

*In the name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful
All praise belongs to God, the Lord of the Worlds
May peace be upon Prophet Muhammad and all of God's prophets*



Council on American-Islamic Relations
453 New Jersey Ave. S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003
Tele 202-488-8787 Fax 202-488-0833
E-mail: info@cair.com URL www.cair.com

May 27, 2022

The Honorable Winsome Earle-Sears
Lieutenant Governor of Virginia
P.O. Box 1195
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Lieutenant Governor Sears:

Greetings. On behalf of our civil rights organization, I write to request that you join Governor Youngkin in publicly affirming your solidarity with the Virginia Muslim community. I also write to ask that you repudiate the racist leader of an anti-Muslim hate group who recently proclaimed that she has current and longstanding ties to you.

On May 20th, Brigitte Gabriel, leader of the anti-Islam hate group ACT for America, [tweeted a photo of you embracing her](#). In her Tweet, Gabriel wrote, "With my dear friend of 20 years Lieutenant Governor of Virginia Winsome Sears. We are fortunate to have her!"

Gabriel has a long history of spreading fear and hatred of American Muslims. She has argued that "every practicing Muslim is a radical Muslim," that a practicing Muslim "cannot be a loyal citizen of the United States," and that Arabs "have no soul."

During a series of anti-Islam rallies in 2017, Gabriel's ACT for America chapters partnered with a number of white supremacists and anti-government militias. CAIR's documentation of the rallies links to a number of independent verifications of anti-Islam hate and white supremacists being centered at ACT events, including the following:

- At the Harrisburg, Penn. ACT rally Vanguard America, a white supremacist group, spokesperson Francisco Rivera told reporters, "[I don't believe in having Muslims in the United States](#)."
- Peter Bokin, who coordinated the Raleigh, N.C. rally "[publicly thanked Identity Evropa](#), a group founded last [in 2016] that openly espouses white supremacy."
- [A speaker at the ACT sanctioned rally in Dallas](#) called Muslims "demonic" and "sick perverts."

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The Southern Poverty Law Center at their [Live-Blog: ACT for America's "March Against Sharia" Rallies](#) retains photo documentation of the presence of white supremacist and anti-government militias at the 2017 rallies, some of whom later were high-profile participants in the January 6 storming of the U.S. Capitol. In many cases these anti-government groups were invited to provide “security” for the events.

We respectfully ask that you publicly affirm your support for the Virginia Muslim community and clarify that you do not support or countenance Gabriel or her views. Taking a photograph Gabriel and allowing her claim to stand unanswered would suggest that Islam is excluded from the faiths respected by our state government.

As Governor Youngkin has noted during his positive interactions with the Muslim community since taking office, Virginians Muslims contribute to our state every day. We appreciate these and other steps your administration has taken to show respect for our community.

Thank you for you for addressing this issue, and thank you for your service to our state.

With thanks

Corey Saylor
Research and Advocacy Director
Council on American-Islamic Relations



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FACT SHEET ON BRIGITTE GABRIEL AND ACT FOR AMERICA

Brigitte Gabriel has argued that “every practicing Muslim is a radical Muslim,” that a practicing Muslim “cannot be a loyal citizen of the United States,” and that Arabs “have no soul.”

The *New York Times* also [stated](#): “[Gabriel] presents a portrait of Islam so thoroughly bent on destruction and domination that it is unrecognizable to those who study or practice the religion.”

Another [expose of Gabriel’s hate group](#) published on Politico.com quoted an Arab-American activist who said: “The idea that congressional staffers would agree to meet an organization led by a woman whose agenda is pure unadulterated hatred and whose purported life story is a laughable fiction — it’s sad.”

During a series of anti-Islam rallies nationwide in 2017, Gabriel’s chapters partnered with a number of white supremacists and anti-government militias.

SEE: Southern Poverty Law Center’s [Live-Blog: ACT for America's "March Against Sharia" Rallies](#)

Video: Anti-Muslim Hate Group ACT for America is Allied with White Supremacists, Racists

<https://youtu.be/5eYjZThRvEY>

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SEE: [The Hate that ACT for America Wrought](#)

Video: Hate Group ACT for America Leader Brigitte Gabriel Says Muslims Cannot Be Loyal U.S. Citizens

<https://youtu.be/FhFSVLVdQW0>

Video: ACT for America is a Hate Group, Plain and Simple

<https://youtu.be/h2BubWrtKHQ>

Video: Documentary Exposes Islamophobia of Brigitte Gabriel and ACT! for America

<https://youtu.be/9WTuIoNQJew>

Video: Person at ACT! for America Table in Fla. Brags of Desecrating Quran

<https://youtu.be/Xn5UfW6GOc4>

CAIR is America’s largest Muslim civil liberties and advocacy organization. Its mission is to enhance understanding of Islam, protect civil rights, promote justice, and empower American Muslims.
