



COMMUNITY RESPONDERS NETWORK

ABOUT US

Who Are We?

- *Our Mission: The Community Responders Network is a grassroots coalition committed to confronting and preventing incidents of bias in Central PA.*
- We all know that bias and intolerance happens in our communities, but sometimes it is difficult to know how best to respond to or prevent it.
- The Community Responders Network was established in 2008 following an incident targeting a local Muslim family. A concerned group of individuals came together to stand with the family, and out of this the Community Responders Network was born.
- Today, our membership represents a diverse group of faith communities, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, government entities and community members working together to further our mission.
- The Community Responders Network is closely connected with individuals and organizations in our community, to apprise us of what is happening and what is needed from CRN.
- We also work closely with agencies like the PA Human Relations Commission, the Southern Poverty Law Center and the Anti-Defamation League to apprise them of bias incidents so that they can track them and take any necessary actions.
- While our initial focus was on dealing with the immediate impact of bias incidents, our work has come to take a dual approach – both responding to incidents that occur, AND taking pro-active steps to prevent these types of incidents.



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What Do We Do?

- Our **Rapid Response Team** develops and implements action plans in response to incidents of bias in Central PA. On-going projects include:
 - **Response to Hate Groups:** When hate groups like the KKK are active in our area, the CRN makes strong public statements, contacts local leaders and provides resources and guidance for how communities should respond.
 - **Response to Hate Crimes:** When hate crimes are committed, the CRN makes strong public statements, provides resources to affected communities and offers support to the victim(s).
 - **Response to Bias Incidents:** When incidents of bias occur in our area, the CRN makes strong public statements, contacts appropriate authorities and provides resources and support.
- Our **Prevention & Education Team** develops and implements programs to address the root causes of bias through education. Current projects include:
 - **Community Dialogues:** Presenting scripted dialogues on race, religion and sexuality to stimulate conversation and break down stereotypes.
 - **Conversations with our Neighbors:** Creating opportunities for community members to come together and discuss important topics like Islam or race.
 - **American Stories:** Sharing diverse and compelling stories about what it means to be “American” with students in school settings.

Want to Join?

- If you're interested in getting involved with the CRN, please contact us at crnharrisburg@gmail.com or call (717) 547-0011. Thank you!

Want to Donate?

- Checks can be made out to the YWCA Greater Harrisburg, with “CRN” in the memo line, and mailed to 1101 Market St, Harrisburg PA 17103. Thank you!