



A Coalition of Faith and Community Leaders

The Honorable Assembly
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MCP/Educator

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Reverend Kathleen Owens

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City of San Diego Human
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The First Church of the
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GenTe Unidos

The Interfaith Committee
for Worker Justice

Justice Overcoming Boundaries

Office for Social Ministry,
Catholic Diocese of San Diego

Pilgrim United Church of Christ

Plymouth Congregational Church

Saint Paul's Cathedral

San Diego County
Community Coalition

San Diego LGBT Center

Si Se Puede Immigrants'
Rights Organization

United African American
Ministerial Action Council

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Dear Special Guest,

On behalf of United for a Hate Free San Diego, we would like to invite you (and a guest) to attend, our first **"Hate Crimes Summit"**. The event will take place on **Thursday, June 12th, 2008 at the University of San Diego, Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice** with a **reception and registration at 5:00pm** followed by the **event at 6:00pm** (details attached).

United for a Hate Free San Diego is a coalition of 52 faith and community leaders and organizations who have been meeting regularly since November of 2007 in response to a growing trend of hate motivated behavior in San Diego communities. Our goal is to reduce the number of hate crimes that negatively impact so many people in our communities.

According to a report by the Southern Poverty Law Center "the number of hate groups in the United States is surging, up 48% since 2000, to a total of 888 nationwide". California leads the nation, as the number one hot spot, for these hates groups with 88, with the majority of these groups residing in Southern California. In addition, the California Attorney General's Office and the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported that hate crimes in the City and County of San Diego have increased by 23% and 32% respectively.

San Diego, America's Finest City, is one of the most diverse cities in the United States. Unfortunately, over the past year, San Diego residents have been victimized by numerous hate motivated crimes. Places of worship and schools have been vandalized. Property has been destroyed. People have been humiliated and injured.

Next month, the California State Legislature will introduce a resolution, **ACR 108**, which will proclaim **June 2008** to be **Hate Crimes Awareness Month**. We sincerely hope you will accept our invitation and join us on **June 12th, 2008** for our first **"Hate Crimes Summit"**. At the event you will have an opportunity to join other community members and leaders and sign a declaration against hate motivated behavior. Your participation is important to our success. Your attendance will be acknowledged in a follow-up report to be issued immediately after the Summit. If you are unable to attend, please send a representative.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Connie Hernandez, City of San Diego, Human Relations Commission, at telephone number (619) 236-6420 or by email chernandez@sandiego.gov. Our fax number is (619) 236-6423. **Media inquires please contact Joe Kocurek at 619-645-3090.*

Sincerely,

Lori Saldaña
Assemblymember, State of California
76th Assembly District

Estela De Los Rios
Director, Human Rights Program
Center for Social Advocacy

Ashley Walker
Executive Director, HRC
City of San Diego