

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION SECOND TERM
100-DAY AGENDA

**Recommendations for Restoring the
Rights of All Americans &
Advancing Justice for All**



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Introduction

On behalf of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) and CAIR Action, we are pleased to release this *“Trump Administration Second Term 100-Day Agenda: Recommendations for Protecting the Rights of All Americans & Advancing Justice for All.”*

This 100-day agenda highlights the American Muslim community’s key priorities for the new administration, including swift action on civil rights, anti-Muslim discrimination, and the fair treatment of immigrants and refugees. CAIR and CAIR Action’s joint recommendations reflect urgent concerns in the American Muslim community and propose constructive policies to uphold justice, equality, and constitutional rights for all.

Despite widespread disillusionment with the political process as a result of the Biden administration’s disastrous support for the genocide in Gaza and disregard for the American people, large numbers of American Muslims cast ballots in the recent election, including in swing states like Michigan. Their votes, alongside those of other communities, underline a shared demand to restore our nation’s founding principles by rejecting bigotry, avoiding unnecessary forever wars, and preserving civil liberties at home.

To this end, a second Trump administration should eschew the failed tactics of previous administrations—secret watchlists, overreaching surveillance, entrapment schemes, and exclusionary policies. It must protect religious freedom as a pillar of democracy, ensure nonprofits and activists can operate free from reprisal, and place human rights above short-term strategic interests overseas, particularly regarding Israel’s genocide in Gaza, and assaults in the West Bank, Lebanon, and Syria. The following policy recommendations outline concrete steps to restore constitutional governance, rebuild public trust, and reassert America’s moral leadership at home and abroad:

1. Ending Federal Law Enforcement Overreach

- Increase transparency and accountability in FBI operations, including the use of informants and entrapment.
- Unwinding the federal government’s secret watchlisting system, respecting Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Amendment rights.

2. Uphold Religious Liberty

- End discriminatory land-use practices against houses of worship.
- Guarantee religious accommodations in schools, prisons, and other public institutions.
- Protect religious attire in booking and ID photographs.

3. Reconsider Harmful Campaign Pledges

- Oppose mass deportations of all undocumented families, including individuals who have not committed criminal offenses and including Dreamers.

- Reject reintroduction of any “Muslim Ban” or immigration restrictions targeting Palestinian refugees.
 - Promote fairness, family unity, and the rule of law.
- 4. Protect Civil Rights**
 - Safeguard free speech and protest rights, including the right to boycott.
 - Shield nonprofits from intrusive investigations or unjust revocations of tax-exempt status.
 - 5. Encourage Reporting of Anti-Muslim Incidents**
 - Partner nonprofits with the FBI, DHS, and Department of Education to improve tracking of hate crimes and discrimination.
 - Address the 8,000+ anti-Muslim bias incidents tracked by CAIR in 2023 through enhanced data collection and response strategies.
 - 6. Eliminate Interest from Federal Student Loans**
 - Provide interest-free, principal-only federal student loans with flexible grace periods.
 - Use executive authority to cancel and waive interest on both existing and future student loan debt.
 - 7. Advocate for Human Rights Overseas**
 - Immediately halt U.S. support for governments committing atrocities, beginning with Israel’s war on Gaza, Lebanon, and Syria.
 - Enforce U.S. laws prohibiting material support for war crimes and uphold the rights of oppressed communities worldwide.
 - Create a Special Envoy at the U.S. Department of State for Monitoring and Combating Islamophobia to track and counter Islamophobic policies, violence, and incitement in foreign countries, ensuring accountability and protection for Muslim communities worldwide.
 - 8. Reconsider Anti-Muslim and Anti-Arab Appointees**
 - Avoid nominating officials with one-sided, pro-Israel, or Islamophobic records.
 - Select cabinet and agency leaders committed to fair treatment of all communities, reflecting a decisive break from past discriminatory practices.

By adopting these reforms, the Trump administration can restore constitutional governance, build public trust, and assure Americans that peace, justice, and human dignity once again guide U.S. policy—both at home and abroad.

Ending Federal Law Enforcement Overreach

Constitutional Basis

The principles enshrined in the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Fourteenth Amendments provide the constitutional foundation for limiting government overreach in law enforcement and ensuring individual liberties:

- Fourth Amendment: Protects against unreasonable searches.
- Fifth & Sixth Amendments: Guarantee due process and fair trials.
- Fourteenth Amendment’s Equal Protection Clause: Prohibits discriminatory treatment.

