

One Year of Muslim and Refugee Bans: Showing Up in Solidarity Against Discrimination January 27 - February 3, 2018 Week of Action Toolkit

PUT YOUR EVENT ON THE MAP & FIND AN EVENT NEAR YOU AT
www.nomuslimbanever.com and www.weareallusa.org/events

Why take action the week of January 27th?

On January 27, 2017 the Trump Administration released Executive Orders banning individuals from seven (then six) Muslim-majority countries and refugees of all nationalities from entering the country. Thousands took to the streets and flooded airports where people from Muslim-majority countries and refugees were being detained and, in many cases, sent back. Since that time, the administration has issued multiple additional bans on people from Muslim-majority countries and has dismantled the U.S. refugee program. We've seen first-hand the painful human impacts of these policies for tens of thousands of individuals, as families are kept apart and refugees are prevented from finding safety. Anti-Muslim and nationalistic rhetoric have had real consequences, leading to increased hate crimes and local and state policies targeting these communities.

Now, a year later, we're in a critical moment. After the courts repeatedly blocked various versions of these bans, ***parts of both the most recent Muslim ban and refugee ban are being implemented.*** In addition, the Trump administration has set the lowest refugee admissions cap in U.S. history, and based on the current pace of arrivals, only an estimated 15,000 - 20,000 refugees will be admitted this fiscal year, an all-time low and not even coming close to that 45,000 cap. We must keep up the public pressure and media coverage to stop the Muslim and refugee bans now. January 27th is a critical date, as people and policy makers across the country remember the actions they took that day and can be challenged to recommit to solidarity with Muslims, refugee, and all people targeted by this administration. Learn more about the impact of the Muslim bans at www.nomuslimbanever.com, and about the impact of the refugee bans, including a tracker and report card on refugee arrivals, at www.rcusa.org.

Ideas & Resources for Taking Action

Right now is a key time to reach out to partners, get January 27th on everyone's calendar, and start planning. These events will build off the the constant action, educating, mobilizing and organizing over the last year, especially the powerful [No Muslim Ban Ever](#) effort led by Muslim organizations on October 18th. Together we are building a list of creative activities and important public witness events for a week of action January 27 - February 3, 2018. There is already an action being planned in front of the [White House in Washington DC](#) - spread the word and click [here](#) to sponsor the rally. Below are some ideas for actions, although the **best events will be contextual, creative, and locally led.**

Connect with the [#NoMuslimBanEver campaign](#). You can register events, find events, sign up for updates, and endorse the campaign. You can also [download their toolkit](#), which includes helpful talking points, campaign principles, and messages.

Join the [We Are All America Campaign](#). We Are All America is a [coalition](#) of immigrants' and refugee rights groups [working](#) to uphold and strengthen our nation's commitment to welcome and protect those seeking freedom, safety, and refuge in the United States. We organize people across religious and cultural differences to build inclusive communities where we all belong. The We Are All America campaign officially launches January 27, 2018. Find out more at www.weareallusa.org. Sign the Pledge to Support Refugees, Asylum Seekers, TPS Recipients and Welcome All Newcomers: www.weareallusa.org/coalition. Organize with We Are All America: www.weareallusa.org/volunteer

Learn more about the Shoulder to Shoulder Campaign: [Shoulder to Shoulder](#) is an interfaith coalition of faith leaders working to address anti-Muslim bigotry and build inclusive communities. You can [sign up to receive periodic updates](#) about our work. In Seattle, Shoulder to Shoulder is partnering with a number of national and local organizations and experts to host a training, [Faith Over Fear: Empowering Faith Leaders to Combat Islamophobia](#) from January 28th - 30th, 2018 to educate, network, and equip faith leaders to better advocate against the narrative of fear and decisiveness in our country. The training will open with a public pledge launch and close with a faith leader signing of the pledge, committing to continue staying engaged a year after the first announcement of the Muslim Ban. If you can't join us, please sign and share the online pledge.

