

**Case No. 19-2375**

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT**

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ARAB AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS LEAGUE, ET AL.,

*Plaintiffs-Appellees,*

v.

DONALD J. TRUMP, ET AL.,

*Defendants-Appellants.*

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Appeal from the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan,  
No. 2:17-cv-10310-VAR-SDD (Roberts, J.)

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***Amici Curiae* Brief by  
Advocates for Youth;  
Bend the Arc: A Jewish Partnership for Justice;  
Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights under Law;  
Freedom from Religion Foundation;  
Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund;  
Mississippi Center for Justice;  
National Center for Lesbian Rights; and  
Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs  
In Support of Appellees and for Affirmance of Denial of Motion to Dismiss**

---

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UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT

## Disclosure of Corporate Affiliations and Financial Interest

Sixth Circuit

Case Number: 19-2375

Case Name: Arab American Civil Rights v. Trump

Name of counsel: Lynne Bernabei and Alan R. Kabat

Pursuant to 6th Cir. R. 26.1, Advocates for Youth (amicus)

*Name of Party*

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s/ Alan R. Kabat

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Name of counsel: Lynne Bernabei and Alan R. Kabat

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Case Name: Arab American Civil Rights v. Trump

Name of counsel: Lynne Bernabei and Alan R. Kabat

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Case Name: Arab American Civil Rights v. Trump

Name of counsel: Lynne Bernabei and Alan R. Kabat

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Sixth Circuit

Case Number: 19-2375

Case Name: Arab American Civil Rights v. Trump

Name of counsel: Lynne Bernabei and Alan R. Kabat

Pursuant to 6th Cir. R. 26.1, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund (amicus)  
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Sixth Circuit

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Case Name: Arab American Civil Rights v. Trump

Name of counsel: Lynne Bernabei and Alan R. Kabat

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Case Name: Arab American Civil Rights v. Trump

Name of counsel: Lynne Bernabei and Alan R. Kabat

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Name of counsel: Lynne Bernabei and Alan R. Kabat

Pursuant to 6th Cir. R. 26.1, Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights (amicus)  
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## INTEREST OF AMICI AND SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT

*Amici* are civil rights groups interested in the promotion of civil liberties. *Amici* respectfully submit this brief to advance a key argument in support of affirming the district court’s ruling denying the defendants’ motion to dismiss the claims.<sup>1</sup> The evidentiary record supports plaintiffs’ allegations that the travel ban was based on discriminatory stereotypes. The plaintiffs should be allowed to conduct discovery and litigate their constitutional challenges to President Trump’s September 24, 2017 Executive Order, “Enhancing Vetting Capabilities and Processes for Detecting Attempted Entry into the United States by Terrorists or Other Public-Safety Threats” (the “Executive Order”), because it improperly promotes social categorization and stereotyping that endangers the lives and well-being of members of the Muslim faith.

The Executive Order is the product of several centuries of Muslim stereotyping in this country, and harms even those who are not the direct victims of specific attacks on immigrants. The evidence demonstrates that, regardless of the Government’s *post-hoc* explanations, the Executive Order was motivated by

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<sup>1</sup> *Amici* submit this brief pursuant to Fed. R. App. P. 29(a); all parties have consented to its filing. No counsel for any party participated in the authoring of this document, in whole or in part; no party or party’s counsel contributed any money that was intended to fund preparation or submission of the brief; and no person, other than *Amici Curiae*, their members and their counsel, contributed money that was intended to fund preparation or submission of the brief.

animus toward Muslims and improperly singled out, as a proxy, those born in the targeted majority-Muslim countries.

## ARGUMENT

### **Social Categorization and Stereotyping Create Dangerous Conditions for Members of Minority Groups.**

#### **A. Stereotyping Minorities Creates a Climate for Discrimination.**

As courts have long recognized, laws such as the Executive Order improperly promote social categorization and stereotyping of Muslims that lead to the endangerment of the lives of those who practice Islam, a minority religion.

The Supreme Court has repeatedly stated that discriminatory stereotypes can improperly affect decision making. Most recently, the Supreme Court recognized that disparate impact liability helps prevent segregated housing patterns that might otherwise result from the role of “covert and illicit stereotyping.” *Texas Dep’t of Hous. & Community Affairs v. Inclusive Communities Project, Inc.*, 135 S. Ct. 2507, 2522 (2015); *see also Miller-El v. Dretke*, 545 U.S. 231, 268 (2005) (Breyer, J., concurring) (recognizing that “subtle forms of bias are automatic, unconscious, and unintentional and escape notice, even the notice of those enacting the bias”).

In *Price Waterhouse*, the Supreme Court recognized the role that stereotyping plays in discrimination cases: “stereotyped remarks can certainly be evidence that gender played a part” in an adverse employment decision. *Price Waterhouse v. Hopkins*, 490 U.S. 228, 251 (1989), *superseded by statute on other*

*grounds*, Civil Rights Act of 1991, Pub. L. No. 102-166, 105 Stat. 1075.

In *Windsor*, the Supreme Court emphasized that laws whose “purpose and effect” is “disapproval of ... [a] class” of people “impose a disadvantage, a separate status, and so[w] a stigma” on the targeted group. *United States v. Windsor*, 570 U.S. 744, 770 (2013). The law at issue in that case, the federal Defense of Marriage Act, targeted same-sex couples for discrimination and stigma, just as the challenged Executive Order singles out Muslims for ill-treatment.

Similarly, in *Cleburne*, the Supreme Court explained that “race, alienage, and national origin” are “so seldom relevant” to state interests that “such considerations are deemed to reflect prejudice and antipathy—a view that those in the burdened class are not as worthy or deserving as others.” *Cleburne v. Cleburne Living Ctr.*, 473 U.S. 432, 440 (1985).

