framed by a red border.

VETERANS AGAINST HATE

OPERATIONS

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Table of Contents

The Mission	1
5 Point Agenda	2
Small Group Discussions	3
Train Community Members	4
Ensure Peaceful Elections	5
Create Local Chapters	6
Judge Us By Our Best	7
Thank You	8





THE MISSION

The Mission of Veterans Against Hate: To measurably reduce the number of hate crimes in America and inspire unity through extensive community outreach programs utilizing a national network of Chapters and allied organizations.

The Mission of Veterans Against Hate Chapters: To localize the national mission in order to create safe, inclusive, and unified American communities.

5 POINT AGENDA

A counterforce is needed against the rising tide of prejudice and political polarization in America. Veterans Against Hate strives to create this counterforce utilizing a nationwide network of veterans, concerned citizens, and allied organizations. The programs outlined in our five-point agenda serve as the foundation for a new national movement of unity and healing.

Our Mission: To measurably reduce the number of hate crimes in America and inspire unity through extensive community outreach programs utilizing a national network of Chapters and allied organizations.

Our 5 Point Agenda:

- **Utilize small groups forums and guided discussions to connect community members and overcome negative stereotypes:** Having created an effective, nonconfrontational method for conducting personal and productive discussions on diversity relations in the United States, Veterans Against Hate seeks to become the primary outlet for real discussion and national healing on matters related to race, religion, and sexual orientation.
- **Train community members on how to be effective allies:** We create Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) to train our members on how to address situations related to discrimination and verbal harassment in a peaceful and effective manner. We also work with the law enforcement community in order to learn how civilians and police can best work together in these situations. We use these SOPs and related training to create a strong network of allies to ensure that all Americans in all communities are treated with respect.
- **Ensure peaceful elections:** While incidents of violence related to race/religion/gender/sexual orientation are the most immediate and visible concerns in modern American society, the threat of anger and violence as the result of distrust in our elections is perhaps a far greater danger looming on the horizon. We will utilize local crowdfunding campaigns for upgrading election infrastructure, engagement with religious leaders in our “Prayer over Party” initiative, and podcasts/online content related to education on election security.
- **Judge us by our best:** We seem to judge each group in this country by their worst or most extreme members, or by our most exaggerated stereotypes. Veterans Against Hate conducts forums and public discussions in which veterans of different backgrounds represent their groups and answer questions from the audience. These events center around race, religion, LGBTQ, and political affiliation.
- **Create local Chapters:** The purpose of all of the previously mentioned initiatives is to connect with various groups and stakeholders in the community for the purpose of creating local Chapters that will identify the needs of vulnerable groups in the community and work to address those needs.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

A full template of the guided group discussions can be provided upon request. We will provide an abbreviated explanation of the events below.

The discussion is broken into three main segments:

1. **Personal Prejudice Experience:** By allowing attendees to describe their own personal experiences with prejudice and discrimination first, we activate their empathy for others who have undergone similar experiences. This helps them later in the discussion to sympathize with the group in question which they may view negatively.
2. **PC Free Zone:** It is imperative that we hear and understand the actual perceptions that our attendees have of the group under discussion. We must dig below the surface and expose false perceptions or negative stereotypes so that we can dispel and disprove them in the final segment. In order to solicit this candid feedback, attendees sit down one-on-one with volunteers and are asked questions about their perceptions of the group in question. No statement will be attributed to any attendee, but the final compilation of statements and questions will be used for the last segment.
3. **Countering Stereotypes:** Having gained an understanding of the real perceptions and beliefs that attendees have in relation to the group under discussion, we can now ask the representatives from that group who are present at the event about those perceptions and allow them to educate the audience using their own thoughts and experiences.

The following groups and questions form the foundation of our dialogues. The questions are based on the most common misperceptions associated with each group:

- Transgender servicemembers: Are they fit to serve?
- Muslim-Americans: Is their culture/ideology compatible with the American way of life?
- Jewish-Americans: Are they Americans first, or do they have other loyalties?
- African-Americans: Are they as patriotic as their white counterparts?
- Asian-Americans: Why do we see them as the “perpetual foreigners”?
- Latinx-Americans: Do they seek to embrace America or radically change it?
- Christian-Americans: Have their politics become entangled in their religious beliefs?
- Straight White Americans: Are they as close-minded and prejudiced as some suggest?

*Please note, the questions listed above address the false stereotypes that we want to dispel through these dialogues.

