

A #SolidarityIs Guide to Hatred and Bigotry Targeting Muslim, Arab, Sikh and South Asian Communities in America

In the decade and a half since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Muslim, Arab, Sikh and South Asian communities in America have experienced hate violence, workplace bias, vandalism at places of worship, school bullying, airport profiling, state surveillance, heightened immigration enforcement and discriminatory national security policies. The 2016 election and its aftermath exacerbated this hostile environment even further. Hate incidents targeting Muslim, Arab, Sikh and South Asian communities are among the [over 1,000 reports documented by the Southern Poverty Law Center](#) in just the few weeks after the election. In addition, advocates and organizers are deeply concerned about government policies and practices that could lead to increased targeting, surveillance, and profiling of community members.

In the spirit of the upcoming commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr.'s life, the #SolidarityIs campaign offers the following five ideas to lift up and support Muslim, Arab, Sikh and South Asian communities. While these suggestions are tailored towards organizations, faith-based groups, and networks, we encourage individuals to adapt and utilize them, especially during the [#ReclaimMLK week of action](#), organized by the Movement for Black Lives, and beyond. The ideas below draw upon the #SolidarityIs framework found [here](#), and are based on the work and guidance of members of the #SolidarityIs [cohort](#) who work closely with Muslim, Arab, Sikh and South Asian communities.

The 5 Step Guide

- 1. SPREAD Awareness among members and constituencies of climate of MASA communities**
- 2. SEND Statements of Support and Affirmation**
- 3. SPUR Public Officials to Pass Resolutions and Policies**
- 4. SPONSOR and hold conversations and forums that center MASA communities**
- 5. SUPPORT community-based organizations**

1. Spread Awareness among members and constituencies of climate of MASA communities

Learning the issues:

- [South Asian Americans Leading Together](#) (SAALT) provides [campus trainings](#), [resources on racial justice](#), and [factsheets about South Asians](#). They also released [a community guide on hate crimes](#).
- [National Network for Arab American Communities](#) (NNAAC) releases [issue briefs](#) on anti-Muslim bias, NSEERS, Racial Profiling and Protection of Civil Liberties.
- [#TakeOnHate](#) works on issues affecting MASA communities. Sign up for a community conversation [here](#).
- [Council on American-Islamic Relations](#) (CAIR) provides many resources on [anti-prejudice](#), [anti-Muslim bias](#), [knowing your rights](#), and [basic facts about Islam](#).
- The [Arab American Institute](#) maintains [issue briefs](#) on topics ranging from immigration to hate crimes and discrimination to CVE, NSEERS, anti-sharia bills, and the anti-refugee backlash.
- [Muslim Anti-Racism Collaborative](#) (Muslim ARC) has created toolkits on [#BlackLivesMatter](#), offered [#BlackinMSA recommendations](#) to support Black Muslims, and held conversations addressing [transnational Latino Muslim identities](#).

Allyship:

- [Showing Up for Racial Justice](#) (SURJ) is a national network of groups and individuals organizing White people for racial justice. See their idea for hosting an [anti-Islamophobia house party](#) and here for more [resources](#).
- Jews Against Islamophobia in NYC and the Network Against Islamophobia, a project of [Jewish Voice for Peace](#), initiated [Chanukah Actions](#) to call the Jewish community to stand strong against anti-Muslim bias and racism.
- Supporting the [Movement for Black Lives](#) platform is a pledge to lift up all our communities.

For Educators:

- [The Sikh Coalition](#) has an extensive [resource list](#) for addressing school bullying and their website www.khalsakids.org is devoted to toolkits for school age children.
- Educators provide resources for teachers and school administrators, including a 6-step plan for [Combating Anti-Muslim Sentiment in Schools](#) and an article on [Brown Bodies and Xenophobic Bullying in US Schools: Critical Analysis and Strategies for Action](#) which offers strategies to take action like transforming bullying behaviors directed at South Asian American youth and frameworks for understanding xenophobic and bias-based bullying.
- [Teaching Tolerance](#) develops [curriculums and workshops](#) available for educators to use in their classrooms.

2. Send Statements of Support and Affirmation

At this moment, your organization can make a statement that directly centers and addresses the climate facing MASA communities. Your statement could also identify resources and ways for your constituencies and members to be involved, as well as point them to community-based organizations that they can support through volunteer and financial assistance. Below are some examples and models:

- Check out these statements from [National Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander organizations against bigotry](#) and [this statement](#) from Asian and Pacific Islander organizations in Washington State.
- Jews for Racial and Economic Justice (JFREJ) [condemned anti-Muslim bias](#) from the NYC Council and released a [statement of solidarity](#) in the aftermath of the Pulse shooting.
- Jewish Voice for Peace [reaffirmed their commitment](#) to support MASA communities impacted by and organizing against anti-Muslim bias, white supremacy, and anti-Arab racism.
- Over 900 Asian American Scholars wrote a [statement](#) rejecting the use of Japanese American mass imprisonment as justification for targeting Muslim people.

3. Spur Public Officials to Pass Resolutions and Policies

Urge public officials at every level – from a city council to a school board to a governor to a college president – to take action to pass resolutions and policies that protect, defend and support MASA and all communities from hate violence and profiling.

- See sample resolutions from the [#TakeOnHate Campaign](#), [Montgomery County Council \(MD\)](#), and the [City of Seattle](#).
- [Local Progress](#) launches the [American Leaders Against Hate and Anti-Muslim Bigotry Campaign](#) and pens [open letter rejecting hate and anti-Muslim bigotry](#) with over 500 elected officials signing on.
- Encourage elected officials to make a [commitment to oppose bigotry](#) by signing a petition as part of a #NoBigotry campaign. Arab American Institute (AAI) publishes occasional reports entitled [Leadership or Pandering](#) that examine statements made by policymakers and candidates as they address divisive issues that provide clear opportunities to stand against bigotry.