Circuit courts also recognize that social categorization and stereotyping create fertile grounds for discrimination. *See, e.g., Hassan v. City of New York*, 804 F.3d 277, 306 (3d Cir. 2015) (rejecting “appeals to ‘common sense’ which might be infected by stereotypes” as insufficient to justify police surveillance of Muslim individuals, businesses, and institutions) (quoting *Reynolds v. Chicago*, 296 F.3d 524, 526 (7th Cir. 2002)); *Ahmed v. Johnson*, 752 F.3d 490, 503 (1st Cir. 2014) (finding “lack of explicitly discriminatory behaviors” does not preclude a finding of “unlawful animus” in employment discrimination because “unlawful

discrimination can stem from stereotypes and other types of cognitive biases, as well as from conscious animus”); *United States v. Stephens*, 421 F.3d 503, 515 (7th Cir. 2005) (racial stereotyping continues to play a role in jury selection and the outcome of trials); *Thomas v. Eastman Kodak Co.*, 183 F.3d 38, 42 (1st Cir. 1999) (Title VII’s ban on “disparate treatment because of race” includes “acts based on conscious racial animus” and “employer decisions that are based on stereotyped thinking”).

Relevant research shows that a psychological triggering phenomenon known as “priming” exacerbates stereotyping. Priming occurs when “subtle influences . . . increase the ease with which certain information comes to mind.” Richard H. Thaler & Cass R. Sunstein, *NUDGE: IMPROVING DECISIONS ABOUT HEALTH, WEALTH, AND HAPPINESS* 69 (2008). For racial stereotyping, which shares many attributes with stereotyping of Muslims, priming an individual with race-based stereotypes can influence the individual’s later decisions. Sandra Graham & Brian S. Lowery, *Priming Unconscious Racial Stereotypes about Adolescent Offenders*, 28 *L. & HUM. BEHAV.* 483, 489 (2004).

Social science research repeatedly demonstrates that people have a persistent tendency to defer blindly to priming from authority figures. *See Stanley Milgram, Behavioral Study of Obedience*, 67 *J. ABNORMAL & SOC. PSYCHOL.* 371, 375-76 (1963). Therefore, as the Supreme Court’s decisions in *Brown v. Board of*

*Education of Topeka*, 347 U.S. 483, 493-94 (1954) and *Loving v. Virginia*, 388 U.S. 1, 8-12 (1967) demonstrate, discrimination with the sanction of law raises unique and particular dangers.

**B. The Executive Order Is the Product of Centuries of Discriminatory Stereotypes About Muslims.**

This country has had a long history of official stereotyping of Muslims as un-American and unworthy of becoming Americans. During the Colonial era, two of the most outspoken public figures who disseminated stereotypes of Muslims (then called “Mahometans”) were Cotton Mather and Aaron Burr—they consistently referred to “Mahometans” in highly derogatory terms, including denouncing “that false Prophet and great Imposter Mahomet.”<sup>2</sup>

Prejudice against Muslims, as expressed through consistent stereotyping, continued throughout the nineteenth century and into the twentieth century.<sup>3</sup> For example, in discussing immigration legislation in 1910, Representative Burnett of

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<sup>2</sup> Thomas S. Kidd, *AMERICAN CHRISTIANS AND ISLAM: EVANGELICAL CULTURE AND MUSLIMS FROM THE COLONIAL PERIOD TO THE AGE OF TERRORISM* 12 (2009); Thomas S. Kidd, “*Is It Worse to Follow Mahomet than the Devil?*” *Early American Uses of Islam*, 72 *CHURCH HISTORY* 766, 771-73, 779-80 (2003).

<sup>3</sup> See, e.g., Erik Love, *ISLAMOPHOBIA AND RACISM IN AMERICA* 41, 86-89 (2017); Jeffrey L. Thomas, *SCAPEGOATING ISLAM: INTOLERANCE, SECURITY, AND THE AMERICAN MUSLIM* 1-14 (2015); Peter Gottschalk & Gabriel Greenberg, *Common Heritage, Uncommon Fear: Islamophobia in the United States and British India, 1687-1947*, in *ISLAMOPHOBIA IN AMERICA: THE ANATOMY OF INTOLERANCE* (Carl W. Ernst ed. 2013).

Alabama repeatedly referred to “Syrians,” then a catch-all term for Middle Eastern immigrants who were Muslims, in derogatory terms. He made clear that he and his colleagues viewed those immigrants as “the dirty Syrian[s] of today,” and among “the least desirable” aliens, because “the Syrians are the same way, mixed up with the Arabians and the people of African and western Asiatic countries, until they are not our kind of people; and they are not the kind of people from which those who settled this country sprang.”<sup>4</sup>

In 1924, when Congress was debating immigration legislation that led to highly restrictive quotas, some legislators similarly made racist remarks and relied on stereotypes about minority immigrants.<sup>5</sup> As set forth in Section C, *infra*, these are the same kind of statements recently made about Muslims.

In this century, stereotyping of Muslims has continued unabated and has even increased, leading to escalating discrimination against Muslims, rising to the level of violence. Even prior to the Executive Orders in 2017, commentators documented and denounced the ongoing stereotyping of Muslims and the ensuing discrimination and violence.

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<sup>4</sup> HEARINGS BEFORE THE H. COMM. ON IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION, 61st Cong. 383, 386, 393, 396 (1910) (statement of Rep. John L. Burnett, Alabama).

<sup>5</sup> Vivian Yee, *Trump’s Jabs Echo Attitudes from the ’20s*, N.Y. TIMES, Jan. 14, 2018, at A-1, A-22.

