

September 11, 2017

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Arne Sorenson
President and CEO
Marriott International
10400 Fernwood Rd
Bethesda, MD 20817

Dear Mr. Sorenson,

On behalf of Muslim Advocates, a national legal advocacy and educational organization, we write urging you to cancel Marriott International's scheduled commitment to host a convention for ACT for America at the Marriott Crystal Gateway in Arlington, Virginia on October 2-3, 2017. Marriott clearly and proudly states on its website that "[diversity and inclusion is fundamental to our core values and strategic business goals.](#)" We believe that hosting this anti-Muslim convention is antithetical to this otherwise clear commitment.

This event, named ACTCON2017, is the national convention of ACT for America, which [is well known as the nation's largest anti-Muslim hate group.](#) As the Southern Poverty Law Center notes in its hate group designation for this organization, "throughout its existence, ACT has stayed true to its mission by working to advance anti-Muslim legislation at the local and federal level while flooding the American public with wild hate speech demonizing Muslims."

Recently, Act for America's held almost 30 anti-Muslim protests during Ramadan—some of the protesters were armed and marched directly in front of mosques. The official Facebook page of this [event was filled with repeated calls to kill and commit acts of violence against Muslims.](#)

Marriott's [lengthy and impressive list of diversity partners](#) is a testament to your company values of diversity and inclusion. Your past statements on behalf of LGBTQ equality, for humane immigration reform, and your recent comments that "[symbolism is wrong](#)" on the Muslim ban show your understanding of how bigotry and discrimination are not only wrong, they are bad for business.

We especially applaud Marriott's 2010 [decision to cancel an agreement to host a white nationalist conference at your Dulles property](#) and ask you to look to this precedent as a basis for cancelling the ACT for America conference.

Finally, other corporations are acting as leaders in this arena. Just last month, [Airbnb made a powerful statement by taking a stand against bigotry and hate when it declined to accommodate participants attending a white supremacist rally in Charlottesville](#). These best practices are a model for corporations throughout the country.

Declining to host ACT for America would help to ensure that Marriott International does not fall behind other companies and would be true to your company's stated commitment to inclusivity.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We would welcome the chance to discuss this. Please contact me at Scott@muslimadvocates.org or 202.735.1984 as soon as possible.

I look forward to your reply.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Simpson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Scott Simpson
Public Advocacy Director
Muslim Advocates