

April 8, 2019

Dear Honorable Members of Congress,

We, the undersigned national, state, and local civil rights, faith-based, national security, and community organizations write to express our strong support for the National Origin-Based Antidiscrimination for Nonimmigrants Act (NO BAN Act) to be introduced by Senator Chris Coons (D-DE) and Representative Judy Chu (D-CA) and supported by Representatives Don Beyer (D-VA), Andre Carson (D-IN), Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), Rashida Tlaib (D-MI), and Ilhan Omar (D-MN). The NO BAN Act would end the harmful Muslim Ban and put in place vital protections against future discriminatory bans.

On January 27, 2017, President Trump signed Executive Order 13769, which banned entry to foreign nationals from several Muslim majority countries, following his repeated calls on the campaign trail to ban all Muslims from entering the United States.¹ The executive order and its subsequent version were struck down by multiple courts, forcing President Trump to issue a third version of the Muslim Ban. In June 2018, the Supreme Court upheld the current iteration of the ban based on an overly broad statute. It is time to fix the law.

Two years since the first Muslim Ban was issued, countless families remain separated with heartbreaking consequences. People have been denied access to lifesaving medical treatments; parents have been unable to care for their children; and spouses have been forced to live apart as they await decisions on their waiver applications. Some have been denied the opportunity to attend funerals or visit dying family members, and accomplished professionals and students have been denied access to career and educational opportunities. According to the State Department, 37,000 visas were denied in 2018 because of the ban, up from 1,000 the previous year.²

¹ See, e.g., Jenna Johnson, Trump calls for 'total and complete shutdown of Muslims Entering the United States', The Washington Post, December 7, 2015, https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2015/12/07/donald-trump-calls-for-total-and-complete-shutdown-of-muslims-entering-the-united-states/?utm_term=.3dd5e7b7868a;

Nick Gass, Trump: 'Absolutely no choice' but to close mosques, Politico, November 18, 2015, <https://www.politico.com/story/2015/11/trump-close-mosques-216008>;

Jenna Johnson and Abigail Hauslohner, 'I think Islam hates us': A timeline of Trump's comments about Islam and Muslims The Washington Post, May 20, 2017, https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2017/05/20/i-think-islam-hates-us-a-timeline-of-trumps-comments-about-islam-and-muslims/?utm_term=.d25e4dafaf8a.

² Yeganeh Torbati. "U.S. denied tens of thousands more visas in 2018 due to travel ban: data." Reuters, February 26, 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-immigration-ban/us-denied-tens-of-thousands-more-visas-in-2018-due-to-travel-ban-data-idUSKCN1QF2KF>.

The NO BAN Act is a clear and unequivocal response to the Muslim Ban that would ensure no one can be banned from our country based on religious or nationality-based discrimination ever again. The bill seeks important changes to the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) by outlawing discrimination in the entry of immigrants or nonimmigrants based on religion, in addition to the protections against discrimination based on race, sex, nationality, place of birth, and place of residence already in place. The NO BAN Act also repeals the asylum ban and enhanced restrictions preventing refugees from entering the country. In addition, the bill amends the provision of the INA that has granted presidents the authority to suspend or restrict the entry of non-citizens by limiting this authority to align with responsible uses of the power by prior Democratic and Republican administrations, and by putting in place key congressional notification and reporting requirements as important safeguards against any future abuses of this authority.

Regrettably, the Muslim Ban validates the worst stereotypes about Muslims; that they are inherently foreign and violent and pose such a threat to the United States they should be banned. The ban on Muslims comes after generations of politicians hostile to religious minorities have attempted to ban Jews,³ Catholics,⁴ and Latter-day Saints.⁵ Congress now has an opportunity to take action against the Muslim Ban and this troubling history by sending a strong message that our nation rejects religious bigotry.

We urge you to support this important legislation because your leadership on this issue is critical to ensuring that Congress sends a strong message to the American people that how someone prays should not dictate whether the government can ban them from coming to the United States. Families should not be separated simply based on their faith or nationality. These are our shared values. It is time for Congress to act to overturn the Muslim Ban and stand against religious discrimination.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this urgent issue. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please contact Muslim Advocates Deputy Director Naheed Qureshi at naheed@muslimadvocates.org.