Professor Barbara Perry, a prominent criminologist and sociologist at the University of Ontario, explained that “many commentators have suggested that Arabs generally and Muslims specifically may” be among “the last ‘legitimate’ subjects of slanderous imagery and stereotypes.” Barbara Perry, *Anti-Muslim Violence in the Post-9/11 Era: Motive Forces*, 4 HATE CRIMES 172, 176 (2009). Political leaders have an outsized impact in fostering this stereotyping and its ensuing discrimination and violence: “Even more powerful in providing justifications for anti-Muslim violence is the explicit exploitation of public images and related fears by political leaders. To the extent that this is so, there emerges a climate that bestows ‘permission to hate.’” *Id.* at 181. Thus, she concluded:

[S]tate practices provide a context and a framework for the broader demonization and marginalization of minority groups. Through its rhetoric and policies, the state absorbs and reflects back onto the public hostile and negative perceptions of the Other—in this case, Muslims. Public expressions of racism by state actors are constituted of and by public sentiments of intolerance, dislike, or suspicion of particular groups. **Thus, the state seems to reaffirm the legitimacy of such beliefs, while at the same time giving them public voice.**

*Id.* at 185 (emphasis added).

Professor Sahar Aziz of the Rutgers University Law School, who testified to Congress on this issue, wrote: “In the United States, numerous polls show a rise in anti-Muslim bias that is manifesting into tangible hate crimes, mosque vandalism, employment discrimination, and bullying of Muslim kids in schools.” Sahar Aziz, *Losing the “War of Ideas”: A Critique of Countering Violent Extremism*



*Programs*, 52 TEXAS INT’L L.J. 255, 265 (2017).

Professor Sheryll Cashin of the Georgetown University Law Center wrote: “Explicit, public anti-Muslim comments do not appear to engender similar widespread outrage” as do racist remarks, and instead “appear to be on the rise,” because of the lack of public rejection of such views. Sheryll Cashin, *To Be Muslim or Muslim-Looking in America: A Comparative Exploration of Racial and Religious Prejudice in the 21st Century*, 2 DUKE FORUM L. & SOC. CHANGE 125, 127-28 (2010). “In the wake of the 9/11 attacks, it is more socially acceptable to express explicit bias against Arabs or Muslims than against blacks or other racial/ethnic groups.” *Id.* at 132.

Muslim stereotyping has manifested in the form of violence against Muslims, or even those who are erroneously perceived as being Muslims, such as Sikhs. A recent study documented that hate incidents in this country “against those who identify or are perceived as South Asian, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, Middle Eastern, and Arab” have increased by two-thirds from the twelve months preceding the election (130 incidents from Nov. 1, 2015 to Nov. 7, 2016) to the twelve months after the election (213 incidents from Nov. 8, 2016 to Nov. 7, 2017).<sup>6</sup> Although the serious under-reporting of such crimes causes the available statistics

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<sup>6</sup> See South Asian Americans Leading Together, COMMUNITIES ON FIRE: CONFRONTING HATE VIOLENCE AND XENOPHOBIC POLITICAL RHETORIC 9 (2018), <http://saalt.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Communities-on-Fire.pdf>.

to understate the actual prevalence of such violence,<sup>7</sup> it is well-documented,<sup>8</sup> and continuing as far as data is available. Indeed, the FBI itself does not report “the hate crimes it investigates to its own database.”<sup>9</sup>

Thus, from Colonial times to the present, this country has had a long and deliberate political tradition of officially stereotyping Muslims, creating an atmosphere that legitimizes and encourages discrimination and violence against Muslims.

As the Supreme Court recognized, when addressing the Executive Order at the preliminary injunction stage, while “Our Presidents have frequently used [their] power to espouse the principles of religious freedom and tolerance on which this Nation was founded . . . it cannot be denied that the Federal Government and the Presidents who have carried its laws into effect have – from the Nation’s earliest days – performed unevenly in living up to those inspiring words.” *Trump v. Hawaii*, 138 S. Ct. 2392, 2418 (2018).

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<sup>7</sup> Todd H. Green, THE FEAR OF ISLAM: AN INTRODUCTION TO ISLAMOPHOBIA IN THE WEST 282-84 (2015) (discussing statistics on crimes against Muslims and problems with underreporting); *see generally* U.S. Dep’t of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Special Report, HATE CRIME VICTIMIZATION, 2004-2015 (2017) (noting problems with underreporting and different methodologies for categorizing these crimes).

<sup>8</sup> Aziz, 52 TEXAS INT’L L.J., at 266-68 & nn.65-80 (collecting recent examples of violence against Muslims).

<sup>9</sup> *See* COMMUNITIES ON FIRE, *supra* note 6, at 13 & n.23.

### C. The Executive Order Is Based on Stereotypes About Muslims as “Anti-American” and “Terrorists”

The Muslim ban bears the imprimatur of the Executive Branch and engenders precisely the discriminatory harms that the Supreme Court has held cannot withstand constitutional muster. Since December 7, 2015, when then-candidate Trump issued a written statement calling for a “total and complete shutdown on Muslims entering the United States,” in the wake of the attack in San Bernardino, California, a “Muslim ban” has been a major item on his policy agenda. *Int’l Refugee Assistance Project v. Trump*, 857 F.3d 554, 575 (4th Cir. 2017) (*en banc*).<sup>10</sup> At that time, his campaign characterized a bar on Muslim entry into the United States as a way to stop residents of this country from being the “victims of the horrendous attacks by people that believe only in Jihad.” *Id.* He did so with no apparent evidence other than extensive stereotyping.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Similarly, stereotyped statements about Chinese immigrants were made by both political parties and by candidates in the Presidential elections in the 1870s and 1880s. See Polly J. Price, *A “Chinese Wall” at the Nation’s Borders: Justice Stephen Field and The Chinese Exclusion Case*, 43 J. SUP. CT. HIST. 7, 11 & n.28, 12 & nn.35-36 (2018). The Supreme Court’s decision upholding the ban on Chinese immigration reflected these stereotypes. *Id.* at 13 & nn.49-51; *Chae Chan Ping v. United States (The Chinese Exclusion Case)*, 130 U.S. 581, 595 (1889).

