



Wednesday, June 9, 2021, 6:30-8:30pm
White Supremacy & Youth Extremism: Virtual Listening Session

COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSIONS
**WHITE SUPREMACY,
DOMESTIC THREATS,
& YOUTH EXTREMISM**



The Division on Civil Rights is hosting listening sessions to engage with youth, parents, educators & members of the public.

SHARE YOUR STORY
Challenge Traditions, Fight Inequality, Stand Together

June 09, 2021 6:30pm - 8:30pm
July 14, 2021 6:30pm - 8:30pm
Visit njcivilrights.gov to register for these virtual Zoom events.

Let us know if you or students have been impacted by bias, prejudice or discrimination. If you prefer not to share at a listening session, you can read our Youth Bias Taskforce report summary & submit written comments until July 30, 2021, at njcivilrights.gov or by emailing communityrelations@njcivilrights.gov.

#CivilRightsNJ #StopTheHate #NoHateInThisGreatState

 @CivilRightsNJ  @CivilRightsNJ



Denalerie Johnson-Faniel PhD, EdM, MA, CBA, CLC, MCBT-C, HSBCP
Director of Outreach & Community Relations
New Jersey Division on Civil Rights



Dr. Denalerie Johnson-Faniel, has twenty years of public education, learning and development, DEI, mental health, human resources and community relations experience. A Garden State Global Non-Profit Woman of the Year, Network Business Journal Top 40 Under 40 and a YWCA Woman of the Year honoree, she was the international executive vice president of workforce development at Dress for Success Worldwide. Dr. Johnson-Faniel also served as director of organizational development and change management at Jewish Home and Hospital Life Care; was director of national operations at the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network and led as president and CEO of a National Urban League affiliate. As director of a New Jersey Feeding America food bank, her team revitalized the agency into a health equity modeled countywide nutritional health and wellness impact center. She has managed government, K-12/higher education, corporate, community and nonprofit anti-bias training and was the national mentoring consultant for the Center for Supportive

Schools. Dr. Johnson-Faniel is Lean Six Sigma HR Greenbelt certified, DEI and mediation and arbitration certified and founded 3D Management Consulting, LLC, a national boutique firm. She is also a certified yoga instructor, Reiki master, holistic life coach, autism behavioral analyst, and gender studies, history, contemporary problems, sociology, psychology and multi-culturalism adjunct professor. The board-certified human services professional has held elected and appointed government roles, she sat on the Edison-Metuchen NAACP board of directors; her local human relations commission, served as an advisory committee member of the Anti-Poverty Network of New Jersey; held Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.'s international social action co-director role and chaired their New Jersey advocacy and youth and civil rights partnerships teams. Dr. Denalerie Johnson-Faniel a MPH student at TCNJ, has a PhD in human services public leadership and non-profit management, an Ed.M. in psychological counseling, an MA in organizational psychology and human resources and a BS in psychology and business management and BA in Afro-American studies and political science. She is a graduate of Howard University, Columbia University Teachers College and Capella University. Her book, *Making HERstory: Womxn Working it Out*, explores the lived experiences of African-American career advancement and bias and discrimination. She and her wife live in Trenton, New Jersey; enjoy gardening and are the tea loving parents of a service animal named Prema-Diva.

Natasha L. Hemmings, MPA
Chief Executive Officer, Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey



Natasha L. Hemmings, MPA, is the Chief Executive Officer for the Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey and is the first African-American woman in the council's history to lead the organization. A long-time advocate of girl empowerment and leadership, as she is a Lifetime Member of the Girl Scouts of the USA and served Girl Scouts of Central & Southern New Jersey as their Chief Marketing and Communications Officer for 18 years. As CEO, Natasha holds a senior leadership role with significant strategic and supervisory responsibilities for the second largest Girl Scout Council in the state, with an annual budget of well over \$6.5M. Natasha has a Master's Degree in Public Administration with a concentration in Non-Profit Leadership from Rutgers University, and a Bachelor's Degree in Communications & Theater from the College of New Jersey, formerly Trenton State College. She also holds an Executive Non-Profit Leadership Certificate from Fairleigh Dickinson University. Natasha is a Rutgers University School of Public Affairs and Administration MBA Board Member. She has been selected to serve on Girl Scouts of the USA's National Convention Action Team for the last 4 National Council Sessions with increasing roles and responsibilities over a 12-year span. She plays a critical role in sharing the inspirational stories of Girl Scouts in the state, inspiring girls of every age and families of every culture to join.