Documentary film screenings: A great way to educate the public on the issues faced by a particular community is by screening informative documentaries. Currently, VAH is working with our partners to screen the documentary “Transmilitary” in churches, synagogues, and community centers throughout the DMV area to educate Americans on the service, sacrifice, and patriotism of our transgender brothers and sisters in arms.

TRAIN COMMUNITY MEMBERS ON HOW TO BE EFFECTIVE ALLIES

Many of us have encountered situations in which we knew that an individual or group were being subjected to discrimination, but how many of us know how to properly react? This uncertainty regarding how to effectively address the problem and assist the victims leads many of us to remain silent when we know that we should speak out. The good news is that our potential allies are not lacking in courage but rather they simply lacked the requisite education needed to effectively take action. That is where Veterans Against Hate provides guidance, training, and communication with local law enforcement to ensure that every American is treated with respect.

Our definition of harassment and discrimination (based in large part on the Washington DC Street Harassment Prevention Act):

Unwanted, disrespectful, or threatening comments, gestures, or other actions forced on a stranger in a public place without their consent, directed at someone because of actual or perceived gender, sexual orientation, identity or expression, race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, political affiliation, or any other characteristic identified in the Human Rights Act of 1977.

Basic Steps (based on the U.S. Army Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault Prevention Bystander Awareness Campaign):

1. Create a distraction- This often takes the form of a sudden request of the victim that removes them from their current situation such as “Hey, we need your help”, “There you are! C’mon, we’re all going to get something to eat”, or “We have to get going, we’re already late”.
2. Ask the victim if they need help- Once they are removed from the immediate danger you can ask them if they would like to have your help or if there is anything that you can do for them.
3. Call the authorities- Call the authorities immediately. If there is a security guard, police officer, or other authority figure in the area then go to them first.
4. Ask for allies- Many times there will be multiple people standing and watching a situation unfold without anyone having the courage to take action on their own. When you decide to take action, ask a few of the people around you to simply walk with you or stand by you as you help the victim to escape the situation.

Veterans Against Hate Chapters practice these situations and responses through small group bystander intervention training to ensure that allies are able to take appropriate action in order to defuse dangerous situations and help victims to escape quickly and safely.

ENSURE PEACEFUL ELECTIONS

Unlike the previous initiatives, our Peaceful Elections campaign will adhere to a strict timeline in relation to the 2020 election cycle. It is absolutely imperative that Americans have faith in the integrity of our voting process. Adversaries both foreign and domestic will attempt to push America into a civil and constitutional crisis by casting doubt on the results of the 2020 elections. We will undertake a 16 month campaign dedicated to improving election infrastructure, educating voters on election security measures, forcing current elected officials and candidates to commit to honoring the election outcomes, decoding the labyrinth of DC activities, and engaging the faith-based community for peaceful messaging. To accomplish these objectives, we will adhere to the following timeline:

September 2019: Utilizing a crowdfunding campaign for local election infrastructure, we will both bring attention to our campaign and begin to educate voters on their election machinery. Some districts have paperless voting machines that need to be replaced with paper-ballot-producing machines. Some districts have voting machines that are 10-20 years old and must be upgraded. Every district could use additional cybersecurity personnel and resources. While it would be great to fix all of these problems, we can still educate voters on the facts related to election security even if our crowdfunding efforts fall short. These machines are not bugged or hacked. Typically, they are just old and are likely to breakdown rather than deliberately alter vote counts. Earlier this year, an enthusiastic Trump supporter started a crowdfunding page for the border wall and quickly raised nearly \$1 billion. More significant than the money he raised was the media exposure that he received. That is our primary goal. We will seek to raise \$300 million for new voting machines across the country, the hiring of more cybersecurity personnel to help local districts, and upgraded security for electronic voter rolls. We will target politically active donors and celebrities for donations. Again, even if they don't donate or we don't reach our goal, we can get attention for our campaign and educate voters. We must identify funding targets (Bill Gates, Mark Zuckerberg, Elon Musk, Koch Brothers, Michael Bloomberg, Chris Evans, Alyssa Milano, the hosts of "The View", etc.) Target reps with funding requests as well [your state still uses paperless voting machines. Contribute now!]. Also advertise this through FB, Google, Twitter.

December 2019: Launch "Prayer over Party" campaign (see SOP for more details). Identify list of religious leaders to solicit.

January 2020: Begin podcast with election officials from around the country emphasizing the ways in which elections are secured. From Secretaries of State down to the folks that actually work at the polling places, it is critical that we have them explain to the American public all the ways in which they ensure that "millions of illegal immigrants" don't actually cast votes, or that the same individuals do not vote multiple times. We need to interview these personnel from small towns in Alabama to big cities in California.

