

MAMDANI WATCH

Special Report

[Unmasking Zohran Mamdani–August 20, 2025](#) *(This comprehensive 18-page report by Bill Donohue is the first installment of a series of posts tracking Zohran Mamdani.)*

News Releases

[Don't Blame NYC Mayor Ed Koch For AIDS–June 1, 2026](#)

[Mamdani Will Not March With Jews–May 29, 2026](#)

[Interfaith Rally Sears Mamdani–May 27, 2026](#)

[Interfaith Rally to Protest Mamdani–May 25, 2026](#)

[Anti-Israel Mob Threatens NYC Jews–May 7, 2026](#)

[Mamdani's Diamond Fetish And The Brits–May 1, 2026](#)

[Mamdani's Quest To Rape The Rich–April 29, 2026](#)

[Mamdani's Anti-Religion Allies–April 16, 2026](#)

[How Mamdani Treats Key Religious Days–March 30, 2026](#)

[Taliban Outclasses Mamdani And Sherrill–March 25, 2026](#)

[Mamdani Milks "Islamophobia"–March 19, 2026](#)

[Mamdani Rips Off St. Patrick's Day–March 17, 2026](#)

[Mamdani Unsure He's Marching In St. Pat's Parade–March 16, 2026](#)

[Playing The Religion Card–March 5, 2026](#)

[Mamdani Stiffs Catholics For Third Time–February 9, 2026](#)

[Unmasking Mamdani's Anti-ICE "Volunteers"–February 4, 2026](#)

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[Meet Mamdani’s Inaugural Staff–December 30, 2025](#)

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[Why Mamdani Didn’t March With Veterans–November 12, 2025](#)

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[Does Mamdani Hate Minorities?–October 6, 2025](#)

[Mamdani’s Communist Roots–September 30, 2025](#)

In the News

[“Why Mamdani Mentioned Palestinians in His St. Patrick’s Day Message,”](#) *New York Times*, March 18

“Bill Donohue...criticized the mayor, who is Muslim, saying he had turned a St. Patrick’s Day message into ‘a radical Muslim rant.’”

[“Sid and Friends in the Morning,”](#) WABC Radio, March 17

“Now he wants to march in the St. Patrick’s Day Parade because he’s getting pounded.”

“On the front page of the Catholic League there’s something called ‘Mamdani Watch,’ and every day we are posting some stuff on it about him being anti-Jewish, being anti-Catholic, being anti-cop. I wrote an 18-page statement on him in August and I know this guy like the back of my hand and if he wants

to debate Bill, I'll do it right here at WABC."

["Mamdani rips Palestinian 'genocide' at St. Patrick's Day event – after he botches answer on unified Ireland,"](#) *New York Post*, March 17

"The remarks drew criticism from Bill Donohue, president of the Catholic League, who rapped Mamdani for politicizing St. Patrick's Day.

"'Mamdani is a master of the politics of victimization. He delighted his left-wing Irish friends by saying, "The story of the Irish, both in Ireland and in New York City, is at one time a story of oppression, of subjugation, and of discrimination,"' Donohue said in a statement.

"'This is the mentality of the Left. He sees oppression everywhere, nicely teeing it up for guys like him to rescue victims from their oppressors.'"

["Mamdani distorting St. Patrick's Day, Irish history just the latest example of his shameful obsession with Israel,"](#) *Michael Goodwin, New York Post*, March 17

"As Bill Donohue, president of the Catholic League, put it in a blistering statement, Mamdani 'is a master of the politics of victimization' who appealed to 'his left-wing Irish friends by reducing the story of the Irish, both in Ireland and in New York City. . .to a story of oppression, of subjugation, and of discrimination.'"

["Critics Slam Mamdani for Gaza Remarks at Irish Event,"](#) *Newsmax*, March 17

"Catholic League President Bill Donohue accused the mayor of pushing a left-wing grievance narrative.

"'Mamdani is a master of the politics of victimization,'"

Donohue said in a statement.

“He delighted his left-wing Irish friends by saying, “The story of the Irish, both in Ireland and in New York City, is at one time a story of oppression, of subjugation, and of discrimination,” he continued.”

Policies

Attempt to Demote NYPD Commissioner

On his first day in office, Mamdani issued an executive order that placed the New York Police Department (NYPD) Commissioner under the purview of the First Deputy Mayor. Many City Hall observers took this as a sign that Mamdani was attempting to demote NYPD Commissioner Jessica Tisch, who has disagreed with Mamdani on his “policing policies.” Some feared this was the opening salvo in a wholesale shakeup of the NYPD, and rumors began spreading that Mamdani would no longer receive daily intelligence briefings from the NYPD Commissioner. Mamdani entered damage control mode and quickly tried to spin the story claiming that it was for administrative purposes. Mamdani would still have Tisch report to him, but the daily oversight of the department would fall to the First Deputy Mayor.

Watering Down Protections for Houses of Worship

One of Mamdani’s first acts as mayor was to repeal an executive order issued by his predecessor, Eric Adams, which strengthened protections for houses of worship. Adams was compelled to pursue this policy after an unruly crowd of 200 anti-Jewish protesters assembled outside Manhattan’s Park East Synagogue screaming, “Death, death to the IDF” [Israel Defense Forces], “globalize the intifada,” and “take the settler out.” Others yelled, “We need to make them scared.” In response, Adams authorized enhanced protection “of both houses of worship and persons exercising their rights to free assembly

and free speech near houses of worship.”

Meeting With Holocaust-Denying Sheikh

According to *The Washington Free Beacon*, Mayor Mamdani has met with Sheikh Fadhel Al-Sahlani, imam of the Al-Khoei Islamic Center in Jamaica, Queens, on at least three occasions since January 2025. Al-Sahlani has been quoted by the *New York Sun* saying that the figure of six million Jews killed in the Holocaust “has been exaggerated.” He has been vocal about his support of the October 6th attacks as well as the Hamas movement all together . To read more about Sheikh Fadhel Al-Sahlani and his relationship with Mayor Mamdani click [here](#).

Personnel

Dean Fuleihan

Title: First Deputy Mayor

Fuleihan, 74, is a creature of New York fiscal policy, having spent his entire life working in shaping budgets in the city and in Albany. He’s widely regarded as a nonpartisan fiscal technocrat with decades of experience running complex government budgets and navigating Albany-City relations. Regarding issues relevant to the Catholic League, Fuleihan has no significant public record on religious liberty, Catholic institutions, or related policy fights.

Julie Su

Title: Deputy Mayor for Economic Justice

Su, 56, is a rabid leftist. She most recently served as Acting Secretary of the Department of Labor under Biden. Because of her extreme positions, Su was unable to survive the confirmation process in the Democratic-controlled Senate after moderate Democrats voted against her. This led to her serving in an acting capacity, the only member of Biden’s cabinet to

do so. A major sticking points for the moderates was Su's time as the California Secretary of Labor where she mismanaged the state's Covid relief program. Fraud and abuse were endemic. According to reports, the program paid out over \$30,000,000,000 to fraudsters, delayed payments to more than 5,000,000 beneficiaries, and a further 1,000,000 million people who should have received payments were wrongfully denied. Her mismanagement would become a political liability for her when she argued that the U.S. Department of Labor should cover the California Covid relief program's shortfall, which was brought on by the massive amount of fraud. Further, Su was part of Gavin Newsom's administration, which had some of the most draconian restrictions during the pandemic particularly on houses of worship and people of faith. Su has been a vocal supporter of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programs, even going so far as to author a column in the left-wing rag The Courier attacking parents for trying to remove books from school that are age inappropriate for containing graphic LGBT material and critical racism. Su attended Stanford and earned her law degree from Harvard. She also was named a MacArthur Foundation "genius," a program that has been noted for its hostility to religious liberty and American exceptionalism.

Elle Bisgaard-Church

Title: Chief of Staff

Bisgaard-Church, 34, is frequently described as "Mamdani's right hand" and the "brains behind the campaign." Previously, she served as his chief of staff for his Assembly office and was his campaign manager for the primary. Following the primary, she became the campaign's senior advisor. While Bisgaard-Church keeps a low public profile (she rarely sits for interviews and practically no social media footprint), it is safe to say she is a true believer in the radical agenda of the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA). Many of the policies championed by DSA conflict with Catholic teachings.

Lillian Bonsignore

Title: Fire Department of New York (FDNY) Commissioner

Bosignore has made history as the first “openly gay” FDNY Commissioner. She served more than 30 years in the FDNY’s Emergency Medical Service (EMS), starting as a tech and acquiring the rank of EMS Director in 2019. While her defenders note her leading EMS through the Covid pandemic, her critics point out that she has no experience in fire fighting. Additionally, she has been noted as a “trailblazer for the LGBTQ community.”

Ramzi Kassem

Title: Chief Counsel

Kassem previously served as a professor of law at the City University of New York (CUNY). He has a history of being involved with the anti-Israel and pro-Palestine movement. In 2025, he provided legal representation to Mahmoud Khalil, the activist and Columbia student who was detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement after participating in pro-Palestine protests at the university. He is the co-founder of Creating Law Enforcement Accountability and Responsibility (known as CLEAR), a CUNY law school clinic with a history of associating with anti-Israel activists. CLEAR has also provided workshops for pro-Palestine protesting students on how they can avoid arrest. Additionally, Kassem provided the legal defense for an Al Qaeda terrorist who bombed an oil tanker in Yemen.

Christine Clarke

Title: Chair and commissioner for the City Commission on Human Rights

Christine Clarke is an attorney who serves as Chief of Litigation and Advocacy at Legal Services NYC, a non-profit that seeks “racial, social, and economic justice for low-

income New Yorkers.” The organization has provided legal counsel to transgender persons in several anti-discrimination cases. Clarke has also voiced support for transgender issues. Speaking in a Legal Services NYC statement in February 2025, she said that the Trump Administration’s decision to remove transgender language from the NYC Stonewall Memorial is seeking to “erase trans people from history.”

Previously, Clarke served as a staff attorney for the Planned Parenthood Federation of America. In this position she “challenged abortion bans in multiple states, helping keep health center doors open as long as possible.”

Afua Atta-Mensah

Title: Chief Equity Officer, Mayor’s Office of Equity & Racial Justice

Afua Atta-Mensah was appointed by Mayor Zohran Mamdani as Chief Equity Officer after previously working as a senior adviser on his campaign and holding roles with progressive advocacy organizations including Community Change and the Urban Justice Center. Her appointment drew scrutiny after deleted social media posts resurfaced in which she mocked liberal white women, endorsed the idea that there is “NO moderate way to black liberation,” and wrote “Tax Them To The White Meat!!!” in response to a discussion about taxing the wealthy. Mamdani has defended her appointment despite the controversy, saying he stands by her ability to lead the city’s equity agenda.

Dr. Alister Martin

Title: Commissioner of NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Dr. Alister Martin is an emergency physician who previously worked at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, where his work focused on health equity and public

policy. He is the founder of Vot-ER, a nonprofit that promotes voter registration in healthcare settings, and has also served in a federal advisory role at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Martin has also been affiliated with initiatives such as a Global Oppression Working Group that looks to examine how systemic inequalities affect health outcomes and promote policy approaches to address those disparities. Mamdani appointed Martin to lead New York City's Department of Health, placing him in charge of one of the largest municipal health systems in the country. Martin has not previously run a large public health agency, and his background is centered on advocacy and policy work rather than managing citywide health operations.

Cea Weaver

Title: Director of the Mayor's Office to Protect Tenants

Weaver, 37, is a longtime housing activist and active member of the DSA. She previously led Housing Justice for All and the New York State Tenant Bloc. In resurfaced social media posts, Weaver wrote that "private property including any kind of especially homeownership is a weapon of white supremacy masquerading as 'wealth building' public policy," and urged supporters to "elect more communists." In a recorded talk, she also argued for a shift away from private ownership, stating that "we'll transition from treating property as an individual good to a collective good—whites especially will be impacted." In 2018, Weaver posted online that she wanted to "impoverish the *white* middle class." United States Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Harmeet Dhillon has officially warned the Mamdani administration from pursuing anti-white policies specifically referencing Weaver's past statements. Reporting has further noted that Weaver's family owns high-value residential property, a detail critics have pointed to as conflicting with her prior rhetoric on property and ownership.

Rafael Espinal

Title: Commissioner, Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment

Rafael Espinal was appointed by Mamdani to serve as Commissioner of the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment, the city agency that oversees the Film Office, NYC Media, the Press Credential Office, and creative sector programs, and has historically been tasked with promoting New York as a global hub for media production. Espinal previously represented Brooklyn in the New York City Council and the State Assembly, where he championed progressive causes including the repeal of the city's longstanding Cabaret Law and advocacy for portable benefits for freelance workers. After resigning his council seat to lead the Freelancers Union he has since aligned himself with labor unions and progressive industry coalitions on cultural economy priorities.

Anna Bahr

Title: Director of Communications

Bahr, 33, is an alumnus of both of Bernie Sanders' presidential campaigns. In addition to working for Sanders, she worked for Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and successor Karen Bass. She previously worked in the media with a one-year stint at the *New York Times* and an internship with "Rachel Maddow Show." In 2012, Bahr wrote a piece for *Ms.* magazine in support of Planned Parenthood and condemning North Carolina's efforts to defund the abortion provider.

Julian Gerson

Title: Speechwriter

Gerson, 29, worked as a political director and speechwriter for Mamdani's campaign. He previously served as campaign manager for New York Congressman Jerrold Nadler. In City Hall, he will be reprising his duties as speechwriter. Gerson has shown strong support for Luigi Mangione, who allegedly assassinated Healthcare CEO Brian Thompson.

Lekha Sunder

Title: Deputy Director of Communications

Sunder, 26, played a central role expanding the Mamdani campaign's media reach. She previously worked as a press secretary on Kamala Harris' campaign.

Dora Pekec

Title: Spokeswoman

Pekec, 25, worked as the press secretary for Mamdani's campaign. She previously worked on the Brad Lander Campaign. She will serve as the administration's senior spokeswoman. In 2023, she tweeted that the Supreme Court was leading a "descent into Christian theocracy."

Joe Calvello

Title: Press Secretary

Calvello, 33, is another former aide to Bernie Sanders. He has also worked for Brandon Johnson, the radical mayor of Chicago, Senator John Fetterman, abortion providing behemoth Planned Parenthood, and Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison. He will oversee the communications of all city departments for Mamdani.

