

**MARCH  
2020**

**A FOREIGN POLICY LENS**

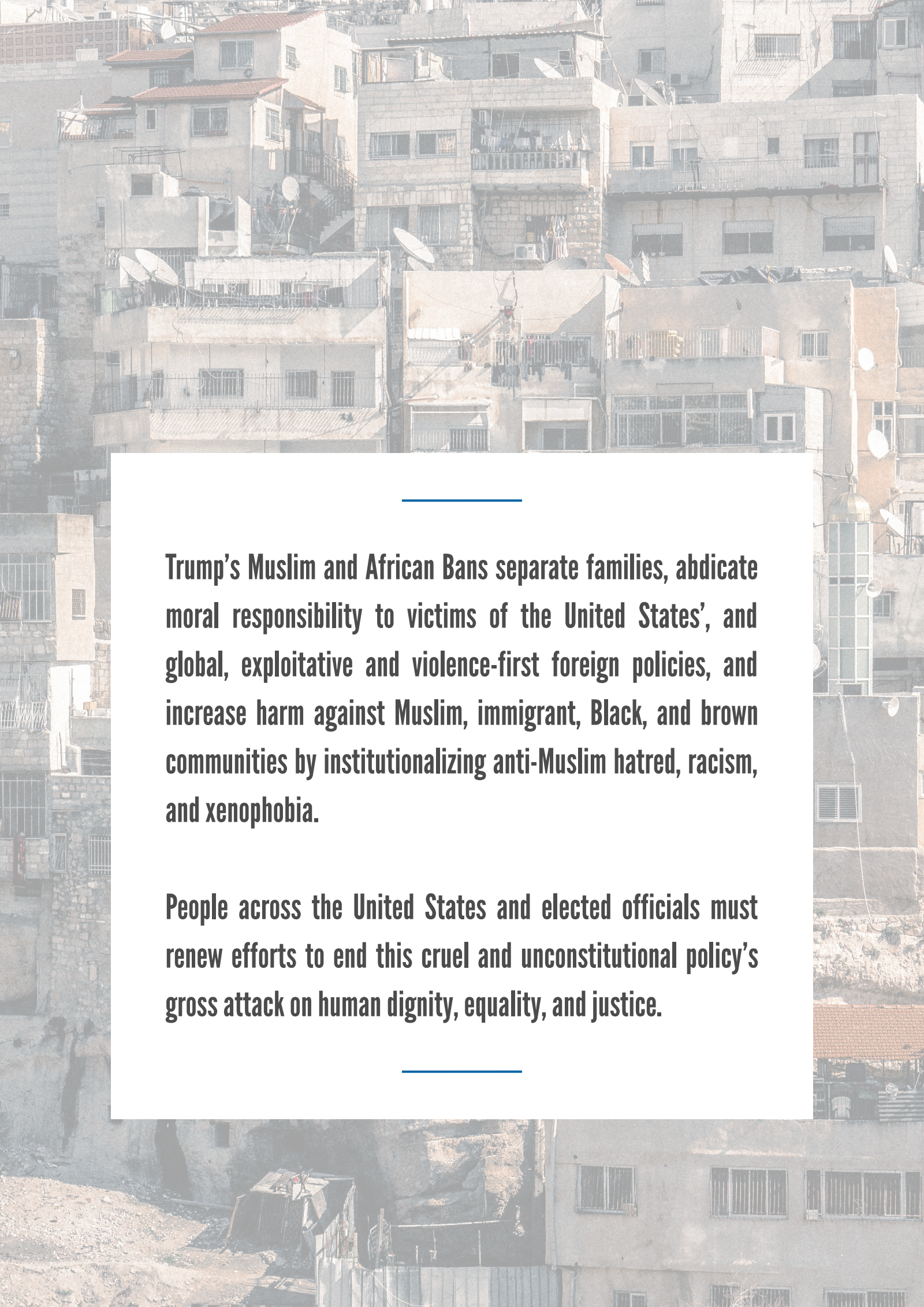
# **THE MUSLIM & AFRICAN BANS: Discriminatory Irresponsible Systemic**



**WIN WITHOUT WAR**







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**Trump's Muslim and African Bans separate families, abdicate moral responsibility to victims of the United States', and global, exploitative and violence-first foreign policies, and increase harm against Muslim, immigrant, Black, and brown communities by institutionalizing anti-Muslim hatred, racism, and xenophobia.**

