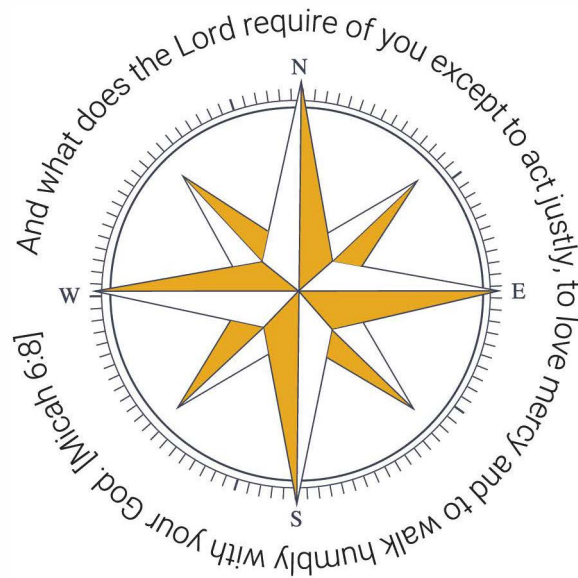


Executive Summary 2023

COUNTERING HATE

The Role of Faith in Mobilizing Philanthropy
Against White Supremacy



With a deeper understanding of the need for philanthropy's engagement around issues of hate and white supremacy, the event turned to a facilitated discussion about the role of faith in mobilizing philanthropy.

Nadege Souvenir, Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation, convened a panel of national leaders: Tonya Allen, McKnight Foundation; Carin Mrotz, Hate is Not Charitable; and Shariq Siddiqui, Muslim Philanthropy Initiative at Indiana University's Lilly Family School of Philanthropy. The thought provoking dialogue ranged from the role faith plays in each panelist's view of philanthropy, the complicated relationship both philanthropy and faith share with white supremacy, and views about philanthropy's role in bettering society. The panelists offered their insights from their lived experience, learnings from roles inside and outside philanthropy, and candor about the realities and challenges around faith, hate, white supremacy, and philanthropy.

In small group conversations, attendees wrestled with the theme of the convening and the concepts introduced by Mr. Barzegar. Conversations ranged from tactical and practical to nuanced and intersectional quandaries. In the whole of the morning, more questions were raised than could be answered (as evidenced by the small group discussions).

The issues of white supremacy, hate, and philanthropy's role do not come with ready-made one size fits all answers. It is incumbent on foundations to tackle these issues within the context of their mission, vision, and values. This is the charge to us all.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS¹

OBSERVATIONS

- Philanthropy is not the only sector dealing with hate issues. How can we lean on others working through similar concerns?
- The missions of religious groups and philanthropy can be used to weaponize and galvanize hate.
- How might we build capacity for love vs. just punishing hate?
- Have we been overusing the word "hate," diluting truly hateful behavior and needlessly demonizing those who have firmly held beliefs different from our own?
- We should ask ourselves, what might we be doing that promotes hate?

¹ A sampling of comments and questions from all the small group discussions. Edited for clarity. [View the full list of comments and questions.](#)

CONCERNS

- How do we support the communities who experience hate regardless of whether a definition is identified? The emotions and harm felt are real.
- There can be a fine line between groups that truly grapple with values versus vitriolic groups.
- Sometimes, it is not easy to distinguish between discrimination/hate and a tenet of faith.
- Some of the organizations with existing anti-hate lists are challenged by politics and/or perception.
- Should foundations do more to strengthen the anti-hate voices within different faiths?

BIG QUESTIONS

- Are there MN foundations funding hate...unintentionally?
- In our efforts to course correct against hate, do we overcorrect and stifle the voices of those doing really good work?
- Should the origin of wealth for foundations and donors be vetted for hate affiliations?
- How do we look at hateful ideas, not just hate groups?
- Do foundations' definitions of hate evolve over time as our understanding of hate changes?
- What roles do foundations play in educating donor advised fund holders on hate?
- Funders often don't know the difference between organizations within one faith - which ones might promote hate versus which contribute to democracy. Who can be a trusted arbiter?
- How many degrees of separation should a grantee have from hate groups?
- How do we ensure a fair process in defining what hate looks like?

TACTICAL ISSUES

- Need clear, honest conversations on values at the outset.
- How do we connect our stance on countering hate to our values?
- How do you tell a funder/donor that their chosen philanthropy cannot be funded due to hate?
- How do you establish leadership buy-in?
- How do you define thresholds? What does accountability look like?

TACTICAL ISSUES (CONTINUED)

- Minnesota Council on Foundations' principles for philanthropy could assist as a road map for anti-hate policymaking with member foundations, in concert with Horizon Forum.
- How do we embed anti-hate policies in all processes?
- How are corporate giving and employee matching gifts programs mitigating risks of potential hate funding?
- If we have few to no grants going to groups on our hate list, does that mean we should change our filter to be sure we are properly vetting organizations?

For many, the gathering was validating, but also made clear the work that lies ahead. How do we best take these learnings back to our organizations? The work now becomes transforming our learnings and questions into strategy, collaboration, and action to use the power of philanthropy to counter hate.