Monica Klein

Title: Senior Advisor for Communications

Klein served as a deputy press secretary during the de Blasio administration. She is also the co-founder of Seneca Strategies, a progressive consulting firm that specializes in helping leftist women get elected. Not only do many of the candidates the firm works for support abortion, but also the firm has worked on behalf of several pro-abortion campaigns such as #VOTEPROCHOICE.

Simonia Brown

Title: Senior Advisor for Policy and Strategy

Brown has more than two decades of experience in New York City and State government. Under de Blasio, she served as the Director of New York City's State Legislative Affairs Office. Her work has primarily focused on budgetary policy.

Sam Lavine

Title: Commissioner for the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection

Lavine served in the Biden Administration's Federal Trade Commission. He was the head of the Bureau of Consumer Protection.

Maria Torres-Springer

Title: Transition Co-Chair

Torres-Springer, 48, most recently served as New York City's First Deputy Mayor, following a series of senior roles in both the Adams' and de Blasio administrations. Of particular note for Catholics, during her tenure in New York City politics, Torres-Springer was a rabid support of abortion and transgenderism. She mourned the Supreme Court's decision to repeal *Roe v. Wade*, exclaiming that "My daughters' generation will be the first one in 50 years that has lost their right to determine their future." Furthermore, she championed the passage of the city's "Sexual and Reproductive Bill of Rights." This radical "bill of rights defines health as inclusive of access to sexual health care, birth control, gender-affirming health care, and abortion services." She praised the bill by saying, "This Sexual and Reproductive Health Bill of Rights will enshrine the right to comprehensive reproductive health and family planning...to help all women, including transgender and gender expansive New Yorkers,

thrive.” Additionally, Torres-Springer held a leadership role at the Ford Foundation and has been appointed President of the Revson Foundation, both prominent promoters of progressive policies.

Lina Khan

Title: Transition Co-Chair

Khan is the former Chair of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), where she pursued aggressive antitrust and regulatory actions. She previously worked for the House Judiciary Committee’s Antitrust Subcommittee. While most of her career has been on antitrust and other regulatory issues, Catholics should note that as FTC Chair under the Biden administration Khan made headlines for helping push the White House’s pro-abortion agenda. In 2024, she targeted Outlogic, a data brokerage firm, accused of selling people’s location data surrounding their trips to healthcare facilities. This fed into the liberal panic of the time that states with strong protections for the unborn could use these data brokers to target women who traveled out of state to have an abortion. While this was more of a symbolic gesture (Outlogic was only accused of selling people’s data regarding visits to their doctors and local pharmacies to big pharmaceutical companies), Khan claimed her actions were authorized by Biden’s executive order to protect women’s privacy to seek abortions. Khan also teaches at Columbia Law School, focusing on expanded federal regulatory authority.

Melanie Hartzog

Title: Transition Co-Chair

Hartzog is the President and CEO of the New York Foundling, a major social-services nonprofit founded by the Sisters of Charity and supported by substantial city contracts. She previously served as Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services and as Director of the Office of Management and

Budget, serving in both the de Blasio and Bloomberg administrations. Most of her career has been in social-services management.

Grace Bonilla

Title: Transition Co-Chair

Bonilla is the President and CEO of United Way of New York City, a nonprofit closely tied to city-funded social-service programs. She previously served as Administrator of the NYC Human Resources Administration in 2017, overseeing welfare and benefits operations. Additionally, under de Blasio, she served as the first Executive Director of the city's Taskforce on Racial Equity and Inclusion, an initiative in the wake of the George Floyd riots. Bonilla began her career in municipal government in the Bloomberg administration.

Elana Leopold

Title: Transition Executive Director

Leopold is a political staffer and strategist who served as a senior advisor on Mamdani's campaign and previously held multiple roles in the de Blasio administration. During her tenure in the de Blasio administration, she was one of more than 230 staffers who signed a letter in June of 2020 demanding that the mayor "reduce the NYPD operating budget by \$1 billion in Fiscal Year 2021, and reallocate that money to essential social services." Leopold is also the co-founder of Seneca Strategies, a progressive consulting firm that specializes in helping leftist women get elected. Not only do many of the candidates the firm work to support abortion, but also the firm has worked on behalf of several pro-abortion campaigns such as #VOTEPROCHOICE.

Tamika Mallory

Title: Transition Advisor

Mallory, 45, has been involved in activism promoting progressive causes for practically all her life. Growing up, her parents were deeply involved with Rev. Al Sharpton's National Action Network (NAN), and by the time she was 15, Mallory began working as a volunteer with the organization. By 2011, she became the youngest national director of NAN. While she would step down from this position in 2013 to pursue her own activism, Mallory remains involved with NAN. In 2014, she would work in the de Blasio administration leading efforts to combat gun violence. In 2017, she would serve as a national co-chair of the Women's March, which was ostensibly to protest the inauguration of Donald Trump but evolved into promoting a number of anti-Catholic causes particularly abortion and LGBT issues. Much of the Women's March pro-abortion messaging and iconography was inherently anti-Catholic. Throughout the horde of angry women many protestors held signs "Keep Your Rosaries Off My Ovaries" and "#IstandWithPlannedParenthood." Mallory would go on to serve as the organization's co-president. In this roll, she took credit for being responsible for bringing in the abortion providing behemoth Planned Parenthood as a significant financial supporter of the Women's March. However, Mallory would generate great controversy for her support for Louis Farrakhan and other anti-Semitic statements she made to a Jewish member of the organization's leadership team. Ultimately, Mallory would be kicked out in 2019. After her unceremonious departure from the Women's March, Mallory became actively involved in Black Lives Matter (BLM) following the death of George Floyd. Here, too, she would raise eyebrows. A family members of one person killed in a police involved shooting accused Mallory of being a "clout chaser." This criticism was compounded after she appeared in a BLM-inspired Cadillac commercial, leading to accusations that Mallory was "commodifying activism." Further, she downplayed the severity of the riots that swept across the nation inspired by BLM. More recently, Mallory has been hypercritical of Trump highlighting the extreme violence faced by Christians in Nigeria. She downplays the violence, arguing Trump is just

promoting American imperialism.

Hassaan Chaudhary

Title: Transition Adviser

Chaudhary, 31, served on Mamdani's campaign as a Muslim-engagement staffer. He was instrumental in pushing the campaign's line that any criticism of Mamdani was rooted in Islamophobia. Recently, old social media posts from roughly 2012 surfaced showing Chaudhary using a derogatory Urdu slur for Jews, praising former Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad for calling Israel a "cancer," and posting other hostile language toward Israel and Jewish people. Chaudhary has since deleted his social accounts and issued an apology saying the posts do not reflect his current views. Additionally, he claimed on social media to be the "political-director" of the transition and inaugural teams. However, a spokesperson for the campaign denied that Chaudhary had that position. The spokesperson, though, did not condemn his vile comments.

Catherine Almonte Da Costa

Title: Director of Appointments [resigned after being exposed for anti-Semitism]

Da Costa was appointed to the role of Director of Appointments for Zohran Mamdani's administration before resigning after a day when decade-old social media posts surfaced containing anti-Semitic language and hostility toward law enforcement. In those posts, she referred to "money-hungry Jews" and disparaged NYPD officers using demeaning terms, prompting public scrutiny of Mamdani's vetting process. Previously, Da Costa served in the de Blasio administration.

Alex Vitale

Title: "Community Safety" Adviser

Vitale is the Coordinator of the Policing and Social Justice Project at Brooklyn College. While his fawning acolytes in the liberal press champion him as a serious scholar offering timely and pointed criticism of law enforcement with an eye toward reforming the system to promote social justice, Vitale's own radical rhetoric reveals his deep hatred for the police and public order. He has railed against law enforcement agencies all across the nation, going so far as to call police officers "violence workers." In fact, there are very few law enforcement agencies that he has not called for the defunding or the outright abolishment of. He has previously gone after prisons, Border Patrol, ICE, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the FBI, and the Texas Rangers. Unsurprisingly, he is a proponent of open borders. Furthermore, Vitale's 2017 book *The End of Policing* has been described as the "bestselling bible of the movement to defund the police." [For more on Vitale, you can read Bill Donohue's article on him, [here](#).]

Justine Olderman

Title: Member of the Committee on Community Safety

Olderman, a senior scholar at NYU Law's Center on Race, Equity and the Law and former executive director of The Bronx Defenders, has built her career on arguing that the criminal-justice system is inherently harmful. She has claimed that even a single "touch-point" with law enforcement inflicts "unbearable trauma," framing policing not as protection but as an intergenerational threat.

Meg Egan

Title: Member of the Committee on Community Safety

Egan, a longtime advocate with the Women's Prison Association, is best known for helping design the plan to close Rikers Island and replace it with borough-based jails she envisions as "centers of care" rather than secure detention facilities.

Her public writings strongly suggest she views incarceration itself as “obsolete,” aligning her with the hard abolitionist wing of the team. Her positions raise questions about public safety and accountability, especially as Mamdani plans a massive restructuring of the city’s criminal-justice system.

Janos Marton

Title: Member of the Committee on Community Safety

Marton, a former ACLU organizer and Manhattan DA candidate, has long championed sweeping decarceral policies, including cutting the jail population by 80 percent, ending most pretrial detention, and eliminating New York’s Special Narcotics Prosecutor. He has spoken openly about using police misconduct scandals as opportunities to “shrink the size of the police budget” and weaken police unions’ political influence which is a strategic rather than public-safety-driven approach. His record reveals a commitment to dismantling traditional law-enforcement structures rather than reforming them.

Dana Rachlin

Title: Member of the Committee on Community Safety

Rachlin, co-founder of We Build the Block, merges activism with political machinery, openly bragging about leveraging high-incarceration neighborhoods for voter-registration drives to advance her agenda. She has compared NYPD gang-database numbers to NYPD staffing levels as a way of highlighting political advantage (“That’s more votes,” she said), which underscores her transactional and highly strategic approach to criminal-justice issues. Rachlin consistently frames public safety not through the lens of law and order but through youth-movement organizing and anti-police narratives.

Kassandra Frederique

Title: Member of the Committee on Community Safety

Frederique, executive director of the Drug Policy Alliance, advances drug-legalization advocacy with explicitly revolutionary language. She has discussed “Black revolutionaries taking over the state” and argued that some activists “need to be high” to imagine a radically transformed society.

Max Markham

Title: Member of the Committee on Community Safety

Markham, executive director of the Policing Project at NYU, pushes for dramatically reducing police involvement in emergency responses, arguing that officers are unnecessary for calls involving property theft, traffic accidents, or towing which is a position that relies more on academic abstraction than real-world risk assessment. His proposals would significantly shrink the role of law enforcement in daily public safety, while expanding social-services infrastructure in its place.

Maurice Vann

Title: Member of the Committee on Community Safety

Vann, a CUNY professor of social work, has been explicit in his support for defunding the police, telling students that social workers will gain resources “as we defund the police” and encouraging them to pursue “forensic social work” as the replacement for traditional policing. His framing reveals a desire not merely to reform public safety but to transfer authority from sworn officers to ideologically aligned academic and social-work institutions.

Jacques Léandre

Title: Member of the Committee on Legal Affairs

Léandre is a civil rights attorney who has a history of affiliation with anti-Semitic ideologies. He is a member of the Nation of Islam (NOI) and, like many of Mamdani's other appointees, has great admiration for NOI founder and outspoken anti-Semite Louis Farrakhan. In a 2019 Facebook post celebrating the leader's birthday, Léandre said that he wanted to "personally thank [Farrakhan] for inspiring me to aspire to dedicate my life towards the uplift of our community." He also said his praise is "not hate, but simply pure love and truth."

Mysonne Linen

Title: Member of the Criminal Legal System Committee

Mysonne Linen is a former rapper who served 7 years in prison for attempting to rob two cab drivers in the late 1990s. He has a close relationship with anti-Semitic activist Linda Sarsour—he and Sarsour founded the activist group Until Freedom. The organization has been involved with the Black Lives Matter movement and supports defunding the police. In response to the death of George Floyd in 2020, the organization stated that "firing officers isn't enough for us." Linen also has shown his support for Louis Farrakhan, the anti-Semitic leader of the Nation of Islam. In 2016, he met with Farrakhan, calling him "Honorable" and saying that his work "inspired and motivated me."

Lisa Ohta

Title: Member of the Criminal Legal System Committee

Lisa Ohta is president of the Association of Legal Aid Attorneys (ALAA), UAW Local 2325, a union that of the Legal Aid Society. The union is known to champion left-wing causes. Their campaigns include the "DecrimNY" which seeks to speak out against the criminalization of prostitution, and the "ICE Out of Courts Coalition" which wants to "stop ICE from targeting immigrant New Yorkers in the courts." Most notably, the ALAA put forth a resolution in November 2023 demanding an

immediate ceasefire in Gaza and the blocking of all U.S. military aid to Israel. The Legal Aid Society struck down the resolution, calling it “laden with coded antisemitic language” and “divisive and hurtful.”

Fahd Ahmed

Title: Member of the Committee on Immigrant Justice

Fahd Ahmed is a leftist activist who is the executive director of Desis Rising Up & Moving (DRUM), a group that claims to help advocate for higher wages for immigrants. In reality, they are a George Soros funded activist organization that has organized several pro-Hamas demonstrations throughout the city. In October and November 2023, DRUM organized two different protests in New York’s Bryant Park. In both cases they shut down the park while calling for an immediate ceasefire to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Protesters held pro-Hamas signs at both demonstrations. Similarly, in February 2024 the group participated in a vigil outside of City Hall, demanding that the NYC Council call for a ceasefire. Ahmed has also voiced anti-Jewish sentiments, once claiming that “Zionism is racism.”

Kazi Fouzia

Title: Member of the Committee on Worker Justice

Kazi Fouzia is a left-wing activist who supports pro-Palestinian leftist causes. She works for the Soros funded group Desis Rising Up & Moving (DRUM) serving as its director of organizing. In addition, Fouzia has spoken out in support of the October 7 terror attack on Israel. In an October 8, 2023 Facebook post, she wrote that “Resistance are [sic] Justified when people are occupied” along with an image of an anti-Israel protest. Fouzia has expressed anti-police sentiments as well. Recently, video resurfaced of a presentation she made in 2020 blasting Bangladeshi and other South Asian families for celebrating the service of their

family members in the NYPD. In the video she clearly states, "What are you proud for? That your relative would become a killer one day, or brutally beat our people?" She went on to reiterate this point saying, "That's your proud, because your relative will be a killer someday?"

