

April 8, 2019

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

Re: WISE Supports House Judiciary Committee Hearing on Hate Crimes & the Rise of White Nationalism

Dear Chairman Nadler,

On behalf of The Women's Islamic Initiative in Spirituality and Equality (WISE) based in New York's 10th District, I thank you for your critical leadership and longtime commitment to combatting hate crimes and the targeting of ethnic minorities. Please consider this letter an official testimony in support of the House Judiciary Committee's hearing of April 9, 2019.

WISE is a New York-based organization committed to creating a peaceful and prosperous world anchored in gender equality and human dignity. We are on the front lines, working at a grassroots level and providing modern research and data. We hear, see, and know firsthand what Muslim individuals are forced to endure.

Your letter dated November 27, 2018, to the DOJ, FBI, and DHS highlighting the administration's repeated delays in answering fundamental questions and concerns regarding "the increasing number of hate crimes, the targeted surveillance of minority communities, and the growing threat of white supremacy and right-wing extremism," was precisely on point. You made clear to Acting Attorney General Whitaker, Secretary Nielsen, and Director Wray that a proper response is long overdue.

In your letter, you ask specifically for the following:

- *Please describe any actions taken or considered by the Department of Justice or the Department of Homeland Security related to the recommendations outlined in the GAO report titled, [Countering Violent Extremism: Actions Needed to Define Strategy and Assess Progress of Federal Efforts](#).*
- *Please describe any actions taken or considered by the Department of Justice or the Department of Homeland Security concerning the scope of existing "Countering Violent Extremism" programs, including but not limited to efforts to re-label such programs as "Countering Islamic Extremism" or "Countering Radical Islamic Extremism."*
- *Please describe any actions taken or considered by the Department of Justice or the Department of Homeland Security concerning the scope of the "Office of Community Partnerships," including but not limited to efforts to reduce grant funding or rename the office as the "Office of Terrorism Prevention Partnerships."*

WISE is offering to save time for the House Judiciary Committee – and to save lives locally and globally – with the full weight of our expertise, influence, and immediate preparedness. Our *WISE Up* report, authored by 72 expert contributors, resolutely supports the goals of the House Judiciary Committee with both scholarship and lived experience. The report provides access to uncommonly reported facts from compelling sources – sources that are authoritative, independent, and entirely in agreement with those cited by your letter dated November 27, 2018. Please access more information on *WISE Up* at wisemuslimwomen.org

For example, Duke University’s Triangle Center on Terrorism and Homeland Security reported in 2017 that out of 230,000 murders in the United States since the September 11 attacks, Muslims were responsible for only one hundred and twenty-three. For decades, however, far-right extremists have remained the likeliest perpetrators of domestic terror plots, as confirmed by research from the University of Maryland and the FBI.

Further, and crucially, *WISE Up* provides concrete, actionable initiatives that communities are already poised to begin, whether they know it or not. These solutions – spelled out in our report and discussed at our [WISE Up Congressional Briefing](#) of July 17, 2018 – are as adaptable as the threat itself, and are applicable to extremist ideologies of any type. Faith leaders can use our *WISE Up* report to better detect hate crimes and to inform their congregations on how to report them. Law enforcement personnel can use it to avoid the securitization of their communities.

Perhaps most importantly, community members themselves can use it to detect extremist tendencies in their neighborhood and online. With social media’s role in providing unprecedented accessibility to terrorist propaganda and potential accomplices, it is imperative to educate families about digital recruitment tactics, and about methods of early intervention in situations of suspected radicalization.

With the level of inequality and hate crimes on the rise in America, your leadership and this committee’s expertise and knowledge are needed now more than ever. Please continue to advance the cause of justice and fairness for all Americans, and please feel free to contact me directly at daisy@wisemuslimwomen.org or at 212-870-2550. I look forward to presenting you with a copy of *WISE Up* in person.

Sincerely,



Daisy Khan

Founder and Executive Director
Women’s Islamic Initiative in Spirituality and Equality