Natasha has a deep passion for issues pertaining to women, girls, diversity, equity and inclusivity, and has focused her community service in these areas. She is the immediate past Vice President of the Barbados-American Charitable Organization of NJ and a proud lifetime member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. which is a public service organization that strives to confront the problems of African-Americans and, hence, all Americans. In this capacity, Natasha has served as past President of the Iota Beta Chapter, Co-Chair for the Arts & Letters Committee, and member of the Fundraising and Mental & Physical Health Committees. She served as a Girl Scout Co-Leader for over ten years in the urban community of Plainfield, serving a multi-level, multi-cultural troop of 32 girls. She led troop meetings, conducted Journey and badge activities, planned programs and special events, and chaperoned trips with girls ranging in age from five to fourteen.

Active in multiple charitable organizations and committees, Natasha is also a member of GSUSA's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Racial Justice Steering Committee, and a proud Lead NJ Alum. Lead NJ is dedicated to developing well-informed leaders who are prepared to cross boundaries between sectors, work effectively with people of all backgrounds, find common ground with those who may think differently about issues, and work in a spirit of shared commitment to our state's success. Most recently, Natasha was selected as one of the top 25 Leading Women Entrepreneurs in New Jersey and made the ROI-NJ 2020 Influencers: People of Color list. In 2018 she was also recognized as one of South Jersey Biz's Women to Watch and was recognized by Citrin Cooperman at their Women at the Wheel event with a Leadership Excellence Award. She has been a guest lecturer for several graduate courses at Rutgers University School of Public Affairs and Administration in Newark and is co-chair for a local high schools' Parent Athletic Club. Natasha is an entrepreneur herself and owns 3KeyEvents, a wedding and special events planning company. She attributes her success to the unwavering support of her parents, husband Okello, two daughters Naomi and Chelsea and bonus son, Xavier.

Steve Crimando MA, CTS & CHS-V
Psychological First Aid (PFA) & Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM)



Steve has extensive academic credentials and field experience. Leader in Zero-Hour Behavioral Health Management. He is active in both public and private sector responses.

He is a Certified Threat Manager (CTM), a Board-Certified Expert in Traumatic Stress (BCETS), a Diplomate of the National Center for Crisis Management; the American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress, and the International College for the Behavioral Sciences, where he serves as an officer on the Board of Directors. He is a Certified Trauma Specialist (CTS), a Certified Police Instructor, and holds Level 5 Certification in Homeland Security (CHS-V). He is also a member of the Association of Threat Assessment Professionals, an expert

in threat assessment and management.

Steve served as a Disaster Field Operations Supervisor for the FEMA's mental health response to the 9/11 World Trade Center attacks and coordinated onsite psychological operations at New Jersey's Anthrax Screening Center. He helped coordinate psychological support services at such incidents as the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, Hurricanes Floyd, Irene and Sandy, and TWA Flight 800 crash.

Mary McCord
Executive Director, Institute for Constitutional Advocacy
Visiting Professor of Law, Georgetown University Law Center



Mary McCord is Executive Director of the Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection (ICAP) and a Visiting Professor of Law at Georgetown University Law Center. At ICAP, McCord leads a team that brings constitutional impact litigation at all levels of the federal and state courts across a wide variety of areas including First Amendment rights, immigration, criminal justice reform, and combating the rise of private paramilitaries.