Mohammed Karim Chowdhury

Title: Member of the Committee on Worker Justice

Mohammed Karim Chowdhury is a community activist and organizer who serves as the National Secretary for the Alliance of South Asian American Labor. He has a history of posting anti-Israel posts on his X account. Among the things he has posted include accusing Israel of committing "crimes against humanity" and describing Israel as a "Zionist state." In October 2025, he retweeted a post on X that said that "Zionists are worse than Haman of ancient times, the Inquisition, and the Nazis."

Demetre Daskalakis

Title: Member of the Committee on Health

Daskalakis is a gay health activist who held several leadership roles at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). He rose to national prominence in 2022 for his work as the monkeypox response deputy coordinator for the Biden White House. Daskalakis quickly generated controversy following his appointment after it came to life that his Instagram was littered with him parading around New York bare-chested showing off several of his Satanic-inspired tattoos. Although the Biden administration was aware of these controversial photos, "Daskalakis' status as a proudly out gay man was seen as an advantage." In his position at the White House, he wasted no time convincing the decision makers to declare monkeypox a national health emergency, even though this disease could have largely been prevented had "men who have sex with men (MSM)," the common buzzword at the time, shown a little more restraint and refrained from engaging in

their intrinsically disordered behavior. With this declaration secured, Daskalakis pivoted to confront perhaps what he considered one of the greatest threats of monkeypox, namely the stigma experienced by the LGBT community. In addition to these efforts, Daskalakis has a long history of promoting LGBT issues and even the insanity of gender ideology, the anti-scientific belief that men and women can freely change their sexes.

Rabbi Abby Stein

Title: Member of the Committee on Health

Stein is a man pretending to be a woman. He is currently a rabbi with the Congregation Kolot Chayeinu, a progressive Jewish congregation in Park Slope, Brooklyn. He is an outspoken advocate for LGBT causes and a promoter of abortion. He founded a project called Sacred Space which is described as a “multi-faith project which celebrates women and non-binary people of all faith traditions.” Additionally, Stein is an outspoken advocate for the free Palestine movement. Most notably, he was removed from the 2024 White House Pride celebration after interrupting first Lady Jill Biden’s remarks to demand a ceasefire in the Israeli-Gaza conflict. He also participated in an interfaith meeting with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian during the 2024 U.N. General Assembly.

Mary Travis Bassett

Title: Member of the Committee on Health

Bassett is currently the director of the FXB Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard. From September 2021 to December 2022, she served as the Health Commissioner of the New York State Department of Health. She also previously served in de Blasio’s first term as the Commissioner of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. In 2015, Bassett gave a TEDMED talk called “Why your doctor should care about social justice.” In the talk, she compared the United States to

Zimbabwe arguing both countries have the same structural problem of racism and a lack of health equity. This monomaniacal obsession with social justice would lead Bassett in December of 2021 to issue a memo instructing healthcare providers to consider the race of patients in a factor in determining access to Covid-19 therapeutics. In other words, whites should be denied treatment to benefit minorities. While it would be bad enough if this was the only blemish in her record, Bassett was also involved in several other controversial Covid responses. She was an outspoken defender of New York's draconian masking policies. More troublingly, Bassett was part of the implementation of New York's vaccine mandate for healthcare workers that explicitly denied a religious exemption for those opting not to take the vaccine. She was named as one of the principle parties when this mandate was challenged.

Lumumba Bandele

Appointed to: Community Organizing Committee

Bandele is an activist who has a history of supporting radical pro-Palestine and Black Liberation policies. In 2020, he served as director of Strategic Partnerships for Movement for Black Lives, a radical left-wing coalition that seeks to abolish prisons and the police. The group also demands "special protections for queer and trans students" and "reparations for the devastating impact of the 'war on drugs' and criminalization of prostitution." Bandele also voiced his support for convicted cop-killers. In 2022, he advocated for the release of Mutulu Shakur, a Black Liberation Army (BLA) member who was convicted for his role in the 1981 Brink's robbery. (It was orchestrated by BLA and the left-wing Weather Underground and resulted in the killing of two police officers.) He also praised Assata Shakur, who was convicted of killing a New Jersey State Trooper in 1977 before escaping prison and living as a fugitive in Cuba, describing her as a "modern-day Harriet Tubman." Bandele has also expressed

extreme hatred for the state of Israel. He has been involved with the anti-Israel Boycott, Divest, and Sanction (BDS) movement and has expressed pro-Palestinian and anti-Israel sentiments on social media. In an October 2023 post on X, he expressed solidarity with the Palestinian people in response to the October 7 terrorist attack.

Gianpaolo Baiocchi

Title: Member of the Committee on Community Organizing

Baiocchi is a professor of sociology at New York University and serves as director of NYU's Urban Democracy Lab. He was previously arrested at an NYU encampment that featured inflammatory rhetoric against Israel.

Zakiyah Shaakir-Ansari

Title: Education Transition Advisor

Shaakir-Ansari is the co-executive director of the Alliance for Quality Education (AQE), a statewide advocacy group that pushes for increased public-school funding, racial-equity initiatives, and policy frameworks that generally oppose charter-school growth. For years she has been a prominent parent-activist in New York City, frequently advancing positions critical of charter-school expansion and supportive of "culturally responsive" curriculum models tied to progressive education movements. Her career has centered on activist organizing instead of policy or administrative leadership, with much of her impact stemming from alliances and public-pressure efforts. Her work centers almost entirely on public-school advocacy. Additionally, Shaakir-Ansari has made comments praising Assata Shakur, who was convicted of killing a New Jersey State Trooper in 1977 before escaping prison and living as a fugitive in Cuba.

Christine Quinn

Title: Member of the Committee on Social Services

Quinn, 59, served on the New York City Council from 1999 to 2013. From 2006 to 2013 she was Speaker of the City Council. During her tenure on the City Council, Quinn was an outspoken supporter of abortion and LGBT causes. Most notably, in 2008, she was the author of the Clinic Access Bill, which curtails the liberties of Catholics and other pro-life advocates from demonstrating outside of abortion clinics. In a statement on the bill, Quinn provides examples of the kind of behavior she wanted to eradicate, including "Patients being offered bottled water by protesters," "Protestors using NYPD-owned barricades to hang posters and signs outside of the clinic," and "Protestors shouting at patients that they were desecrating the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King." Throughout the course of her career in City Hall, Quinn regularly worked with pro-abortion groups like Planned Parenthood and NARAL. Further, she would also target pro-life pregnancy centers claiming these groups engaged in deceptive practices. Quinn, a lesbian, also championed LGBT causes. In 2006, she began a boycott of New York City's St. Patrick's Day Parade for not allowing LGBT groups to march under their own banners. She proactively supported New York's efforts to redefine marriage. In 2012, she demanded that NYU end its relationship with Chick-Fil-A, arguing that the company promoted discrimination by supporting the "biblical definition of marriage." In 2013, Quinn would seek the Democratic nomination for mayor, but she would ultimately come in third place in that campaign, losing to Bill de Blasio. Following her defeat, Quinn would remain active in New York politics. In 2014, she would stump for Andrew Cuomo's gubernatorial reelection bid, and Cuomo would hire her the following year as a special advisor. Quinn currently serves as the president of Women in Need, a New York charity helping homeless women.

Youssef Mubaraz

Title: Member of the Committee on Small Business

Mubaraz is a member of the Yemeni American Merchants Association. He is a businessman and community development activist in New York's Yemeni American community. In a Facebook post, he dismissed footage of Hamas's October 7 attack as "propaganda."

Assisted Suicide Misuse

National Data on Assisted Suicide

When it comes to American's opinions on doctor-assistive suicide, survey data have shown that Americans' belief in the morality of the practice has decreased.

Identical studies done in 2016 and 2025 by the Lifeway Research on doctor-assisted suicide found that Americans' support for the practice has been decreasing.

Respondents were asked if they agree that it is morally acceptable for a terminally ill person to seek physician-assisted suicide. In 2016, 67% of Americans agreed it is with 31% saying they strongly agree. In 2025, only 51% of Americans agreed with 21% saying they strongly agree.

Respondents were also asked if they believed that physicians should be allowed to assist terminally ill patients in taking their own life. In 2016, 69% of Americans agreed with 32% saying they strongly agree. In 2025, only 55% of Americans agreed with 25% saying they strongly agree.

Similarly, a 2024 Gallup poll found that only a only a "slim majority" of Americans believe that doctor-assistive suicide is morally acceptable with 53% of Americans believing doctor-assistive suicide is morally acceptable, compared to 40% who

believe it is morally wrong.

Legalization by State

As of October 2025, 10 states and the District of Columbia have legalized assisted suicide, one state has legalized the practice but it has not taken effect yet, and one state has passed a bill in the legislature and is awaiting the governor's signature.

For the states that have legalized assisted suicide, we have seen an increase in the number of victims; we have also seen an increase in the removal of a number of safeguards designed to protect vulnerable populations and prevent unnecessary death.

California

Origin

Governor Jerry Brown (D) [signed](#) the California End of Life Option Act into law on October 5, 2015; it went into effect June 9, 2016.

Victims

According to the [California Department of Public Health](#), between 2016 and 2024 a total of 8,242 people received prescriptions for life-ending drugs. Of this, 5,423 people ended their lives by ingesting the drug.

Legal Changes

In January 2022, [SB 380 went into effect](#). The law reduced the waiting period between oral requests for medication from 15 days to 48 hours. It also removed the requirement for the patient to state a final attestation before receiving the medication.

The original 2016 law placed a provision that would allow it

to expire in the year 2031. In 2025, California State Senator Catherine Blakespear [introduced SB 403 in the California legislature](#) which would remove the expiration provision, thus making Medical Aid in Dying permanent in California. The bill was passed in the state assembly and senate in September 2025 and [was signed into law](#) by Governor Gavin Newsom on October 3.

In February 2025, Blakespear introduced another proposal that would expand assisted suicide to anyone to non-terminally ill patients who had a “grievous and irremediable medical condition.” She [withdrew the bill](#) in April 2025.

Results

As a result of the passage of SB 380, California saw a massive spike in patients receiving end of life prescriptions. California public health data shows that between 2021 and 2022, the number of prescriptions written spiked from 863 to 1,204. Of the 1,204, [roughly 78% of patients waited less than 15 days for the medication](#). As a result, the number of deaths significantly increased during this time period from 522 to 853.

Colorado

Origin

In 2016, Colorado voters [approved Proposition 106](#) which allowed for the legalization of Medical Aid in Dying in Colorado. (64.87% of voters approved of the proposition)

Victims

According to the [Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment](#), between 2017 and 2024 a total of 1,995 people had received prescriptions for life-ending drugs. (Note: Colorado does not keep track of the number of patients who died after ingesting the drugs.)

Legal Changes

On June 5, 2024, Colorado Governor Jared Polis (D) [signed SB 24-068 into law](#). The law gets rid of safeguards in the original bill. These include:

- Reducing the waiting period for a prescription from 15 days to 7 days.
- Allowing a physician to waive the waiting period requirement if it is determined that a patient has less than 48 hours to live.
- Permitting a registered nurse to evaluate a patient's status and prescribe the life-ending medication.

In May 2025, [a federal lawsuit was filed](#) by several advocacy groups claiming that Colorado's residency requirement for medical aid in dying was unconstitutional. The lawsuit was filed on behalf of Jeff McComas, a Minnesota resident who is suffering from terminal cancer and is seeking to participate in Colorado's Medical Aid in Dying program, but is unable to because he does not live in the state. As of October 2025, the lawsuit is pending in the courts.

Negative Results

The 2024 change to the law has led to a significant increase in patient prescriptions than in previous years. Between 2022 and 2023, the number of patients being prescribed life-ending medication increased from 317 to 398; [between 2023 and 2024, the number increased from 398 to 510](#).

District of Columbia

Origin

The District of Columbia Death with Dignity Act of 2016 [was signed December 19, 2016](#) and took effect February 18, 2017.

Victims

According to the [DC Department of Health](#), between 2019 and 2022 a total of 31 patients received prescriptions for life-

ending drugs. Of this, 23 ended their lives by ingesting the drug.

Legal Changes

As of October 2025, no changes to the current law have been proposed or enacted.

Results

Since the law went into effect there have been no reports of patients or physicians misusing the law to allow for easier access to death.

Hawaii

Origin

Governor David Ige (D) [signed](#) the Our Care, Our Choice Act into law April 5, 2018 which took effect January 1, 2019.

Victims

According to the [Hawaii Department of Health](#), between 2019 and 2024 a total of 361 patients received prescriptions for life-ending drugs. Of this, 195 ended their lives by ingesting the drug.

Legal Changes

On June 2, 2023 Governor Josh Green (D), a physician, [signed](#) a bill amending the Our Care, Our Choice Act of 2019. The amendments included:

- Enabling advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) to act as attending, consulting or counseling providers.
- Allowing licensed marriage and family therapists to be listed as counseling providers.
- Shortening the waiting period for obtaining a fatal prescription from 20 days from the initial request to 5 days. (The waiting period can be shortened to 48 hours

if it's determined that the patient is unlikely to live past 5 days.)

Results

In 2025, the [Honolulu Star-Advertiser](#) reported that Honolulu police "opened a second-degree murder investigation after a doctor allegedly administer[ed] a lethal prescription dose to an 88-year-old woman in violation of Hawaii's assisted death law." Police allege the doctor failed to follow the rule which states that only the patient may administer the dosage. The report also mentions that "at one point [the patient] motioned for the doctor to stop, but he continued to administer the prescription."

Maine

Origin

Governor Janet Mills (D) [signed](#) into law the Maine Death with Dignity Act June 12, 2019.

Victims

[Between 2019 to 2024](#), a total of 318 patients received prescriptions for life-ending drugs. Of this, 218 people ended their lives by ingesting the drug.

Legal Changes

On June 25, 2025, Governor Mills [signed into law a bill](#) that expands the Death With Dignity law to allow a physician to waive the waiting period for a patient to receive life-ending drugs.

Results

Since the law went into effect in 2021, there have been no reports of patients or physicians misusing the law to allow for easier access to death.

Montana

Origin

In 2009, the [Montana Supreme Court ruled in *Baxter v. Montana*](#) that the state constitution does not prohibit medical aid in dying (MAID). It also ruled that physicians who act on a patient's wishes to end their own life cannot be criminally penalized. While the ruling allowed for the practice, the state legislature has not passed a law that officially legalizes it.

Victims

Because there is no official state law, statistics regarding the total number of victims have not been recorded.