**People across the United States and elected officials must renew efforts to end this cruel and unconstitutional policy's gross attack on human dignity, equality, and justice.**

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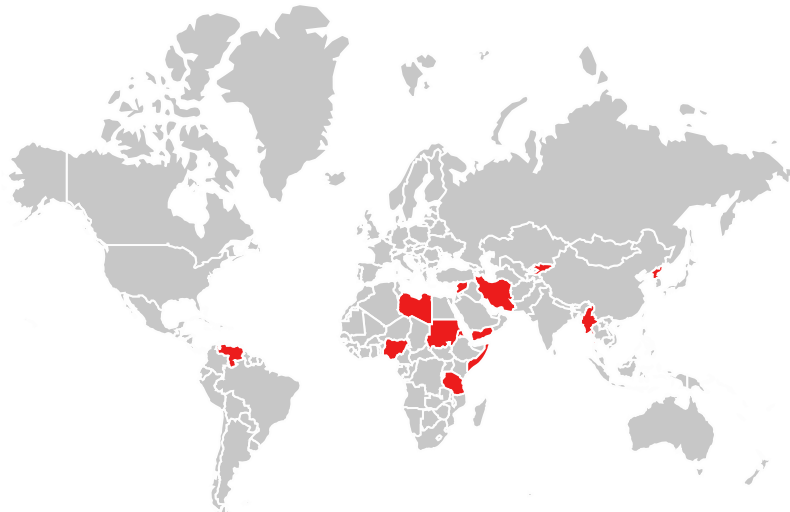




# The Muslim and African Bans are DISCRIMINATORY

The Muslim and African Bans are discriminatory policies designed to ban millions of people on the basis of religion, race, and nationality, with devastating impact.

- **INTENT:** Despite the addition of Venezuela and North Korea, the cosmetic changes to the Muslim Ban since its first iteration do not sanitize the bigoted intent of this policy. As Justice Sonia Sotomayor (joined by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg) articulated in her [dissent](#), “Taking all the relevant evidence together, a reasonable observer would conclude that the Proclamation was driven primarily by anti-Muslim animus, rather than by the Government’s asserted national-security justifications.”
  - The Ban is a fulfillment of Trump’s campaign promise to discriminate against Muslims and perpetuate a bias-based narrative by preventing Muslims from coming to the United States.
  - In addition to claiming that “[Islam hates us](#),” Trump has continually made remarks that “a reasonable observer would view as an [unrelenting attack](#) on the Muslim religion and its followers.”
- Discriminating on the basis of religion or race is unacceptable and numerous courts ruled the first three iterations of the Muslim Ban unconstitutional. The Supreme Court’s decision to uphold the third iteration of the Muslim Ban merely replicates past immoral Supreme Court rulings, like Dred Scott and Korematsu, that mark shameful chapters in U.S. history.
- **IMPACT:**
- The Muslim Ban, which was upheld by the Supreme Court on June 26, 2018, indefinitely [bars](#) nationals of five Muslim-majority countries — Libya, Iran, Somalia, Syria, and Yemen — as well as certain nationals from North Korea and Venezuela from obtaining non-immigrant and immigrant visas to the United States.
  - Muslim-majority countries are both the target and the most impacted as the ban applies only to Venezuelan nationals associated with the government and North Koreans cannot freely travel outside of their country.
  - The promised waiver exception is a [sham](#), with 98% of applications denied or pending after a process that lacks clarity and transparency.
- The expanded Ban, also known as the Muslim and African Ban, was signed by Donald Trump on January 31, 2020, and added six additional countries to the target list — the Muslim-majority countries of Kyrgyzstan, Nigeria, and Sudan, Eritrea and Tanzania (which have sizable Muslim populations), and Burma (whose Muslim minorities continue to face targeted state violence and human rights abuses).
  - It blocks access to immigrant visas to people from Burma, Nigeria, Eritrea and Kyrgyzstan, and diversity visas to people from Sudan and Tanzania.
  - The expanded ban impacts one quarter of people on the African continent.
- The Muslim Ban and African Bans inflict irreparable harm on Muslim, Black, and brown communities. They dehumanize millions of people on the basis of religion and race, deny the sick and elderly life-saving medical treatment, and deprive both the young and old access to education and building a better life in the United States. The bans separate loved ones and [families](#), prevent people from celebrating milestones together, mourning beside each other at funerals, or simply enjoying the comfort of family and community.