These protections underscore the commitment of Americans to a government constrained by law and dedicated to individual rights.

Background and Concerns

For years, American Muslims and other minority communities have faced unjust inclusion in the Terrorist Screening Database (TSDB) and related no-fly lists without notice or meaningful due process. The U.S. Supreme Court’s unanimous ruling in *FBI v. Fikre* highlighted the urgent need for constitutional safeguards against these practices.

CAIR’s analysis of a leaked 2019 watchlist revealed that approximately 98% of the names on the list are Muslim. Among the more than 350,000 entries analyzed, many include transliterations of names like “Mohamed,” “Ali,” or “Mahmoud,” and the top 50 most frequently occurring names are all Muslim. This arbitrary and secretive system relies on vague suspicions instead of concrete evidence, disproportionately targeting individuals based on their religious affiliation, political beliefs, or ethnic background. Such practices undermine trust, violate constitutional protections, and contradict the American tradition of limited government.

Programs like *Countering Violent Extremism (CVE)*, *Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention (TVTP)*, and *Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships (CP3)* stigmatize religious communities and conservative-leaning groups. Similarly, FBI infiltration of mosques and political activist groups across the spectrum chills religious and civil liberties. Over a decade ago, estimates indicated there were approximately 15,000 FBI informants operating within the United States, and that number is believed to have grown since then, further exacerbating concerns about the government’s overreach into constitutionally protected spaces.

Additionally, CBP profiling at U.S. borders—including religious questioning, invasive searches, and confiscation of electronic devices—erodes public trust and violates constitutional norms.

CAIR and CAIR Action attribute many of these issues to loopholes in the DOJ’s “*Guidance for Federal Law Enforcement Agencies Regarding the Use of Race, Ethnicity, Gender, National Origin, Religion, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Disability*.” This guidance excludes nationality as a protected characteristic and contains exceptions permitting profiling based on race or religion in national security and border enforcement contexts.

Policy Recommendations

1. Fundamental Watchlist Reform:

- Commit to eliminating unconstitutional and discriminatory watchlists, similar to past overbroad programs that were abolished. However, if that is not in the purview of this administration, then at least revise the TSDB inclusion standard to restrict it to individuals arrested, charged, or convicted of terrorism-related offenses. Vague “reasonable suspicion” must not suffice.



CAIR's analysis of a leaked 2019 watchlist revealed that approximately 98% of the names on the list are Muslim.



- Provide clear notice and a fair, independent review process for individuals to challenge their inclusion. Affected individuals must understand why their rights are curtailed and have a viable path to clear their names.
- End the dissemination of watchlists to foreign governments, private entities, and local law enforcement. These practices cause widespread harm, facilitate discrimination, and violate constitutional protections.

2. No-Fly List Transparency and Accountability:

- Create meaningful avenues for redress beyond the inadequate DHS TRIP process, allowing individuals to effectively contest their no-fly status.
- Prohibit the use of watchlists as leverage to coerce individuals into informant roles, ensuring law enforcement cooperation is voluntary and free from threats.

3. Dismantling Intrusive Security Programs:

- End programs like “Quiet Skies” and “Silent Partner,” which impose unwarranted surveillance on travelers without evidence of wrongdoing.
- Oppose and defund CVE, TVTP, and CP3 initiatives, which stigmatize Muslim communities and reduce them to potential threats instead of treating them as equal stakeholders in national security.

4. No New Domestic Terrorism Statutes:

- Reject unnecessary domestic terrorism laws that expand government powers and risk being weaponized against political dissidents, nonprofit groups, student associations, minority communities, and religious organizations.

5. Ending Mosque Infiltration:

- Halt FBI infiltration of religious and

political communities absent evidence of criminal activity. Affirm that religious participation is never grounds for suspicion and that places of worship are entitled to constitutional protections.

6. Amend DOJ Guidelines on Racial and Religious Profiling:

- Urge the DOJ to close all national security and border loopholes in its profiling guidance and add nationality as a protected characteristic. This ensures all forms of discriminatory profiling, including those based on nationality, are prohibited.

7. Prohibit Religious Profiling at Borders:

- Prohibit CBP from engaging in religious profiling, including questioning travelers about their religious appearance, views, and First Amendment-protected activities, and confiscating electronic devices without reasonable suspicion or due process.