Legal Changes

Since the 2009 Supreme Court ruling, several bills have been introduced in the Montana State legislature seeking to both legalize and prohibit MAID. However, none of them have been successful:

- In [2011](#), [2013](#), and [2015](#), bills were introduced in the Montana senate seeking to implement *Baxter v. Montana* ruling into law. None of the bills passed.
- Bills were introduced in the legislature in [2017](#), [2019](#), and [2023](#) that would remove legal protections for physicians who prescribe life-ending medication. They all failed to pass.
- In the 2025 legislative session, [HB 637](#) was introduced, seeking to legalize MAID. In the senate, [SB 136](#) was introduced seeking to ban the practice. Both bills died in the legislature.

Results

During the process of debating the 2025 SB 136, State Rep. Greg Overstreet [shared a near-death experience he had](#).

Suffering from COVID and on a ventilator, doctors told him he had a slim chance of survival. He asked doctors to pull his ventilator after seven days, but extended it to two weeks after pleas from his wife. He soon made a miraculous recovery a week later. He noted that if it were not for his wife pleading him to extend the “do no resuscitate” order, he would not have survived. His experience led him to support the prohibition of MAID.

Other lawmakers have raised concerns about the implications of administering life-ending drugs to patients. State Sen. Daniel Emrich cited the potential [dangerous and painful effects of the drugs](#) used, saying, “The drug cocktails they give them contain paralytics and these, without other drugs, will make them suffocate and die.”

New Jersey

Origin

Governor Phil Murphy (D) [signed](#) New Jersey’s Medical Aid in Dying Act into law April 12, 2019; it went into effect August 1, 2019.

Victims

According to the [Office of the Chief Medical Examiner](#), between 2019 and 2024 a total of 409 patients received prescriptions for life-ending drugs. Of this, 362 ended their lives by ingesting the drug.

Legal Changes

Every year [since 2022](#), a bill seeking to waive the 15 day waiting period for certain patients has been introduced in the State legislature. It has failed to pass. The bill [was introduced](#) in the 2025 legislative session and is currently sitting in committee.

Attempts have been made to remove the residency requirement

for New Jersey's law. In 2023, two women—one from Pennsylvania and another from Delaware—[filed a lawsuit in New Jersey District Court](#) seeking to challenge the Medical Aid in Dying Law residency requirement. The complaint was dismissed in September 2024, but is [currently being appealed](#).

Results

Since the law went into effect there have been no reports of patients or physicians misusing the law to allow for easier access to death.

New Mexico

Origin

New Mexico's End of Life Option Act was [signed](#) by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham (D) April 8, 2021 and [took effect](#) June 2021.

Victims

New Mexico's Department of Health does not keep annual statistics on the number of people who have died from assisted suicide. Therefore it is unknown how many have used the practice to end their lives.

Legal Changes

As of October 2025, no changes to the current law have been proposed or implemented.

Results

Since the law went into effect in 2021, there have been no significant reports of patients or physicians misusing the law to allow for easier access to death.

Oregon

Origin

Oregon's Death With Dignity Act (DWDA) [was initially approved by Oregon voters in November 1994](#) by a 51-49 margin; however implementation was delayed by an injunction. The injunction was lifted in October 1997, allowing the law to take effect. A ballot measure in November 1997 sought to repeal the DWDA but was rejected by voters by a 60-40 margin.

Victims

According to the [Oregon Health Authority](#), from 1998 to 2024, a total of 4,881 people received prescriptions for life-ending drugs. Of this, 3,243 patients died by ingesting the drug.

Legal Changes

In July 2019, Governor Kate Brown (D) [signed SB 579](#) giving physicians the ability to waive the 15 day waiting period for people in extreme situations.

In July 2023, Governor Tina Kotek (D) [signed HB 2279](#), repealing the residency restriction in the Oregon Death with Dignity Act.

In February 2025, [Senate Bill 1003](#) was introduced. The bill seeks to both allow non-physician medical professionals to provide life-ending drugs to patients and reduce the waiting period for life-ending drugs from 15 days to 7 days. It did not pass by the end of the session and died in committee.

Results

Health plans in Oregon have encouraged cancer patients to take medicine that would end their life. In 2008 64-year-old [Barbara Wagner](#) was diagnosed with lung cancer and was prescribed a treatment drug by her doctor. Her insurance company, Oregon Health Plan, refused to pay for the drug, but instead offered to cover drugs associated with medical aid in dying. That same year, Oregon resident [Randy Stoup](#) suffered the same experience when Oregon Health Plan refused to cover

the chemotherapy for his prostate cancer, but offered to cover life-ending drugs.

Research [published in the journal *BMJ Supportive & Palliative Care*](#) in 2023 analyzed the effectiveness of Oregon's medical aid in dying program from its inception in 1997 to present day. The researchers found that safeguards put into place designed to protect patients are increasingly being ignored at the expense of non-terminally ill patients. They concluded that:

- "Since 2010, various other diagnoses have qualified [for medical aid in dying], including non-terminal illness, such as arthritis, complications from a fall, hernia, and anorexia nervosa."
- "The length of the doctor-patient relationship reduced over time...falling from 18 weeks, on average, in 2010, to 5 weeks in 2022."
- "[In] the first 3 years of the legislation doctors requested psychiatric assessment in an average of 28% of cases. By 2003 this had dropped to 5%, and in 2022, just 1% of participants underwent psychiatric evaluation."
- "In the first 5 years of the legislation, nearly a third (30%) of participants were concerned about being a burden. Since 2017, this has been cited by around half of those opting for an assisted death: 46% in 2022."

These findings indicate that medical aid in dying in Oregon has allowed for increased death of persons who are not terminally ill. It also suggests that other states that have legalized the practice could follow a similar path in the future.

There was also an instance where the life-ending drugs failed to effectively work. In 2005 a man terminally ill with cancer, [David Pruiett](#), chose to end his life under Oregon's Death with Dignity Act. After completing the legal process, he got the fatal prescription, ingested the liquid "laced with powder

from 100 barbiturate pills, and fell asleep. Three days later, he woke up and asked his wife why he wasn't dead." He told his wife that while he was unconscious, "God had told him that his action wasn't the way to get into heaven." He died from lung and bone cancer two weeks later.

Vermont

Origin

On May 20, 2013, Governor Peter Shumlin (D) [signed into law Vermont Patient Choice and Control at the End of Life Act](#), making Vermont the fourth state to legalize medical aid in dying.

Victims

According to the [Vermont Department of Health](#), between 2013 and 2023 a total of 200 patients received prescriptions for life-ending drugs. Of this, 146 ended their lives by ingesting the drug.

Legal Changes

On May 2, 2023, Gov. Phil Scott (R) [signed into law legislation removing the residency requirement](#), becoming the first state to allow nonresidents to commit assisted suicide.

In January 2025, [HB 75](#) was introduced in the state legislature, which sought to allow non-physician professionals, such as nurse practitioners, to provide life ending drugs to patients. The bill was unsuccessful, having died in committee.

Results

Since the residency requirement was lifted in 2023, clinics and physicians have been overwhelmed by the number of out-of-state patients seeking to end their life. [One physician said](#) that it "has profoundly changed my life, our clinic function,"

and “We just had a lot to learn about how to pull this off logistically.”

Washington

Origin

Washington’s Death with Dignity Act became law on March 5, 2009 after voters [approved a ballot initiative](#) in 2008. (57.8% of voters approved)

Victims

According to the [Washington State Department of Health](#), between 2009 and 2023 a total of 3,683 people received prescriptions for life-ending drugs. Of this, 2,768 people ended their lives by ingesting the drug.

Legal Changes

In 2023, [SB 5179](#) was introduced and passed in the Washington legislature. The law reduced safeguards in the Death With Dignity Act that sought to protect patients. These included:

- Allowing a physician’s assistant or nurse practitioner to make decision on patient’s terminal status
- Allowing a non-psychiatrist social worker or other mental health counselor to give a mental health evaluation
- Removing the waiting period between requests for life-ending medication from 15 days to 7 days
- Allowing for life ending medication to be sent via mail as opposed to receiving the drugs directly from a licensed pharmacist

In 2025 Washington legislators introduced [HB 1876](#). This would seek to further remove restrictions in the Death With Dignity Act by waiving the 7 day medication waiting period for patients who are deemed not to live longer than 7 days. As of October 2025, the bill was sitting in committee.

Results

Dr. Sharon Quick, former president of the Physicians for Compassionate Care Education Foundation, [said in 2021](#) that any changes made to Washington's Death With Dignity Act regarding shortening waiting period "reflects a misunderstanding of dying physiology and palliative care capabilities while allowing injustice, especially for those with mental illness and disabilities." She [also noted that](#) "depression is expected in 25 to 40 percent of those desiring to hasten death, yet less than 5 percent are referred for mental health counseling in Washington."

Dr. Richard Doerflinger, associate scholar at the Charlotte Lozier Institute, cites cases where failures to follow the protocols and safeguards have occurred. [He notes that](#) since 2009, 219 patients "have not filed their legally required report on the patient's terminal illness, life expectancy, informed consent, or mental competency." And for 264 patients, "the Department of Health never received a request for the drugs signed by the patient."

Patients are also more and more likely to kill themselves for fear of being a burden. According to the State Health Reports, [in 2009](#), just 23% of patients stated that the main reason they wanted to die was fear of "Burden on family, friends/caregivers." [In 2022](#), 59% of patients felt this way.

In addition, two states have passed legislation legalizing Medical Aid in Dying during the 2025 legislative session

Delaware

On May 20, 2025, Delaware Governor Matt Meyer (D) [signed into law](#) the "Ron Silverio/Heather Block End of Life Options Law," becoming the 11th state to officially legalize assisted suicide. The law officially goes into effect on January 1, 2026.

New York

On June 9, 2025, the New York State Legislature [officially passed](#) a bill that would legalize medical aid in dying. As of October 2025, it is awaiting the signature of Governor Kathy Hochul (D).

International

Canada

Origin

In June 2016, Canada's Medical Aid in Dying Law [was passed](#) by the Canadian Parliament.

Victims

According to the [Canadian Department of Health](#), between 2016 and 2023, a total of 60,301 Canadians successfully used Medical Aid in Dying to end their lives. The number of victims per year has increased dramatically since it was first passed, from 1,018 deaths in 2016 to 15,343 deaths in 2023. Statistics also showed that Medical Aid in Dying accounted for 4.7% of Canada's death in 2023, compared to 2.0% in 2019. It is particularly concerning in the province of Quebec, where approximately 7% of deaths are attributed to Medical Aid in Dying.

Legal Changes

Several changes have been made to Canada's Medical Aid in Dying Law that have reduced safeguards. In March 2021, Canada [passed bill C-7](#) which amended the aforementioned law to allow terminal patients to waive their declaration of consent as well as the 10 day waiting period for medication if it is determined they have less than that time to live. It would also allow persons with non-terminal illnesses to be eligible for Medical Aid in Dying if a doctor determines that the

condition is “serious and incurable.”

In March 2023, [Bill C-39](#) was passed. This amended the Aid in Dying Law to include those suffering from mental illness as eligible for assisted suicide. The law was originally supposed to take effect on March 17, 2024, but in February 2024 the Canadian government [pushed back the effective date to 2027](#). They cited the healthcare system’s unpreparedness in dealing with the issue of mental health, [saying that the extension](#) “would provide more time for provinces and territories to prepare their health care systems...in situations where a person’s sole underlying medical condition is a mental illness.”

Results

Despite the Canadian law’s pushback of eligibility for mental illness, numerous stories have come out from patients with non-terminal conditions being offered Medical Aid in Dying by medical professionals:

- Between July and November 2022, it was revealed that [at least four military veterans](#) who contacted Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) were recommended Medical Aid in Dying as a viable medical option. In 2025, [another veteran came forward](#) claiming that he was offered the option of Medical Aid in Dying in December 2023 after calling VAC to deal with mental health issues. A 2023 VAC briefing said the number of veterans offered Medical Aid in Dying could be as high as 20.
- A report [released by the Ontario Chief Coroner](#) in October 2024 showed several instances where healthy people are using Medical Aid In Dying to take their own life. [In one case](#), a woman who suffered from anxiety and post traumatic stress disorder was deemed eligible for MAID by medical professionals because she had trouble securing proper housing. Another case involved a man who was a quadriplegic after suffering a car accident;

doctors deemed him eligible for MAID because he claimed he could not live with a disability.

- The report also shows misuse of proper protocols in dealing with potential cases. [A man who had a history of bowel disease](#) and substance abuse was recommended MAID by a psychiatrist to deal with his feelings of isolation. Without going through the proper protocol, the psychiatrist drove the man to the facility where he took part in the procedure.

Since the 2021 amendment to the law allowing non-terminal patients to participate, there has been a growing number of non-terminally ill persons who have taken their own lives. [In 2021](#) persons without a terminal disease accounted for 2.2% of all MAID deaths; [in 2023](#), they accounted for 4.1%.

[In 2019](#), 34% of patients said fear of being a burden to loved ones was a reason why they wanted to participate in MAID. [In 2023](#), 45.1% of patients felt this way.

Netherlands

Origin

The Netherlands became the first country in the world to legalize medical aid in dying (referred to as euthanasia) on April 1, 2002. [The law stated](#) that a person over the age of 12 who has a condition that is “unbearable, with no prospect of improvement” is eligible for euthanasia.

Victims

According to [national data](#), between 2002 and 2023 a total of 101,751 people in the Netherlands have successfully used euthanasia to take their own lives. The number of deaths has increased every year and has significantly increased from 1,882 deaths in 2002 to 9,068 in 2023.

Legal Changes

[In 2017](#), the Dutch government announced it would draft a law that would include elderly persons who have no illness or condition. However, as of 2025 no law has not gone into effect.

[In 2020](#), a Dutch court ruled that those who are suffering from dementia can be eligible for euthanasia, provided the patient gives written consent while they are still cognitively functioning.

[In April 2023](#), the Dutch government announced that children under age 12 that are suffering from a terminal illness would be allowed to participate in euthanasia.

[In 2024](#), a bill was introduced in the Dutch parliament seeking to allow healthy persons over 75 to be eligible for euthanasia. The bill is currently being debated.

Results

In April 2024, [a 33-year-old woman](#) was allowed to end her own life after she had been struggling with depression and eating disorders. In May 2024, [a 29-year-old Dutch woman](#) was granted the right to die after suffering with severe mental illness.

In 2023, [researchers in the UK](#) studied the types of persons who are utilizing euthanasia in the Netherlands and found many cases of mental issues, particularly autism, being the main factor for a person wanting to end their life. The study looked at 39 cases of persons between 2012 and 2023 who requested euthanasia due to mental health issues. Of this, 42% cited autism as a contributing factor in their decision. Of those who cited autism, 77% cited feeling socially isolated and lonely.

