

December 9, 2025

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

We, the undersigned 130 national, state, and local legal services; humanitarian, human, civil, economic development, labor rights, faith-based, and veteran organizations, write to address the administration's actions in the days since the violent attack that occurred in Washington, D.C. on November 26. We grieve for the families impacted by this unimaginable tragedy and call for justice and accountability for the victims. While doing so, we also strongly urge you to immediately reverse course and fully restore our nation's humanitarian and immigration programs, free from discriminatory or hateful policies and rhetoric.

We are outraged by your administration's exploitation of this tragedy to further an already-extreme policy agenda. The policies and actions announced over the last week—indeinitely halting *all* asylum applications, suspending visa issuances and immigration applications for Afghans (including our allies who assisted the U.S. mission and whose lives are threatened as a result), threatening to "permanently end" immigration from "Third World Countries"—are not public safety measures. Rather, they are appalling and bigoted attempts to use this tragedy as a pretext to end lawful immigration and humanitarian pathways.

The policies and rhetoric employed by this administration not only leave people in extreme danger abroad but also harm longtime residents and mixed status families in the United States. For example, your administration has said it will re-examine lawful permanent residents from 19 countries and re-interview hundreds of thousands of refugees admitted under the previous administration; many of these individuals have lived and worked in the United States for many years, raising families and creating jobs. Putting these families in unnecessary limbo is cruel and destabilizing for them and their communities. Dehumanizing rhetoric has no place in our government and places Americans in danger.

Collective punishment and vilification of Afghans, Somalis, refugees, asylum seekers, or immigrants writ large is not sound national security policy, and it does not bring justice to the grieving families. The U.S. government subjects all refugees and Afghan allies to every layer of security vetting available—biometric, biographic, intelligence-community, DHS, DoD, FBI, and repeated, years-long continuous screening. A tragic, isolated act by an individual does not mean there was a systemic vetting breakdown or a flaw in the security processes that protect the United States. Conversely, welcoming people who have been persecuted [serves critical national security interests](#), advances geopolitical stability, and bolsters [democratic principles](#). We have a compelling national interest in ensuring efficient, fair, and robust processes that do not leave forcibly displaced populations trapped in hopeless circumstances.

Xenophobic rhetoric, bigotry, and discriminatory policies have no place in America. By every metric, newcomers [enrich](#) and [benefit](#) American communities and make our country stronger—economically, culturally, and spiritually—as small business owners, tax contributors, and job creators. We stand resolute in opposition to this harmful policy agenda that does nothing to support our communities. Hate must not beget hate, and violence must not beget violence.

We urge you to respond to what a strong [majority of Americans](#) want – a fair humanitarian and immigration program. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

ACLU
Adhikaar for Human Rights and Social Justice
Afghan-American Foundation
AfghanEvac
Afghans For A Better Tomorrow
African Human Rights Coalition
Al Otro Lado
Aldie Ruritan
Aldie United Methodist Church
America's Voice
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)
Amnesty International USA
ANAR
Arab American Institute
Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC
Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California (AJSOCAL)
Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Atlanta
AVAN Immigrant Services
Ayuda
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action
California Collaborative for Immigrant Justice (CCIJ)
Center for Gender & Refugee Studies
Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law
Center for Victims of Torture
Centra American Resource Center of Northern California
Church World Service
Climate Refugees
Coalición de Derechos Humanos
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)
Coalition on Human Needs

Community Supported Film
Comunidad Maya Pixan Ixim (CMPI)
COMUNIDAD SOL
Conklin Immigration Law LLC
Council for Global Equality
Council of Bishops, United Methodist Church
Council on American-Islamic Relations
Del Camino Jesuit Border Ministries
Dignidad/The Right to Immigration Institute
Dorcas International Institute
East Bay Sanctuary Covenant
Empowering Communities Globally
Equality California
Estrella del Paso
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Frontera Federation
Georgia Muslim Voter Project
Global Detroit
Global Justice Institute
Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees
Haitian Bridge Alliance
Hearts & Homes for Refugees
Human Rights First
Immigrant Defenders Law Center (ImmDef)
Immigration Law & Justice Network
International Institute of New England
International Mayan League
International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP)
JAMAAT - Jews and Muslims and Allies Acting Together
JFCS East Bay
Just Neighbors
Just Solutions
La Raza Community Resource Center (San Francisco)
Lawyers for Good Government
League of Women Voters of the United States
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition
MetroWest Legal Services
Miami Valley Immigration Coalition
Mina's List
Mobile Pathways
MoveOn Civic Action
MPact Global

MPower Change Action Fund
Muslim Advocates
Muslim Counterpublics Lab
Muslims for Just Futures
NAACP
National Education Association
National Employment Law Project
National Immigrant Justice Center
National Immigration Law Center
National Iranian American Council
National Organization for Women
National Religious Campaign Against Torture
New Sanctuary Coalition
New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG)
Nilsen Immigration Law
Oasis Legal Services
ORAM - Organization for Refuge, Asylum and Migration
Outright International
Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans (PANA)
Peace Catalyst International
Presbyterian Church (USA) Advocacy and Witness
Presente.org
Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration
Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)
REACT DC
Refugee Advocacy Lab
Refugee Congress
Refugee Council USA
Refugees International
Restoration Immigration Legal Aid
Reunite Migrant Families
Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights
Services, Immigrant Rights and Education Network (SIREN)
Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund
Sojourners
Somali Family Safety Task Force
Stop AAPI Hate
The Five Pillars Organization
The Advocates for Human Rights
The Door - A Center of Alternatives, Inc.
The Interfaith Center of New York
The Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA)
The Sikh Coalition
The Workers Circle

Unitarian Universalist Association
Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice
USAHello
VECINA
Vera Institute of Justice
We Are All America (WAAA)
Welcome With Dignity Campaign
Welcoming America
Witness at the Border
World Hazara Council USA
Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights

Cc: Secretary Marco Rubio, U.S. Department of State
Secretary Kristi Noem, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Joseph B. Edlow, Director, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services