<sup>11</sup> See generally *Int’l Refugee Assistance Project v. Trump*, 883 F.3d 233, 266 n.15 (4th Cir. 2018) (*en banc*) (listing campaign statements); see also Christine Wang, *Trump Website Takes Down Muslim Ban Statement After Reporter Grills Spicer in Briefing*, CNBC.COM (May 8, 2017), <https://www.cnbc.com/2017/05/08/trump-website-takes-down-muslim-ban-statement-after-reporter-grills-spicer-in-briefing.html>.

Mr. Trump's labeling of Muslims as "terrorists" has been relentless. On January 4, 2016, the Trump campaign premiered its first television advertisement, in which he "call[ed] for a total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States" until doubts about "radical Islamic terrorism" can be "figure[d] out."<sup>12</sup> The link he drew between "radical Islamic terrorism" and all individual Muslims entering the United States was stated with no supporting evidence. Subsequently, candidate Trump, in a major foreign policy speech on April 27, 2016, stated: "The struggle against radical Islam also takes place in our homeland. . . . We must stop importing extremism through senseless immigration policies."<sup>13</sup> He made these statements, relying entirely on stereotypes, and presenting no evidence or facts to support these claims.<sup>14</sup> A number of other federal, state, and

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<sup>12</sup> Jeremy Diamond, *Donald Trump: Ban all Muslim Travel to United States*, CNN POLITICS (Dec. 8, 2015), <http://edition.cnn.com/2015/12/07/politics/donald-trump-muslim-ban-immigration>; see also Jill Colvin and Steve Peoples, *Trump's First TV Ad Pushes Proposal to Ban Muslims from Entering U.S.*, THE GLOBE AND MAIL (TORONTO), Jan. 5, 2016, at A-9.

<sup>13</sup> N.Y. TIMES, *Transcript: Donald Trump's Foreign Policy Speech* (April 27, 2016), <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/28/us/politics/transcript-trump-foreign-policy.html>.

<sup>14</sup> Although President Trump has publicly labeled Muslims as dangerous "terrorists," he has failed to condemn the hate crimes perpetuated *against* them. See, e.g., Jack Moore, *Trump's Failure to Condemn Minnesota Mosque Attacks Stirs Social Media Anger*, NEWSWEEK (Aug. 7, 2017), <http://www.newsweek.com/trump-failure-condemn-minnesota-mosque-attack-stirs-social-media-anger-647694> (President Trump's silence following a January 2017 shooting at a Quebec mosque, June 2017 attacks in Virginia and London, and an August 2017 bomb attack at a mosque in Minnesota).

local elected officials and candidates similarly made stereotyped statements about Muslims during campaigns or while in office.<sup>15</sup>

As a matter of law, this Court can rely on campaign statements as part of its analysis of whether the Executive Orders reflect illegal stereotyping and bias against Muslims. For example, campaign statements by the successful candidate for Mayor of Yonkers – in which he “promised ... to impose a moratorium on all subsidized housing in Yonkers” – evidenced the “intent to preserve the existing racial imbalance” in that city. *United States v. Yonkers Bd. of Educ.*, 837 F.2d 1181, 1191, 1222 (2d Cir. 1987). Similarly, campaign promises by Roy Moore, made while running for the position of Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court, *i.e.*, that he would install the Ten Commandments monument inside the courthouse, could be used as evidence of his intent to violate the Establishment Clause. *Glassroth v. Moore*, 335 F.3d 1282, 1285-87, 1292 (11th Cir. 2003).

More generally, “the historical background of the decision [to discriminate] is one evidentiary source, particularly if it reveals a series of official actions taken for invidious purposes.” *Arlington Heights v. Metropolitan Housing Devel. Corp.*, 429 U.S. 252, 267 (1977) (citations omitted).

The Supreme Court’s recent decision addressing the administration’s

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<sup>15</sup> See COMMUNITIES ON FIRE, *supra* note 6, at 21 & App. B, at 60-71 (collecting statements).

rescinding an immigration relief program (DACA) is consistent with this approach. There, the President’s statements about Latino immigrants were “remote in time and made in unrelated contexts,” not “contemporary statements.” *Dept. of Homeland Security v. Regents of the Univ. of Cal.*, 140 S. Ct. 1891, 1916 (2020). Here, in contrast, the President’s statements about Muslim immigrants were made contemporaneous to all three iterations of the travel ban, and made in context with adopting and enforcing the travel ban.

Here, as in *Yonkers*, *Glassroth*, and *Arlington Heights*, evidence of campaign statements and promises is probative of the intent to discriminate against Muslims—an intent that was implemented just one week after the Inauguration, when President Trump issued the first of a series of Executive Orders that all shared the same goal of fulfilling his campaign pledge.

On January 27, 2017, only one week after the Inauguration, President Trump signed Executive Order 13,769, “Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States.” 82 FED. REG. 8977 (Feb. 1, 2017). Among other immigration restrictions, Executive Order 13,769 temporarily banned all nationals from seven majority-Muslim countries from entering the United States: Iran, Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Yemen, Libya, and Somalia. Rudy Giuliani, an advisor to the President, “stated that President Trump told him that he wanted a ‘Muslim ban,’” and directed him to figure out how to do it. *Int’l Refugee Assistance Project*, 857

F.3d at 577; *see also Int'l Refugee Assistance Project*, 883 F.3d at 251, 266.

