Fifth Annual National Muslim Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill

April 1, 2019 — Capitol Hill, Washington D.C.
1. Capitol Hill Advocacy Day Goals and Logistics
2. Tips for Engaging Elected Officials on Capitol Hill
3. Advocacy Day Materials
4. Advocacy Day Policy Issues
The goals for successful meetings during Hill Day are:

a. **Strengthen or establish** American Muslim community relationships with Representatives and Senators (including their staff);

b. **Educate Members of Congress and staff** about Muslim civil liberties concerns and proposed solutions; and,

c. **Encourage Members of Congress** to support key policies supported by American Muslim and U.S. minority communities.
Advocacy Day Schedule

April 1st

* 11:30 AM Picture Outside in Front of U.S. Capitol on the Front Steps of the Senate Side of Congress
* 12:00-5:00 PM Congressional Meetings
* 12:00-5:00 PM Break Room Doors Open: Inside CVC, Rooms: HVC 201 A and B
* 1:00-4:00 PM Prayer in HVC 201 A and B
* 5:00-6:00 PM Evening Reception at HVC 201 A and B
Advocacy Day Schedule

April 2nd

* 8:30 AM Doors open at St. Mark's Episcopal Church's Nave and Elders Room, 301 A Street, SE, Washington, DC
* 9:00 AM Coffee, Brief Remarks
* 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM Congressional Meetings
* 12:00-5:00 PM, Prayer in Elders Room (Basement)
* 5:00 PM Close of Event Remarks
@USCMO – Official USCMO Twitter Page. Follow and tag us!

On the day of the advocacy event, post related comments and photos using the hashtag: #MuslimHillDay

After meeting with congressional offices, ask for a picture. Remember, do not take a photo without asking first.

If they agree to take a photo, post that picture and link to the Member of Congress’ social media profiles with a thank you, and the hashtag: #MuslimHillDay
Please invite Congressional offices to our Evening Reception from 5:00-6:00 p.m. in the House Visitor Center Room 201 A & B
Security on Capitol Hill

- Similar to security in airports, you’ll have to pass through metal detectors and have your bags searched at every entrance.

- Be prepared to remove your coats and outerwear to be screened.

- Sealed boxes, closed envelopes, and weapons of any kind, including mace and knives of any size, are prohibited.

- Additionally, no cans, bottles (including reusable water bottles) and any food or beverages of any kind are permitted in the Capitol Building and Capitol Visitors Center.
You are here today to meet with legislators. Islamophobic groups may be here today to try to vilify you.

- *Do not* engage them. No matter what they say or do.
- *Do not* agree to any interviews.
- *Do not* touch them or their equipment.

They want to provoke you to *prove their stereotypes*.

All you should do if they approach you is:
- Smile, give a thumbs up, and say “Beautiful day to be on Capitol Hill”
Congressional Offices: Organization and Services

- Congressional offices are a gateway to the federal government.

- District offices lead on directly helping constituents, a process called casework, in many cases with federal programs and agencies.

- Generally, the Capitol Hill office leads on crafting law and shaping public policy, laws, and regulations.

- In seeking help, make sure to identify the correct office and staff member.
Key Capitol Hill Office Staff

- Member of Congress
- Chief of Staff (COS)
- Legislative Director (LD)
- Legislative Counsel
- Legislative Assistant (LA)
- Legislative Correspondent (LC)
During Your Hill Meetings

- Be prepared and on time

- Introduce yourself and the group, local district ties if applicable

- Be brief and clear. It is okay to engage in some polite conversation but don’t waste too much time

- State the issue and the solution

- Use real life examples, personal and community stories, and local touch-points
During Your Hill Meetings

- Be polite and listen carefully
- Leave behind your supporting materials and contact information
- Make sure to follow-up
- Don’t forget to get a picture! Then post it on social media
Your meeting – especially if it’s with the legislator – may be held anywhere, even on the move! Go with it.

Hill staff are sometimes very young. Give them as much respect as you expect in return. They’re responsible for briefing their bosses.

Your meeting may be short. **15 minutes is normal.** But if the legislator has the time and is engaged, he or she will try to extend your time together.

