

# TALKING POINTS AND MESSAGING

## Expansion of the Muslim Ban

**SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDANCE** available [HERE](#) | **ALL GRAPHICS** (FOR IG/FB/TW) available [HERE](#)

△ **What happened?** *The Trump Administration expanded the Muslim Ban to six additional countries, now totaling 13 countries subject to the ban (Nigeria, Sudan, Eritrea, Tanzania, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar (Burma), Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Syria, Yemen, North Korea). Most of the 13 countries are Muslim-majority nations or have significant Muslim populations. Nigeria is home to the largest Muslim community in Africa and one of the largest Muslim communities in the world. The ban separates millions of Americans from their families in banned nations and advances the President's white nationalist agenda to restrict immigration of non-Europeans.*

### 🚩 **American families are suffering because of the ban.**

Because of the expansion, millions of Americans are separated from their family—spouses, infant children, or elderly parents are trapped overseas. Many of these families have spent countless hours and resources traveling abroad, contacting embassies, filling out paperwork and waiting for answers.

### 🚩 **Banning babies and grandmothers serves no national security purpose.**

The administration has failed to show how banning babies and grandmothers makes us safer. Over 50 former senior national security officials who have served in Republican and Democratic administrations have said there is no national security justification for the ban. Under the expanded ban, their national security justifications are even more illusory: the administration will allow visitors (tourists, students, and scholars) from Nigeria, Eritrea, Myanmar, and Kyrgyzstan, but bans immigrants (spouses, children and parents typically seeking to be reunited with family members), even though screening of visitors is typically less rigorous than screening those seeking to immigrate.

### 🚩 **The ban is about discrimination. Pure and simple.**

The ban is part of Trump's white nationalist agenda and is yet more evidence that the goal of his administration is to use our immigration laws to keep out people of color. This is a Muslim Ban and a ban on people of color. He has repeatedly denigrated people from the banned countries, calling them "sh\*tholes" and said that Nigerians live in "huts." This is in addition to his long-use of hostile and denigrating language to describe Black people and where they live, as well as Muslims. The true purpose of this policy is to stoke racial and religious bigotry for political gain -- and nothing more.

### 🚩 **Congress must pass the NO BAN Act.**

There is a solution. Congress needs to rein this in immediately by passing the NO BAN Act (H.R. 2214/S.1123 - Chu/Coons). The NO BAN Act will end the Muslim Ban and ensure that no president will ever again be able to abuse their authority and ban people for discriminatory purposes without accountability. Speaker Pelosi recently pledged to move the NO BAN Act through the House.

# MESSAGING GUIDANCE

## **You don't need to know Muslims to know your values.**

Do you think America should be a place of true religious freedom? Do you think we should treat our friends, co-workers and neighbors differently based on how they look or how they pray? Do you think people should be assaulted or killed based on their religious beliefs? Then you can speak up for American Muslims, too.

## **Humanize the ban by telling stories of its American victims.**

The ban inflicts harm on and separates American families. Muslim Advocates and our allies have documented the stories of more than 100 different victims. Identify a victim from your state, learn his or her name, read about what their family is going through. When given the chance, repeat back their story and use that story as the reference point.

## **This is a ban on people. Not a ban on travel.**

Calling this policy a “travel ban” is inaccurate and it sanitizes the policy to remove victims from the narrative. This isn't a ban on the act of traveling, it's a ban on Muslims. President Trump repeatedly made this clear. Believe him. The latest ban makes it even more clear that the President seeks to end immigration, not simply travel, from these countries.

## **The ban is built on a hoax that dehumanizes Muslims. Do not repeat them.**

Muslim Ban supporters want to malign and dehumanize a faith community that represents one-quarter of the world's population, to reduce them to terror suspects, to paint them as inherently foreign, violent, and hostile to the U.S. This is because a constellation of funders, political operatives, media outlets, hate groups, and elected officials have spread conspiracy theories, falsehoods and bigoted stereotypes about Islam and Muslims. The Muslim Ban preys on many of these fears. Don't buy into the hoax.

## **Don't repeat bigoted stereotypes about Muslims.**

Tropes are \*not true.\* Don't repeat the lies. Don't accept them. Muslims are not more prone to terrorism, not more prone to hating America, not more prone to hostility to Jews, women, or the LGBTQ community, not more prone to violence.

## **Understand how double-standards operate and reject them.**

The Muslim Ban isn't rooted in any logic, it's rooted in stereotypes. If a point is raised that holds Muslims and Africans to a different standard than non-Muslims--it's a bigoted attack. The way to respond is to raise the concern about double-standards.

**MUSLIM  
ADVOCATES**