

PREFACE

“Only by persistent and unremitting educational efforts will we one day see that mutual helpfulness and tolerance between differing peoples have become as important to our welfare as having clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment.” Alan B. Slifka, *Handbook of Interethnic Coexistence*¹

The Gonzaga Institute for Action Against Hate was founded by Gonzaga University in 1998 to fight hate through education, research, and advocacy. Its genesis derived from concerns surrounding the apparent increase in the phenomenon of hate—especially racial and religious hate—as it manifested itself on campuses and in communities throughout the country. The prevalence of hate crimes, organized hate groups, and hateful Internet sites prompted the University community to reflect upon ways that Gonzaga—a Jesuit institution—might provide a more enduring and substantive contribution to the understanding of how hate afflicts campus life, community life, society in general, and the world. What are its causes, its characteristics, and its effects? How does it spread and how can it be counteracted? What can the various disciplines—from religious studies and law to psychology, science, history, and anthropology—contribute to our understanding of hate and its prevention? What research should be conducted on the subject? And, importantly, what can institutions of higher education contribute to education theory and practice in relation to teaching about and eliminating hate at the post-secondary and K-12 levels?

There are, of course, many governmental and non-governmental organizations working against hate. In addition, a number of colleges and universities offer majors or concentrations in diversity, conflict resolution and peace studies; law schools offer courses and clinics in alternative dispute resolution and mediation; and schools of education incorporate special programs on teaching tolerance and conflict resolution in the classroom. It does not appear, however, that any higher education institution in the United States has a comprehensive, integrated, multi-disciplinary approach to the study of the phenomenon of “hate” itself and ways of eliminating hate.

By providing resources and a framework for a new field known as “Hate Studies,” the Gonzaga Institute for Action Against Hate hopes to complement

1. Alan B. Slifka, Foreword to *The Handbook of Interethnic Coexistence* (E. Weiner, ed., New York, NY: Continuum Pub. Co., 1998).

the important work of a variety of human rights and conflict resolution groups and educators in the United States and abroad. The Institute will pursue its goals by bringing together different disciplines and perspectives on the subject of hate, by increasing relevant interdisciplinary learning opportunities, and by encouraging and facilitating hate related research and scholarly writing. The Institute plans to augment the excellent work of organizations such as the Anti-Defamation League, Southern Poverty Law Center, and U.S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service in providing instructional materials and curricula for educators. The Institute will provide resources for training community based individuals and organizations working against hate and organized hate groups. It is expected that the Institute can grow into a highly visible, pro-active, and recognized academic center for studying hate and formulating strategies for addressing its causes and consequences.

Publication of this first issue of the *Journal of Hate Studies* is an important step toward realization of the Institute's goals. The content was selected, in part, to reflect and highlight the multi-disciplinary scope of the Journal's intended focus. Articles represent the work of authors in the fields of psychology, religious studies, information science and technology, human rights activism, and law.

Psychology Professor James Waller's article, "Perpetrators of Genocide: An Explanatory Model of Extraordinary Human Evil," is a timely exposition of the evolutionary, individual, social and situational factors inherent in the process that causes ordinary people to commit extraordinary evil. Professor Waller argues that perpetrators of evil are not necessarily "extraordinary" people or groups, and that we should strive to understand the complex psychological forces which produce events such as mass killings or genocides in order to forestall the acting out of that evil in the future.

In "Christian Identity: An American Heresy," Rev. David Ostendorf develops a comprehensive expose of the historical antecedents and theological underpinnings of the Christian Identity white supremacist belief system embraced by the Aryan Nations and other organized hate groups. Rev. Ostendorf emphasizes the "fundamental responsibility" of the larger Christian community to take action to counter this heretical and dangerous distortion of Christian faith.

Kenneth Stern's monograph "Hate and the Internet," is reprinted here with the kind permission of The American Jewish Committee. The article analyzes the history of hate on the Internet, provides a blueprint for combating the problem, and demonstrates ways to use information technology to fight hatred throughout society.

"Not in Our World," by Bill Wassmuth and M.J. Bryant, is the story of how a man, a community, and a region confronted the emergence of organized hate groups in the Inland Northwest. The man, co-author Bill Wassmuth, is

the person to whom this issue of the *Journal of Hate Studies* is dedicated. He was the target of a hate group bombing at his home in 1986. His life is a model of commitment, empowerment, and intelligence in the fight against hate. His story can serve as a guide and inspiration to others involved in fighting hate in their own communities.

“Vindication of Hate Violence Victims Via Criminal and Civil Adjudications,” by Professor Brian Levin, offers an overview of the role federal and state law has played in the fight against hate. The article provides insights into the competing ideological perspectives which influenced development of federal statutory and constitutional law dating back to the notorious *Dred Scott* Supreme Court decision of the pre-Civil War era.

Finally, but not least, is Professor Elizabeth Thweatt’s annotated “Bibliography of Hate Studies Materials”—the culmination of several years of work stemming from the realization that no such bibliography existed. The bibliography includes a selection of books, reports, government documents, and videos published between 1980 and 2000. These materials deal primarily with issues of bigotry, hatred, prejudice, and methods for combating hate. The bibliography should be a useful and convenient starting point and reference for people and groups interested in exploring some of the literature on these topics.

Future issues will strive to establish the *Journal* as a vehicle for sharing insights from diverse perspectives about what hate is, and what to do about it. We therefore invite the submission of unsolicited manuscripts from academics, professionals, activists, or others who have something significant to contribute to the evolving field of “Hate Studies.”

Since the events of September 11, 2001, the Board of Advisors of the Institute for Action Against Hate has intensified its efforts to marshal resources and expertise in the fight against hate. It is all too clear that a particularly venal form of hate is loose in the world. We struggle to comprehend it and identify the appropriate response. In the short term, government officials will take the lead in meeting this challenge. In the long term, people must learn to recognize, expose, and inoculate against hate at home and abroad before it grows into something virulent and destructive. This is no simple task in a world of competing cultures and ideologies, dwindling resources, and wide-spread poverty. As such, it is a responsibility which educators, professionals, and people of good will everywhere should undertake with unyielding determination.

We are pleased to introduce the inaugural issue of the *Journal of Hate Studies*. We hope you will find it to be a relevant and worthwhile addition to your reading.

George A. Critchlow
Editor

