

August 2024

# Project 2025: What's At Stake for Fighting Hate

**What is Project 2025?** It's a wish list of right-wing policies, reflecting an extreme Christian nationalist ideology, written by the Heritage Foundation and more than 100 other conservative groups as a blueprint for a potential conservative administration. It is an explicit effort to further empower the presidency, embed ideologues in nonpartisan civil service, and enable the executive branch to unravel the civil rights movement's gains over the last seven decades.

The full agenda, which is more than 900 pages long, would completely reshape our federal government in order to benefit white nationalists, the rich and powerful, and religiously motivated bigots. Since former President Trump gave white nationalists a platform in 2015, reported hate crimes have increased by more than 80 percent. Project 2025 is their agenda, and it is riddled with racist dog whistles and policies that would directly harm communities of color, members of the LGBTQ+ community, immigrants, and more. While the agenda may not specifically touch on hate crime law or policies, it would create an America where hate could thrive and with little consequence. Here are some key things you should know:

- **Weakening of Civil Rights Laws:** Project 2025 proposes that the Department of Justice (DOJ) should enforce civil rights laws only in the courts, eliminating important administrative tools to address discrimination (e.g., resolution agreements and consent decrees). It would also eliminate the use of “disparate impact” in civil rights enforcement, making a lot of discrimination invisible through redefinition.
- **Weaponizing Civil Rights Laws:** Project 2025 attacks diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) and “critical race theory,” and it would twist civil rights laws to use the DOJ and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as enforcement arms against them. It would use the executive branch to undermine protections for LGBTQ+ employees and to stop civil rights data collection. It would even prosecute private employers that support DEIA in their workplaces.
- **Bigoted Extremism Behind Project 2025:** Several of the organizations behind Project 2025 have been recognized as hate groups by the Southern Poverty Law Center. The head of the Heritage Foundation, the primary author of Project 2025, recently proclaimed that “we are in the process of the second American Revolution, which will remain bloodless — if the left allows it to be.”

- **Politicization of the Government at Every Level:** Project 2025 supports drastic changes, known as “Schedule F” reforms, that would force tens of thousands of civil servants — including in agencies that protect civil rights — to serve the president’s political aims instead of serving the public interest.

While the entire agenda is of concern as it centers on white nationalist ideology, here are additional examples of how specific initiatives could be harmed:

- Project 2025 includes a mention of the DOJ Bureau of Justice Statistics’ need to serve the “American people and not special interests.” The agenda focuses on the National Crime Victimization Survey as a tool for obtaining more information about “perpetrators” of crime, including race and ethnicity.
- Project 2025 also questions most Department of Homeland Security grants, with a focus on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This could potentially include the Nonprofit Security Grant Program, which had \$305 million available last year, and which has been used by community organizations and religious institutions for hardening security.