



2018 Year-in-Review

Halfway through the Trump administration, Muslim Advocates is proving that, even in the most dire of circumstances, American Muslims and our allies can defend their rights to live, work, study, worship, and travel free from discrimination and make gains in the courts of law and public opinion.

In 2018, we halted bigotry in its tracks:

- **In communities across the nation, including:**
 - New York City, [where we achieved a groundbreaking settlement against the NYPD for surveilling American Muslims in their communities and at their mosques.](#)
 - Wichita, Kansas, where we represented [the Ali family, who were arrested for cashing a check.](#)
 - Wilmington, Delaware, where [we represented the students and families of Daruul Amaanah youth academy,](#) who were wrongfully ejected multiple times from their own public pool and treated with hostility because of their race and religion.
 - Los Angeles, [where we won a years-long lawsuit exposing the broad scope of the LAPD's efforts to map and surveill Muslim communities.](#)
 - Texas, where [pressure from Muslim Advocates and our colleagues](#) led the state police accreditation body to rescind the continuing education credit it was awarding to the anti-Muslim seminars of renowned bigot John Guandolo.
- **At the border and in-the-air:**
 - We achieved [a settlement on behalf of thousands of immigrants who were wrongfully separated from their children and had their asylum claims denied.](#) Almost all of these parents will now get a fair chance at an asylum hearing.
 - We [filed a class-action lawsuit,](#) alongside Capital Area Immigrants' Rights (CAIR) Coalition and Legal Aid Justice Center, to challenge a fundamentally unfair policy that keeps immigrants detained after they win their cases, violating the basic tenets of due process.
 - We, alongside colleagues, filed a civil action on behalf of a [prominent Pakistani](#) doctor with extensive ties to the United States, who was twice denied the ability to board a flight coming to the United States.

- **And in detention facilities across the country** - including in [Kansas](#), [Florida](#), and [Connecticut](#), where American Muslims are being denied their basic rights to worship.

We led the resistance to the Muslim Ban in courts, in the streets, in the media and in communities:

- [We filed the first legal challenge](#) to the Muslim Ban implementation, following the Supreme Court's decision, [on behalf of 36 individuals](#) whose visa applications were wrongfully denied or stalled by the federal government's failure to provide fair and meaningful access to case-by-case waivers from the Muslim Ban.
- On Muslim Ban decision day, [we gathered with hundreds American Muslims, allies, members of Congress, and leaders outside the court to declare that #WeWillNotBeBanned](#). Almost any media coverage of the event included our speakers, our voices, and images of our community speaking truth to power.
- We [released a comprehensive report](#) on Trump and the Muslim Ban and [know-your-rights fact sheet](#) in seven languages – English, Spanish, Arabic, French, Farsi, Urdu, and Somali.

We held corporations accountable for their roles in promoting bigotry, including:

- We successfully convinced [Hyatt Hotels](#) to ban hate groups, after they hosted the largest anti-Muslim convening in America. .
- After years of work to get Facebook to take action against the bigotry on its platform, Mark Zuckerberg and Sheryl Sandberg [announced](#) an overdue, comprehensive civil rights and privacy audit.

We showed politicians and elected officials nationwide that anti-Muslim bigotry isn't just wrong, it results in major backlash from communities and voters. We made clear that anti-Muslim hate is not the "new normal" in public life:

- We released the [Running on Hate: 2018 Pre-Election Report](#), which maps and analyzes the widespread anti-Muslim rhetoric in the 2018 election and spells out the clearest trends: that these candidates by-and-large lose.
- We held anti-Muslim political campaigns accountable in [California](#), [Minnesota](#), [Virginia](#), [South Dakota](#), [Michigan](#), [Virginia](#), [South Carolina](#), [North Dakota](#), and [Nevada](#).
- As the Trump administration nominated and appointed career-racists and bad actors, we stood up and rejected the appointments and actions of: [Matthew Whitaker](#), [John Bolton](#), [Brett Kavanaugh](#), [Jon Kyl](#), [Fred Fleitz](#), [Mike Pompeo](#), [Jason Foster](#), and more.

We stood in solidarity with [immigrant](#), [Jewish](#), [African American](#) and [LGBTQ](#) allies and Muslims. When any community is attacked, American Muslims feel it, and we stand up and stand together.

Muslim Advocates is a national civil rights organization working in the courts, in the halls of power and in communities to halt bigotry in its tracks. We ensure that American Muslims have a seat at the table with expert representation so that all Americans may live free from hate and discrimination.