There are reports of doctors not properly following the proper protocols in filling out forms for patients. [According to Fr. Tad Pacholczyk](#), senior ethicist at the National Catholic Bioethics Center, Dutch doctors are required to “fill out a

number of forms to explain the circumstances, and so on. And the doctors get tired of the forms...And what they do instead of going through the rigmarole of the paperwork, they just make a decision at a certain point to administer on their own initiative high doses of morphine and end the person's life. Even if the person hasn't asked for it. And then they can just say, 'well, we were just managing pain. I don't have to fill out all that paperwork.'

Belgium

Origin

Belgium legalized medical aid in dying (referred to as euthanasia) on May 28, 2002, becoming the second country in the world to allow the practice. The law states that a patient who is in a "medically desperate state of persistent and unbearable physical or psychological suffering that cannot be alleviated" can request euthanasia.

Victims

According to [Belgian data](#), between 2002 and 2023 a total of 33,580 people have taken their own life via euthanasia. The number has dramatically increased from 236 in 2003 to 3,423 in 2023.

Legal Changes

[In 2014](#), Belgium amended its law to allow children under 12 with terminal illnesses to request euthanasia.

[In May 2025](#), a bill was introduced in the Belgian parliament seeking to allow those with dementia to request euthanasia. It is currently being debated.

Results

In 2014, Tom Mortier, a Belgian man, [filed a lawsuit](#) against the European Court of Human Rights after it was revealed that

his mother, Godelieva De Troyer, was euthanized in 2012 while battling depression. Mortier's lawsuit claimed that the doctor who carried out the euthanasia did not follow proper protocols and did not notify him or his family about his mother's decision. Mortier also claimed that his mother's mental illness was not a terminal condition. In 2022, the European Court ruled in favor of Mortier, saying that the Belgium government failed to adequately investigate the circumstances surrounding the euthanasia of De Troyer. Alliance Defending Freedom International, who represented Mr. Mortier, said this case "demonstrates the inadequacy of 'safeguards' for the intentional ending of life."

In 2020 [three Belgian doctors went on trial](#) for unlawfully euthanizing a 38-year-old woman with psychological conditions, including autism. It was alleged that the mental illnesses the woman was suffering from did not meet the requirements for euthanasia. While the doctors were [ultimately acquitted](#) in court, the sisters of the victim believe that the doctors did not follow the proper protocols as stated by the law.

U.K.

In June 2025, the [U.K. House of Commons passed](#) a bill that would legalize medical aid in dying for persons who are determined to have less than 6 months to live. It is currently being debated in the House of Lords.

While it is still going through the legislative process, it is possible that the bill could become law by the end of 2025.

UNMASKING ZOHRAN MAMDANI

Catholic League president Bill Donohue has written a lengthy article unmasking New York City mayoral candidate, Zohran Mamdani. To read it click [here](#).

CATHOLIC LEAGUE ON CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM

[Americans More Positive About Religion–October 23, 2025](#)

[Demonizing Christian Critics Of The LGBTQ Agenda–October 22, 2025](#)

[Religious Left Okays Anti-Christian Bias–April 15, 2025](#)

[Demonizing Christian Trump Supporters–January 14, 2025](#)

[Christian Bashers Rip Hegseth And Huckabee–November 15, 2024](#)

[Christianity Terrifies Secular Left–October 1, 2024](#)

[The Myth Of Christian Nationalist Violence Part II–September 4, 2024](#)

[The Myth Of Christian Nationalist Violence Part I–September 3, 2024](#)

[Vance's Catholicism Under Fire–July 22, 2024](#)

[Public Concerned About Loss Of Religion–March 19, 2024](#)

[Flawed Survey Demonizes Christians–March 18, 2024](#)

[Oscar For Religiophobia Warranted–March 8, 2024](#)

[Demagoguing Christians In An Election Year–January 3, 2024](#)

[Making Bogeymen Of Christian Nationalism–December 5, 2023](#)

[Christian Bashers Aim Beyond Mike Johnson–November 9, 2023](#)

[The War Against Moms For Liberty–August 21, 2023](#)

[Demonizing Traditional Catholics–August 15, 2022](#)

[American Values Survey Is Hyper-Political–November 4, 2021](#)

[Pew Religion Survey Is Skewed–November 1, 2021](#)

[Lying About Christian Nationalists–August 19, 2021](#)

[Christian Bashers Invent Christian Nationalism–April 5, 2021](#)

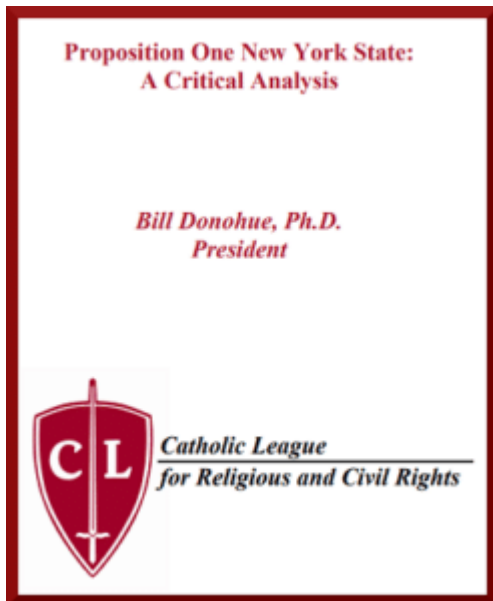
[Demonizing White Christians–February 10, 2021](#)

[Biden Team Welcomes Christian Bashers–October 1, 2020](#)

[Christian Nationalism Is A Fiction Part II–September 4, 2019](#)

[Christian Nationalism Is A Fiction Part I–September 3, 2019](#)

**DANGEROUS BALLOT INITIATIVE
IN NEW YORK**



There is a ballot initiative in New York State this November that is downright dangerous.

Bill Donohue wrote a lengthy rebuttal and it is now available online in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

It is also published in booklet form, in both languages. We are doing a mass mailing to our allies across the state. Most will get a digital copy; they can print it in booklet form if they have Adobe.

It is being widely distributed in the state not only to Catholics, but to non-Catholics as well. We will mail the booklet to approximately 1,200 Catholics, 120 Hispanic groups, 120 Jewish groups, 100 Muslim groups and 120 conservative groups.

Thanks to the support of New York Archbishop Timothy Cardinal Dolan it is being placed in the hands of all New York bishops and many others.

This should be of interest to non-New Yorkers as well. If these activists succeed with their extremist agenda in New York, they will bring their proposal to other states.

On Election Day, November 5, voters in New York State will cast their ballot for Proposition One. It would amend section 11 of article 1 of the New York State Constitution in two ways: Paragraph A would offer equal protection before the law

to eleven new demographic categories; Paragraph B would revise the legal meaning of discrimination.

Prop One is being promoted as a pro-equality initiative. In reality, it is a huge stealth campaign. Those behind Prop One have a very different agenda. *Their real goal is to undermine parental rights, eviscerate religious liberty and legalize selective discrimination.*

Currently, the New York State Constitution says that no one can be subjected to discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed or religion. Paragraph A of Prop One would add the following demographic categories: age, sex, gender identity, gender expression, and reproductive healthcare and autonomy. Paragraph B justifies reverse discrimination. The implications are dramatic.

Please read our assessment of Prop One. And please alert your family and friends to it. It the most deceitful and dangerous initiative ever introduced. It needs to be defeated.

PROBING CATHOLIC-RUN INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOLS

[Bill Donohue](#)

On June 14, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) issued a report on boarding schools for Native American children, some of which were run by the Catholic Church. From 1869 to the 1960s, the government removed thousands of these children from tribal lands and placed them in boarding schools. The express purpose was to assimilate them into American society.

There were more than 500 of these schools, more than 80 of which (16 percent) were Catholic-run. According to an investigation by the *Washington Post* (WaPo) at least 122 priests, sisters and brothers who were assigned to these schools were later accused of sexually abusing these children.

The report by the USCCB and the report issued by the *Washington Post* agree on some matters but differ on others. The bishops' report includes an apology for inflicting a "history of trauma" on Native Americans, but the findings of the newspaper's probe are much more critical.

The WaPo report was based in interviews with more than two dozen Indian board school attendees who claimed they were abused physically, sexually or emotionally in these boarding schools, three-fourths of which were run by the government. Oral histories, court documents, lawsuits, diaries, correspondence and the like were examined.

WaPo says it relied on information taken from the ProPublica database. This is the same organization that was mentioned by Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito when he was setup by a left-wing woman posing as a conservative; she surreptitiously taped him. He named ProPublica as the source of the hit jobs, mentioning their efforts to smear his Catholic colleague, Clarence Thomas.

I have had my own problems with ProPublica. In 2020, it issued a report, jointly done with the *Houston Chronicle*, that contended that the Catholic Church did not keep tabs on priests that it threw out of the priesthood. Guilty as charged! As I said at the time, neither does the media or any other organization. So what? Perhaps ProPublica expects the Church to stalk its dismissed employees.

But for the sake of argument, let's say the methodology is acceptable. What exactly did WaPo find? Serious questions are extant.

The report cites a Department of Interior report from 2022 that investigated conditions in government-run boarding schools; it did not probe the ones operated by the Catholic Church. That report mentioned the word "Catholic" twice, both times in passing, having nothing to do with abuse.

More important, the timeline of the investigation under review extends back to 1869, so the kind of record keeping that lends itself to conclusive results is simply impossible. The WaPo report, which claims "pervasive" abuse in Catholic-run boarding schools, readily confesses that "lists of accused priests are inconsistent and incomplete, and many survivors have not come forward. Others are aging and in poor health, or, like their abusers, have died."

Instead of admitting that this is a clear shortcoming, the journalists conclude this means that "the extent of the abuse was probably far worse." Really? Let's face it—they could have come to a very different conclusion. Precisely because the record-keeping was found wanting, it is hard to know the truth. It is even possible that good data would reveal how small this problem was. But such considerations would have gotten in the way of their narrative.

WaPo cites Rev. Mike Carson, who worked on this issue for the bishops, and he "also noted a likely dearth of records." Similarly, Interior Secretary Deb Haaland acknowledges that given the situation, "I doubt that you could find a lot of Catholic records or federal government records about abuse and neglect toward the students." Even in cases where, for example, the Jesuits kept tabs on alleged cases of abuse, WaPo quotes them as saying the list "does not imply the claims are true and correct or that the accused individual has been found guilty of a crime or liable for civil claims."

There are other problems that should have given the journalists pause. In several parts of the report, they admit that the alleged victims whom they spoke to "kept secret" what

happened. That being the case, how can Church officials be blamed? Indeed, after detailing one case of alleged abuse, they write that “It is unclear whether church officials were aware of the abuse at St. Mary’s at the time.”

Then there is the issue of the accused denying that they committed the offense. For instance, Sr. Sigfrieda Hettinger denied in 2015 that she abused a boy decades ago. “I loved them all. I never hurt them at all. I never touched them at all.” She died in 2016 at age 87. Was she telling the truth or lying? We don’t know. But in such cases, fairness dictates that we have to assume she was innocent.

There is another issue that needs to be addressed, one that is not discussed by the WaPo authors. They cite a Jesuit priest, Rev. Edmund J. Robinson, who was a serial offender. Could it be that a small number of priests were responsible for a disproportionate number of cases?

We know from the John Jay studies on this issue nationwide that between 1950 and 2002, 149 priests (3.3 percent) who had more than ten allegations of abuse were responsible for abusing 2,960 victims, thus accounting for 26 percent of all the allegations. As I said in my book, [*The Truth about Clergy Sexual Abuse: Clarifying the Facts and the Causes*](#), this means that *“a very small percentage of accused priests are responsible for a substantial percentage of the allegations.”*

The same may be true in the case of the Indian boarding school story.

Moreover, WaPo journalists offer no comment on something that should have concerned them. Why is it that when the federal government commissioned a study of this issue in 1928, this report “chastised the schools for the mistreatment and malnourishment of students,” but never said a word about physical or sexual abuse? Was it a cover up? Or was there nothing to report? It seems plausible that a probe that took

notice of “mistreatment” would have cited serious cases of abuse.

The credibility of the WaPo authors is seriously undermined by their decision to cite the Catholic Church’s legacy of abuse in Canadian boarding schools for indigenous peoples. That story has positively been proven to be a [hoax](#). It does not help their cause to say that Pope Francis apologized for what happened—he did so before the story was proven false.

In 2021, the Catholic Church was accused of creating “mass graves” for indigenous children in the residential schools. But it didn’t take long before it was totally debunked. In 2022, Jacques Rouillard, professor emeritus in the Department of History at the University of Montreal, questioned, “After seven months of recrimination and denunciation, where are the remains of the children buried in the Kamloops Indian Residential School?”

A second round of accusations emerged in the summer of 2023 when excavations of the “mass grave” began. In August, the National Post reported that “No evidence of human remains has been found during the excavation of a Catholic church basement on the site of a former Manitoba residential school.” Again, the body count was zero.

There is also the matter of the scope of the WaPo investigation. Why didn’t they investigate the boarding schools run by the government? After all, they operated most of them. Are they content to rely on the Department of Interior study? Similarly, they mention that several Protestant denominations also operated these schools. Why were none of them probed?

As I have pointed out many times, wherever adults regularly interact with minors, unfortunately we find abuse. So why is it that time and again, the public schools get a pass, Hollywood gets a pass, etc.? Why is it always the Catholic

Church that is the source of investigation? Isn't this religious profiling? And wouldn't that suggest that bigotry is at work?

By contrast, the USCCB report has two mentions of "violence" and six mentions of "abuse," but none have anything to do with wrongdoing on the part of the Church.

The bishops' report rightfully cites heroes such as Dominican Fr. Bartolomé de Las Casas, the sixteenth century defender of human rights for Indians, and St. Junípero Serra, the eighteenth century missionary who was canonized by Pope Francis for his courage in calling out colonizers for their mistreatment of Native Americans.

There is not a single person, from any other religion, who did more to champion the rights of Indians than these two priests.

The bishops' report does not sanitize anything. It admits that many Native Americans feel abandoned by the Church, citing a "lack of understanding of their unique cultural needs." Hence, the apology. But the report also notes the "joy," as well as the "sorrow," that so many experienced. It also makes note of the many wonderful priests and nuns who did yeoman work among indigenous Catholics.