# The Muslim and African Bans are IRRESPONSIBLE

The Muslim and African Bans abdicate the United States' moral and international obligations to uphold universal human rights and values, including the responsibility to safeguard the people directly impacted by the U.S., and global, exploitative and violence-first foreign policies.

- The post-9/11 wars across the Middle East, Southwest Asia, and Africa jeopardize the safety and security of civilians every day. The U.S. has a moral responsibility to help protect the people endangered and harmed by these policies, not trap them in the devastating crises it helped create.
- The U.S. cannot deny the integral role its policies have played in inflaming the very regional crises and humanitarian disasters that people from these banned countries seek to escape. For example:



## YEMEN

- Continued U.S. support of the Saudi and Emirati-led coalition's military intervention in Yemen has perpetuated the world's largest man-made humanitarian catastrophe, with [24 million](#) Yemenis in need of assistance, and millions at risk of famine. U.S.-made bombs have murdered thousands of civilians, including schoolchildren.
  - Trump vetoed a bipartisan Congressional effort to end unconstitutional U.S. military involvement in Yemen, yet continues to deny Yemenis sanctuary from the war's devastating impacts.



## SYRIA

- The U.S.' destabilizing 2003 invasion and occupation of Iraq led to the rise of the so-called "Islamic State" (IS), which murdered and subjugated thousands of Syrians.
  - The U.S.-led coalition's "[war of annihilation](#)" against IS in Syria led to the virtually indiscriminate bombardment of urban centers like Raqqa, resulting in at least [1,600 civilian casualties](#) and massive displacement.
  - The U.S.' disjointed policy in Syria, including its abrupt withdrawal and abandonment of Kurdish populations in the northeast and decision to train-and-equip rebel factions rather than work in good faith towards an inclusive peace settlement, helped to prolong the conflict and human suffering.



## IRAN

- Decades of U.S. [intervention](#) and hostility towards Iran have exacerbated the country's political and economic hardship, and helped to empower hard-liners today. The U.S. assassination of Major General Qasem Soleimani bringing us to the brink of full-scale war, violation of the Iran deal, and broad [sanctions](#) regime fuels humanitarian suffering by dehumanizing and traumatizing millions of Iranians, denying them access to basic needs like food and medicine, and stifling homegrown progressive movements.



## LIBYA

- The UNSC-authorized and U.S.-led intervention in Libya [failed](#), further destabilizing a country in the midst of civil war and resulting in increased violent civilian deaths and human rights abuses.



## SOMALIA

- In his first year in office, Trump dramatically [escalated](#) U.S. lethal strikes in Somalia where the U.S. has been at war for decades, and [loosened](#) civilian protections — resulting in dozens of civilian casualties, as well as damage to vital agriculture and infrastructure.

# The Muslim and African Bans are IRRESPONSIBLE

(continued...)

Our government's xenophobia and unwillingness to build solidarity with people across borders has led to blanket dehumanization and devastating policies, like the Muslim and African Bans, that make people around the world less safe. The Muslim and African Bans are jeopardizing the lives of millions of people who are attempting to build new lives, or flee from violence and widespread human rights atrocities.

Just like people in the United States, people around the world have the right to personal safety. In many of the countries impacted, people are far from safe — conflict, climate-related catastrophes, and economic destabilization, at times enabled by harmful U.S. or U.S.-backed policies, have created dangerous and unsustainable livelihoods and economies for millions.

For example:



Over [900,000](#) Rohingya Muslims and other impacted populations have been forced to leave Burma as a result of the crimes against humanity that have taken place in the country — including genocide and widespread sexual violence.



In Eritrea, the current authoritarianism has placed [severe constraints on humanitarian assistance](#) that prohibits access for many to the most basic resources.



