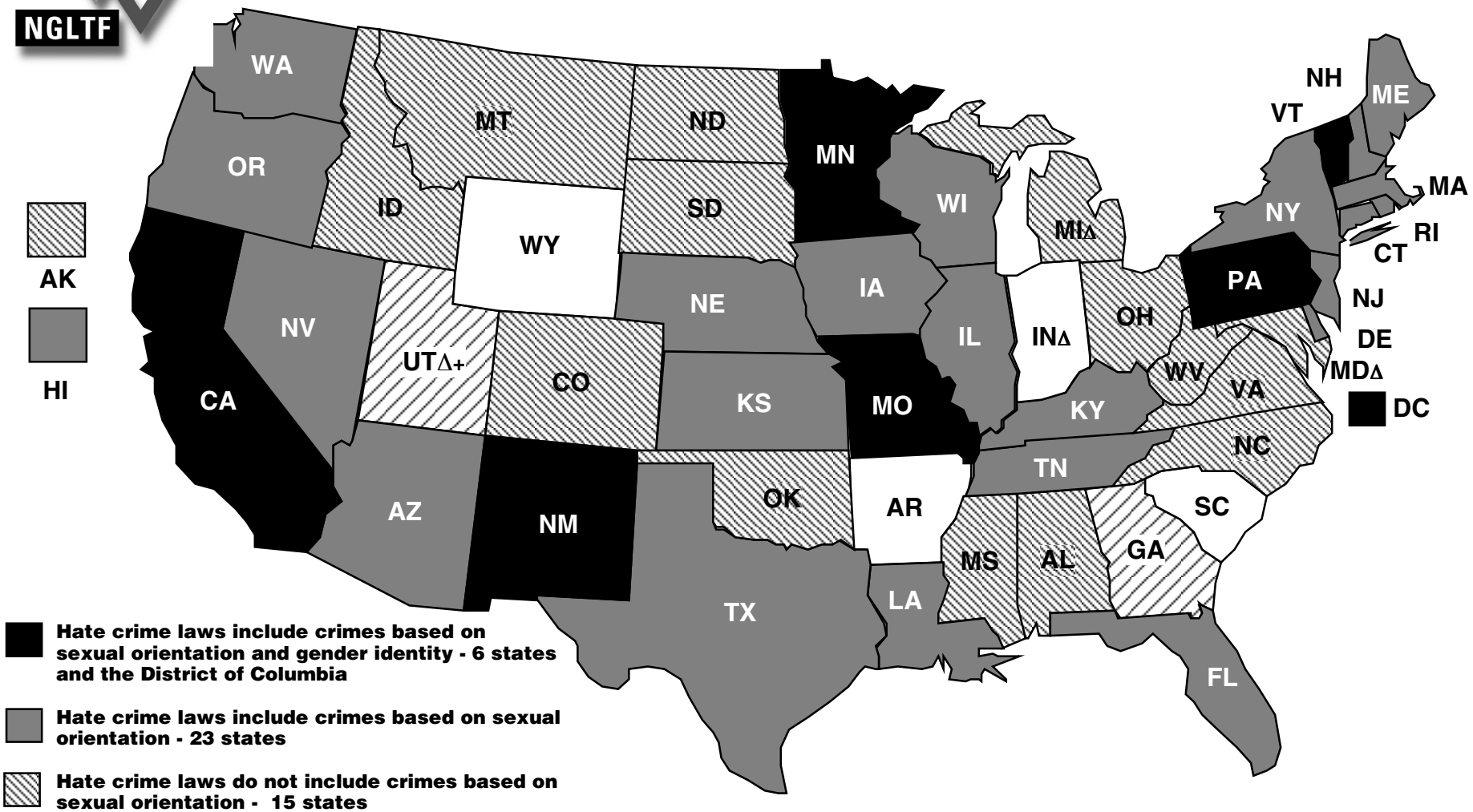
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

Hate Crime Laws in the U.S.

(This information has required no update since December 2002.)



Hate crime laws include crimes based on sexual orientation and gender identity - 6 states and the District of Columbia

Hate crime laws include crimes based on sexual orientation - 23 states

Hate crime laws do not include crimes based on sexual orientation - 15 states

Hate crime laws address crimes motivated by bias or prejudice and do not list categories - 2 states

Do not have hate crime laws that include crimes based on any characteristics - 5 states

Δ Maryland, Michigan, and Indiana hate crime data collection laws include sexual orientation, but hate crime penalty laws do not. Utah collects data including sexual orientation by practice, not by law.

+ Utah hate crime law addresses crimes with intent to "intimidate or terrorize" and does not list specific categories. A Utah trial judge ruled the law unconstitutionally vague.

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