We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

³ Holocaust Encyclopedia. "Immigration to the United States 1933-44."

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/immigration-to-the-united-states-1933-41>.

⁴ Josh Zeitz. "When America Hated Catholics." *Politico*, September 23, 2015.

<https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2015/09/when-america-hated-catholics-213177>.

⁵ Susan Hogan. "'We have to take a stand': Mormon history scholars file brief against Trump travel ban." *The Washington Post*, April 27, 2017. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2017/04/27/we-have-to-take-a-stand-mormon-history-scholars-file-brief-against-trump-travel-ban/?utm_term=.5fe5441469f3.

National Organizations

AFSCME
Seattle Limbe Sister City Association
ACCESS
Adorers of the Blood of Christ
Advocates for Youth
African American Ministers In Action
Al-Ansar Center
Alianza Americas
Alliance for Justice
Alliance of Baptists
American Anthropological Association
American Federation of Ramallah Palestine
American Federation of Teachers
American Humanist Association
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)
Americans for Democratic Action (ADA)
Americans United for Separation of Church and State
Amnesty International USA
Arab American Institute
Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS)
Asian Americans Advancing Justice
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO
Auburn Seminary
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action
Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law
Can't Stop! Won't Stop! Consulting
Center for American Progress
Center for Constitutional Rights
Center for Media Justice
Center for the Study of Hate & Extremism-California State University, San Bernardino
Center for Victims of Torture
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers
Christ the King Lutheran Church, ELCA
Christian Community Development Association
Church World Service
CODEPINK
Congregation of Our Lady of the Good Shepherd, US Provinces
Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)
CREDO
Daughters of Charity - USA
Defending Rights & Dissent
DignityUSA

Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund (DREDF)
Emgage Action
Equal Justice Society
Equality Federation Institute
Equality Labs
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Fair Immigration Reform Movement (FIRM)
Franciscan Action Network
Franciscan Sisters of the Poor
Franciscans for Justice
Friends Committee on National Legislation
GLAAD
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality
Global Justice Institute, Metropolitan Community Churches
Growing Communities for Peace
HIAS
Hip Hop Caucus
Human Rights Campaign
Human Rights First
ICNA Council for Social Justice
Imam Ghazali Institute
Immigration Hub
Impact Fund
Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center
Interfaith Alliance
Interfaith Worker Justice
International Human Rights Association of American Minorities (IHRAAM) - UN/NGO
Consultative Status ECOSOC
International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP)
International Rescue Committee (IRC)
Iranian Alliances Across Borders (IAAB)
Islamic Association of North America, INA
Islamic Networks Group
Islamic Relief USA
Japanese American Citizens League
Jetpac
Jewish Voice for Peace
Jobs With Justice
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
Leadership Conference of Women Religious
League of Women Voters
Line Break Media
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
MALDEF
Million Hoodies Movement for Justice
Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception USA Unit

MomsRising
Movement Voter Project
MoveOn
MPower Change
Multifaith Alliance for Syrian Refugees
Muppies, Inc
Muslim American Society (MAS)
Muslim Anti-Racism Collaborative (MuslimARC)
Muslim Legal Fund of America
Muslim Public Affairs Council
Muslims United for Justice (MUJ)
NAACP
NAFSA: Association of International Educators
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Asian Pacific American Bar Association
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)
National Black Justice Coalition
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Coalition of American Nuns
National Council of Churches
National Council of Jewish Women
National Disability Rights Network
National Employment Law Project
National Employment Lawyers Association
National Equality Action Team (NEAT)
National Health Law Program
National Hispanic Media Coalition
National Immigrant Justice Center
National Immigration Law Center
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC)
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund
National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC), a project of ACCESS
National Organization for Women
National Partnership for New Americans
National Religious Campaign Against Torture
National Sikh Campaign
National Women's Law Center
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Network of Arab-American Professionals (NAAP)
New England Arab American Org
New Sanctuary Coalition
New Ways Ministry
NextGen America
NIAC Action
Oil Change U.S.
Only Through US