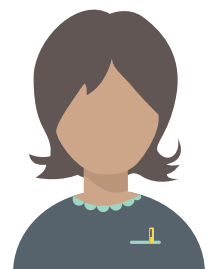
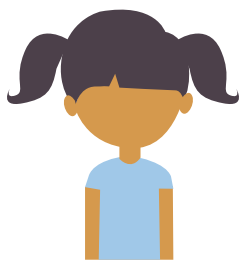
The Sudanese government is undergoing a transitional period with the ousting of its former President Omar al-Bashir and the reckoning of the Darfur genocide. Protestors, activists, and accused “oppositionists” are being detained, disappeared and tortured. While hosting over eight hundred thousand refugees from South Sudan, hundreds of thousands of Sudanese refugees have been displaced into surrounding areas and are still seeking refuge.

Poor economic conditions in much of the African continent are directly, even if partially, attributable to global economic policies that the U.S. has had a leading role in imposing: from the devastating structural adjustment programs of the World Bank and IMF to exploitation by multinational corporations to corruption enabled by a global system of tax havens.

# The Muslim and African Bans are SYSTEMIC

The Muslim and African Bans are part of a wider pattern of discrimination against Muslims, Black, and brown populations, and these policies have played a role in the increased violence against impacted communities at home and abroad.

- The Muslim and African Bans are a deliberate effort to single out a specific demographic to embolden and legitimize the bigotry of an openly anti-Muslim and racist administration.
  - Trump campaigned on anti-Muslim policies from the promise to ban Muslims from entering the United States to the possibility of a [registry](#). Since taking office, Trump has [stacked](#) his administration with noted anti-Muslim zealots and recklessly [endangered](#) Representative Ilhan Omar (D-MN), one of the first two Muslim women in Congress.
  - Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has endorsed and accepted an award from ACT for America, a national anti-Muslim organization that promotes state and federal anti-Muslim legislation and organizes community opposition against the construction of mosques. Additionally, Trump's former National Security Advisor John Bolton supports prolific Islamophobes and formerly chaired the [Gatestone Institute](#), an anti-Muslim think tank that circulates and promotes anti-Muslim conspiracy theories.
  - Hundreds of Iranian-Americans earlier this year were [delayed and questioned](#) at the border for hours before being admitted into the United States, and Iranian immigrants have been subject to [illegal deportation](#) by the Trump administration. It is clear the Trump administration does not respect the civil liberties of its own people and the humanity and rights of immigrants.
- By further institutionalizing anti-Muslim and anti-Black hatred through the Muslim and African Bans and [elevating](#) white supremacists like Stephen Miller, the Trump administration has triggered an [increase](#) in racism and hate crimes against Muslims, people of color, and other impacted communities.
- Donald Trump once famously said that Black immigrants come from ["shithole countries,"](#) and that Nigerians will ["never go back to their huts"](#) once they have seen the United States, expanding anti-Black and anti-African racism and rhetoric in the U.S.
- The continued positioning of Muslims as a security threat proliferates a deadly othering of Muslims that has led to a global epidemic of anti-Muslim violence and dehumanization, including the indefinite detention of an entire Muslim population at Guantanamo Bay prison, mass surveillance and drone warfare, the genocide of the Rohingya in Burma, the internment of more than a million Uighurs in China, the violent crackdown against Kashmiris and Muslims in India, and the massacre of worshippers in mosques like those in Christchurch, New Zealand.
- The Muslim and African Bans — along with family separation, border militarization, mass detention, incarceration, police brutality, and deportation, turning away and harming asylum seekers, the dismantlement of the U.S. refugee resettlement program, and countless other abhorrent policies — are further pillars of this administration's extreme white supremacist and anti-immigrant agenda.



## THE BOTTOM LINE

From airport protests to marches, hundreds of thousands of people across the United States and globally are taking action and building movements in unified opposition to the Muslim and African Bans. Together, we must strengthen our resolve to end this discriminatory policy, reunite families and loved ones, and combat institutionalized anti-Muslim hatred and racism in every form.





# TAKE ACTION

## URGE CONGRESS TO:

- **PASS [S. 1123](#) and [H.R.2214](#), the NO BAN Act**
  - Sponsored by Senator Chris Coons with 38 cosponsors and by Representative Judy Chu with over 200 cosponsors, the bill would repeal the Muslim, African, refugee and asylum bans and help prevent future discriminatory bans [by](#) amending the Immigration and Nationality Act.
- **PASS [S.246](#) and [H.R.810](#) to block the Muslim Ban**
  - Sponsored by Senator Chris Murphy with 32 cosponsors and by Representative Judy Chu with over 100 cosponsors, the bill will declare the Muslim Ban unconstitutional and block funding from being used to help implement the ban, restricting and reducing the ban's power and effectiveness.



