



January 29, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

On behalf of the US Council of Muslim Organizations and the undersigned American Muslim groups, congratulations on your inauguration as the 46th President of the United States. We also extend our warmest congratulations to Vice President Kamala Harris on her historic achievement.

As you and Vice President Harris take the reins of our nation at this profound and difficult moment, we pray that God lights the way for you to heal our country, unite Americans in the pursuit of justice, and advance peace and prosperity for all.

Last week, your administration took an important and commendable step in the right direction by repealing the Trump Administration's Muslim Ban, which caused untold damage to American families and people around the world.

On behalf of our community, thank you. American Muslims—many of whom volunteered for your campaign in critical swing states, and most of whom supported your candidacy nationwide—greatly appreciate your swift action on this issue. Our community now stands ready to work with you to advance positive change in other areas. To that end, we write to share three requests.

I. Including American Muslims in Every Level of Government

During the campaign last year, you pledged, “As president, I’ll work with you to rip the poison of hate from our society to honor your contributions and seek your ideas. My administration will look like America, with Muslim Americans serving at every level.”

You have already taken welcome steps towards fulfilling this pledge by appointing several talented and experienced American Muslims to important staff positions. However, a Muslim was not included among your 15 cabinet nominees. In the coming days, we encourage you to include American Muslims “at every level” by also nominating a member of our community to a cabinet-level position, or as a deputy to a cabinet secretary.

We also encourage you to appoint an American Muslim to serve as a “Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Islamophobia” at the State Department, on par with the existing Office of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism. From here in America to France to China to Myanmar to India, anti-Muslim bigotry poses an interconnected threat to Muslims worldwide. Our nation should play a major role in confronting that global threat.

American Muslims represent the third largest and the most diverse religious group in our nation. Our participation in every level of government—including the cabinet and especially in areas of government that directly impact our community—is critical to fulfilling your vision of a diverse administration that reflects America.



II. Pursuing Systemic Policy Reforms Recommended by American Muslims

We encourage your administration to pursue the systemic policy reforms recommended by the Council on American-Islamic Relations – a member organization of USCMO – in its report, “The First 100 Days: Restoring the Rights of American Muslims and Advancing Justice for all Americans.”

Endorsed by dozens of Muslim organizations, these recommendations would advance racial equality, religious freedom, criminal justice reform, and economic opportunity here at home, as well as peace abroad, by:

- Ending national security overreach
- Banning bigoted & discriminatory immigration policies
- Countering racism in policing
- Protecting constitutional rights in schools, workplaces and elsewhere
- Defending the constitutional rights of federal and state prisoners
- Supporting a progressive and transformative foreign policy

The report, which we shared with your transition team in December, includes specific recommendations to advance each of these goals.

III. Meeting with American Muslim Community Leaders

We encourage your administration to regularly meet, in-person or virtually, with American Muslim community leaders and organizations to hear from our community members on these and other issues, lay out your vision for the future, and enlist the assistance of our community in supporting your agenda.

By taking these three initial steps—appointing American Muslims to every level of your administration, pursuing systemic policy change, and meeting with American Muslim leaders—your administration can highlight the important role that American Muslims play in our society and advance just policies that benefit all Americans.

As the largest and most diverse umbrella organization for American Muslim groups in our nation, USCMO stands ready to support you in the pursuit of such efforts. So does the broader American Muslim community, including the other signatories to this letter.

May God make you equal to the task before you, grant you the blessing of guidance in your decisions, and aid you in the urgent quest to restore the health and welfare of the American people while ensuring equitable representation for all.

We hope to hear from you soon, and we look forward to working with you to advance positive change for our nation, insha Allah (God willing).

Respectfully,

Oussama Jammal
Secretary General
ojammal@uscmo.org
(708) 288-1914



Endorsing Organizations:

1. US Council of Muslim Organizations (USCMO)
2. American Muslims for Palestine (AMP)
3. Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)
4. Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA)
5. Muslim American Society (MAS)
6. Muslim Legal Fund of America (MLFA)
7. Muslim Ummah of North America (MUNA)
8. The Mosque Cares (Ministry of Imam W. D. Mohammed)
9. Islamic Association of North America (IANA)
10. MPower Change
11. Muslim Delegates and Allies
12. ICNA Council for Social Justice (ICNA-CSJ)
13. Muslim American Society Public Affairs and Civic Engagemnet (MAS-PACE)
14. Islamic Leadership Council of New York
15. Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago (CIOGC)
16. Islamic Shura Council of Southern California (ISCSC)
17. Northern California Islamic Council (NCIC)
18. Muslim Forum of the Pacific Northwest (MFPNW)
19. Arizona Muslim Alliance (AMA)
20. Michigan Muslim Community Council (MMCC)
21. Central Valley Islamic Council, California
22. Young Muslims Inc. (YMIInc)
23. American Muslim Leadership Council (AMLC)
24. Institute for Social Policy and Understanding (ISPU)
25. North America Imams Federation (NAIF)
26. American Imams Academy (AIA)
27. International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT)
28. Together We Serve (TWS)
29. American Muslim Alliance (AMA)
30. Mosque Foundation (MF-Chicago)
31. Islamic Center of Detroit (ICD)
32. Islamic Center of Irving (ICI – Dallas)
33. Islamic Community Center of Illinois (ICCI)
34. Downtown Islamic Center – Chicago (DIC)
35. Islamic Center of Chicago Western Suburbs (ICW)
36. Dar Alhijrah Islamic Center (Vriginia)
37. Islamic Center of Naperville (ICN-IL)
38. Islamic Center of Pasaic County (ICPC-NJ)
39. Crossroads Islamic Center Oklahoma (CICO)
40. Islamic Center of San Diego (ICSD)
41. Helping Hand for Relief and Development (HHRD)



42. United Muslim Relief (UMR)
43. Mercy Without Limits (MWL)
44. Baitulmaal for Relief and Development
45. ICNA Relief
46. Islamic Relief USA (IR-USA)
47. United Hands Relief (UHR)
48. Zakat Foundation of America
49. Burmese Rohingya Association of North America (BRANA)
50. Indonesian American Muslim Community
51. Consejo Islamico de Puerto Rico
52. Indonesian Muslim Society in America
53. Libyan American Alliance (LAA)
54. Center for Egyptian-American Dialogue (CEAD)
55. Syrian American Council (SAC)
56. New York Muslim United for Civic Engagement (NYMUCE)
57. American Human Rights Council (AHRC)
58. United Voices
59. ASPAIRE
60. College Democrats
61. Muslim Students Association – Center College
62. Muslim Students Association – IUPUI
63. Muslim Students Association – University of Kentucky
64. Muslim Students Association – Wayne State University
65. Muslim Students Association – Purdue University
66. Muslim Students Association – Indiana University – Bloomington
67. Muslim Student Association – Wayne State University
68. Islamic Scholarship Fund (ISF)
69. Ayada Leads
70. Women For Afghan Women
71. American Muslim Empowerment Network (AMEN)
72. Islamic Networks Group (ING)
73. Muslim Anti-Racism Collaborative (MuslimARC)
74. Islamic Cultural Center of Fresno, California
75. Islamophobia Studies Center, Berkeley, California
76. Church World Service [Muslim community ally]
77. Polygon Education Fund
78. Isuroon – Somali Women and Their Families, Minnesota
79. Franciscan Action Network [Muslim community ally]
80. American Muslim Health Professionals (AMHP)
81. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
82. North America Islamic Trust (NAIT)
83. Muslim Women Lawyers for Human Rights (KARAMAH)


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