

# SECURITY & RIGHTS COLLABORATIVE

a proteus fund initiative

## Supporting the #NoMuslimBanEver Campaign

### Overview

The #NoMuslimBanEver campaign brought together philanthropy, field organizations serving Muslim, Arab, and South Asian (MASA) communities, and others affected by the Administration's various attempts to block Muslims and refugees from entering the U.S. through the various iterations of the "Muslim bans." The Security & Rights Collaborative (SRC) played a central role in the national and regional mobilization efforts surrounding the campaign by coordinating the philanthropic response and by providing key monetary and strategic support to national anchor organizations. While the fight is far from over, the #NoMuslimBanEver campaign has demonstrated the strength, resilience, and grassroots organizing power of MASA organizations in response to discriminatory and devastating policies.

### Background

Between January and October 2017, three iterations of the Muslim ban were released with immediate and harmful impacts on refugees and immigrants from several majority-Muslim countries, as well as on U.S. citizens and green card holders affected by the chaos emanating from the discriminatory policies. For more information and updates, please visit the #NoMuslimBanEver website: <https://www.nomuslimbanever.com/>.

Starting in January with the first iteration of the Muslim ban, a number of organizations, including MASA groups, began to organize and coordinate with one another to ensure that those most impacted by the Muslim ban were leading efforts to push back, as well as were visible in the leadership of the campaign.

Three field groups emerged as the national anchors for the coordination efforts around the potential SCOTUS case: the Council on American-Islamic Relations-San Francisco Bay Area (CAIR-SFBA), the National Immigration Law Center (NILC), and Asian Americans Advance Justice-Asian Law Caucus (AAAJ-ALC). Prior to the national coordinated campaign, the field was largely uncoordinated with sometimes conflicting public messaging on the bans.

## Role of the SRC

As the various iterations of the ban were implemented and as the wider field mounted legal challenges, policy efforts, and protests, the SRC recognized the need for MASA organizations to coordinate messaging and mobilization efforts and the importance of ensuring those most impacted by the Muslim ban had a central role in its planning.

The SRC's role had three key areas of focus:

### 1) Organizing Philanthropy

The full budget for the #NoMuslimBanEver campaign was estimated at \$1.3 million, and other funders, such as Ford Foundation, the Immigration Litigation Fund at Borealis Philanthropy, Four Freedoms Fund, and Unbound Philanthropy have committed substantial amounts towards the campaign activities. In concert with these funders, the SRC organized a funder briefing for the wider philanthropic field in August 2017 which featured the three national anchors and discussed the ways in which philanthropy could support this critical campaign. SRC Director Shireen Zaman conducted personalized follow up with funders who joined the call in order to provide further education on the key issues as well as to ask for their support. Throughout the campaign, the SRC sent out timely updates to funding partners supporting or interested in supporting the campaign and the wider MASA field.

### 2) Funding

The SRC's first grant in support of the campaign was to NILC for a convening of over 80 organizations in July 2017, which brought together legal practitioners, grassroots organizers, MASA organizations, and communications specialists. The individuals and groups represented met to coordinate tactics and strategies relating to the Muslim ban and helped to solidify the goals and needs for the campaign against the ban.

After the success of the convening, and in consultation with the three national anchor groups and aligned funders, the SRC agreed to support subgranting efforts related to the #NoMuslimBanEver campaign, thus allowing the field organizations to not compromise key working relationships by making funding decisions to their peers. The SRC committed \$150,000 towards supporting the #NoMuslimBanEver campaign. Specifically, the SRC funded increased time for consultants to support the field mobilization; the creation of a micro-site and tech support for the #NoMuslimBanEver campaign; as well as funding towards the activities of select regional anchors and related follow-up work following the October 18, 2017 implementation date of ban 2.0, and related national and regional mobilizations. The SRC also funded MPower Change to organize and coordinate the national rally on October 18. Please see the "Grants Approved" section below for a detailed description of field grants made by the SRC.

### 3) Field Coordination and Strategy Development

In addition to supporting the field anchors' convening in July 2017, Shireen worked closely with the field anchors and other key groups including ReThink Media on strategy development related to the campaign and fundraising goals.

Furthermore, a critical component of the regional mobilization coordination was the work of the SRC-funded rapid response coordination team, led by Arjun Sethi and Deepa Iyer. They hosted regular monthly calls with the field, with upwards of 75 attendees each month; held individual calls with regional anchors; coordinated with the national campaign coalition; and provided swift resources to the field as new legal developments emerged. They launched the #NoMuslimBanEver campaign microsite with Indivisible which hosts the nationwide coordinated campaign events, handled press inquiries, and held several twitter town halls for the campaign.