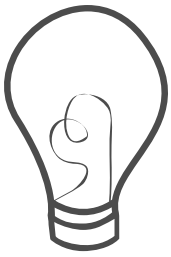
## URGE ALL 2020 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES AND POLITICAL PARTIES TO:

- Pledge to repeal the Muslim and African Bans, and prevent any future discriminatory ban on day one of any future administration.
- Include repealing the Muslim Ban as a signature issue in party platforms and during the 2020 presidential debates.

## URGE ALL ELECTED OFFICIALS TO:

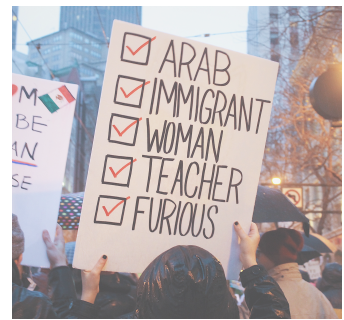
- Fix the U.S.' broken and immoral immigration system to help dismantle institutionalized hatred and racism, and champion policies that safeguard and welcome, not hurt and demonize, people seeking safety, security, and opportunity.
- Commit to [ending](#) the endless post-9/11 wars, climate crisis inaction, and exploitative economic policies that continue to devastate communities and traumatize, displace, and kill Muslim, Black, and brown people on a massive scale.
- Enact a constructive, equitable, and humane [U.S. foreign policy](#) that prioritizes diplomacy and multilateral cooperation, and upholds all peoples' right to dignity, safety, and security.





# LEARN MORE

- **ACLU:** Living with the Muslim Ban  
<https://www.aclu.org/issues/immigrants-rights/living-muslim-ban>
- **MPower Change:** Petition to Congress to #RepealTheBan and support the NO BAN ACT  
<https://act.mpowerchange.org/sign/repealtheban-nobanact/>
- **NIAC:** The Timeline - NIAC Takes On the Muslim Ban  
<https://www.niacouncil.org/endtheban/>
- **National Immigration Law Center:** Understanding Trump's Muslim Bans  
<https://www.nilc.org/issues/immigration-enforcement/understanding-the-muslim-bans/>
- **MoveOn:** No Muslim Ban Ever - How to be a Progressive Ally  
[https://s3.amazonaws.com/s3.moveon.org/images/NoMuslimBanEverGuide\\_2.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/s3.moveon.org/images/NoMuslimBanEverGuide_2.pdf)
- **No Muslim Ban Ever:** #RepealtheBan, Resources, Past Mobilizations  
<https://www.nomuslimbanever.com>
- **Coalition Letter:** Close to 400 Groups Ban Together in Support of the NO BAN Act  
<https://www.muslimadvocates.org/close-to-400-groups-ban-together-in-support-of-the-no-ban-act-2/>
- **Coalition Letter:** Open Letter from 127 Organizations Calling on all U.S. Political Parties to Adopt Platforms that Repeal the Muslim Ban, Reverse Historic-Low Cap on Refugees  
[https://d3n8a8pro7vbm.cloudfront.net/cairhq/pages/1125/attachments/original/1555942423/Open\\_Letter\\_Calling\\_on\\_all\\_U.S.\\_Political\\_Parties\\_to\\_Adopt\\_Platforms\\_that\\_Repeal\\_the\\_Muslim\\_Travel\\_Ban\\_Reverse\\_Historic-Low\\_Cap\\_on\\_Refugees\\_-\\_April\\_22.pdf?1555942423](https://d3n8a8pro7vbm.cloudfront.net/cairhq/pages/1125/attachments/original/1555942423/Open_Letter_Calling_on_all_U.S._Political_Parties_to_Adopt_Platforms_that_Repeal_the_Muslim_Travel_Ban_Reverse_Historic-Low_Cap_on_Refugees_-_April_22.pdf?1555942423)



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*Win Without War is a diverse network of activists and organizations working for a more peaceful, progressive U.S. foreign policy.*