Hold a public event like this [#WhereTheRefugees Interfaith Vigil in Texas](#) to lift up impacted community members and push back against the latest Muslim and refugee bans. Invite people from impacted countries, refugees, refugee service providers, faith leaders, veterans and local elected officials to speak during the event. Even small events, multiplied across the country, will send a powerful message to the Trump administration and Congress that welcoming immigrants and refugees, and standing alongside Muslim community members, are part of our values as a country. Find resources on how to host an interfaith vigil at bit.ly/InterfaithVigilToolkit.

Meet with your Members of Congress when they're in their state and district offices from [January 22nd to January 28th](#). Request to meet with them or their staff. Let them know your opposition to the continual Muslim and refugee bans. [Click here](#) for a toolkit on setting up a meeting with your Members of Congress and building an advocacy team.

Call Congress & ask others to do the same: click [here](#) for an alert to call your one Representative and two Senators. Or call **1-866-961-4293** three times and use this script: "I'm your constituent from [CITY/TOWN]. I strongly oppose President Trump's continued Muslim and refugee bans, as well as the all-time low cap on refugee admissions. I urge you to do everything in your power to see that the administration resettle at least the 45,000 refugees they have set as the cap for 2018. I call on you to protect the U.S. refugee resettlement program and stand against the Muslim and refugee bans." Ask community members and allies to call local and national legislators and demand that they denounce the Muslim and refugee bans. [Find your elected official here](#) and sample action alerts at greateras1.org/act, rcusa.org/advocate-now and interfaithimmigration.org/recent-legislation.

Send a postcard to your member of Congress: Sign this [electronic postcard](#), or [print off hard copies](#) and have people sign them at an event. If you'd like to modify the postcard (add a logo, etc.) please [click here](#). (Note: You will have to create a free Canva account to do so). Encourage your friends, family, coworkers, and social media networks to sign and spread the word. While people only need to sign one electronic card, we encourage those signing printed cards to sign three - one for each of their two Senators and one Representative. You can collect them after an event and hand deliver them to your Senators' and Representatives' local offices, or mail them in a group. Find addresses of local congressional offices at www.senate.gov and www.house.gov.

Tell your story through [ACLU's storytelling project](#) and share how the Muslim ban or refugee ban has changed your life in the past year. If you know people in your circles who have a story to tell, [retweet the ACLU storytelling project opportunity](#) on social media.

Spread awareness through social media: Post on Facebook and Twitter using #NoMuslimBanEver #RefugeesWelcome #NoBanNoWallNoRaids #NoMuslimBan #NoRefugeeBan #WeAreAllAmerica #WhereTheRefugees #GreaterAs1. See this [No Muslim Ban Messaging Guide](#), [ReThink Media's Messaging Guide](#), information on [refugee admissions](#), [resources on engaging local media outlets](#), and this [helpful video](#).

Join the Twitterstorm on Friday, January 26th from 11 AM - 12 PM EST. [Sample tweets and graphics here](#).

Other tweets:

-Today marks one year since President Trump ordered a travel ban on Muslim immigrants and refugees. Let us be clear: Americans continue to oppose the ban and all its iterations. #NoMuslimBanEver #RefugeesWelcome #WeAreAllAmerica

-America is richer because of our diversity. Today, and everyday, we say #NoMuslimBanEver #RefugeesWelcome

-On the one year anniversary of the Muslim and refugee ban, tell your representatives in Congress to proclaim: #NoMuslimBanEver #RefugeesWelcome #WeAreaAllAmerica

-Despite new changes to the ban, Trump's original intent remains the same: he wants to ban Muslims & refugees from entering the US. It remains discriminatory and immoral. #NoMuslimBanEver #RefugeesWelcome

-Discriminating against people or closing our doors on those seeking refuge or in need is not what we stand for. #Yemen #Syria #NoMuslimBanEver #RefugeesWelcome

[Click here for a link to sample graphics.](#)

[ReThink Media's Messaging Guide](#) includes quotes for people to share on social media (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat) in the days leading up to January 27th and on the 27th itself.