8. Comprehensive Policing Reform:

- Addressing police shootings of unarmed individuals by establishing stronger accountability measures and standards for the use of force.
- Reforming qualified immunity to ensure law enforcement officers can be held accountable for violations of constitutional rights.
- Creating a national database of law enforcement misconduct to improve transparency, prevent rehiring of officers with records of abuse, and promote public trust.

By dismantling arbitrary watchlists, closing loopholes, and ensuring enforcement actions respect due process and equal protection, the administration can align national security efforts with constitutional values, rebuild trust, and reaffirm America’s commitment to individual rights and liberties.

Upholding Religious Liberty

Constitutional and Legal Basis:

- First Amendment: Ensures the free exercise of religion and prohibits government establishment of any particular faith.
- Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA): Prevents land-use regulations that discriminate against religious assemblies.

Religious liberty is a cornerstone of American democracy, championed by believers, constitutional conservatives, and countless Americans who see faith-based freedoms as fundamental to our national character.

Background and Concerns: Muslim communities often face discriminatory zoning decisions that block mosque construction and punitive measures targeting religious attire in prisons. CAIR's lawsuit against FCI Waseca in Minnesota revealed a callous disregard for religious accommodations: a Muslim woman was forced to remove her hijab for ID photos under threat. Such violations not only contravene the First Amendment and RLUIPA but also undermine the principles that hold dear the belief that the government must not hinder the faithful in their worship and observance.

Furthermore, discriminatory practices extend to federal facilities where religious attire and practices are not adequately accommodated, infringing upon individuals' rights to freely express their faith. The enforcement of policies that require the removal of religious symbols or attire for identification purposes is a direct attack on religious freedom and personal dignity.

Policy Recommendations:

- **Equal Treatment in Local Zoning:**
 - Vigorously enforce RLUIPA to prevent unjust denials of mosque construction and other religious facilities.
 - Remind zoning boards and municipalities that religious discrimination in land-use decisions is unconstitutional and contrary to America's pluralistic heritage.
- **Religious Accommodations in Federal Facilities:**
 - Establish uniform policies respecting religious head coverings and dietary practices in prisons, ensuring that the faithful can observe the tenets of their faith even while incarcerated.
 - Hold officials accountable for harassing inmates seeking religious accommodations. Religious devotion should never invite punitive treatment.
- **Protecting Religious Attire and Identity:**
 - Specifically, issues like removing hijabs and religious attire during booking photos for identification purposes should be addressed. Ensure that policies and practices respect and uphold the religious expressions of all faith communities.
 - Implement guidelines that prohibit discrimination based on religious attire in all governmental and public settings, reinforcing the commitment to religious freedom and equality.

- **Promoting Religious Literacy:**
 - Provide better training for government officials to ensure they accommodate, rather than obstruct, religious practices.
 - Engage directly with religious communities

to address concerns promptly, fostering dialogue and mutual understanding.

By embracing these measures, the administration reaffirms religious liberty as a bedrock American principle, ensuring that individuals can practice their religion without interference or discrimination.

Section Three

R

econsidering Harmful Campaign Pledges

Constitutional Basis:

- **Equal Protection and Due Process Clauses:** Prohibit discriminatory immigration or travel bans based on nationality, religion, or ethnicity.

Background and Concerns: During your campaign, you proposed reviving a Muslim Ban alongside other restrictive immigration policies. These initiatives targeting Muslim, Arab, Palestinian, Iranian, and African travelers, and in many cases their American families - not only cast entire minority communities under suspicion based solely on their faith or national origin but also fundamentally contradict American values and constitutional guarantees.

Additionally, proposals to remove all undocumented immigrants threaten to disrupt national social cohesion, the economy, and the lives of millions of Americans, including Dreamers and U.S.-born children of undocumented parents.

Impact of the Muslim Ban:

- **Family Disruption:** CAIR reports that the Muslim

Ban has torn families apart by preventing foreign family members from reuniting with their loved ones in the United States. Immigrant groups highlight numerous cases where parents, spouses, and children have been separated for extended periods, causing significant emotional and financial strain.

- **Healthcare Denial:** Travel restrictions have denied essential medical care to foreign family members, exacerbating humanitarian crises and putting lives at risk.
- **Educational Opportunities Lost:** Immigrant groups emphasize that students from affected countries have lost scholarships, academic opportunities, and the chance to contribute to American educational institutions, hindering their personal and professional growth.
- **Pathways to Citizenship Blocked:** Vetted visa winners were left in limbo without clear pathways to citizenship, undermining their ability to fully integrate and contribute to society.