You may be interrupted. Hill offices are small, often noisy and busy.
Things to Avoid During Your Hill Meetings

- Over-promising
- Wearing out your welcome
- Turning a disagreement into a personal attack
- Misrepresenting the facts
- Threats, blatantly throwing your weight around
- Surprises
- Failing to praise positive actions or acknowledge areas of agreement
- Overuse of rhetoric
The handbook provided to delegates includes:

- Copy of today’s agenda
- Map of Capitol Hill
- Issues at a glance
- Issue talking points
- Link to online meeting report form
- Copies of one-page congressional fact sheets
The Congressional leave-behind handbook (carried by state delegation leaders) include:

- Information on USCMO
- Information on Muslim Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill
- Fact sheets for congress on today’s policy agenda

*Make sure to leave this handbook behind with the office!*
During meetings on Capitol Hill delegates will address Muslim community concerns on:

1. Legislatively repealing the Trump Administration's Muslim Travel Ban
2. Supporting immigration reform and protection laws
3. Supporting the human rights of the Rohingya and Uighur Muslim communities overseas
4. Supporting the reintroduction of the U.S. House Resolution, "Recognizing American Muslims' history and contributions to our Nation"
5. NOTE: NOT A PRIMARY ISSUE: Reforming bank de-risking practices to prevent discriminatory targeting and closure of Muslim bank accounts
The U.S. Supreme Court ruled to permit the Muslim ban to remain in effect but USCMO believes that this is an issue for Congress to decide on.

USCMO is urging Congress to support and cosponsor its round-up endorsement of all legislation pushing back against the Trump Administration’s Muslim ban.
The Primary Ask: Supporting the NO BAN Act:

- The NO BAN Act is the most comprehensive bill repealing the Muslim Ban. It will be introduced on April 10th.
- Amends the nondiscrimination provision of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) to include nonimmigrant visas and prohibit discrimination based on religion.
- Limits the President’s authority under 212 (f) of the INA to restrict the entry of a specific class of aliens.
- Requires regular reporting on visa applicants from previously banned countries.

Issue One: Repealing the Trump's Muslim Travel Ban
Muslim ban is morally wrong as it is based on:

* Religious hatred as it is designed to keep Muslims out of the U.S.
* Harms Muslim citizens and permanent residents by barring their family members from traveling to U.S.
* Violates the spirit of the U.S. Constitution and Immigration law by singling out one religion for disfavored treatment and discriminating against race, nationality, and country of origin.
How to co-sponsor:

- Congressional offices should contact Rricha Mathur in Rep. Chu’s office at Rricha.Mathur@mail.house.gov or Erica K. Songer at Sen. Coons office at Erica_Songer@judiciary-dem.senate.gov.

Issue One:

Repealing the Trump's Muslim Travel Ban
USCMO and the Muslim community stand in solidarity with all immigrant communities in the United States.

We are asking Congress to adopt comprehensive immigration reform measures that include:

- Protecting Dreamers and TPS Holders,
- Ending family separation at the U.S. Border.
Primary Asks:

- **SUPPORTING the Dream and Promise Act of 2019 (H.R. 6):** This act combines immigration bills from the past few years to provide a pathway to citizenship for the 800,000 Dreamers brought to this country as children, and a way for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) holders and their family to become permanent legal residents.
Primary Asks:

- ENDING family separation at the U.S. Border by SUPPORTING the Alternatives to Detention Act of 2019 (H.R. 532), which directs the DHS to establish programs that provide alternatives to detaining undocumented immigrants, such as community-based supervision.
How to co-sponsor:

* Congressional offices should contact Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard’s [D-CA] office to support the American Dream and Promise Act of 2019 (H.R.6)

* Congressional offices should contact Rep. Anthony G. Brown’s [D-MD] office to support the Alternatives to Detention Act of 2019 (H.R. 532)

* Senate Office are encouraged to support the introduction of similar legislation.
The Issue:

* U.S. Council of Muslim Organizations (USCMO), is calling on members of the U.S. House of Representatives to cosponsor the reintroduction of the "Recognizing American Muslims’ history and contributions to our Nation," introduced by Congresswoman Judy Chu (D-CA).
Reasons to Support:

* Last month the U.S. House took a major step forward in combating bigotry by adopting a resolution condemning anti-Semitism and Islamophobia.