Open and Affirming Coalition, United Church of Christ
Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters
Oxfam America
PARIS (Political Activism, Relief and Institutional Startups)
Park Avenue Christian Church
Peace Catalyst International
People For the American Way
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Poligon Education Fund
Population Connection
Positive Women's Network
Presbyterian Church (USA)
Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace and Justice
Razi Health Foundation
Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association
Refugee Congress
Refugees International
Religious Institute
RootsAction.org
SABAH Center
SALDEF
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Shoulder to Shoulder
Sinsinawa Dominican Peace and Justice Office
Sister of Providence Mother Joseph Providence
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Congregational Leadership
Sisters of St. Francis
Sisters of St. Francis Justice, Peace and Care for Creation Committee
Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God
Sisters of St. Joseph
Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace
Sisters of St. Mary of Namur
Souler System, NFP
Sound Vision Foundation
South Asian Bar Association of North America
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center
Southern Poverty Law Center
Srs. of St. Joseph of Carondelet
Syrian Community Network
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
The National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)
The Revolutionary Love Project
The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society
Transforming Hearts Collective
Truman National Security Project

U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants
U.S. Palestinian Community Network (USPCN)
UltraViolet
UndocuBlack Network
UnidosUS (formerly NCLR)
Union for Reform Judaism
United We Dream
Universal Muslim Association of America
Urbana Champaign Independent Media Center
US Palestinian Council
Veterans Challenge Islamophobia
Veterans for American Ideals
Veterans For Peace
We Are All America
Win Without War
WITNESS
Yemeni American Merchants Association - YAMA

Local and Regional Organizations

Abu-Bakr Islamic Center of Washington
Access California Services
ACCESS of Western New York
Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture
American Center for Outreach
American Muslim Advisory Council
Anjuman-e-Asghari, Minnesota
API Chaya
Arab American Action Network (AAAN), Chicago
Arab American and Chaldean Council (ACC)
Arab American Association of New York
Arab American Civic Council
Arab American Civil Rights League
Arab American Organization of Arizona
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta
Asian Counseling and Referral Service
Asian Pacific Islander Coalition - Pierce County
Asian Pacific Islander Coalition - Snohomish
Asian Pacific Islander Coalition - South Puget Sound
Asian Pacific Islander Coalition - Spokane
Asian Pacific Islander Coalition - Yakima
Asian Pacific Islander Coalition of WA
Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council
Atlanta Society of Muslim Men
Bethany United Church of Christ

Black Immigrant Collective
Burien People Power
CAIR-Minnesota
Capital Area Muslim Bar Association
Casa Latina, Washington
CASA, Maryland
Center for Interfaith Engagement
Central/SE Seattle Interfaith Migrant Rights Network
Church Council of Greater Seattle
Church of the Ascension
CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT / EPISCOPAL
Cleveland Jobs with Justice
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)
Colorado Muslim Speakers Bureau
Colorado Springs Sanctuary Coalition
Columbus Sanctuary Collective - Colectivo Santuario de Columbus
Community & Middle East Peace Builders
Comunidad Colectiva
Conexión Américas
Congregation Beth Shalom (Seattle, Washington)
Connecticut Shoreline Indivisible
COUNCIL OF IMAMS IN NEW JERSEY
Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago
Courage Campaign
CreaTV San Jose
Dar us Sunnah Masjid & Community Center
Dominican Sisters - Grand Rapids
Dominican Sisters of Houston
Dominican Sisters of Peace
Dulles Justice Coalition
Eastgate Congregational UCC
Eastside Refugee and Immigrant Coalition
Ephraim Bahar Cultural Center
Equality California
Equality Florida
Erie Benedictines for Peace
Faith Action Network
Faith Lutheran Church of Redmond
Florida Immigrant Coalition
Friends Of Humanity International
Greater New York Labor Religion Voalitiptn
Gwinnett Islamic Circle, Inc
Housing Equity - King County (HEKC)
Houston Shifa Services Foundation Inc
Human Rights Initiative of North Texas
IHM Sisters Justice, Peace and Sustainability Office

Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Imam Hussain Islamic Center
Indiana Muslim Advocacy Network
Indivisible Whidbey
Inspiritus (formerly Lutheran Services of Georgia)
Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County
Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity
InterReligious Task Force On Central America and Colombia
Iraqi and American Reconciliation Project
Iraqi Community Center of WA
ISALAH, Minnesota
Islamic Association of the Finger Lakes
Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati
Islamic Center of Murfreesboro
Islamic Center of Naperville
Islamic Center of Olympia
Islamic Civic Engagement Project
Islamic Shura Council of Southern California
Islamic Society of Boston
Islamic Society of Greater Lansing
Islamic Society of Milwaukee
Islamic Speakers Bureau of Alabama
Islamic Speakers Bureau of WV
Issaquah Sammamish Interfaith Coalition
Jewish Coalition for Immigrant Justice NW
Judson Memorial Church
Justice and Peace Office, Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg
Justice For Muslims Collective
Justice for Our Neighbors Michigan
Kadima Reconstructionist (Jewish) Community
Leadership Team Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin, Ohio
MAPS-AMEN (American Muslim Empowerment Network)
Martinez Street Women's Center
Masjid Al Abidin, Richmond Hill
MASJID AR RAHMAN INC, Pennsylvania
MASJID WAARITH UD DEEN, New Jersey
Masjid Wadud, New Jersey
Media Alliance
Michigan Immigrant Rights Center
Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers
MIT Muslim Chaplaincy
Mosque Foundation
Muslim Alliance of Indiana
Muslim American Society, DC Chapter
Muslim Association of Puget Sound
Muslim Bar Association of New York

Muslim Bar Association of Southern California
Muslim Community Center, Chicago
Muslim Community Network
Muslim Justice League
Muslim Students Association at UVA
Muslim Youth Collective - Indianapolis
Muslims for Community Action and Support
Neighbors in Faith
New American Pathways
New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light
Noors Heaven of West Michigan Services
North Carolina Justice Center
Northwest Coalition for Responsible Investment
Northwest Immigrant Rights Project
Ohio Immigrant Alliance
OneAmerica
Orange County Jewish Coalition for Refugees
Palestinian American Community Center
Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans
Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition
Phillips Brooks House Association (PBHA)
Plymouth Church Immigration Ministry Team
Presentation Sisters, San Francisco, CA
Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action, PSARA
Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, Western American Province
Sakhi for South Asian Women
Salaam Cultural Center
SCAO, Somali Community Association of Ohio
Seattle Indivisible
Seattle King County NAACP
Seattle Womxn Marching Forward
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Western Province Leadership
Sisters of Charity of New York
Sisters of Mercy South Central Community
Sisters of Mercy, Mid-Atlantic Community
Sisters of Notre Dame, Toledo Province
Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden, PA
Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston
Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester
Sisters of the Humility of Mary
Somali Center of Kansas City
Somali Health Board
Southeast Immigrant Rights Network
St. James Cathedral Immigrant Assistance
St. John's Presbyterian Church in Berk
Temple Beth Am, Seattle

Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition
The Getman Group
The Interfaith Center of New York
The Muslim Bar Association of Chicago
Transformations CDC
Trinity Episcopal Church
UAW Local 4121
UC Berkeley MSA
UCSB Muslim Student Association
Unite Oregon
University of Michigan Arab Student Association
USC Gould School of Law International Human Rights Clinic
Wallingford Indivisible
Washington Advocates for Palestinian Rights
Washington State Indivisible Podcast
Washington State Religious Campaign Against Torture
Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights
Western Kentucky Refugee Mutual Assistance Society Inc. dba International Center of
Kentucky
Western States Center
Women Against Military Madness
Woodbury Fund
Yemen Relief and Reconstruction Foundation
Yemeni Alliance Committee