

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.<sup>1</sup> 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 On his first day in office, President Biden rescinded all versions of the ban bringing those impacted one step closer to relief.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

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<sup>1</sup> 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](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](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).

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

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,<sup>3</sup> Catholics,<sup>4</sup> and Latter-day Saints.<sup>5</sup> 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](mailto:naheed@muslimadvocates.org).

We thank you for your consideration.

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<sup>2</sup> 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>.

<sup>3</sup> Holocaust Encyclopedia. "Immigration to the United States 1933-44." <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/immigration-to-the-united-states-1933-41>.

<sup>4</sup> Josh Zeitz. "When America Hated Catholics." *Politico*, September 23, 2015.

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

<sup>5</sup> 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](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.