



## **American Leaders Against Hate and Anti-Muslim Bigotry**

Fighting hate and promoting inclusion and respect should be a part of all of our work, permanently. But today, too many people in our nation are targeted, profiled, and discriminated against because of their religious background, race, and a host of other identities they have or are perceived to have. . It's devastating and it needs to stop.

This year, Local Progress and the Young Elected Officials Network are partnering in an effort to fight back against anti-Muslim bigotry, and the related xenophobia, racism, and hate that surrounds it. Hate crimes have spiked in recent months. The 2016 presidential campaign has been marked by xenophobic and racist rhetoric, as well as calls for horrendous public policies based on religious discrimination. Much of right-wing America has embraced this rhetoric. We believe progressive leaders must stand together to reject it and denounce anti-Muslim bigotry.

This summer and fall, the members of Local Progress and the Young Elected Officials Network will be joining forces, hand-in-hand with our constituents – including many from the Muslim, Arab, and South Asian communities – to speak out on this issue. We hope you will join us.

### **How Can You Get Involved?**

1. [Sign this letter](#) and pledge to stand up against anti-Muslim bigotry and other forms of hate. We will be releasing it in early September.
2. Spread the word and invite your colleagues to sign the letter too. In [this sign-up form](#) you can identify prospects and we will follow up with them.
3. Hold an event with community or faith leaders in your cities talking about these issues and partnering with them in this effort.
4. Pass a resolution through your council or school board standing up against anti-Muslim bigotry and hate. We'll provide you with templates and language that you can adapt to your specific community and circumstances. Additionally, for those interested, we will elevate your voices through our press and social media outlets.

We will also provide you with resources on messaging, fact sheets, research briefs, and template materials to assist you throughout this effort, including sample programs and policies to promote inclusion and equity in your localities. If you have a program or policy you'd like to share, please contact us.

### **What Are Our Goals in Doing This Work?**

1. We want Local Progress and YEO Network members to begin building and strengthening genuine relationships with the Muslim, Arab, and South Asian (MASA) communities in your cities.
2. We want to show support for policies that reflect our best American ideals, in the form of resolutions and initiatives across the country.
3. We want Local Progress and YEO Network members to stand up publicly, together, to reject bigotry. In doing so, we will show solidarity with MASA communities across the country.
4. We want to build our networks as communities of leading elected officials across the country who can partner together to advance causes that we believe in. We hope to use this campaign as a model we can replicate for other issues going forward that our members prioritize.