Laws against hate crimes planning page 5:

\*Hate crime laws in the United States protect against hate crimes (also know as bias crimes) motivated by enmity or animus against a protected class.

\* Federal Prosecution of Hate crimes

~1964 Federal Civil Rights Law

- 1964 federal civil rights law permits federal prosecution of anyone who willingly injures, intimidates or interferes with another person, or attempts to do so, by force because of the other person’s race, color, gender, religion or national origin.

- John F Kennedy was the president when this bill was made and passed.

- Persons violating the 1969 Federal Hate Crime Law faced a fine or imprisonment for up to one year. If an injury or anything that involves firearms, explosives, or fire will result in a 10 year term. Crimes that involve kidnapping, sexual assault, or murder can be punished by life in prison or death.

- Considered the most important U.S. law on civil rights since the Reconstruction.

- Bill includes bans on discrimination, which includes sex-based discrimination.

\*Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crime Prevention act

~ What is it?

- The Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. hate crimes prevention act is an American Act of Congress.

- As a response to Matthew’ s and James death, the measure expands the 1969 United States federal hate crime law to include crimes motivated by the victims actual or perceived gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.

- James Dobson opposed the act, arguing that it would effectively “muzzle people of faith who dare to express moral and biblical concerns about homosexuality.”

- Henderson and McKinney were not charged with hate-crime after that killed Shepard, because no Wyoming criminal statute provided for such a charge.

- President Obama signed the measure into law on October 28, 2009.

~ Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act

- The violent crime control and law enforcement act was an act of congress dealing with crime and law enforcement that became law in 1994.

- This law is the largest crime bill in the history of the US.

- Providing for 100,000 new police officers, 9.7 billion in funding for prisons and 6.1 billion in funding for prevention programs.

- Parts of the act provided for greatly expanding federal death penalty, new classes of individuals banned from possessing firearms, and a variety of new crimes defined in statutes relating to immigration law, hate crimes, sex crimes and gang related crimes.