While surrogates of the Administration pushed back at the characterization of Executive Order 13,769 as a “Muslim ban,” the President embraced it. He told the public via Twitter, “[c]all it what you want, it is about keeping bad people (with bad intentions) out of [the] country!”<sup>16</sup> As the Government admitted in the courts, the President’s tweets are official statements.<sup>17</sup> Throughout his campaign, and now in office, President Trump has consistently labeled Muslims as “bad people” who must be kept out of America in the interest of national security. Only one week after the Supreme Court heard oral argument in *Hawaii*, President Trump emphasized that “there’s no reason to apologize” for his statements.<sup>18</sup>

After multiple lower courts enjoined enforcement of E.O. 13,769,<sup>19</sup> and after

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<sup>16</sup> Jane Onyanga-Omara, *British PM Criticizes Trump’s Travel Ban; Theresa May Calls Controversial Move “Divisive and Wrong,”* USA TODAY, Feb. 2, 2017, at 5A.

<sup>17</sup> *Int'l Refugee Assistance Project*, 883 F.3d at 251 (“then-White House Press Secretary Spicer explained that President Trump’s tweets are ‘official statements by the President of the United States’”); *id.* at 346 (Keenan, J., concurring) (“The Government acknowledges that the President’s tweets, for example, constitute ‘official’ statements of the President.”).

<sup>18</sup> Adam Liptak, *President Says He Won’t Apologize for His Remarks Over “Muslim Ban,”* N.Y. TIMES, May 1, 2018, at A-15.

<sup>19</sup> *Washington v. Trump*, No. 2:17-cv-141, Temporary Restraining Order, 2017 WL 462040 (W.D. Wash. Feb. 3, 2017), *motion for stay denied*, 847 F.3d 1151 (9th Cir. 2017); *Tootkaboni v. Trump*, No. 1:17-cv-10154, Temporary Restraining Order, 2017 WL 386550 (D. Mass. Jan. 29, 2017); *Darweesh v. Trump*, No. 1:17-cv-480, Temporary Restraining Order, 2017 WL 388504 (E.D.N.Y. Jan. 28, 2017); *Aziz v. Trump*, 234 F. Supp. 3d 724 (E.D. Va. 2017) (preliminary injunction).

the Fourth Circuit upheld an injunction of the revised Order, E.O. 13,780, for similarly targeting only majority-Muslim countries as proxies for all Muslims,<sup>20</sup> President Trump issued the third iteration of the Executive Order on September 24, 2017. *See* Proclamation 9645, “Enhancing Vetting Capabilities and Processes for Detecting Attempted Entry Into the United States by Terrorists or Other Public-Safety Threats,” 82 Fed. Reg. 45,161 (Sept. 27, 2017). Although that order purported to expand its scope into non-Muslim countries by including North Korea and Venezuela, the United States has hardly any visitors from North Korea, and the order as to Venezuela was limited to certain high-level officials. *Id.* The Administration issued a report asserting that the majority of terrorism convictions were of foreign-born individuals.<sup>21</sup> However, that report was based on flawed statistical analyses, including undercounting incidents of domestic terrorism.<sup>22</sup>

The third version of the Executive Order continues to target Muslims. The Fourth Circuit rejected the Government’s argument that “the inclusion of those two

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<sup>20</sup> *Int’l Refugee Assistance Project v. Trump*, 857 F.3d 554 (4th Cir. 2017) (*en banc*), vacated as moot by *Trump v. Int’l Refugee Assistance Project*, 138 S. Ct. 353 (2017).

<sup>21</sup> Dep’t of Homeland Security and Dep’t of Justice, EXECUTIVE ORDER 13780: PROTECTING THE NATION FROM FOREIGN TERRORIST ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES, INITIAL SECTION 11 REPORT (Jan. 16, 2018), <https://www.justice.gov/opa/press-release/file/1026436/download>.

<sup>22</sup> Devlin Barrett, *As U.S. Agencies Link Terrorism and Immigration, Expert Sees Fuzzy Math*, WASH. POST, Jan. 17, 2018, at A-10.



non-Muslim majority countries,” North Korea and Venezuela, “underscores a religion-neutral purpose.” *Int’l Refugee Assistance Project*, 883 F.3d at 268.

Instead, “a reasonable observer could hardly ‘swallow the claim’ that the addition of North Korea and Venezuela to the twice-enjoined travel ban was anything more than an attempt to ‘cast off’ the ‘unmistakable’ religious objective of the earlier executive orders.” *Id.* (quoting *McCreary County v. Amer. Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky*, 545 U.S. 844, 871-72 (2005)). Thus, “approximately 80 percent of all the Muslim refugees who resettled in the United States over the past two years were from the targeted countries.”<sup>23</sup> Indeed, “of the refugees who came to the U.S. over the last two years from all of the other countries . . . approximately 70 percent were Christian and just 16 percent were Muslim.” *Id.*

The district court below similarly found that the President’s statements “reveal numerous actions being taken for discriminatory purposes” and evidenced “irrational prejudice against Muslims.” R.138, PageID.2751-52 [399 F. Supp. 3d 717, 729 (E.D. Mich. 2019)].

The government’s intent to ban Muslims will exacerbate widespread discrimination that Muslims already face. The official action of marking a group,

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<sup>23</sup> Dalia Lithwick & Jeremy Stahl, *Sneak Attack: Trump Is Trying to Secretly Push Through Another Muslim Ban*, SLATE, JURISPRUDENCE (Nov. 10, 2017), [http://www.slate.com/articles/news\\_and\\_politics/jurisprudence/2017/11/trump\\_is\\_trying\\_to\\_secretly\\_sneak\\_through\\_another\\_muslim\\_ban.html](http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/jurisprudence/2017/11/trump_is_trying_to_secretly_sneak_through_another_muslim_ban.html).

Muslims, as dangerous, drives societal biases against them and creates conditions where violence against them is seen as more acceptable because they are perceived, in President Trump's words, to be "bad people."