“Policies targeting undocumented immigrants jeopardize the lives of Dreamers and U.S. children born to undocumented parents, many of whom have no control over their immigration status. CAIR and CAIR Action stresses the importance of protecting these individuals to maintain family unity and uphold the nation’s commitment to its children.”



Impact of Restrictive Policies on Undocumented Immigrants and Dreamers:

- **Economic Disruption:** Restrictive immigration policies disrupt national social cohesion and negatively impact the economy by reducing the labor force and limiting entrepreneurial contributions. Immigrant advocacy groups point out that undocumented workers are essential to various industries, and their removal would lead to labor shortages and decreased economic productivity.
- **Dreamers and U.S.-born children at Risk:** Policies targeting undocumented immigrants jeopardize the lives of Dreamers and U.S. children born to undocumented parents, many of whom have no control over their immigration status. CAIR and CAIR Action stresses the importance of protecting these individuals to maintain family unity and uphold the nation's commitment to its children.
- **Disruption to National Social Cohesion:** Harsh immigration enforcement that tears American families apart and ignores humanitarian factors erodes trust in government and harms long-term social stability.

Policy Recommendations:

1. Reject Discriminatory Travel Bans:

- **Abandon the Muslim Ban:** Immediately cease efforts to reinstate the Muslim Ban or any other religion- or nationality-based travel restrictions. Such measures violate constitutional principles, hinder America's moral leadership, and contradict the nation's identity as a sanctuary for the oppressed.
- **Ensure Fair Immigration Policies:** Prevent any form of travel prohibition targeting Palestinians or other specific ethnic or religious groups. Immigration policies should be based on individual merit and security concerns rather than group characteristics.

2. Eliminate Extreme Visa Vetting Procedures:

- **End Religious and Ethnic Profiling:** Remove extreme visa vetting procedures that rely on religious or ethnic profiling, and replace them with methods based on verifiable security threats. This would restore fairness and uphold the principles of equal protection under the law for all travelers to the United States.

3. Prevent Deportation of Undocumented Immigrants and Their Families:

- **Halt Punitive Enforcement Measures:** Stop enforcement actions that target and terrorize immigrant communities, emphasizing due process and proportionality. Avoid wielding government power without considering the human costs.
- **Protect Dreamers and U.S.-Born children:** Implement safeguards to ensure that Dreamers and U.S. children born to undocumented parents are not deported. Recognize their contributions to the economy and society, and uphold the nation's commitment to protecting its children.

4. Promote Family Unity and Social Cohesion:

- **Avoid Family Separations:** Ensure that immigration policies do not result in the separation of families. Maintain pathways for family reunification to preserve social bonds and community stability.
- **Support Economic Integration:** Foster policies that allow immigrants to fully participate in the economy, contributing to growth and innovation while enhancing national social cohesion.

5. Foster a Just and Inclusive Society:

- **Promote Comprehensive Immigration Reform:** Work towards comprehensive

immigration reform that balances security with humanitarian considerations, ensuring that the U.S. remains a land of opportunity and justice for all.

By rejecting discriminatory travel bans, eliminating extreme vetting procedures, and preventing the deportation of undocumented immigrants and their families, your administration can demonstrate a true

commitment to constitutional principles. These reforms promote fairness, family unity, and the protection of individual rights, aligning with the deep-rooted American tradition of a just and inclusive society. Embracing these measures will enhance national social cohesion, support economic growth, and uphold the lives and dreams of millions of Americans who call this nation home.

Section Four

Protecting Civil Rights

Constitutional Basis:

- **First Amendment:** Guarantees freedoms of speech, assembly, and petition—vital rights that enable American democracy to thrive.
- **Equal Protection Clause:** Ensures these freedoms cannot be denied to certain groups or individuals based on their viewpoint, creed, or origin.

Background and Concerns:

Laws promoted in Congress aim to push the Department of Education's Civil Rights Office to adopt the misleading International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism, which conflates criticism of Israel's policies with anti-Semitism. This stifles constitutionally protected speech and hinders open debate. Additionally, legislative proposals such as H.R. 9495 and H.R. 6408 introduced in the 118th Congress would grant excessive discretionary authority to the Secretary of the Treasury to revoke tax exemptions

based on secret evidence. These measures undermine due process and chill lawful advocacy.