McCord was the Acting Assistant Attorney General for National Security at the U.S. Department of Justice from 2016 to 2017 and Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General for National Security from 2014 to 2016.

Previously, McCord was an Assistant U.S. Attorney for nearly 20 years at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia. Among other positions, she served as a Deputy Chief in the Appellate Division, overseeing and arguing hundreds of cases in the U.S. and District of Columbia Courts of Appeals, and

Chief of the Criminal Division, where she oversaw all criminal prosecutions in federal district court.

McCord is a statutorily designated amicus curiae for the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court and Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court of Review. McCord served as legal counsel to the U.S. House of Representatives Task Force 1-6 Capitol Security Review appointed by Speaker Nancy Pelosi after the January 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol. McCord also served on the Columbus Police After Action Review Team tasked with evaluating how the Columbus, Ohio, Police Department responded to the 2020 summer protests. McCord has written about domestic terrorism, unlawful militia activity, public safety, and the rule of law for publications including the *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Los Angeles Times*, *The Atlantic*, *Slate*, *Lawfare*, and *Just Security*. She has appeared on NPR, PBS, CNN, MSNBC, ABC, and other media outlets.

McCord received the Oliver White Hill Courageous Advocate Award from the Virginia Trial Lawyers' Association in 2018, based on her work with ICAP litigating against white supremacist and private militias that attended the Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 2017.

McCord graduated from Georgetown University Law School and served as a law clerk for Judge Thomas Hogan of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

Frank Meeink
Former Neo-Nazi Movement Member



Frank's violent childhood in South Philadelphia primed him to hate. He made easy prey for a small group of skinhead gang recruiters. At fourteen, he shaved his head. By seventeen, Frank was hosting a cable access show called "The Reich" to recruit more people into the neo-nazi movement. By eighteen, he was doing hard time in an Illinois prison.

In prison he befriended men he used to think he hated, men of different races. Out of prison Meeink tried to rejoin his old skinhead pals, but couldn't bring himself to hate those he knew to be his friends. A Jewish doctor offered to get rid of his neo-nazi tattoos covering much of his body. Behind bars, Frank began to question his hatred, thanks in large part to his African-American teammates on a prison football league. Shortly after being paroled, Frank defected from the white supremacy movement. The Oklahoma City bombing inspired him to try to stop the hatred he once had felt. He

began speaking on behalf of the Anti-Defamation League and appeared on MTV and other national networks in his efforts to stop the hate.

In time, Frank partnered with the Philadelphia Flyers to launch an innovative hate prevention program called Harmony Through Hockey. He developed a similar program in Central Iowa. He is featured a film directed by Jessee Dylan with Desmond Tutu called "Reconcilliation", an independent film featuring Adrien Brody and Forrest Whitaker called "The Experiment", and appeared in a music video with Jamey Johnson called "High Cost of Living". Frank's story was also the inspiration for the Movie, American History X and was featured in Steven Spielberg's documentary, "Why We Hate" and most recently was featured in a Rolling Stone issue.

Frank has worked as director of fan development for American Hockey League teams. He has been on the national lecture circuit for nearly a decade, speaking to various groups on the topic of racial diversity and acceptance.

Jonathan Lewis

*Research Fellow at the Program on Extremism
The George Washington University*



Jon Lewis is a Research Fellow at the Program on Extremism, where he studies the evolution of white supremacist and anti-government movements in the United States and federal responses to the threat. He is an Investigator with the National Counterterrorism Innovation, Technology, and Education Center ([NCITE](#)), and provides assistance for [The ISIS Files Project](#) as well as the Program's partnership with the Global Network on Extremism and Technology ([GNET](#)). Jon also provides policy support for PoE's partners in the [Congressional Counter-Terrorism Caucus](#), the leading bipartisan voice in Congress for pragmatic approaches to tackling extremism and radicalization. His research has been featured in several academic and popular publications, including the *CTC Sentinel*, *The Washington Post*, and *Lawfare*. Before joining the Program on Extremism, he worked as a research assistant at the International Institute for Counterterrorism (ICT) and the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point (CTC). Jon Lewis holds a Masters in Homeland Security Policy from Rider University.