The motive to assimilate Native Americans was noble, though looking back it from today's vantage point it may seem overbearing. But it is important to acknowledge, as the bishops' report does, that in places like Alaska, "many Church-run boarding schools were created to shelter youth who were orphaned during epidemics or whose parents were experiencing illness or dire poverty and could not care for them."

Moreover, "Many Native alumni of those boarding schools who are still living today express gratitude for the care and educational opportunities they received from the men and women religious who administered mission schools." Similarly, it

bears noting that many of these indigenous peoples “willingly embraced the Gospel when missionaries offered it to them.”

In fact, many tribes “requested Catholic missionaries.” Let’s also not forget that “Many early Indigenous converts to Catholicism faced persecution and even martyrdom for their belief, either within their own communities or from others outside their communities.”

We shouldn’t have to rely on Catholic sources to highlight the great work done by the missionaries. This is a matter of history, not religion. But the animus against the Church today is palpable, especially in elite quarters.

It is important that the truth be told. The WaPo report contains some disturbing information, and undoubtedly instances of abuse occurred. But when the data are incomplete, it’s time to tap the brakes and not come to condemnatory conclusions.

The issue of abuse must also be put in context. If corporal punishment was commonplace at the time, why should we be horrified to learn that it existed in Catholic institutions? It must also be asked how common was abuse within the Native American community? Not to ask questions like these reveals a bias, thus further undercutting the credibility of those pointing fingers.

I am sending a letter, and this commentary, to the Senate Indian Affairs Committee. They are interested in having a federal commission do a more thorough investigation of the assimilative policies of Indian boarding schools. It’s time they raised issues that seem to have escaped the WaPo journalists, as well as many others.

Biden Admin LGBT Imperialism

For PDF version, click [here](#).

The following report examines the efforts undertaken by the Biden administration to advance the LGBT agenda around the globe. It begins by exploring the overarching policies that Biden has pursued. It then catalogs how these aims have played out in specific regions.

White House

On February 4, 2021, President Biden issued a memorandum NSM-4 on “Advancing the Human Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex Persons Around the World.” Significantly, it was given a “national security memorandum” number making it of an even higher importance.

In Biden’s speech on September 21, 2021, to the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly, he said, “We all must defend the rights of LGBTQI individuals so they can live and love openly without fear, whether it’s Chechnya or Cameroon or anywhere.”

President Biden’s Executive Order 14075, “Advancing Equality for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex Individuals,” instructed the Secretary of State, together with the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Administrator of United States Agency for International Development (USAID), to create a plan to combat “conversion therapy” around the world.

State Department

Secretary Antony Blinken said, “We are engaging around the world in cultural diplomacy. We’re engaging in also making sure that we’re doing what we can to help protect the rights of marginalized groups, including notably the LGBTI+ community

which in so many countries around the world is under threat, and many cases under growing threat.”

Under Blinken’s leadership, the State Department has observed International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia; Coming Out Day; Spirit Day; International Pronouns Day; Intersex Awareness Day; Intersex Day of Solidarity; and Ace week (celebrating those with asexual-spectrum identities). Additionally, the State Department has participated in Pride Month celebrations around the world. Numerous bureaus and embassies hosted and participated in wide-ranging Pride events creating social media toolkits that were shared with all embassies and consulates.

Scores of U.S. embassies flew Pride or Progress flags. Several of the host nations still protect traditional values, and therefore, the American effort could be viewed as a form of imperialism, foisting these degenerative values on these countries. Examples of this include: the Holy See, Angola, Azerbaijan, the Bahamas, Bahrain, Belize, Bermuda, Bulgaria, Burma, the Central African Republic, Chad, China, Comoros, Côte d’Ivoire (Ivory Coast), Curacao, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Eswatini, Fiji, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kuwait, Laos, Latvia, Lithuania, Madagascar, Mauritius, Moldova, Montenegro Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Northern Macedonia, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, San Marino, Serbia, Seychelles, Slovakia, South Korea, Sudan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates, and Vietnam.

Each year, the State Department releases its Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, known as Country Reports. These 195 Country Reports evaluate in detail the human rights record of every country in the world as perceived by the State Department. Beginning in 2022, 67 countries were criticized under the category of “Involuntary or Coercive Medical or

Psychological Practices Specifically Targeting LGBTQI+ Individuals.” Additionally, The Country Reports identify 154 countries as having inadequate “legal gender recognition.” In other words, the State Department considers it a potential human rights violation if other countries do not easily facilitate changing the sex designation on official documents or name changes for someone who identifies as the opposite sex. Examples include: Albania because its law does not “guarantee the individual’s right to self-determination of gender,” the Central African Republic because “the constitution defines marriage as ‘the union between one man and one woman,’” Kazakhstan because “some families and private religious practitioners engaged in prayers and religious ceremonies intended to alter the sexual orientation or gender identities of LGBTQI+ individuals,” Madagascar because “individuals cannot self-identify in their official documents,” Malaysian because the law “does not recognize LGBTQI+ individuals, couples, or their families,” and Nicaragua because “the law curtailed the rights of LGBTQI+ households by defining families as necessarily headed by a man and a woman.”

In September 2021, President Biden appointed Jessica Stern as the administration’s LGBTQI Special Envoy. In her time at the post, she has traveled to 22 different countries to advance the LGBT agenda globally. In 2022, she attended a Pride parade in Lithuania where she celebrated the number of children she saw in attendance. She spoke with civil society organizations about removing “gender markers” from the national ID system and denouncing conversion therapy in Brazil.

In 2021, the State Department issued “Memorandum on Advancing Human Rights of Lesbian, Gay Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex Persons Around the World.” The memorandum calls for the department to “lead a standing group, with appropriate interagency representation, to help ensure the Federal Government’s swift and meaningful response to serious

incidents that threaten the human rights of LGBTQI+ persons abroad. When foreign governments move to restrict the rights of LGBTQI+ persons or fail to enforce legal protections in place, thereby contributing to a climate of intolerance, agencies engaged abroad shall consider appropriate responses, including using the full range of diplomatic and assistance tools and, as appropriate, financial sanctions, visa restrictions, and other actions.”

In 2022, the State Department’s Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor solicited “new proposals for programming to support the human rights of LGBTQI+ persons, with a focus on LGBTQI+ inclusive democracy, and particularly marginalized populations including lesbian, bisexual and queer women and transgender, intersex and other gender diverse persons, as well as under-resourced regions.”

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

A January 2023 USAID report, “Integrating LGBTQI+ Considerations into Education Programming,” recommended training educators to use appropriate pronouns and changed reference to mother or father to “parent/parent” or “parent/guardian.” Other parts of the report called for the abolition of school policies that are “based on the gender binary,” including dress codes or prohibitions against “long hair or long nails for some students.” Additionally, the report states “Ensure that education officials do not reveal a student’s sexual orientation or gender identity without the student’s permission – even to the student’s family.” Furthermore, USAID drew on resources provided by the anti-Catholic Southern Poverty Law Center to craft this report.

In August 2023, USAID’s “LGBTQI+ Inclusive Development Policy,” states, “USAID affirms and celebrates lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex (LGBTQI+) people and all people of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, and sex characteristics as

integral parts of every society.”

Peace Corps

“In June 2021 Peace Corps’ Europe, Mediterranean, and Asia Region hosted (with the support of the Office of Overseas Programming and Training Support) hosted a LGBTQI+ support and non-discrimination webinar for 21 posts, during which Peace Corps North Macedonia presented on best practices for supporting Transgender Volunteers and Peace Corps Thailand presented on best practices for placing and supporting same-sex couple Volunteers.”

National Endowment for the Humanities

Between October 1, 2020, and September 30, 2023, the United States has issued more than 1,100 grants to fund the LGBT agenda around the world. Many of these grants are administered by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

One of these grants gave \$1 million to Outright Action, an LGBT activist organization, working in Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Ukraine, the Philippines, Iran, and China.

Another project that received funding was translating the “Homosaurus” into Spanish. The “Homosaurus” is a thesaurus of LGBT terms such as “anonymous sex,” “aromantic porn films,” “pederasts,” “children’s sexuality,” and “gay children.” Additionally, the “Homosaurus” defined “fetishes” including “ephebophilia” (a reference to being attracted to people aged 15 to 19) and “Hebephilia” (attracted to children aged 11 to 14).

Sub-Saharan Africa

In 2021, the U.S. Embassy in Mauritius awarded a grant to a prominent LGBT organization “to establish a public research space promoting the wellbeing and integration of the LGBTQI+ community.”

In August of 2021, the U.S. Embassy in Angola hosted “an informal roundtable discussion between a congressional delegation led by U.S. Representative Karen Bass and members of Angolan civil society which included representatives from Angolan LGBTQI+ organizations.

On November 29, 2021, Botswana’s Court of Appeals upheld a lower court’s decision to strike down a law that forbade “carnal knowledge of any person against the order of nature.” U.S. Embassy staff attended the November 29 decision and the October 12 Court of Appeals hearing on the case. The Embassy also coordinated a statement with the UK, EU, Australia, France, and Germany celebrating the decision and congratulating activists for their “long but successful struggle.”

In 2022, the U.S. Mission to Botswana offered a grant opportunity called “Beyond Decriminalization: Expanding LGBTQI+ Rights in Botswana.” The grant would provide \$300,000 to “carry out a program to promote greater social acceptance of LGBTQI+ persons, including among influential *religious groups* and traditional groups (our italics).”

In May of 2022, the U.S. Embassy’s Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) to Zimbabwe conducted a press interview discussing the Department’s Human Rights Report and the importance of International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia. The DCM emphasized “the growing recognition of LGBTQI+ human rights and said all should live their lives authentically and without fear.” The embassy also featured an excerpt of the interview on social media.

In July of 2022, the U.S. Ambassador to Benin participated in a reception “to elevate the importance the United States places on the defense and protection of human rights – in particular LGBTQI+ inclusion.”

In 2023, after the Ugandan parliament passed a bill

restricting homosexual conduct, “according to Ugandan news outlets, U.S. officials threatened to withhold funds used to treat 1.4 million Ugandans living with HIV/Aids. That would include withholding \$400 million annually that goes toward life-saving anti-retroviral drugs.”

In August of 2023, State Department LGBT Envoy Jessica Stern traveled to Mauritius where she participated in a “conference for LGBTQI+ human rights defenders from throughout Africa, as well as scheduled meetings with civil society, officials from the Government of Mauritius, and likeminded international partners.”

In 2023, LGBT Envoy Stern also traveled to South Africa where she “outlined some key areas on which she’s focusing her efforts, including decriminalising homosexuality, legal gender recognition, intersex rights, ending LGBTQI+ violence, and fighting against conversion therapy practices.” During her trip she spoke in favor of using U.S. diplomatic power to change LGBT laws particularly in Africa saying that “it becomes really important that the US government uses our political power to fight sodomy laws, fight for legal gender recognition, and fight gender-based violence, but also that we put our money where our mouth is – and that means increasing our financial support for LGBTQI+ advocacy everywhere.”

In February of 2024, the U.S. State Department announced that it would consider withholding funding and aid from Ghana in response to the passing of anti-LGBTQ legislation. The law would prohibit the forming or funding of LGBTQ+ groups with offenders potentially being sentenced to three years in jail. In a statement, State Department spokesman Mat Miller said the bill “would certainly have a chilling effect on foreign investment and tourism in Ghana,” noting that “should the bill pass, it would potentially have ramifications on U.S. assistance.”

During the Biden administration, the U.S. Embassy in Cabo

Verde has remained in regular contact with the Cabo Verde National Commission for Human Rights and Citizenship (CNDHC) through the final phase of its "LGBTI Citizenship Project." The aim of this project is "to draft legislation to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation as well as gender identity, race, color, origin, ethnicity, religion, national origin, age, disability, health, and immigration status."

Middle East and North Africa

In June 2021, the U.S. Embassy in the United Arab Emirates flew the LGBT Pride Flag in recognition of Pride Month. This caused a backlash in the country. The former director of Dubai's finance department called the move "very disrespectful" and a senior Emirati official referred to the flag flying as "[rubbing] it in our faces."

In 2021, after the U.S. Embassy in Bahrain flew the Pride Flag, "Bahraini [Member of Parliament] Ahmed Al-Dumstani published a copy of a joint statement signed by 21 lawmakers that calls for a government response to the US embassy's rainbow flag display. The statement describes the rainbow flag as a 'blatant provocation against Bahraini society' and 'a violation of international and diplomatic relations.'"

In June of 2022, the official Twitter account of the U.S. embassy in Kuwait posted an image of a Pride Flag with a pro-LGBT message. Kuwaiti officials accused the embassy of violating international conventions that require diplomats to "respect the laws and regulations of the receiving state." The Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry summoned the top U.S. diplomat and sent a memo to the U.S. Chargé d'Affaires James Holtsnider requesting that "the embassy...respect the laws and regulations in force in the State of Kuwait and the obligation not to publish such tweets."

USAID's Middle East and North Africa partnered with Civil

Society Organizations “to create a toolkit to enhance security protections for organizations working with key populations – including gay men and other men who have sex with men, people who use drugs, sex workers, and transgender people – on HIV programming. LGBTQI+ organizations from across the region have used the toolkit to assess their strengths and areas for growth, and to organize, plan, and strategize for resilient health programming and rights advocacy.”

During the Biden Administration, the U.S. Embassy in Algeria worked to promote “quarterly LGBTQI+-focused roundtables with like-minded diplomatic missions.”

During the Biden Administration, the U.S. Embassy in Jordan, initiated a quarterly dialogue with other like-minded missions. This partnership established an ongoing dialogue and agreed on principles of engagement and information sharing regarding LGBT issues.

Asia

In November of 2021, Special Envoy Jessica Stern participated in the U.S.-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue “to raise challenges on the promotion of human rights of LGBTQI+ persons in Vietnam, as well as highlight areas of progress and potential cooperation to further advance human rights protections,” including drafting a “gender affirmation law to ensure legal gender recognition and amendments to the Marriage and Family Law to provide same-sex couples property and inheritance rights.”

During the Biden administration, the United States Embassy in Uzbekistan has “consistently raised the issue of decriminalization [of same-sex activity] with the government and continues to look for ways to make progress on this sensitive issue.”

One potential human rights violation noted in the Kazakhstan Country Report was “some families and private religious

practitioners engaged in prayers and religious ceremonies intended to alter the sexual orientation or gender identities of LGBTQI+ individuals.”

Europe

In June 2021, 2022, and 2023 the Pride flag was displayed outside of the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See.

