

SECRETARY OF STATE NOMINEE MIKE POMPEO'S DISTURBING CIVIL RIGHTS RECORD

President Trump's nominee to head the State Department has a deeply disturbing record on civil rights issues and associations with hate groups that have stretched through his entire career in public life. Here is a snapshot of the man who may be the nation's next chief diplomat:

He fearmongers about Muslims, saying that many of them "abhor Christians." Mr. Pompeo [told](#) a church group in 2014 that a minority of Muslims "abhor Christians, and will continue to press against us until we make sure that we pray and stand and fight and make sure that we know that Jesus Christ is our savior is truly the only solution for our world."

He blamed all Muslims for the Boston Marathon attack. Ignoring [those](#) who spoke out against the tragedy, Mr. Pompeo [blasted](#) American Muslims for not condemning the bombing saying that they are "potentially complicit in these acts, and more importantly still, in those that may well follow."

He is a champion for the nation's largest anti-Muslim hate group. The [Southern Poverty Law Center](#) and the Anti-Defamation League have called ACT for America the largest anti-Muslim group in America. This is a group that pushes wild anti-Muslim conspiracy theories and organizes protests outside of mosques. The founder of ACT has [said](#) that a practicing Muslim "cannot be a loyal citizen of the United States of America." Mr. Pompeo has accepted their "[highest honor](#)" award from them, and has, in the group's own words, been a "steadfast ally of [theirs] since the day he was elected to Congress."

His congressional campaign called his opponent, who is of South Asian descent, a "turban topper" and he kept the staffer on. In 2010, Mr. Pompeo's campaign [tweeted](#) a link to a post in which his opponent, Raj Goyle, was referred to as a "turban topper." The post also included the phrase "This guy could be a muslim, a hindu, a buddhist etc who knows, only God, the shadow and . . . goyle knows! One thing's for sure . . . goyle is not a Christian!" He declined to fire the staffer who was responsible.

He has a deep and disturbing record of anti-LGBTQ bias. Among other things, Mr. Pompeo has [said](#) same-sex parents are not "ideal;" [opposed repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell](#); has been a [vocal opponent](#) of marriage equality; cosponsored the "[First Amendment Defense Act](#)," which provided cover for people to discriminate against the LGBTQ community; and as CIA chief, [cancelled a planned speech](#) about diversity to be given by the parents of Matthew Shepard.

As Secretary of State, Mr. Pompeo would play a key role in the continued implementation of the Muslim Ban. The Muslim Ban allows State Department employees to unjustly deny visas and travel documents to individuals simply because they are from Muslim-majority countries. Given his record, Mr. Pompeo would only intensify these efforts, further preventing Muslims from entering the United States based on their religion.

Mr. Pompeo has made a career of promoting bigotry and hate. This nomination should concern every American who cares about civil rights, and we urge the Senate to reject it.