Over the past year, several congressional committees have urged the Department of Treasury and the IRS to conduct politically motivated audits. These efforts include bad-faith accusations of terrorism support and threats of revoking the tax-exempt status of American Muslim, Arab, Palestinian, and Jewish groups advocating policies critical of U.S. alliances or foreign governments.

These are not theoretical concerns—they strike at the heart of First Amendment rights, threatening Americans' ability to engage in peaceful political expression, assembly, and boycott without government interference. Recent actions in states like Florida, Texas, and Maryland further illustrate attempts to suppress legitimate advocacy and dissent:

- **Defending Free Speech in Florida:** Last year, CAIR attorneys filed a successful lawsuit that compelled Governor Ron DeSantis to reverse

plans to disband pro-Palestinian groups on state university campuses.

- **Federal Court Ruling Against Texas**
Governor: In October, CAIR attorneys secured a federal ruling against Governor Greg Abbott's executive order targeting student protests critical of Israel, with the court determining the order likely violated the First Amendment.
- **Protecting Students' Rights in Maryland:** Last fall, CAIR and Palestine Legal obtained a preliminary injunction from a U.S. District Court, enabling a pro-Palestinian group at the University of Maryland to host an interfaith vigil.
- These victories demonstrate that constitutional protections for free speech and assembly consistently prevail over viewpoint discrimination, reinforcing the democratic principles that protect individual liberties.

Policy Recommendations:

1. Protecting Nonprofits, Ensuring Free Expression and Association

- **Instruct DOJ and IRS:** Direct these agencies to refrain from investigating or penalizing nonprofits for First Amendment-protected advocacy, including boycotts or criticism of foreign governments committing human rights abuses. Neutrality in matters of speech is essential to avoid state suppression of particular viewpoints.
- **Publicly Oppose Restrictive Legislation:** Reject bills like H.R. 9495 and H.R. 6408, which permit secretive and arbitrary revocation of tax-exempt status, violating due process and constitutional norms. Preserving this healthy competition of ideas is essential to safeguarding the freedoms that underpin a vibrant, open society.

2. Reaffirming the Right to Boycott

- **Reject Criminalizing Peaceful Boycotts:** Oppose laws that criminalize or penalize peaceful boycotts, such as those supporting Palestinian human rights. Boycotts have long been a vital tool for political speech and social change, from the Boston Tea Party to the civil rights movement.
- **Rescind Conflating Definitions:** Work to repeal executive orders conflating legitimate political speech with anti-Semitism, ensuring that foreign policy debates remain open and robust.

3. Protecting Academic Freedom and Campus Speech

- **Clarify Definitions:** Ensure peaceful activism, including criticism of U.S. allies, is not misclassified as hate speech. Reject the adoption of the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism in educational settings.
- **Champion Educational Institutions:** Promote policies that preserve universities as forums for open debate and intellectual inquiry, free from political litmus tests.
- **Support Affected Individuals:** Defend students, faculty, and nonprofits facing harassment for their advocacy, ensuring campuses remain spaces for free thought and dissent.

I ncreasing Reporting of Anti-Muslim Incidents

Background and Concerns: In 2023, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) tracked over 8,000 anti-Muslim bias incidents, with the majority occurring after October. This surge in Islamophobic hate crimes and bias incidents fosters an environment of fear and insecurity within Muslim communities, undermining their safety and civil rights.

Policy Recommendations:

- **Encourage Community Reporting:**

- **Promote Reporting Mechanisms:** Urge the Muslim community to report anti-Muslim bias incidents and hate crimes to local law enforcement agencies, the FBI, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the Department of Education.
- **Enhance Support Systems:** Collaborate with nonprofits and community organizations to provide support and resources for victims, ensuring they feel safe and empowered to come forward.

- **Collaborate with Allies:**

- **Build Partnerships:** Work with other minority community groups, civil rights organizations, and advocacy groups to increase overall reporting of hate incidents.
- **Develop Comprehensive Data Collection:** Establish coordinated efforts to collect and analyze data on anti-Muslim incidents, enabling better tracking, response, and prevention strategies.

- **Provide Training and Resources:**

- **Educate Authorities:** Offer training to law enforcement and educational institutions

on recognizing and appropriately responding to anti-Muslim bias incidents and hate crimes.

