

#NoBanNoWallNoRaids Talking Points for Congressional Townhalls

Members of the 115th Congress are holding meetings and town halls in their districts during the week of February 18-26th. This is the time to demand that your member of Congress take action on issues affecting immigrants and refugees in light of the executive orders issued by the Trump Administration. Find out more about the events scheduled in your district [here](#) or [here](#).

Step 1. Who You Are. My name is _____ and I'm a resident of _____. *Add a description of your connection to the community (I am a parent; I am a small business owner; I am an immigrant).*

Step 2. Your Concerns. I am particularly concerned about the Administration's efforts to target and criminalize immigrants, refugees and people entering our country from Muslim-majority countries. I want you as a representative of our district to understand the impact of Trump's executive orders and to take action.

Use any of the below talking points to buttress your concerns:

*Trump's executive orders to deport undocumented immigrants, to punish so-called sanctuary cities for defending the Constitution, to ban people from seven Muslim-majority countries, and to shut the door on refugees all have one thing in common: they are rooted in hate, bigotry and a desire to instill fear rather than promote unity. We call this xenophobia, racism, and Islamophobia.

*Each of these executive orders is based on the false premise that immigrants pose a threat to us. They are hateful attacks not only on those newly arriving or seeking entry into the U.S. but to those of us, including U.S. citizens, who have raised families here, paid taxes for years and who have made enormous sacrifices and contributions.

*The policy changes called for in the executive orders are extremist, costly and ineffective, and they will not make us safer. They have wreaked havoc and confusion in airports across the globe and at home, in our schools, workplaces, and backyards. In early February, a Mexican mother was swiftly deported and separated from her two U.S. citizen children for a decade old, minor criminal offense – and despite being safely supervised by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for years. Since the refugee and Muslim ban was announced, talented researchers, doctors and scientists have been unable to take their positions at public universities to further their important work. Syrian refugees who have waited years to escape war are being told that there is no place for them in the land of the free and brave. While our federal courts have stepped up to defend our Constitution, I am worried about the dangerous direction our country is going in.

*We are witnessing a massive militarization of our deportation force, and a supersizing of interior and border patrol agents. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids are occurring in homes and workplaces, and the climate of fear as a result of rumored and reported raids are paralyzing our communities. Parents are afraid to send their children to school.

Pregnant mothers are afraid to get basic nutrition assistance and prenatal care. We are separating families, hurting our economy and targeting the most vulnerable, without accountability from our federal government that is causing this devastation.

*Whether it's by building a wall, shutting refugees out, supersizing a deportation force, or banning Muslims, what's happening is clear: President Trump is turning our immigration system on its head without any regard for the devastating consequences. And these policies affect all of us – not only those most directly targeted but the fabric of our nation as a whole. We have immigrant neighbors, our children go to schools with Muslim students, we work alongside refugees, and many of us come from immigrant families who have struggled and overcome along the way. We cannot turn a blind eye to what is happening in our communities, and neither must you as our representative.

Step 3. Your Demands.

1. **Can I count on you to forcefully** condemn the executive orders relating to a) interior and border immigration enforcement, b) the refugee and Muslim ban and c) any others targeting immigrants on the Senate/House floor?
2. **Can I count on you to** send a letter of concern on behalf of our district to the White House and to the Department of Homeland Security, with specific questions demanding accountability and transparency about the rationale, harm and impact of these executive orders?
3. **Can I count on you to** support legislation in Congress that would block implementation and nullify the effects of these orders and prevent any funding for them?

Senate:

*[S. 274 A bill to nullify the effect of the recent executive order that temporarily restricted individuals from certain countries from entering the United States](#) (introduced by Senator Dianne Feinstein, D-CA)

*[S. 303 PROTECT Immigration Act](#). A bill to discontinue a Federal program that authorizes State and local law enforcement officers to investigate, apprehend, and detain aliens in accordance with a written agreement with the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and to clarify that immigration enforcement is solely a function of the Federal Government (introduced by Senator Cory Booker, D-NJ)

House:

*[SOLVE, or Statue of Liberty Values Act](#), introduced by U.S. Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-Calif.) and John Conyers, Jr. (D-Mich.) (Jan 30) to defund and rescind President Donald Trump's executive order banning travel from Muslim countries and suspending the refugee program.

4. **Can I count on you to** vote against legislation that would enhance the budget for immigration enforcement initiatives at the federal and local levels?

5. **Can I count on you to** meet with organizations that serve, organize and advocate on behalf of Muslim, immigrant and refugee communities in our district to ensure them of your commitment to these concerns?

Resources and Stories

- Summary prepared by the Penn State Law Center for Immigrants' Rights, Feb. 6, 2017
- Frequently Asked Questions: Executive Order "Protecting the Nation from Terrorist Attack by Foreign Nations." National Immigration Law Center, Feb. 2, 2017
- What It Feels Like to Be a Target of Trump's Muslim Ban by Vijay Prashad, *AlterNet* (Feb. 5); Nael Ziano, a refugee from Syria, tells his story of hoping to reunite with his wife and son, but he has a Syrian passport.
- What's at Stake in Trump's Troubled Travel Ban: Stories From Immigrants at the Front Lines by Jason McGahan, *LA Weekly* (Feb. 8): On Jan. 30, Alan Abdullah, a 30-year-old Iraqi, arrived at LAX with his green card, which he obtained by moving to the U.S. with his family last year after earning a special immigration visa in exchange for his service to the United States military. He and many other people that day were detained for hours without contact to their families or lawyers.
- Trump's 'Muslim Ban' Creates Chaos and Prompts Airport Protests, Free Legal Work and Faith Community Condemnation by Deepa Iyer, *Colorlines* (Jan. 30). Explores impact of Muslim ban and the resistance efforts that were sparked by it.
- Articles about the impact of the raids that included arrests of 600 people in [LA](#), [Chicago](#), [NYC](#)

Please contact Avidah Moussavian at the National Immigration Law Center (moussavian@nilc.org) or Deepa Iyer at the Center for Social Inclusion (diyer@thecsi.org) for more information.