Jenny Presswalla

Acting Deputy Director, Field Operations for the United States

Associate Director of Field Operations, Central Region at the US Department of Homeland Security's Office for Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention



Jenny Presswalla is the Acting Deputy Director of Field Operations for the United States and the Associate Director of Field Operations for the Central Region at the US Department of Homeland Security's Office for Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention. She works to form partnerships between Federal, state, and local government and the whole-of-society to build local prevention frameworks that prevent targeted violence and terrorism.

She was formerly Branch Chief for Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) at the National Counterterrorism Center in Washington, DC, supervising and leading a team of subject matter experts who coordinated US Government CVE policy and strategy and engaged American communities on CVE. Before NCTC, Jenny worked at the US Department of Homeland Security's Office for Civil Rights and Civil

Liberties, leading DHS engagement of diverse American communities in Los Angeles and training law enforcement on CVE nationwide. She was a National Security Education Program Boren Fellow in Mumbai, India, has an M.A. from American University's School of International Service, and graduated cum laude with a B.S. in Psychology from the University of Florida. She lives in Golden, Colorado with her husband and two kids.

Oren Segal
Vice President, Center on Extremism
Anti-Defamation League



Oren Segal, Vice President of the Center on Extremism, and his team combat extremism, terrorism and all forms of hate in the real world and online. Recognized as the foremost authority on extremism, the Center provides resources, expertise and training which enables law enforcement, public officials and internet and technology companies to identify and counter emerging threats.

Oren joined ADL in 1998 after working for The New York Times and the Jewish Community Federation in San Francisco. Much of Oren's 21 years with ADL has been devoted to evaluating the activity and tactics of extremist groups and movements from across the ideological spectrum, training law enforcement officers and publishing reports and articles on a wide range of extremist topics. In 2006, Oren was recognized by the FBI for his exceptional service in the public interest. He was named to the Forward's list of 50 influential, intriguing and inspiring American Jews in 2019. Oren is a graduate of Wheaton College in Massachusetts.

Alexandria Poole



I am 22 years old. I am from Trenton, New Jersey. I am currently a biology major, on the pre-med track, at Rider University. My ultimate goal is to become a surgical oncologist and own a free clinic that would be open in Trenton.

Director Rachel Wainer Apter
New Jersey Division on Civil Rights



Rachel Wainer Apter became the Director of the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights on October 15, 2018. As Director, she has re-envisioned and re-shaped the Division to act strategically to protect the civil rights of all New Jersey residents. She previously served as Counsel to the Attorney General, advising on civil rights and immigration matters and leading the New Jersey team that defeated a preliminary injunction motion by Texas and seven other states to end Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). Prior to joining the Attorney General's Office, Rachel worked at the American Civil Liberties Union on cases concerning the right to be free from discrimination, reproductive freedom, voting rights, and other federal constitutional questions. She served as counsel in *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*, which considered whether a baker who refused to sell a wedding cake to a same-sex couple on religious grounds was exempt from Colorado's

anti-discrimination laws. Rachel also argued and won a disability discrimination appeal and led a task force regarding investigations of sexual harassment and sexual assault on college campuses. Prior to the ACLU, Rachel worked in the Supreme Court and Appellate practice at Orrick, Herrington and Sutcliffe, where she briefed and argued cases in federal and state courts. Rachel, who grew up in Rockaway, New Jersey, graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and received her law degree from Harvard Law School. After law school, Rachel served as a law clerk for Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the United States Supreme Court, Judge Robert Katzmann on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and Judge Jed Rakoff on the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. Rachel lives in Englewood with her spouse and children.