- **Raise Awareness:** Launch public awareness campaigns to inform the Muslim community about their rights and the importance of reporting hate crimes, as well as the available channels for doing so.

- **Ensure Confidentiality and Protection:**

- **Protect Reporters:** Implement measures to ensure the confidentiality of individuals who report hate incidents, protecting them from retaliation and encouraging more comprehensive reporting.
- **Strengthen Legal Protections:** Advocate for stronger legal protections against retaliation for those who report hate crimes, ensuring that victims and witnesses feel secure in coming forward.

By enhancing the reporting of anti-Muslim incidents, the administration can ensure that hate crimes are adequately addressed and that the Muslim community feels supported and protected. These efforts will contribute to a safer, more inclusive society where all Americans can live free from fear and discrimination.



Americans hold a strong moral expectation that their country will not aid or abet atrocities abroad.



Eliminating Interest From Federal Student Loans

Constitutional Basis:

- **Promoting General Welfare:** The U.S. Constitution affirms the government's role in promoting the general welfare and ensuring equal protection under the law. These principles underpin policies that make education accessible to all Americans, regardless of financial background or religious beliefs.
- **Fourteenth Amendment:** The Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment requires federal programs to avoid practices that disproportionately disadvantage specific communities. Offering interest-free, principal-only loans aligns with these constitutional principles by addressing financial and religious barriers to education, thereby ensuring equitable access for all students.

Background and Concerns: Pursuing post-secondary education—whether in academic or trade schools—should be a fundamental right, free from crippling debt or conflicts arising from religious objections to interest-bearing loans.

In 2025, nearly one-third of all American students continue to rely on loans to finance their college education. The collective student loan debt now exceeds \$1.77 trillion—surpassing earlier projections of \$2 trillion by 2024—and is expected to reach \$3 trillion by 2038 if current trends persist.

Due to rising tuition costs, many students have no choice but to incur interest-based loans, creating cascading debt that is often difficult to repay. This burden delays key life milestones—such as purchasing homes and starting families—for many young graduates.

For thousands of American Muslim students, the dilemma is compounded by the need to choose between their faith and their education. In Islam, as in some other faith traditions, interest-based debt is considered destructive and immoral. As a result, these students face significant barriers to pursuing higher education without compromising their religious beliefs.

Policy Recommendations: To address the financial obstacles preventing thousands of Americans from accessing higher education, we urge the Department of Education and the administration to implement the following reforms:

- **Forgive Excessive Student Loan Debt:** Cancel all student loans for borrowers whose repayment history equals or exceeds the original principal balance of their loans.
- **Create Principal-Only Student Loans:** Establish interest-free student loans—referred to as “principled loans”—by waiving all interest payments on current and future student loans.
- **Collaboration to Eliminate Student Loan Debt:** Work with the Department of Education and Congress to establish interest-free, principal-only student loans for all Americans.
- **Federal Administration of Loans:** Transition the federal student loan program to direct government administration, eliminating reliance on third-party financial institutions that profit from borrowers.

Currently, no federal financial system accommodates students of faith who object to interest-based debt. Principal-only student loans would enable these students to pursue higher education or vocational training in accordance with their religious principles. No American student should face the dilemma of incurring inter-

est-based debt simply to achieve educational aspirations. Establishing principal-only loans will uphold religious freedom while making higher education more accessible and equitable for all Americans. Uphold religious freedom while making higher education more accessible and equitable for all Americans.

Section
Seven

A dvocating for Human Rights Overseas

Constitutional Basis:

- **Foundational Values:** Although foreign policy is primarily an executive function, it must reflect the foundational values codified in the Constitution and align with the legal frameworks established by Congress. Americans hold a strong moral expectation that their country will not aid or abet atrocities abroad. Upholding this expectation is consistent with laws like the Leahy Laws, which prohibit U.S. assistance to foreign security forces that commit gross human rights violations, as well as with a constitutional tradition that opposes tyrannical power.

Background and Concerns: The Trump administration must demand an immediate end to Israel’s war of aggression on Palestinian, Lebanese, and Syrian territories. Israel has now murdered with the United State’s assistance over 44,000 Palestinians, and it is imperative to halt this ongoing genocide. Additionally, a two-state solution must be required and actively pursued before hopes for such an outcome disappear entirely.