The Bridge Initiative is launching a [photo campaign](#) featuring interviews from Muslims and non-Muslims on their reaction to the ban and how it has impacted them and others who they know. Please follow the campaign on their [Instagram](#) page and [Facebook](#) and shared widely! Additionally, if you are interested in being featured in the campaign, please email Hannah.Sullivan@georgetown.edu.

The International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP) just launched their #SendASign social media campaign to commemorate the airport response to the signing of the first Muslim and refugee ban. They're asking folks to "send a sign" in memory of the people holding up signs at airports across the country to support the detained travelers. Please help them amplify the message by sharing the campaign [video](#) and [web page](#).

Help demonstrate the power of collective action: [Win Without War](#) is working on a joint tally of grassroots petitions, emails, calls, LTEs and other actions against the Muslim and Refugee ban (in all of its iterations) that have happened in the past year. The joint total numbers will demonstrate the power of this opposition; and can be used for media, hill advocacy, etc. as we collectively mark one year of resistance against the Muslim and Refugee Bans. Please submit your total action numbers in [this form](#), which can be submitted more than once since many groups have had multiple actions throughout the year. We will not share each organization's numbers, but instead, we will send out updates of *joint* total numbers of each action type (petition, email, call, LTE, etc.) and a running list of organizations who have submitted.

Make and keep a New Year's Resolution. Ask your friends to post their 2018 New Year resolution in support of refugees; e.g.: "My New Year Resolution is to... Call/Meet my Member of Congress on behalf of refugees/Invite a refugee to my home/... For inspiration and resources, check out the Know Your Neighbor [New Year's Resolution Campaign](#).

Urge local officials to pass a Welcoming Resolution affirming its support for refugees and Muslims at the one year anniversary. Challenge your local leaders to go further in 2018, making your community a "[Certified Welcoming](#)" city through Welcoming America's new certification process.

Host a multicultural dinner in your community and invite impacted community members to share their stories. Sitting down together to share a meal is a timeless tradition that unites across all cultures and religions. This is a great way to show hospitality and to urge policy makers to stand against the Muslim and refugees bans. Many civic groups and congregations have hosted dinners that double as a fundraising event to collect donations and funds to help refugees rebuild their lives and impacted family

members make ends meet. Check out the [Refugees Welcome toolkit](#) to help you prepare a dinner that will build relationships and understanding.

Hold an educational forum about the impact of the refugee and Muslim bans on community members, inviting individuals from the targeted countries to share their experiences in the camps, the security process they went through and how resettlement to the US changed their lives, highlighting positive contributions.

Host a Know Your Rights workshop. Impacted individuals, lawyers, and supportive community members have a lot of questions about how policy changes are impacting people's lives. Hosting a community forum / [Know Your Rights workshop](#) can help inform and empower community members.

Highlight a local refugee-owned business. Ask a local refugee-owned restaurant or coffee/tea shop to hold a public #RefugeesWelcome event and offer an opportunity to both support the business and facilitate intercultural dialogue around refugee issues.

Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper or an [opinion editorial](#). Describe how the bans negatively impact your communities, the many contributions that Muslims and refugees make to your communities and how the bans foster misunderstanding and hate. [Click here](#) to view sample letters you can send and [here](#) for more resources.

Contact Vets for American Ideals, find veterans in your area who are advocating for refugees and hold events framed around the [What I Fought For](#) project.

Use the UNHCR's Passages game to guide your friends through a simulation about the refugee experience.

Hold a religious service on refugee issues and educate your congregation about Islam. Find resources for Christian congregations online at [GreaterAs1.org](#) and resources for Jewish communities at [HIAS](#). [Lead a study group](#) using the "My Neighbor is a Muslim" study guide developed by Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service.

Be Creative! Flash mobs, theater, music, art, postcards to local resettlement offices, flowers and messages of peace in front of mosques. Create your own event.

Reach out to the Media: See this [Draft Media Advisory](#) that can help you develop your own for your local event. A media advisory should be sent to press contacts and partners 1-2 days before the event, and a Press Release can be sent immediately following the event, with key quotes from speakers and highlighting key actions.

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