



July 20, 2020

Dear Representative,

In advance of the House vote on the National Origin-Based Antidiscrimination for Nonimmigrants Act (the "NO BAN Act"), we write to urge your support for this essential legislation.

The SPLC Action Fund is dedicated to fighting for racial justice alongside impacted communities in pursuit of equity and opportunity for all. We work primarily in the Southeast United States where we have offices in Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Washington, D.C. The SPLC Action Fund promotes policies and laws that will eliminate the structural racism and inequalities that fuel oppression of people of color, immigrants, young people, women, low-income people, and the LGBTQ+ community.

The No BAN Act is designed to end the discriminatory and racist entry bans on Muslims and Africans and prohibit future Presidents from discriminating based on religion in suspending or restricting entry into the United States – with exceptions to ensure protection of national security and public safety. A 2020 expansion of the ban added six more countries with significant Muslim populations – two in Asia and four in Africa, resulting in a ban on over a quarter of all Africans from the United States. In addition to repealing the Muslim Ban, the bill ends President Trump's first asylum ban, which categorically forecloses asylum for all individuals who enter the United States between ports of entry.

The unnecessary, cruel entry bans have dramatically affected millions of Americans, restricting their rights to travel, denying access for those who need lifesaving medical treatment, and unfairly separating them from their families. Spouses, infants, children, and elderly parents have all been separated and trapped overseas. The NO BAN Act will help reunite these families

Further, the Muslim Ban has significantly fueled anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant sentiments and hate violence in the United States. The Muslim and African Bans are bans on people of color and certainly have had the effect of increasing racial and religious bigotry and hate.

Throughout American history prejudice and fear have led to unjust and discriminatory immigration, asylum, and refugee restrictions – often with disastrous consequences for whom entry was barred. Enactment of the NO BAN Act will ensure that no president will be able to ban people for discriminatory purposes without accountability.

The NO BAN Act is historic legislation – the first time Congress will vote on a civil rights law of this scale that protects the rights of Muslims. We urge you to stand on the right side of history. Support the NO BAN Act and oppose any changes or amendments to it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret Huang". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Margaret Huang  
President and CEO