From Palestine to Kashmir, Xinjiang to Burma, Muslim communities face occupation, persecution, and ethnic cleansing. The United States must end all support—military, economic, or diplomatic—for governments

perpetrating collective punishment, war crimes, or other human rights abuses. In response to this rising tide of international anti-Muslim hate, CAIR and CAIR Action urge your administration to establish a U.S. State Department Special Envoy for Monitoring and Combating Islamophobia.

Existing U.S. laws and executive orders prohibit arms sales to regimes that block humanitarian aid or deliberately target civilian populations. By enforcing these standards, America can restore its moral credibility and send an unambiguous message that alliances must be grounded in common values, not expedient calculations. This stance ensures that America remains true to its ideals and does not support regimes that undermine the very principles we hold dear.

Policy Recommendations:

1. Principled Foreign Policy:

- **Immediately Halt All U.S. Assistance:** Cease all U.S. military, economic, or intelligence-sharing assistance to governments engaged in systematic abuses. Begin by ending all support for Israel’s ongoing atrocities in Gaza, Lebanon, and Syria. Upholding this standard underscores that American resources cannot be wielded to harm innocent civilians.

- **Enforce the Leahy Laws Rigorously:** Ensure that no U.S. training, equipment, or financial support reaches foreign security units responsible for gross human rights violations. Following the rule of law in foreign policy strengthens America’s moral standing and consistency.
- **Comply Fully with Prohibitions on Arms Sales:** Adhere strictly to U.S. laws and executive orders prohibiting arms sales to regimes that block humanitarian aid or target civilian populations. Publicly review and rescind previously authorized transfers that violate these provisions, emphasizing that America’s commitment to human rights supersedes short-term strategic interests.

2. Establish a Special Envoy for Monitoring and Combating Islamophobia: In alignment with the Combating International Islamophobia Act, create a dedicated Special Envoy U.S. Department of State position to track and counter Islamophobia worldwide. Modeled after the existing Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, this envoy would focus on documenting and confronting anti-Muslim state policies in foreign countries. The envoy’s responsibilities should include:

- **Accountability:** Work with foreign governments to address systemic discrimination against Muslim communities.
- **Policy Integration:** Integrate the fight against Islamophobia into broader U.S. foreign policy goals.
- **Reporting and Transparency:** Produce regular reports and recommendations for Congress, the executive branch, and international partners on best practices to combat Islamophobia.

3. Consistent Application of Human Rights Standards:

- **Targeted Sanctions:** Utilize targeted sanctions against officials—regardless of alliance—found responsible for war crimes, genocide, ethnic cleansing, or other severe abuses. Consistency in applying human rights standards builds respect for American leadership.
- **Condition Future Partnerships:** Condition future security or economic partnerships on demonstrable improvements in human rights compliance and humanitarian access, reinforcing that America prioritizes moral principles over convenience.

4. Supporting International Norms and Institutions:

- **Re-engage with International Human Rights Bodies:** Strengthen relationships with international human rights organizations to ensure that investigations into abuses proceed unhindered. American leadership can help foster global accountability.
- **Champion Independent Inquiries and Humanitarian Aid:** Actively encourage independent inquiries into reported Israeli violations and support measures that guarantee humanitarian aid can reach affected Palestinian civilian populations without obstruction. By doing so, the U.S. can lead by example, inspiring other nations to follow suit.

By placing human rights at the forefront of foreign policy and enforcing existing laws that prohibit supporting abusive regimes, the administration can renew America’s moral credibility, inspire global respect for democratic values, and offer tangible hope to oppressed communities worldwide. This approach underscores America’s role as a beacon of freedom and justice on the global stage.

R

econsidering Nominations of Anti-Muslim and Anti-Arab Appointees

Constitutional Basis:

- First Amendment: Guarantees freedom of religion, expression, and association.
- Equal Protection Clause: Prohibits discriminatory treatment based on religion, ethnicity, or political beliefs.