Advocate with a city, a school district or campus to establish sanctuary cities and hate-free zones, where undocumented individuals will not be targeted for immigration enforcement.

- The Los Angeles Unified School District passed a [resolution](#) declaring they would not participate in any federal roundup of undocumented students and families. Read more [here](#).
- San Francisco Unified School District declared themselves a [sanctuary school district](#).

- Many colleges and universities have declared themselves sanctuary campuses including [Columbia University](#), [Wesleyan University](#), [Portland State University](#), [Oregon State University](#), [Reed College](#), and [California State University](#) (all 23 campuses).
- The [National Education Association](#) developed a [template school resolution](#) and policy and proposes [language and guidance](#) on [designating safe zones](#) and protecting students.

4. Sponsor and hold conversations and forums that center MASA communities

Race and Identity:

- [Muslim Anti Racism Collective](#) and [#TakeOnHate](#) hosted a [Race & Identity Series](#) exploring the development of racialized communities—with a focus on Black, Arab and South Asian Americans—to uncover themes of racial formation, internalized racism and intercultural conflict.
- Hold and attend teach-ins on [anti-Islamophobia](#) work and resisting [Muslim registries](#). Invite activists and professors to facilitate and set the context. Contact the DC Muslims for Justice Coalition, housed with the [Washington Peace Center](#) for information.
- Hold community discussions utilizing the South Asian American Digital Archive, which lists [documentaries](#) centering South Asian American experiences or reading [articles, books, and movies](#) organized by the Movement to End Racism and Islamophobia

Impact on families and children:

- [Muslim Advocates](#) is a legal organization that published the report *Losing Liberty: The State of Freedom 10 Years After the Patriot Act*. This report could be paired with a viewing of [Whose Children Are These?](#), a documentary directed by filmmaker Theresa Thanjan about the impact of the special registration program on families and children. Issues center on national security and immigration policies that have affected communities since 9/11.
- SAALT developed [In the Face of Xenophobia: Lessons to address bullying of South Asian American youth](#) by Dr. Monisha Bajaj, Dr. Ameena Ghaffar-Kucher, and Karishma Desai, a toolkit providing lessons/workshops on different themes.

5. Support Community-Based Organizations by volunteering your services and/or donating funds.

While this is not a comprehensive list, the groups below provide helpful resources and information.

[Alliance of South Asians Taking Action](#) (ASATA) is a San Francisco Bay Area all-volunteer group working to educate, organize, and empower the Bay Area South Asian communities to end violence, oppression, racism and exploitation within and against our diverse communities.

[American Arab Anti Discrimination Committee](#) (ADC) is a civil rights chapter based organization committed to defending the rights of people of Arab descent and promoting their rich cultural heritage.

[The Arab American Action Network](#) (AAAN) strives to strengthen the Arab community in the Chicago area by building its capacity to be an active agent for positive social change.

[Arab American Institute](#) (AAI) represents the policy and community interests of Arab Americans and works to cultivate and mobilize a strong, educated, empowered community that plays a meaningful role in the betterment of our country.

[Arab American Association of New York](#) supports and empowers the Arab Immigrant and Arab American community by providing services to help them adjust to their new home and become active members of society.

[The Arab Resource and Organizing Center](#) (AROC) is a grassroots organization in the Bay Area working to empower and organize our community towards justice and build community power by participating in leadership development, political education, and campaigns.

[DRUM – South Asian Organizing Center](#) (formerly Desis Rising Up and Moving) is a multi-generational, membership led organization of low-wage South Asian immigrant workers and youth in New York City.

[Council on American-Islamic Relations](#) (CAIR) mission is to enhance understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding. It has [29 chapters](#).

[The Jakara Movement](#) is a grassroots community-building organization that has [multiple chapters](#). With a focus on the interstices of education, health, gender, and social justice, the Jakara Movement inclusively engages large sections of the Sikh youth in various projects to strengthen their identity and consciousness as Sikhs and foster education and activism.

[MPower Change](#) is a grassroots movement rooted in diverse Muslim communities throughout the United States who are working together to build social, spiritual, racial, and economic justice for all people.

The [Muslim Anti-Racism Collaborative \(MuslimARC\)](#) builds multi-ethnic and intra and interfaith coalitions for racial equity, and provides helpful tools and resources around anti-Black racism and Black Muslims in particular.

[National Network for Arab American Communities](#) (NNAAC) develops Arab American community-based nonprofit organizations that understand, meet the needs, and represent the concerns of Arab Americans at a local level, while also collectively addressing those issues at a national level. NNAAC also operates [Take On Hate](#), a multi-year, grassroots campaign that challenges the growing discrimination and persistent misconception of Arab and Muslim Americans, including refugees of Arab and Muslim descent, in the United States.

[South Asian Americans Leading Together](#) (SAALT) is a national, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that elevates the voices and perspectives of South Asian individuals and organizations to build a more just and inclusive society in the United States.

[Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund](#) (SALDEF) seeks to empower Sikh Americans by building dialogue, deepening understanding, promoting civic and political participation, and upholding social justice and religious freedom for all Americans.

[The Sikh Coalition](#) is a community-based organization that works towards the realization of civil and human rights for all people. In particular, it works towards a world where Sikhs may freely practice and enjoy their faith while fostering strong relations with their local community wherever they may be.

For More Information:

If you would like to contribute to this guide with solidarity events or resources you are involved with, please email us at solidarityiscampaign@gmail.com.