* Sadly, the terroristic Christchurch, New Zealand mosques shootings that took place a just one week later was a terrifying reminder of the consequences of not seriously challenging the growing threat of White supremacist, anti-Muslim, and anti-immigrant ideologies.

* This resolution is a reminder to all Americans, and the world, that the United States recognizes the history and contributions of Muslims to our great nation.
Reasons to support:

* Cosponsoring this resolution will send a powerful message to the Muslims in your district that you appreciate the role American Muslims have played in this country and that you support their right to freely practice their religion.
How to co-sponsor:

* Congressional offices should contact Rricha Mathur in Rep. Chu’s office at Rricha.Mathur@mail.house.gov
The U.S. Council of Muslim Organizations (USCMO) stands in solidarity with persecuted Muslim communities worldwide.

When the United States stands up for the human rights of Muslims internationally, it reifies its commitment to the freedom of religion and sends a powerful message of support to American Muslims and Americans of all faiths.
USCMO Urges Congress to Address Forced Detention of Uighur Muslims in China

* In September 2018, Human Rights Watch (HRW) released a 117-page report detailing the mass detention of more than 1 million Uighur Muslims by the Chinese government.

* Those held in reeducation centers are forced to listen to lectures, learn Mandarin, sing songs praising the Chinese government, and are coerced into abandoning their faith.

* Inmates tell accounts of being forced to eat pork and drink alcohol, both forbidden activities in Islam. Some inmates have been tortured.
The Asks:

- **Support the Uighur Human Rights Policy Act of 2019 (S. 178/H.R. 649):** Introduced by Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ), the act calls for an end to the arbitrary detention of the Uighurs, the imposition of economic sanctions on China, Chinese officials, and companies operating in Xinjiang. The act also asks the Secretary of State to consider establishing the position of Special Coordinator for Xinjiang.

- **Introduce a Senate Companion to the House’s UIGHUR Act of 2019 (H.R. 1025):** Introduced by Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA), the act would impose sanctions on Chinese officials, and if sanctions are not imposed, requires a report to Congress on why. It also imposes economic restrictions on federal procurement and exports and promotes the preservation of the Uighur language and provides protections for Uighurs living in the U.S.
USCMO Urges Congress to Address Persecution of the Rohingya Muslims in Burma

* In 2017, the Burmese government undertook a military-led ethnic-cleansing campaign of the Rohingya Muslims in the northern state of Rakhine, killing thousands and causing upwards of 700,000 to flee their homes for neighboring Bangladesh.

* The displaced Rohingya have refused to repatriate until their demands for justice, citizenship, and the ability to return to their home villages are met.

* Last year, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Public International Law and Policy Group (PILPG), an independent human rights law group contracted by the State Department to investigate atrocities committed against the Rohingya, both found compelling evidence that genocide and crimes against humanity occurred.
The Ask:

* **Support Resolution Calling for Safe Return of Rohingya (S.Res. 34):** Introduced by Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR), the resolution condemns the violence against the Rohingya and urges the Secretary of State to determine whether genocide occurred. **Contact Sen. Jeff Merkley’s office to support.**
Wrapping Up Your Meeting

* Thank the legislator and/or staff for the visit.
* Get contact information of the staff present for the meeting.
* Make sure to follow-up on any requests made by staff. Relate all requests to USCMO, so they can be immediately responded to.
* Complete the meeting report form and pass along to USCMO.
Online Meeting Report Form Is How Groups Report Their Meetings:

http://bit.ly/MuslimHillDay
If you are in DC for an additional day...

- Consider working with your Representative or one of your Senators to schedule a tour of the Capitol (do this before coming to Washington)

- Check out one of the many Smithsonian museums within walking distance of both Capitol Hill and the hotel (they’re free!)

- Learn more about things to do in DC at [http://washington.org/](http://washington.org/)