In September 2021, the U.S. embassy in Portugal gave \$10,000 to fund a film festival called “Queer Lisboa.” This is an LGBT film festival held in Portugal that featured drag queens and depictions of incest and pedophilia. At the time, Chargé d’Affaires Kristin Kan said she was “very happy” to support this film festival as “part of our Diversity, Equality and Inclusion efforts.”

In 2022, the United States Embassy in North Macedonia “provided a small grant to an LGBTQI+ organization to host a series of workshops/discussions with the LGBTQI+ community, allies, and state institutions on recognizing and mitigating discrimination.”

In 2022, the United States Embassy in Albania announced that it will partner with The Justice Department’s Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance and Training (OPDAT) “to train victim coordinators on LGBTQI+ rights, inviting prominent representatives from the LGBTQI+ community as well as representatives from the Institution of the Commissioner on Protection from Discrimination. The Albanian law ‘On Protection from Discriminations’ does not specifically include LGBTQI+ persons.”

In 2022, the State Department also wished to partner with OPDAT to amend criminal law in the Baltic states. In Estonia and Lithuania, they aimed to include gender identity as a protected class. Meanwhile, in Latvia, they planned to make sexual orientation and gender identity into a protected class.

Latin America and the Caribbean

NGOs and churches from Caribbean countries have pushed back against the display of Pride flags, asserting in a joint statement that flying Pride flags at embassies “represents gross disrespect and an assault upon the consciousness of our societies.”

When the United States Embassy in Jamaica flew the Pride flag, it led to protests. One sign read “Stop cultural imperialism”; protestors also called the flag “an insult to our country.”

HARRIS AND TRUMP ON RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

[For the PDF version, click [here](#).]

Harris’ Religious Liberty Record

On February 14, 2021, Biden signed an executive order reestablishing the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. The Biden-Harris administration claims that this office is intended to promote partnerships between the White House and religious and secular organizations to better serve people in need. These accomplishments fall into eight categories: safeguarding the right to practice faith without fear and other aspects of religious freedom; expanding opportunity; responding to disasters; helping Americans with mental health and substance use problems and preventing suicide; improving maternal and child health and addressing hunger and nutrition; welcoming refugees, including Ukrainians and Afghan allies, and new Americans; protecting the environment; and promoting

protection and recovery from COVID-19.

Safeguarding the right to practice faith without fear and other aspects of religious freedom

- In response to the war between Israel and Hamas, the Biden-Harris administration has undertaken several programs to protect Jewish and Muslim communities in the United States.
- The Biden-Harris administration hosted the first-ever White House United We Stand Summit on countering hate-motivated violence. Although the summit briefly included discussions about attacks on houses of worship, its focus was more on discrimination against minorities and LGBT individuals.
- Biden announced the establishment of a new interagency policy committee (IPC), led by Domestic Policy Council and National Security Council staff, to increase and better coordinate efforts to counter antisemitism, Islamophobia, and related forms of discrimination and bias in our country. As its first order of business, the President directed the IPC to develop a national strategy to counter antisemitism. Second Gentleman of the United States Douglas Emhoff, Ambassador Susan Rice, Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, and Ambassador Deborah Lipstadt held a roundtable meeting with diverse Jewish stakeholders on the alarming spike in antisemitism in the United States.
- Through the Protecting Places of Worship Interagency Policy Committee (IPC), the Biden-Harris administration coordinated efforts to support the safety and security of places of worship. On the tenth anniversary of the attack on the Sikh Temple in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, the IPC announced an initial set of steps to protect places of worship and congregants, and IPC leaders participated in memorial events at the Sikh Temple. Under the IPC's leadership, products such as the Threats Against Houses

of Worship Highlight the Importance of Religious Community Outreach were updated, the first Protecting Places of Worship Week of Action was held, and a network promoting peer-to-peer learning for faith leaders launched.

- In Fiscal Year 2022, the Biden-Harris Administration implemented a nearly 40% increase in funding – from \$180 million to \$250 million – in the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP), which provides support for increasing the physical security of nonprofit organizations, including houses of worship and other religious affiliated entities. In his Fiscal Year 2023 budget proposal, President Biden called for \$360 million for this program. The omnibus spending package for fiscal year 2023 funded this program at \$304 million. Ultimately, the administration provided technical assistance to more than 10,000 faith-based and community leaders on taking action to protect places of worship, including by providing information on the Non-Profit Security Grant Program and sharing the Mitigating Attacks on Places of Worship publication. This included “diverse faith leaders” and provided protection to Tribal Nations and their citizens, including the President’s designation of the Camp Hale – Continental Divide National Monument, the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase Escalante National Monuments, and an interagency Sacred Sites Memorandum of Understanding Protected places sacred that creates a framework through which agencies can better protect Tribal sacred sites.
- The Biden-Harris administration reestablished the Faith-Based Security Advisory Council, which offers advice and recommendations to the DHS Secretary on matters related to protecting houses of worship, preparedness, and enhanced coordination with the faith community.
- The Biden-Harris administration advanced new rules which it claimed protected the religious liberty protections

for beneficiaries of federally funded social services, such as job training and job search assistance, academic enrichment opportunities, and housing services. The new rules require federal grantees that administer social service programs with the federal government to adhere to new regulations. In reality, this created new burdens for faith-based providers and reversed key reforms by the Trump administration that made it easier for faith-based providers to compete for federal grants.

- The Biden-Harris administration held listening sessions with Muslim, Jewish, and other faith-based, civil rights, and educational organizations on concerns related to anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and related forms of discrimination and bias. Additionally, the administration promoted a new Fact Sheet: Protecting Students from Discrimination Based on Shared Ancestry or Ethnic Characteristics, which describes ways this protection covers students who are or are perceived to be Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, Buddhist, or of another religious group. Further, the administration hosted a webinar on how pre-K-12 schools can prevent and address bullying against students because of their actual or perceived religious affiliation.

Expanding opportunity

- The Biden-Harris Administration launched the Thriving Communities Program, a program aimed at ensuring that disadvantaged communities have the technical tools and organizational capacity to compete for federal aid and deliver quality infrastructure projects that enable neighborhoods to thrive. As part of this program, direct support is provided to governmental, non-profit, philanthropic, neighborhood and faith-based organizations to collectively plan for, design, and deliver community-driven transportation projects.
- The Biden-Harris administration partnered with faith and

community leaders to enroll people in eligible households in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). The ACP helps ensure that eligible households can afford the high-speed internet and devices such as computers, smart phones and tablets.

- The Biden-Harris administration fostered partnerships among businesses, community-based organizations, and faith leaders through roundtables in all 50 states to promote job creation, economic growth, and equity at the local level. Lists of Department of Commerce programs and services relevant to communities' needs were shared at these roundtables, including information on small business loans, export promotion assistance, climate resilience support, and increased community access to data and technology.
- The Biden-Harris administration met with over 150 faith-based and community organizations seeking to partner with USAID.
- The Biden-Harris Administration conducted capacity-building and grant-writing trainings for faith-based and neighborhood organizations in cities such Tallahassee, Florida; Atlanta, Georgia; and Detroit, Michigan.

Responding to disasters

- Following the shootings at Tops supermarket in East Buffalo and Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, Biden-Harris staffers worked with local faith and neighborhood leaders on responding to needs and developed guides to relevant federal resources for these leaders. Some of the assistance provided included offering over 1,000 residents access to resources such as school supplies, nutritious food, mental and behavioral health resources, assistance for substance use disorders, and COVID-19 vaccinations. Likewise, the Biden-Harris administration's faith-based office claims it provided assistance, including the Resource Guide for

LGBTQ+ Organizations and Service Providers, following the shooting at Club Q in Colorado Springs. Additionally, they provided a fact sheet with resources for Asian-American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders communities in the aftermath of mass violence, including the despicable attacks in Monterey Park and Half Moon Bay, California.

- Biden-Harris administration provided training for faith and community leaders on preventing human trafficking in disasters and updated the Faith-Based Community Leaders Awareness Guide in English and Spanish.

Helping people struggling with mental health and substance use problems and preventing suicide

- The Biden-Harris administration provided training to 45,000 faith and community leaders on the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and on emergency mental health services, created a Youth Mental Health Toolkit, developed and shared a PSA featuring African American clergy, and updated the Practical Toolkit for Preventing Drug Overdose and Supporting Recovery in Faith and Community Settings and translated the toolkit into Spanish.
- The Biden-Harris administration hosted fourteen suicide prevention webinars for faith-based and community organizations that focused on the Department of Veterans Affairs S.A.V.E. training.
- The Biden-Harris Administration offered technical assistance during Mental Health Awareness Month to thousands of faith and community leaders from rural and underserved communities on the resources available to address behavioral health, farm stress, and prevent suicide.

Improving maternal and child health and addressing hunger and nutrition

- The Biden-Harris administration held three regional events in Philadelphia, Houston, and New York City to highlight ways faith and community leaders can get involved in addressing concerns about maternal and child health.
- The Biden-Harris administration hosted a series of webinars on workplace protections for new and expecting mothers. Workers, worker advocates, employers, and other stakeholders were provided with information on federal laws that protect pregnant workers from discrimination, provide time off for the birth or adoption of a child, and ensure nursing workers can take breaks to pump breast milk while at work.
- The Biden-Harris administration included community and faith-based organizations in the first White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health in over 50 years and in the development and implementation of the National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health.
- The Biden-Harris administration moved to make kosher and halal foods more available to nutrition assistance customers, including by engaging with faith institutions, food banks, and other external stakeholders.

Welcoming refugees, including Ukrainians and Afghan allies, and new Americans

- The Biden-Harris administration supported the launch of the Welcome Corps by connecting faith and community leaders with this new service opportunity for Americans to welcome refugees. Together, sponsor groups welcome refugee newcomers by securing and preparing initial housing, greeting refugee newcomers at the airport, enrolling children in school, and helping adults find employment.
- In coordination with Operation Allies Welcome, the Biden-Harris administration continued a webinar series

for faith and neighborhood organizations on supporting the resettlement of Afghan allies in the United States.

- The Biden-Harris administration partnered with community and faith leaders in support of Uniting for Ukraine, an innovative approach to provide a safe and orderly process for displaced Ukrainians who have been impacted by Russia's invasion of Ukraine to come to the United States with the support of a sponsor. Also, Biden sent Easter greetings to Ukrainian American Christians, giving thanks for the extraordinary unity and resolve we are seeing around the world in support of Ukrainians and promising to continue to stand with the people of a free and democratic Ukraine.
- The Biden-Harris administration connected leaders of secular and religious nonprofit organizations with the Task Force on New Americans, a body that coordinates the federal government's efforts to ensure that lawfully present immigrants, including refugees, receive the support they need.

Protecting the environment

- On August 13, 2024, the Biden-Harris White House hosted a meeting of more than a dozen faith leaders to discuss how faith-based organizations can benefit from and support the administration's climate agenda. Officials highlighted that houses of worship are eligible to use Direct Pay, a provision of the Inflation Reduction Act that helps tax-exempt entities use federal clean energy tax incentives by issuing payments in equal value to tax credits. This is to encourage nonprofits to proactively pursue clean energy projects.
- The Biden-Harris administration made it easier and more efficient for congregations to reduce pollution, including by launching a new webpage featuring 18 EPA programs with tools and resources for congregations, updating the ENERGY STAR Action Workbook for

Congregations, and facilitating webinars with nonprofit partners on Inflation Reduction Act-funded grants through the Efficiency Materials Pilot Program for Nonprofits.

- The Biden-Harris administration convened over 400 faith and community leaders to foster dialogue and partnerships on climate smart agriculture, climate smart commodities, and ways to help historically underserved communities.

Promoting protection and recovery from COVID-19

- As part of a “Year of Action” working with civil society on COVID-19 response efforts, USAID awarded \$1.5 million in technical support and capacity-strengthening services to three USAID Missions to implement activities that engage and strengthen the capacity of local faith-based and community organizations to assist in COVID-19 response.
- The Biden-Harris administration connected faith and community-based organizations with two initiatives to promote academic recovery in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis: The National Partnership for Student Success (a public-private partnership with AmeriCorps and the Department of Education) to recruit, screen, train, support, and engage an additional 250,000 caring adults in roles serving as tutors, mentors, student success coaches, wraparound service coordinators, and post-secondary transition coaches; and the Engage Every Student Initiative, which is working to ensure that every student who wants a spot in a high-quality out-of-school-time program has one.
- In 2022, AmeriCorps invested in thousands of nonprofit, faith, and community-based organizations across the nation addressing COVID-19 pandemic response, economic opportunity, and environmental conservation, among other critical needs. This includes a \$580 million

investment through the AmeriCorps State and National program, the largest investment in agency history supported by AmeriCorps' historic \$1 billion American Rescue Plan investment from the Biden-Harris Administration.

Trump's Religious Liberty Record

During President Trump's term in office, he promoted many important faith-based initiatives. The following list highlights his major achievements on this front:

- January 23, 2017—President Trump reinstated and expanded the Mexico City Policy, which blocks funding for international organizations that perform or promote abortion. The new policy, known as Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance (PLGHA), covered \$8.8 billion in family planning and global health funds given to organizations abroad that do not perform or promote abortion.
- February 22, 2017—Trump's Department of Education (ED), in conjunction with the Department of Justice (DOJ), rescinded President Obama's guidance that required public schools to allow students who identify as transgender to use the bathrooms and showers of their choice.
- May 4, 2017—President Trump signed an Executive Order promoting free speech and religious liberty (known as the "Religious Liberty Executive Order"). This order made religious liberty an administration priority and required all federal agencies to take action to protect it. The order also addressed conscience protections, forthcoming guidance from the DOJ, and religious liberty in the context of free speech.
- August 25, 2017—President Trump announced changes to the Obama administration's Department of Defense (DoD) policy that had allowed military personnel to serve even if they openly self-identified as transgender. (A DOD

study found the Obama administration's policy to be detrimental to military readiness, lethality, and unit cohesion.)

- September 7, 2017—Trump's DOJ filed an amicus brief with the Supreme Court defending the religious freedom rights of baker Jack Phillips in *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*. This filing is representative of other DOJ actions in defense of religious freedom that took place throughout the Trump administration.
- October 6, 2017—Trump's DOJ issued guidance and an implementing memo (as instructed by the Religious Liberty Executive Order) to all federal agencies explaining religious freedom law and how religious liberty must be protected. This guidance laid out a broad defense of religious liberty based on multiple statutes and provided each federal agency with guidelines for protecting religious liberty.
- October 6, 2017—Trump's Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) proposed two regulations to deal with the Obamacare "HHS contraceptive mandate" that had violated conscience and religious liberty for years. These new regulations exempted organizations with moral or religious objections to purchasing insurance that includes coverage of contraceptives and abortion-causing drugs and devices.
- January 16, 2018—The DOJ filed an amicus brief with the District Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia on behalf of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. The Archdiocese had wanted to promote a religious message during the Christmas holiday but had been denied advertising space within the District's public transit system.
- January 18, 2018—The DOJ filed an amicus brief with the U.S. Supreme Court in *Espinoza v. Montana Department of Revenue* defending the First Amendment rights of parents and students who attend a religious school to

participate in a private school scholarship program.