In 2011, the Pew Research Center surveyed Western cultures to determine which characteristics Westerners associate with people in the Muslim world. That survey found that about half of the respondents characterized Muslims as "violent," and more than half characterized Muslims as "fanatical."<sup>24</sup>

It is no surprise that the Pew Research Center's 2017 survey of Muslims in this country found that discrimination against them was increasing, and that Muslims are even more concerned in light of the President's Executive Orders.<sup>25</sup>

In a news analysis discussing ongoing social science research relating to stereotyping against the most recent Muslim immigrants in this country and Canada, *Science* magazine recognized: "Prejudice of course can be directed against any group by any other. But immigrants, and even more so refugees and asylum seekers, may be especially vulnerable because of their tenuous place in a larger

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<sup>24</sup> Pew Research Center, Global Attitudes Project, *Muslim-Western Tensions Persist* (July 21, 2011), <http://www.pewglobal.org/2011/07/21/muslim-western-tensions-persist/#>.

<sup>25</sup> Pew Research Center, *U.S. Muslims Concerned About Their Place in Society, but Continue to Believe in the American Dream* (July 26, 2017), <http://www.pewforum.org/2017/07/26/findings-from-pew-research-centers-2017-survey-of-us-muslims/>; see also Abigail Hauslohner, *Anti-Muslim Discrimination on Rise in U.S., Study Finds*, WASH. POST, July 26, 2017, at A-3.

society.” Jennifer Couzin-Frankel, *Battling Bias: How Can We Blunt Prejudice Against Immigrants?*, 350 SCIENCE 687, 688 (May 19, 2017). This applies with even greater force to child immigrants and refugees, who are even more vulnerable than their parents. (The recent escalation of deportation orders similarly harms child immigrants and refugees.)

Recent social science research demonstrates both the already-existing climate of prejudice against Muslims and Arabs and the unconscious nature of that bias. “Non-Arab and non-Muslim test takers manifested strong implicit bias against Muslims. These results are in sharp contrast to self-reported attitudes.” Carol Izumi, *Implicit Bias and the Illusion of Mediator Neutrality*, 34 WASH. U. J. L. & POL. 71, 93 (2010). A “sample of U.S. citizens on average viewed Muslims and Arabs as not sharing their interests and stereotyped them as not especially sincere, honest, friendly, or warm.” Susan T. Fiske, et al., *Policy Forum: Why Ordinary People Torture Enemy Prisoners*, 206 SCIENCE 1482-83 (Nov. 26, 2004).

**D. Government Legitimization of Muslim Stereotypes Has Encouraged Violence Against Muslims, and Inhibited Millions of Muslims in the Practice of Their Religion.**

There can be no doubt that, given its origin and history, the Executive Order is based on the social categorization of Muslims as “anti-American,” “terrorists,” those with “hatred for Americans,” and “bad people.” President Trump’s repeated, unsubstantiated claims that Muslims are dangerous, and should be barred from

entering the country, are just the cue needed to release otherwise suppressed and legally prohibited violence against Muslims. The deliberate stereotyping of Muslims as “dangerous” and “terrorists,” and his ban on their immigration, places an official imprimatur on those stereotypes, magnifying their effect.

The Supreme Court, in *Cleburne*, held that a city council’s insistence that a group home for individuals with intellectual disabilities obtain a special-use permit to operate was premised on nearby property owners’ unsubstantiated “negative attitudes or fears,” which were impermissible bases for disparate treatment.

*Cleburne v. Cleburne Living Ctr.*, 473 U.S. 432, 448 (1985). Although “[p]rivate biases may be outside the reach of the law . . . the law cannot, directly or indirectly, give them effect.” *Id.* (quoting *Palmore v. Sidoti*, 466 U.S. 429, 433 (1984)). Here, too, the law cannot give effect to private biases against Muslims.

### **1. Government Stereotyping Leads to Violence and Discrimination.**

When someone in a position of authority, as is President Trump, categorizes Muslims as dangerous and as terrorists, he communicates that they are “outsiders” and not full members of the political community. By way of illustration, the Supreme Court found unconstitutional a school-sponsored religious message, delivered over the school’s public address system, by a speaker representing the student body, under the supervision of the faculty, and pursuant to a school policy. *Santa Fe Indep. School Dist. v. Doe*, 530 U.S. 290, 309-10 (2000). The Supreme

Court’s reasoning was based on its view that the school policy created two classes of people—those who adhered to the favored religion, and those who did not. *Id.*

The President’s steadfast support of what he calls a “Muslim ban” similarly sends the message that those who adhere to Islam are not part of American society, as opposed to non-Muslims, who are favored by the ban. He “sends a message to non-adherents [to the Christian faith] that they are outsiders, not full members of the political community, and an accompanying message to adherents that they are insiders, favored members of the political community.” *Lynch v. Donnelly*, 465 U.S. 668, 688 (1984) (O’Connor, J., concurring); *see also Lawrence v. Texas*, 539 U.S. 558, 575 (2003) (“When homosexual conduct is made criminal by the law of the State, that declaration in and of itself is an invitation to subject homosexual persons to discrimination in both the public and in the private spheres.”). As the Supreme Court recognized in *Windsor*, such official actions have a particularly harmful impact on the children and their families who are harmed (here, through being separated by the travel ban): “The law in question makes it even more difficult for the children to understand the integrity and closeness of their own family and its concord with other families in their community and in their daily lives.” *Windsor*, 570 U.S. at 772.

As the Fourth Circuit recognized, “an objective observer could conclude that the President’s repeated statements convey the primary purpose of the

Proclamation—to exclude Muslims from the United States.” *Int’l Refugee Assistance Project*, 883 F.3d at 268. The Executive Order and the President’s statements characterize Muslims as homogenous and a national threat and thereby engender a climate conducive to violence against Muslims.

