

Expanded definition of hate crime needed

Wednesday the 28th, after more than a decade-long effort, President Obama signed a bill extending federal hate crimes protections to include violence against people based on gender identity, disability, and sexual orientation.

The terrible kidnapping and beating death of Matthew Shepard, a gay Wyoming teenager, in October 1998, underscored the need for expanded protections to deter those who terrorize others based on these additional classes.

No longer can we allow purveyors of violence to deny life, liberty, and happiness to people based on identity, disability, or orientation.

BRIDGES for a Just Community applauds the passage of this bill and those determined to make our country more equitable, inclusive, and just for all.

Shakila T. Ahmad, Board Chair
BRIDGES for a Just Community