

April 13, 2021

Dear Honorable Members of Congress,

We, the undersigned national, state, and local civil rights, faith-based, national security, and community organizations, as members of the NO BAN Act Coalition, write to express our strong support for the National Origin-Based Antidiscrimination for Nonimmigrants Act (NO BAN Act) (H.R. 1333) introduced by Representative Judy Chu (D-CA) and supported by 134 original cosponsors and, as of the date of this letter, 152 cosponsors. We were thrilled to see President Biden rescind the Muslim and African Bans on his first day in office, but his executive action was just the first step to undoing the harm of the discriminatory bans. The NO BAN Act would put in place vital protections against future discriminatory bans. We urge you to vote yes on the NO BAN Act to ensure the passage of this historic bill.

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 ban based on an overly broad statute. On January 31, 2020, President Trump expanded the Muslim Ban to include six additional countries: Burma, Eritrea, Kyrgyzstan, Nigeria, Sudan and Tanzania. On his first day in office, President Biden rescinded all versions of the ban bringing those impacted one step closer to relief.

However, more than four years since the first Muslim Ban was issued, countless families remain separated with heartbreaking consequences. People have been denied access to lifesaving medical treatments and medical professionals have been prevented from providing critical assistance during the current global pandemic; 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

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=.d25e4daf8a.

Department, 37,000 visas were denied in 2018 because of the ban, up from 1,000 the previous year.²

The NO BAN Act is a clear and unequivocal response to the Muslim and African Bans 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. 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 validated 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 came 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 this troubling history by sending a strong message that our nation rejects religious bigotry.

We urge you to vote yes on 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.

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.

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>.

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.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

18 Million Rising
Adorers of the Blood of Christ
Advocates for Youth
AFSCME
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
AsylumConnect
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)
 Faith in Public Life Action Fund
 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
 Hispanic Federation
 Human Rights Campaign
 Human Rights First
 ICNA Council for Social Justice
 Imam Ghazali Institute
 Immigration Hub
 Impact Fund
 Institute for Research & Education on Human Rights
 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
J Street
Japanese American Citizens League
Jetpac
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Jewish Voice for Peace
Jobs With Justice
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
Leadership Conference of Women Religious
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
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 Advocates
Muslim American Society (MAS)
Muslim Anti-Racism Collaborative (MuslimARC)
Muslim Legal Fund of America
Muslim Public Affairs Council
Muslims United for Justice (MUJ)
NAACP
NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund
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
The National Education Association
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
OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates
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)
Presbyterian Church Office of Public Witness
Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace and Justice
RAICES
Razi Health Foundation
Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association
Refugee Congress

Refugees International
Religious Institute
RootsAction.org
SABAH Center
SALDEF
Seattle Limbe Sister City Association
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Shoulder to Shoulder
The Sikh Coalition
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 Americans Leading Together (SAALT)
South Asian Bar Association of North America
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center
SPLC Action Fund
Srs. of St. Joseph of Carondelet
Syrian Community Network
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
The America Team for Displaced Eritreans
The Employee Rights Advocacy Institute For Law & Policy
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

9to5 Wisconsin
Abu-Bakr Islamic Center of Washington
Access California Services
ACCESS of Western New York
Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture
American Center for Outreach
American Civic Association
American Muslim Advisory Council
Anjuman-e-Asghari, Minnesota
API Chaya
Apna Ghar, Inc.
Arab-American Family Support Center
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
Arkansas United
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
Asylee Women Enterprise
Atlanta Society of Muslim Men
Bethany United Church of Christ

Black Immigrant Collective
Blue Sky Waukesha
Burien People Power
CAIR-Minnesota
Capital Area Muslim Bar Association
Casa Latina, Washington
CASA, Maryland
Catherine McAuley Center
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
Community Church of Chapel Hill
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
DRUM – Desis Rising Up & Moving
Dulles Justice Coalition
Eastgate Congregational UCC
Eastside Refugee and Immigrant Coalition
El Centro de Igualdad y Derechos
El Pueblo
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 Coalition
 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
 International Institute of Akron
 International Institute of Buffalo
 International Institute of New England
 InterReligious Task Force On Central America and Colombia
 Iraqi and American Reconciliation Project
 Iraqi Community Center of WA
 ISAIAH, 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
 Jewish Voice For Peace Las Vegas
 Jews and Muslims and Allies Acting Together (JAMAAT)
 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
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition
Media Alliance
Michigan Immigrant Rights Center
Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition
Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers
MIT Muslim Chaplaincy
Mosque Foundation
Multifaith Voices for Peace & Justice
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
Nationalities Service Center
Neighbors in Faith
New American Pathways
New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light
New York Disaster Interfaith Services
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
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada
Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action, PSARA
Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, Western American Province
Rise and Resist
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 Community Church of Chapel Hill UU Sanctuary and Immigrant Support Ministry
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
UNC Refugee Mental Health and Wellness Initiative
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
Whitman-Walker Health
Women Against Military Madness
Woodbury Fund
Yemen Relief and Reconstruction Foundation
Yemeni Alliance Committee
Youth Co-Op, Inc.