



DEMAND PROGRESS

July 21, 2020

The Honorable Ted Deutch
The Honorable Kenny Marchant
U.S. House Committee on Ethics
United States House of Representatives
1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Request for Investigation into Representative Ted Yoho

Dear Chairman Deutch and Ranking Member Marchant:

Today *the Hill* reported Rep. Ted Yoho used misogynistic and vulgar language to refer to another Member of Congress on the steps of the U.S. Capitol. Such language is an apparent violation of House Rules and should be investigated by the House Ethics Committee and, if substantiated, punished by the House of Representatives.

Journalist Mike Lillis described a confrontation initiated by Rep. Ted Yoho against Rep. Ocasio-Cortez in an article entitled *Ocasio-Cortez accosted by GOP lawmaker over remarks*.¹ After the conclusion of the exchange, Rep. Yoho reportedly described the lawmaker as a “fucking bitch.”

House Rule XXIII,² which articulates the House of Representatives’ Code of Conduct, prohibits such behavior. It states, as its first rule:

1. A Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, officer, or employee of the House **shall behave at all times in a manner that shall reflect creditably on the House.** (emphasis added)

The public expression of sexist and perjorative language to refer to another Member of Congress – on the steps of the U.S. Capitol – reflects discredibly on the House of Representatives. Congress should be an open and welcoming institution for everyone. We urge the House Ethics Committee to start a formal investigation into Rep. Yoho.

Respectfully yours,

Daniel Schuman
Policy Director

¹ “Ocasio-Cortez accosted by GOP lawmaker over remarks: ‘That kind of confrontation hasn’t ever happened to me,’” Mike Lillis, *The Hill* (July 21, 2020), <https://thehill.com/homenews/house/508259-ocasio-cortez-accosted-by-gop-lawmaker-over-remarks-that-kind-of>.

² Rules of the House of Representatives, 116th Congress
<https://rules.house.gov/sites/democrats.rules.house.gov/files/documents/116-House-Rules-Clerk.pdf>