## Grants Approved

Below are the organizations that were approved for funding by the SRC for their regional activities in September and October 2017. The SRC believed that regional activities were critical for amplifying the impact of the Muslim ban on local communities. Furthermore, the diversity of the regional anchor activities was impressive and included public rallies, vigils, continuing legal education (CLE) courses for lawyers, emergency hotlines, and an art protest and dance rally. The multifaceted, intersectional approach of the collective actions continued the drumbeat of opposition to the Muslim ban nationwide. Below are some of the activities that the SRC funded through the #NoMuslimBanEver campaign:

- > ***Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans (PANA) - San Diego, CA (\$7,900)***: PANA held a panel discussion, FightBack #PowerHour, on October 10, 2017 in San Diego to highlight the discriminatory nature of the Muslim ban and the parallels to the Chinese Exclusion Act. The panel was moderated by Tom Wong, former advisor to the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. PANA was also a co-organizer of a local rally in San Diego on October 18.
- > ***Project South - Atlanta, GA (\$6,000)***: Project South has been involved in a number of activities relating to the Muslim ban campaign, including two recent legal seminars: a Know Your Rights seminar on October 11 in Savannah, GA, and in New Orleans on “Representing Arab and Muslim Americans in Challenging Times.” Project South also held a creative event, *The People v. The Muslim ban: The People’s Tribunal*, with lawyers teaming up with law students from Georgia State University to debate the merits of the Muslim ban, with real witnesses discussing the harm to their communities. The jury was comprised of activists, lawyers, and faith leaders.
- > ***OneAmerica - Seattle, WA (\$6,000)***: OneAmerica rolled out a campaign entitled, “All Are Welcome, Fight Against Hate.” This includes a series of Know Your Rights trainings in Somali Muslim communities, as well as meetings with leadership of Customs of Border Protection and the Transportation Security Administration. OneAmerica was also a partner in the “No Ban, No Wall, Justice for All” rally in Seattle on October 15, 2017 as well as the #NoMuslimBanEver rally at the U.S. Courthouse in Seattle on October 18.
- > ***National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC) - New York City and Chicago (\$7,000)***: NNAAC coordinated rallies with their member community partners in New York City and Chicago, including the art protest and dance rally, Stomp Out the Muslim Ban, on October 16, 2017 and the #NoMuslimBanEver Rally and Press Conference on October 18 at O’Hare International Airport in Chicago.
- > ***Council on American Islamic Relations-Los Angeles (CAIR-LA) – Los Angeles (\$7,000)***: CAIR-LA coordinated local efforts for the #NoMuslimBanEver rally in Los Angeles on October 15, 2017.

- > ***National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA) - National (\$7,700)***: NQAPIA filed an amicus brief in the Muslim ban Supreme Court case, [secured an op-ed](#) in the nation's largest LGBTQ publication, *The Advocate*, on the travel ban, developed infographics, and mobilized LGBTQ Asian Pacific Islanders to turn out for the rally in Los Angeles on October 15, 2017.
- > ***Council on American Islamic Relations – Chicago (CAIR-Chicago) (\$7,000)***: CAIR-Chicago has been instrumental at providing rapid response legal assistance to travelers at O'Hare Airport, and launched a 24/7 emergency hotline for affected travelers and continues to provide assistance to immigrants with citizenship applications. Furthermore, CAIR-Chicago was a co-organizer of the #NoMuslimBanEver rally and press conference on October 18 at O'Hare International Airport.
- > ***Muslim Community Network/Yemeni American Merchants Association (MCN/YAMA) – New York City (\$7,100)***: MCN and its partners, YAMA, held a solidarity vigil on October 9, 2017. They also streamlined communications and talking points on the impact of the ban on the Yemeni community. MCN was instrumental in mobilizing and transporting a large community of Yemeni Americans to the national mobilization in Washington, D.C.

There were many other regional activities by other organizations that took place in the days and weeks leading up to the national mobilization—all of which are listed on the website:

<http://www.nomuslimbanever.com>.

## Impact of Mobilization Efforts

The #NoMuslimBanEver campaign successfully led to a coordinated nationwide response against the evolving changes to the Muslim ban. The MASA rapid response coordination team effectively and efficiently coordinated messaging, disseminated information and talking points to the field as legal challenges were heard by various courts, and as the President signed additional Executive Orders. The coordination was not just among MASA groups, but among legal practitioners, grassroots organizers, as well as communications specialists. Coordinators and national anchor groups were able to quickly adjust timing and strategies as the needs evolved, and were able to do so because of the investment in this shared infrastructure and several months of experience of working together.

In total, there were 195 endorsers of the campaign, and the sheer number and diversity of organizations led to a truly intersectional movement. Across the country, there were 100 events (70 registered on the campaign's website) in 20 cities. The national mobilization effort, led by MPower Change, on October 18 was a true testament to the nature of the campaign. The program highlighted individuals from the banned countries, who shared their stories of struggle and triumph in the face of the Muslim Ban and had 4,000 attendees. This video highlights the various events around the #NoMuslimBanEver campaign: [www.vimeo.com/253299401](http://www.vimeo.com/253299401).

The impact of the coordinated campaign will likely continue in the weeks and months ahead, as the legal resistance to the Muslim ban continues. SRC will continue to work with the national anchors to determine how best to support the field and related coordination efforts to ensure continuity and access to resources for the hundreds of organizations that benefitted from the #NoMuslimBanEver campaign.