## **2. The President’s Statements Have Encouraged Violence.**

This Administration tolerated, if not encouraged, crimes against Muslims, through its determination to implement the travel ban affecting them – in effect telling all Muslims (whether born here or abroad) – that they do not belong here. Just over 20 percent of the 213 hate violence incidents in the twelve months after the 2016 election “referenced President Trump, a Trump policy, or a Trump campaign slogan.”<sup>26</sup>

In February 2016, only two months after candidate Trump’s December 7, 2015 and January 4, 2016 statements (*supra*), three nationalists in Kansas (the “Crusaders,” a militia group) engaged in a conspiracy to use weapons of mass destruction “to carry out a violent attack against Muslims in their community” by “destroy[ing] an apartment complex in Garden City, Kansas, which contains a mosque and is home to many Muslims.”<sup>27</sup> They openly discussed going to

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<sup>26</sup> See COMMUNITIES ON FIRE, *supra* note 6, at 10.

<sup>27</sup> *United States v. Allen, et al.*, No. 6:16-cr-10141, Criminal Complaint, at ¶¶ 2, 9 (ECF No. 1) (D. Kan. Oct. 14, 2016).

apartments known to house refugees to “start kicking in the doors of the Somali apartments, and kill them one by one,” and then expanded their target to include “city/county commission meetings, local public officials, landlords who rent property to Muslim refugees, and organizations providing assistance to Muslim refugees,” since “the only good Muslim is a dead Muslim.”<sup>28</sup>

The February 22, 2017 shooting of Srinivas Kuchibhotla and Alok Madasani in Olathe, Kansas is the most horrifying example of the social categorization of Muslims as enemies of the American people.<sup>29</sup> Kuchibhotla and Madasani, two engineers at a local technology company, both Indian immigrants, had gathered with co-workers at a bar near their office to watch a local college basketball game. Also at that bar was Adam Purinton, who erroneously thought that both Kuchibhotla and Madasani were Iranians (one of the nationalities targeted by the Executive Order and its predecessors as barred from entry into the United States). Purinton shot them, telling them to “get out of our country!” Kuchibhotla was killed, and Madasani was wounded. Purinton fled into Missouri and told a

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<sup>28</sup> *Id.*, at ¶¶ 13, 19. The three defendants were convicted. *Id.*, Amended Judgments (ECF Nos. 493, 495, 497) (D. Kan. Feb. 4, 2019).

<sup>29</sup> Audra D. S. Burch, *Facing a Void Left by Hate*, N.Y. TIMES, July 9, 2017, at A1, A12-A13; Matt Stevens, *Justice Dept. Calls Killing in Kansas a Hate Crime*, N.Y. TIMES, June 10, 2017, at A18; John Eligon, et al., *Drinks at a Bar, Ethnic Insults, then Gunshots*, N.Y. TIMES, Feb. 25, 2017, A1, A17; see also *United States v. Purinton*, No. 2:17-cr-20028, Indictment (D. Kan. June 9, 2017).

bystander that he needed to hide out because he had just shot two “Iranians.”

Putting aside Purinton’s stereotyped view that his victims were Iranians simply because they were foreign-born immigrants, his actions demonstrate the danger that social categorization can cause by exaggerating both the distance between in-groups (“real Americans”) and out-groups (“Iranians”), as well as the homogeneity of the out-group.<sup>30</sup> The travel ban against Muslims does just that.

In addition, a rash of arsons and vandalism at mosques occurred after the issuance of E.O. 13,769. On January 28, 2017, one day after the first Order, a fire destroyed the Islamic Center of Victoria, Texas.<sup>31</sup> On February 24, 2017, a blaze broke out at the Daarus Salaam Mosque near Tampa, Florida.<sup>32</sup> Combined with two arsons of mosques shortly before President Trump’s inauguration, the United States has seen an unprecedented surge of hate crimes against the Muslim

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<sup>30</sup> Purinton pled guilty to state-court murder charges. John Eligon, *Man Pleads Guilty in Migrant’s Murder*, N.Y. TIMES, March 7, 2018, at A-17. He also pled guilty in his federal case and was sentenced for life. See *United States v. Purinton*, No. 2:17-cr-20028, Judgment (D. Kan. Aug. 8, 2018).

<sup>31</sup> U.S. Attorney’s Office, Southern District of Texas, *Victoria Man Charged with Hate Crime in Burning of Mosque* (June 22, 2017), <https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdtx/pr/victoria-man-charged-hate-crime-burning-mosque>; Anonymous, *Fire Destroys Texas Mosque in Early Hours*, N.Y. TIMES, Jan. 29, 2017, at A4; see also *United States v. Perez*, No. 6:17-cr-00035, Judgment (S.D. Tex. Oct. 23, 2018).

<sup>32</sup> Tony Marrero, *Mosque Fire Deliberately Set*, TAMPA BAY TIMES, Feb. 25, 2017, at 1; Anonymous, *2nd Florida Mosque Hit by Arson in Past 6 Months*, ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH, Feb. 25, 2017, at A6.



community.<sup>33</sup> During the twelve month period immediately following the November 2016 election, there were 213 such hate incidents against Muslims and others from the Middle East and South Asia.<sup>34</sup> Other recent attacks on mosques in the United States include an explosion at a mosque in Bloomington, Minnesota in August 2017.<sup>35</sup>

On March 3, 2017, a Sikh man was shot in his Kent, Washington driveway when a man approached him and said, “go back to your own country.”<sup>36</sup>

It is undeniable that the public interest in this country is best served by tolerance of both foreign-born and American-born adherents of different religions. The public interest is not served by discriminatory stereotyping against Muslims that legitimizes or encourages discrimination and violence, or by a law which gives effect to private biases.