March 2020: Start getting elected officials to commit to honoring the outcome of the election and publicly supporting their local election officials. Having interviewed election officials in Alabama (for example), it will be hard for an Alabama Senator to then say that they don't trust the efforts of those officials and that they don't trust the elections.

May 2020: Begin the "Decoding DC" initiative. Explain how lobbying, think tanks, nonprofits, and Congress work together. It is not always pleasant, but "the swamp" is not nearly as cloak and dagger as people think. You don't need to resort to conspiracy theories to understand how DC works.

June 2020: As the general election commences, we will host a competition for ridiculous and hilarious "fake news" about the candidates. Since foreign and domestic actors will try to disrupt the campaigns by putting out fake stories and rumors about the candidates, we might as well beat them to it and take away the believability of these ridiculous stories.

September 2020: Educate the public on how to spot fake election alerts.

CREATE LOCAL CHAPTERS

CHAPTER ACTION ITEMS

Veterans Against Hate utilizes an extensive network of student veterans and community leaders to build Chapters across the country and implement our 5 Point Agenda at the local level, creating safer and more unified communities in all 50 states.

The table below details the roles and responsibilities of a fully established Chapter. These responsibilities are discussed in much greater detail in the Veterans Against Hate SOP.

<p>Responsibilities of Chapter Leader:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submit a monthly SITREP to headquarters detailing actions taken• Formulate monthly outreach goals and provide guidance to other officers on reaching those goals• Oversee distribution of a monthly Chapter newsletter• Serve as spokesperson and conduct media outreach• Attend events held by potential partner organizations and forge relationships• Serve as the point of contact for other organizations that partner on events• Ensure that the Chapter meets its monthly requirements	<p>Responsibilities of Events Officer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plan and organize all events with the help of the Chapter Leader• Set goals for attendance and track successes and failures• Ensure that the Chapter meets its monthly meetings requirements• Work with local businesses to have food donated for the events• Ensure the security of larger events by coordinating with law enforcement• Send pertinent event information to the Communications Officer and help with the newsletter• Ensure that events are properly publicized
<p>Responsibilities of Communications Officer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submit one article, opinion piece, or Letter to the Editor in a local media outlet once a month• Post a blog once a month• Oversee all social media for the Chapter• Submit a daily tweet and Facebook post• Work with the other officers to create the monthly newsletter. Every officer should submit content, leaving the Communications Officer to simply edit and send out the newsletter• Work with Events Officer to promote events• Prepare messaging and actions for members to disseminate	<p>Responsibilities of Membership Officer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organize a monthly Chapter meeting• Create member activities at the monthly Chapter meetings• Include an award ceremony or recognition event at the monthly meeting for volunteers• Commend the efforts of members on social media and in the newsletter• Show up to support Chapter activities• Encourage friends and family to attend meetings• Attend events held by other organizations, make contacts, and ask for five minutes at the start of their next meeting to tell them about your Chapter. Find new members

JUDGE US BY OUR BEST

Judge us by our best tour: Our veteran ambassadors from each of the abovementioned groups will host small dinners across the country to speak directly to the American people. Using these small and intimate meetings, we can introduce the American people to groups that they may be unfamiliar with, such as Muslim-Americans, Jewish-Americans, Asian-Americans, transgender-Americans, etc. By utilizing veteran representatives, we can better disseminate our message of judging every group by their best and most patriotic members.

Proposed 2020 tour:

At each stop, we will host one dinner for each group utilizing local religious organizations as the audience. In other words, prior to traveling to a new city we may reach out to a local Catholic church for hosting a dinner with our Jewish-American veterans, or a local synagogue for hosting a dinner with our Muslim-American veterans, or the local LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce to host a dinner with our cis-hetero veterans. This way we can have a small group dinner representing every group over the course of one week.

Proposed cities (subject to change):

Atlanta, Georgia

Tampa, Florida

Huntsville, Alabama

New Orleans, Louisiana

Little Rock, Arkansas

Nashville, Tennessee

Raleigh, North Carolina

Richmond, Virginia

Columbus, Ohio

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Albany, New York

Ann Arbor, Michigan

Indianapolis, Indiana

Des Moines, Iowa

THANK YOU

Thank you for your interest in Veterans Against Hate. For more information please visit our website at www.veteransagainsthate.org or find us on Facebook and Twitter @vah2018