Background and Concerns: The American Muslim community is significantly concerned over your transition team's announcement of several nominees for key government and diplomatic positions in your administration whose records include Islamophobia, anti-Arab bigotry, and hostility toward human rights. Appointing individuals with such divisive and prejudiced views undermines trust in government, alienates critical communities, and damages the United States' global reputation. Specific concerns include:

Policy Recommendations:

- **Pete Hegseth (Secretary of Defense):** Hegseth has endorsed torture, called for the destruction of Al-Aqsa Masjid, advocated for war with Iran, and reportedly shouted "kill all Muslims" in a "drunk and violent manner" in 2015. These actions and views are incompatible with the leadership required to oversee the U.S. military and align with constitutional values.
- **Mike Huckabee (Ambassador to Israel):** Huckabee has denied the existence of Palestinians, expressed support for the annexation of Palestinian territories, and aligned with policies that disregard Palestinian human rights. His appointment would reinforce a one-sided foreign policy that prioritizes far-right Israeli interests at the expense of justice and regional stability.
- **Rep. Elise Stefanik (U.N. Ambassador):**

Stefanik has promoted white supremacist conspiracy theories, expressed support for Israel's genocide in Gaza, and attacked the free speech rights of college students advocating for Palestinian rights. Her record undermines the U.N.'s mission of promoting peace and human rights.

- **Ken Isaacs (Director General of the International Organization for Migration):** Isaacs has made Islamophobic remarks on social media, describing Islam as inherently violent and claiming Muslims adhere to a religion of "7th-century violence and bullying." Such bigotry disqualifies him from leading an organization responsible for refugee and relief programs in Muslim-majority regions.
- **Sebastian Gorka (White House Senior Director for Counterterrorism):** Gorka's ties to far-right groups and inflammatory rhetoric targeting Muslims disqualify him from serving in a position requiring impartiality and respect for diverse communities.
- **Tulsi Gabbard (Director of National Intelligence):** Gabbard has made Islamophobic remarks, aligned with India's far-right Hindutva movement, and expressed hostility toward holding regimes accountable for human rights abuses. Her ties to genocidal movements raise questions about her ability to lead U.S. intelligence operations with integrity and impartiality.
- **Pete Hoekstra (U.S. Ambassador to Canada):** Hoekstra has spread anti-Muslim conspiracy theories about Muslim "No Go Zones" existing in Europe and supported discriminatory policies, raising concerns about his ability to foster inclusive diplomacy and cooperation.

Policy Recommendations:

1. Reject Nominees with Records of Bigotry and Extremism:

- Disqualify individuals whose rhetoric or actions demonstrate hostility toward Muslims, Arabs, Palestinians, or other minority groups.
- Ensure appointees respect constitutional protections, including religious freedom and free speech.

2. Appoint Inclusive and Just Leaders:

- Prioritize nominees with records of promoting human rights, fostering inclusivity, and upholding international law.
- Select individuals committed to representing all Americans, regardless of faith or ethnicity.

3. Promote Accountability and Transparency in Nominations:

- Require nominees to disclose past statements, social media posts, and policy decisions that may conflict with their roles.
- Establish oversight mechanisms to prevent the appointment of individuals whose actions contradict American values.

4. Strengthen Diplomatic and Domestic Credibility:

- Avoid nominees who align with foreign governments or extremist movements that undermine U.S. interests and human rights.
- Ensure appointees can engage impartially with all communities, fostering trust and cooperation.

By reconsidering the nominations of individuals like Pete Hegseth, Mike Huckabee, Elise Stefanik, Ken Isaacs, Sebastian Gorka, Tulsi Gabbard, and Pete Hoekstra, the administration can demonstrate its commitment to justice, inclusivity, and principled governance. CAIR, CAIR Action, and the American Muslim community urge the administration to prioritize appointees who reflect constitutional values, respect for human rights, and dedication to advancing the interests of all Americans. Such actions will strengthen public trust, rebuild national unity, and restore America's global reputation as a leader in justice and equality.

Conclusion

The recommendations CAIR and CAIR Action have outlined above are not narrow, partisan demands. They represent a principled effort to revitalize our constitutional commitments and align American policy—both domestic and foreign—with our nation’s founding values. By reforming federal law enforcement overreach, upholding religious liberty, rejecting harmful policies, protecting civil rights, and advocating for human rights overseas, your administration can reclaim America’s moral standing and constitutional integrity.

Embracing these reforms will reassure Americans that their constitutional rights are secure, that their government serves justice rather than perpetuating injustice, and that America’s role on the world stage reflects the best of our national character. Through decisive, principled action, the United States can once again emerge as a beacon of peace, fairness, religious freedom, individual liberty, and human dignity—living up to the ideals that define our nation and inspire patriots across the political spectrum. Many Americans who cherish limited government, robust individual freedoms, and moral clarity in foreign affairs stand ready to support this renewed commitment to our founding principles.