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<sup>33</sup> Albert Samaha & Talal Ansari, *Four Mosques Have Burned in Seven Weeks – Leaving Many Muslims and Advocates Stunned*, BUZZFEEDNEWS (Feb. 28, 2017), <https://www.buzzfeed.com/albertsamaha/four-mosques-burn-as-2017-begins>; Taylor Goldenstein, *Blaze Completely Destroys Islamic Center’s Building*, AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN, Jan. 8, 2017, at B1.

<sup>34</sup> See COMMUNITIES ON FIRE, *supra* note 6, at 9 & App. A, at 34-59 (collecting 213 hate incidents).

<sup>35</sup> Nick Corasaniti, *Minnesota Mosque Shaken by an Early-Morning Blast*, N.Y. TIMES, Aug. 6, 2017, at A-19; Kurtis Lee, *U.S. Muslims on Edge after Bombing; The FBI Is Leading the Investigation into an Attack that Damaged a Minnesota Mosque*, L.A. TIMES, Aug. 6, 2017, at A-10.

<sup>36</sup> Ellen Barry, *U.S. and Indian Officials Condemn Shooting of Sikh*, N.Y. TIMES, Mar. 6, 2017, at A-9; Cleve R. Wootson, *Sikh Man, 39, Shot in Suspected Hate Crime*, WASH. POST, Mar. 5, 2017, at A-3.

The insidious effect of the Muslim ban does not impact only those persons seeking to enter the United States from the six designated countries. Instead, by promoting social stereotypes and priming individuals to act on those stereotypes, the ban creates fertile grounds for violence against all minorities. The Executive Order fundamentally threatens the American ideal of a diverse society working across divisions for the greater societal good.

The social categorization, discrimination, and stereotyping engendered by the travel ban will have an even more damaging effect on Muslim children, who are the target of over 25 percent of these hate incidents.<sup>37</sup> Just as the Supreme Court found in *Brown*—that segregation had a damaging effect on the self-worth and inclusion of African-American children, in violation of the Equal Protection Clause—the Proclamation (and its predecessor Executive Orders) will have a damaging effect on the self-worth of Muslim children and their feeling of inclusion in our society, in violation of the Establishment Clause.

**3. Stereotyping and Discrimination Harms All Americans, Not Just Those Directly Affected by Specific Acts.**

Social science research has consistently demonstrated that stereotyping of any group harms all individuals in that group, even those who are not directly affected by specific acts of violence or discrimination. Professor Jack McDevitt

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<sup>37</sup> See COMMUNITIES ON FIRE, *supra* note 6, at 15.

and several other researchers recognized:

Because bias crimes have the unique impact of reaching far beyond the primary victim, due to the dimension of victim interchangeability, every member of the minority group who is aware of the crime is affected by a solitary crime against one individual minority member.

Jack McDevitt et al., *Consequences for Victims: A Comparison of Bias- and Non-Bias-Motivated Assaults*, 45 AM. BEHAVIORAL SCIENTIST 697, 712 (2001).

Similarly, violent crimes on the basis of religious stereotypes, *i.e.*, against Muslims, have the same broader impact as do terrorist crimes:

[T]errorism and violent hate crimes . . . have at least one basic characteristic in common: the violence inflicted on the victims is also aimed at a larger community. . . . hate crimes directly target individual members of a social group but indirectly send a message of intolerance to the entire group. The victims of hate crimes are selected because of their symbolic value as representatives of the entire social group.

Jeffrey L. Thomas, *SCAPEGOATING ISLAM: INTOLERANCE, SECURITY, AND THE AMERICAN MUSLIM* 137 (2015).

Senator John McCain recently recognized this fundamental principle when he criticized several fellow members of Congress who had made *ad hominem* attacks on a former government official due to that person's Muslim heritage:

When anyone—not least a member of Congress—launches specious and degrading attacks against fellow Americans on the basis of nothing more than fear of who they are and ignorance of what they stand for, it defames the spirit of our Nation, and we all grow poorer because of it.

158 CONG. REC. S5106 (daily ed. July 18, 2012) (statement of Sen. John McCain).

As the Ninth Circuit recognized in finding that enjoining the Executive Order was in the public interest, the harms caused are substantial:

In assessing the public interest, we are reminded of Justice Murphy's wise words: "All residents of this nation are kin in some way by blood or culture to a foreign land." *Korematsu v. United States*, 323 U.S. 214, 242 (1944) (Murphy, J., dissenting). It cannot be in the public interest that a portion of this country be made to live in fear. We note, too, that the cited harms are extensive and extend beyond the community.

*Hawaii v. Trump*, 878 F.3d 662, 700 (9th Cir. 2017) (*per curiam*).

Here, too, the latest Executive Order and the underlying statements by the President have only encouraged stereotyping of Muslims, which has adversely affected all Muslims in the United States and has harmed our society as a whole.

### CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, and those set forth in the Appellees' Brief, *Amici Curiae* respectfully request that this Court affirm the judgment of the district court denying the defendants' motion to dismiss the plaintiffs' claims.

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Respectfully submitted,

*/s/ Lynne Bernabei*

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## CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

This brief complies with the typeface requirements of Fed. R. App. P. 32(a)(5) and the type style requirements of Fed. R. App. P. 32(a)(6) because it uses a proportionally spaced typeface (Times New Roman) in 14-point. It was prepared using Microsoft Word. It complies with the type-volume limits of Fed. R. App. P. 29(a)(5) because it contains 6,491 words, which is less than half of the 13,000 words allowed for principal briefs under Fed. R. App. P. 32(a)(7)(B)(i).

/s/ Alan R. Kabat  
Alan R. Kabat

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on July 31, 2020, I electronically filed the foregoing document with the Clerk of the Court for the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit by using the appellate CM/ECF system. Participants in the case are registered CM/ECF users, and service will be accomplished by the appellate CM/ECF system.

*/s/ Alan R. Kabat*  
Alan R. Kabat