

Spotlight on Human Rights - January 2017

The Southern Poverty Law Center <https://www.splcenter.org/>

Based in Montgomery, Alabama, the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) — <https://www.splcenter.org> describes itself as “fighting hate, teaching tolerance and seeking justice”.

The SPLC was founded in 1971 with an initial mission of ensuring that the promise of the civil rights movement became a reality for all.

Among its many activities is monitoring “Hate Groups” around the country. As of this writing the SPLC says there are 892 such groups in the United States, 40 of which are in Pennsylvania <https://www.splcenter.org/hate-map>. The SPLC is very active in countering such groups through investigative reports, training law enforcement officers as well as providing key intelligence and expert analysis about such groups to the media and public.

The SPLC has a rich history of litigating civil rights cases to protect the most vulnerable. Its current priorities are: children’s rights, economic justice, immigrant justice, LGBT rights, and mass incarceration <https://www.splcenter.org/seeking-justice/case-docket>.

Through its “teaching tolerance” initiative the SPLC is very pro-active in promoting human rights education in schools and other settings. It offers many free resources for educators at all levels <http://www.tolerance.org>.

The SPLC provides regular updates to those interested through online newsletters that are free to all.

The screenshot shows the SPLC website homepage. At the top left is the SPLC logo (a scale of justice) and the text "SPLC Southern Poverty Law Center". To the right are social media icons for Facebook and Twitter, followed by "News About Us" and "WAYS TO GIVE DONATE" buttons. Below this is a navigation menu with "WHAT WE DO", "OUR ISSUES", "RESOURCES", "HATE MAP", "HATEWATCH", and a search icon. The main content area features three news stories:

- HATE & EXTREMISM**: "1,094" In the month following the election the SPLC counted 1,094 bias-related incidents. The background image shows a wall with graffiti that says "MAKE AMERICA WHITE AGAIN".
- CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM**: "DELIBERATE INDIFFERENCE" SPLC begins trial on behalf of Alabama prisoners with mental health needs. The background image shows a sign for the "CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEPARTMENT".
- ECONOMIC JUSTICE**: "BAIL REFORM" SPLC prompts 50 Alabama cities to reform discriminatory bail practices. The background image is a map of Alabama with numerous blue location pins.