

MUSLIM ADVOCATES

December 17, 2020

The Honorable Susan Rice
Biden-Harris Transition Team

Dear Ambassador Rice,

The day that President Trump issued Executive Order 13769 will forever remain a defining day for American Muslims. The Muslim Ban shook the nation and set off protests at airports, an unprecedented legal mobilization on behalf of American Muslims, and widespread panic among separated families. For the first time, the rights of our community were thrust to the center of the national consciousness.

We applaud President-Elect Biden's pledge to rescind the Muslim and Africa bans (Executive Orders 13769 and 13780 and Presidential Proclamations 9645 and 9983) on Day One as a step toward healing these wounds. The Muslim Ban Executive Order twisted immigration law into another tool used by President Trump to dehumanize American Muslims and paint them as inherently un-American, resulting in widespread hate crimes, bigotry and discrimination. Only by properly and publicly acknowledging the grave injustice perpetrated against the Muslim community will we be able to start restoring trust and confidence that Muslims will be treated equally under the law.

We must repair these deep wounds by acknowledging the bigotry that drove the ban and ensuring this weaponization of the law never occurs again. To that end, we respectfully request the following:

- On Day One, President Biden should sign a stand alone order specifically to rescind the ban, memorialized with its own signing ceremony and accompanied by remarks. These remarks should acknowledge the targeting of Muslim and African communities and the historic nature of this moment. This first step will be vital to moving beyond the rhetoric of the past, but it alone will not undo the damage.
- The Biden administration should prioritize passage of the NO BAN Act, the first Muslim civil rights bill, in order to ensure no President is able to abuse the Immigration and Nationality Act in a discriminatory manner again. With Trump's recent statements that he plans to run for president again and the continuing support in many parts of the Republican party for bigoted and cruel immigration policies, it is crucial that President Biden respond by ensuring that the INA is amended to prevent the abuse of this



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authority in the future.

- On Day One, the Biden administration should announce that, in addition to signing the order rescinding the executive orders and executive actions, he is directing the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Department of Homeland Security to take the immediate steps necessary to reunite families as quickly as possible, as detailed in the attached memorandum.

President-Elect Biden's campaign was centered around uniting our country around shared values of dignity, equality under the law, and religious freedom for all. While rescinding the ban will be a solemn moment in history, it can also be an opportunity to celebrate these values.

We look forward to working with you to make this vision a reality.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Respectfully,

Farhana Y. Khera
President & Executive Director
Muslim Advocates

Attachment: Muslim Advocates Proposal for the Recission of the Muslim Ban