Deidre Belinfanti, MSW



D is a proud Asburian and serves as one of our Project Managers and trainers to Garden State Equality. D has demonstrated her commitment in being an advocate for change through their involvement with the Coalition of Activist Students Celebrating and Accepting Diversity and Equality (C.A.S.C.A.D.E), LGBTQ+ organization, serving as public relations chair and vice-president during their undergrad matriculation at Howard University, where they received their Bachelor of Science in Psychology, minoring in Photography. During their time as Vice President, they were able to launch the Lavender Fund, a LGBTQ+ scholarship for incoming students and continuing. D continued her path for social justice, receiving their Master in Social Work degree, concentrating in Children, Youth, and Families, from the Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work at the University of Southern California. During their matriculation, D and fellow students revitalized the Black Social Workers Caucus on campus, where they focused on highlighting black social workers, community engagement, activism, and career acceleration. Upon graduation, D and fellow alumni banded together to organize a solidarity march in honor of George Floyd, Breanna Taylor, Ahmad Aubrey, and all people who have been murdered due to police brutality.

D's commitment to fighting social injustice continues with their grassroots organization, Social Workers in Solidarity, that highlights and destigmatizes the perception of Social Workers. They also are partnering with the National Association of Black Social Workers-Greater Los Angeles in creating a holistic family center for black and brown families of Southern California, helping families heal from generational trauma. Utilizing their minor in Photography, D founded Elegant D Photography, that caters to black small owned business and entrepreneurs, helping them enhance their business visually and economically.

Dr. Yolanda Hawkins-Rodgers



Yolanda Hawkins-Rodgers is a licensed psychologist with a private practice in Hackensack. She is also a certified clinical supervisor who supervises both permit holders seeking to become licensed psychologist or a licensed professional counselor. Since moving from New York over 30 years ago, she has worked with adolescents and young adults, in her capacity as an educator and a clinician. She started her career as the director of the EOF program at Bergen community College. Subsequently, she held the position as the first African American to chair the department of Psychology and Counseling at Fairleigh Dickinson University at the Florham/Madison campus while building her private practice as a psychologist. She has done research on and made recommendations to stem bullying among female students at Hackensack high School. Her interest in mental health has led her to become a member of the Community Mental

Health Board and the Family Support Organization. She served as chair of the Bergen County Commission on the Status of Women. Her clinical work includes working for the Department of Child Protection and Permanency as a clinical consultant and psychological evaluator. Her community activity includes membership in the Bergen County Alumnae chapter Delta Sigma Theta and the Rotary of Hackensack.

Dr. Hawkins-Rodgers has developed many training workshops and presented papers at national conferences regarding educational and clinical issues that have included multicultural issues in the workplace and developmental issues across the lifespan. She recently published her first therapeutic coloring book for grownups. Her most recent effort in promoting mental health has been to found the Consortium of Mental Health and Educational Professionals of Color whose aim is to provide a comprehensive directory of resources and services for an underserved population in Northern New Jersey.

Megan Sullivan

Ms. Sullivan is the Deputy Director of the Disaster & Terrorism Branch of the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services. She is a certified Disaster Response Crisis Counselor, trained in the FEMA and Red Cross models and is currently a part of the Division of Mental Health and Addictions' Disaster and Terrorism Branch which develops contingency planning for the public's mental health needs surrounding various types of emergencies. She serves on the Operations Board of the Disaster Response Crisis Counselor Certification and is one of the trainers for the DRCC curriculum. She has deployed to Louisiana for hurricane relief and to the United States Virgin Islands with the New Jersey Emergency Medical Services taskforce after Hurricanes Irma and Maria. She has been on the faculty at the Rutgers Summer School of Addiction Studies since 2009. She currently has a private practice in Metuchen, NJ.

Sullivan is a graduate of Villanova University and holds a Masters of Education in Counseling Psychology from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor and Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselor. She has also trained in marital and family counseling at The Center for Family, Community and Social Justice in Princeton, NJ.