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PRESS RELEASE: Diverse Organizations Hold Press Conference After Senate Hate Crimes Hearing

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Today, the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Human Rights, chaired by Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL), will hold a hearing on "Hate Crimes and The Threat Domestic Extremism" in the Hart Senate Office Building Room 216 at 2:30 p.m. Following the hearing today, representatives from civil rights and interfaith organizations will hold a brief press conference.

Over 200 community members are expected to attend the hearing, which comes in the wake of the tragic, hate-motivated shootings at a Sikh gurdwara in Oak Creek, Wisconsin that killed six people. Sadly, since September 11, 2001, South Asians, Arab Americans, Sikhs and Muslims have endured profiling, discrimination, and hate violence at unprecedented levels.

"As history has proven, the highest levels of government can be very effective in setting a framework to prevent hate crimes and the threats posed by violent extremists," says Deepa Iyer, Executive Director of South Asian Americans Leading Together. "The leadership of our government was crucial to counter the crisis that emerged during the attacks on African American churches in the 1990s. We are at a similar moment in history now and we, as a society, need the government to assist us in moving forward towards a safer America."

Read more about SAALT's policy asks on our Statement for the Record, submitted to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Please join us for this timely and important hearing, as well as the press conference that follows so that we can begin a dialogue on these issues. For more information, please contact Nasreen Hosein at nasreen@saalt.org, (301) 270-1855, or Deepa Iyer at deepa@saalt.org, (301) 270-1855.

This event will be tweeted from @SAALTweets using #antihate.