- January 18, 2018—HHS announced a new Conscience and Religious Freedom Division within its Office of Civil Rights (OCR). This new Division was established to enforce federal laws that protect conscience rights and religious freedom.
- January 19, 2018—HHS issued a new proposed regulation on conscience protections related to abortion. Specifically, the regulation proposed implementing 25 laws that protect pro-life healthcare entities against discrimination by federal agencies – or state or local governments receiving federal funds – due to their objections to participating in abortion, sterilization, and other morally objectionable procedures.
- January 19, 2018—The Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services (CMCS) rescinded an Obama administration letter that restricted states’ flexibility in removing abortion providers from federal healthcare programs if they did not meet the state’s qualification standards.
- January 24, 2018—Sam Brownback was confirmed as U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom. President Trump demonstrated the administration’s commitment to the issue of religious freedom by choosing Brownback, someone with gravitas and experience in this area.
- March 23, 2018—The White House and the DoD issued a new policy allowing existing personnel to remain in the military while preventing those diagnosed with “gender dysphoria” or who had undergone gender transition surgery from joining the military. Those who were transgender and stable for 36 months were allowed to join so long as they served in accordance with their biological sex.
- April 26, 2018—Mike Pompeo was confirmed as Secretary of State. In choosing Pompeo for this position, President Trump chose someone who cared deeply about religious liberty and would make its advancement a priority.

- April 30, 2018—During a press conference with Nigeria’s president, President Trump raised the issue of religious freedom and the killing of Christians in that country—bringing attention to an issue that other government officials had largely neglected.
- May 8, 2018—President Trump signed an Executive Order establishing a White House Faith and Opportunity Initiative. The order directed agencies that didn’t already have a Center for Faith and Opportunity Initiatives to designate a Liaison for Faith and Opportunity Initiatives.
- May 11, 2018—The Federal Bureau of Prisons updated its Transgender Offender Manual to say that offenders’ housing status was to be designated by biological sex and that gender identity would rarely be an appropriate way to designate offenders’ housing.
- May 22, 2018—HHS issued a new proposed regulation reversing the Title X family planning regulations implemented by President Clinton. The proposed regulation would restore the separation of abortion services from the federal Title X family planning program, which President Reagan first implemented. The proposed regulation would also ensure parents are more involved in minors’ decisions to obtain services from Title X clinics.
- June 13, 2018—The DOJ announced the Place to Worship Initiative, designed to increase enforcement and public awareness of the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA). This federal law protects places of worship and other religious uses of property. Through this initiative, federal prosecutors would receive training about legal protections for houses of worship.
- July 24-26, 2018—The State Department held the first-ever Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom. Political and civil society leaders from around the world gathered in Washington, D.C., for a three-day summit to discuss

religious freedom issues and solutions. The Potomac Declaration, issued at the Ministerial, made a strong statement about the state of religious freedom around the globe and provided a plan of action for promoting global religious freedom. The United States also announced the International Religious Freedom Fund (to provide emergency assistance to victims of religiously motivated discrimination and abuse around the world) and the Genocide Recovery and Persecution Response Initiative (which has provided nearly \$373 million to help persecuted ethnic and religious minorities in northern Iraq restore their communities). The United States was among 25 countries that signed a statement condemning terrorism and the abuse of religious believers by non-state actors.

- July 30, 2018—The DOJ announced a Religious Liberty Task Force to fully implement religious liberty guidance and policy across all components of the DOJ.
- August 1, 2018—The Trump administration sanctioned two Turkish officials over the detention of American pastor Andrew Brunson due to his Christian faith and ultimately resulted in Pastor Brunson's release.
- September 24, 2018—HHS terminated a \$15,900 contract with Advanced Bioscience Resources to procure fetal tissue from aborted babies for research. The termination of this contract led HHS to announce an audit of all acquisitions and research involving human fetal tissue to ensure consistency with statutes and regulations.
- November 7, 2018—HHS finalized two regulations to protect conscience and religious liberty from long-running problems with the Obamacare "HHS contraceptive mandate." These two final regulations exempted organizations with either a moral or religious objection to purchasing insurance with coverage of contraceptives and abortion-causing drugs and devices. The regulations took effect on January 14, 2019.

- November 9, 2018—HHS proposed a new regulation to address an abortion surcharge hidden in many plans purchased on the Obamacare exchange. This proposed regulation enforced the requirement that abortion surcharges are to be collected separately from other insurance premiums. This requirement was not closely followed under the Obama administration.
- December 26, 2018—The DOJ filed an amicus brief with the U.S. Supreme Court defending a publicly displayed cross-shaped veteran's memorial that had been challenged as a violation of the Establishment Clause.
- January 18, 2019—HHS issued a notice of violation to California for requiring pregnancy resource centers to post notices about how to obtain an abortion, in violation of the pro-life Weldon and Coates-Snowe Amendments.
- January 19, 2019—President Trump sent a letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi in which he promised to veto any legislation that weakens current pro-life federal policies and laws. This letter was a message to the new Democrat majority in the House that longstanding pro-life protections like the Hyde Amendment and safeguards protecting the conscience rights of health care providers are not negotiable.
- February 22, 2019—HHS announced final rule changes governing the Title X family planning program. Consistent with federal law, these rule changes ensured that Title X clinics would be financially and physically separate from abortion facilities and would not refer patients for abortions. Since the implementation of the rule, Planned Parenthood and several pro-abortion states voluntarily decided to withdraw from the program rather than quit performing abortions or referring patients for abortions.
- March 8, 2019—U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom Sam Brownback criticized China's poor religious freedom record in a speech he delivered in

Hong Kong.

- April 12, 2019—The Trump administration’s policy on military service by those with gender dysphoria went into effect.
- May 2, 2019—HHS announced a final rule to expand the structure in which federal conscience laws are enforced. In 2011, President Obama issued a rule that enforced only three federal conscience provisions. The new regulation under President Trump covered 25 existing statutes, enforced by the new Conscience and Religious Freedom Division of HHS’ OCR.
- May 5, 2019—At the World Health Assembly, the Trump administration issued a joint statement on behalf of the United States and eight other nations calling on other countries to join an effort to focus on women’s health issues that unify rather than create dissension among members (like abortion and sexual and reproductive health). This statement was the first action taken under the administration’s new Protecting Life in Global Health Policy (PLGHP), which seeks to build a global coalition to promote women’s health while also protecting unborn life and strengthening the family. This policy works in conjunction with the PLGHA program, which restricts funding for organizations abroad that perform or promote abortion.
- May 24, 2019—HHS proposed a new regulation clarifying that discrimination on the basis of sex in section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act was to be interpreted under the plain meaning of the word. Therefore, it does not include “gender identity” or “termination of pregnancy” as set forth by a 2016 Obama administration regulation. The HHS regulation would continue to enforce existing civil rights protections; however, it clarified that the federal government would not force physicians to participate in gender reassignment surgeries or abortions.
- June 5, 2019—After an extensive audit into fetal tissue

research, the Trump administration announced a major change in the enforcement of research contracts. HHS would no longer conduct intramural (internal) research using tissue from aborted babies and greatly increase the ethics rules and safeguards governing extramural (external) fetal tissue research contracts. All new external contracts would be subject to a congressionally authorized ethics advisory board, making it much more difficult for fetal tissue research contracts to be awarded by the National Institute of Health.

- July 16-18, 2019—The State Department held the second Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced a new global initiative, the International Religious Freedom Alliance, meant to provide a way for like-minded countries to work together to advance religious freedom. Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai gave a compelling speech condemning the use of technology to track and control the lives of religious minorities. The United States was among 14 signatory countries on a statement of concern about technology and religious freedom; one of 34 countries that signed a statement of concern on counterterrorism as a pretext for the repression of religious freedom; one of 27 countries that signed a statement condemning blasphemy, apostasy, or other laws that restrict religious freedom; and one of 46 countries that signed a statement that called upon government officials to condemn attacks on places of worship and to work with religious communities to protect these places. At this event, the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) also announced new religious freedom training programs for foreign service officers.
- July 16, 2019—The State Department placed targeted sanctions on Burmese military officials for their human rights and religious freedom violations committed against the Rohingya Muslim population.

- July 18, 2019—Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and HHS Secretary Alex Azar issued a joint letter on international partnerships that called states to join a coalition of countries that seek to advocate against pro-abortion policies at the World Health Organization and the United Nations (UN).
- August, 2019—The DOJ filed amicus briefs with the U.S. Supreme Court in two important religious liberty cases, *G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Homes, Inc. v. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission* and *Bostock v. Clayton County/Altitude Express, Inc. v. Zarda*. Through these filings, the DOJ advanced a biologically binary definition of sex and those who operate accordingly, whether because of science or religious belief.
- August 15, 2019—The Department of Labor (DOL) proposed a new regulation clarifying the scope and application of religious exemptions for federal contractors. Under the Obama administration, the scope of religious exemption at DOL was severely narrowed. The current DOL relied on the history of our nation's preservation of religious liberty, the First Amendment, and U.S. Supreme Court decisions to re-invigorate the exemption to its historical and constitutional parameters.
- August 28, 2019—The HHS OCR issued a notice of violation to the University of Vermont Medical Center for forcing a nurse to participate in an abortion despite a conscience objection. This marked the third time the HHS Religious Freedom Division under President Trump investigated a conscience complaint related to participating in or promoting abortion.
- September 10, 2019—The State Department placed targeted sanctions on Russian officials for their religious freedom violations and torture of Jehovah's Witnesses.
- September 23, 2019—President Trump hosted a meeting during the UN General Assembly and gave a speech solely on the topic of religious freedom. During the speech, he announced a U.S. policy initiative to protect

places of worship, pledging an additional \$25 million in funding to protect religious sites and relics. President Trump also announced the United States would form a coalition within the business community to protect religious freedom. This was the first time a U.S. president hosted a meeting focused solely on religious freedom at the UN.

- September 24, 2019—President Trump discussed the need to protect religious freedom during his UN General Assembly speech. He also discussed China and Iran, two major violators of religious freedom.
- September 25, 2019—HHS Secretary Alex Azar delivered a statement at the UN General Assembly stating that there is no international right to abortion and that the United States does not support ambiguous terms like “sexual and reproductive health” in UN documents.
- October 7, 2019—The Department of Commerce blacklisted 28 Chinese companies whose surveillance technology products are used to systematically oppress and control—and violate the religious freedom of—Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang, China.
- October 11, 2019—Attorney General Barr delivered a striking defense of religious liberty at Notre Dame Law School. He noted, “[t]he imperative of protecting religious freedom was not just a nod in the direction of piety. It reflects the Framers’ belief that religion was indispensable to sustaining our free system of government.” He proceeded to remind the audience that religion gives us the “right rules to live by.” Barr highlighted the recent attacks on religious liberty and how the DOJ, under his leadership, fought back and protected religious liberty.
- November 14, 2019—The U.S. government led a statement on behalf of itself and 10 other countries at the Nairobi Summit, once again calling upon the international community to focus on areas of consensus instead of divisive issues like abortion and sexual and

reproductive health.

- November 19, 2019—HHS issued a rule removing burdensome requirements that all grantees, including those that are faith-based, must accept same-sex marriages and profess gender identity as valid in order to be eligible to participate in grant programs. This included the adoption and foster care space, where these requirements had been used to shut down faith-based providers of foster care and adoption.
- November 27, 2019—President Trump signed the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act into law, affirming Hong Kong's semi-autonomous status and protecting against Chinese government encroachment, which is a threat to Hong Kong's religious freedom.
- December 19, 2019—The Treasury Department sanctioned two Iranian judges responsible for human rights violations. One of the judges was known to violate the rights of Iran's Christian and Baha'i religious minority communities.
- December 20, 2019—The Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced a final regulation to address the abortion surcharge hidden in many plans purchased on the Obamacare exchange. This final rule aligned federal regulations with section 1303 of the Affordable Care Act, ensuring that consumers knew their health care plan covered abortion and that funding for abortion was kept separate from all other covered services.
- January 16, 2020—HHS Secretary Alex Azar hosted 34 countries for a meeting on how to promote women's health and protect the lives of the unborn. This meeting followed an invitation sent by Secretary Azar and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to 70 different countries inviting them to join a coalition to oppose international efforts to enshrine abortion as a human right.
- January 16, 2020—ED and the DOJ issued guidance on constitutionally protected prayer and religious

expression in public elementary and secondary schools. This guidance ensured that prayer in schools is properly protected and not unconstitutionally prohibited or curtailed.

- January 16, 2020—The White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) sent a memo to the heads of executive departments and agencies providing guidance on the administration's Religious Liberty Executive Order. This memo required the agencies to review the order and publish policies on how they will comply.
- January 17, 2020—Nine federal agencies (the Departments of Agriculture, Education, Homeland Security, Veterans Affairs, Justice, Labor, Health and Human Services, and Housing and Urban Development, along with the State Agency for International Development) proposed rules leveling the playing field for faith-based organizations wishing to participate in grant programs or become a contractor. The rules eliminated two requirements placed on faith-based organizations that were not placed on secular organizations.
- January 22, 2020—The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services at HHS approved a family planning waiver for Texas to implement a state-run Medicaid program that excludes abortion providers like Planned Parenthood. This made Texas the first state to receive Medicaid funding for a family planning program that did not include abortion providers.
- January 24, 2020—President Trump became the first sitting president to give remarks in person at the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. In his address, he stated the eternal truth that every child is a sacred gift from God and reiterated his effort to defend the dignity and sanctity of every human life.
- January 24, 2020—HHS Secretary Alex Azar announced that HHS had issued a notice of violation to California for violating the federal Weldon Amendment. California's abortion coverage mandate deprived over 28,000 residents

of health insurance plans that did not cover abortion. This marked the second time HHS issued a notice of violation to California for violating federal conscience laws and was the fourth enforcement action taken by the HHS OCR's Conscience and Religious Freedom Division.

- February, 2020–The Trump administration filled the role of Special Advisor to the President on International Religious Freedom within the National Security Council. This role was authorized by the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 but had remained unfilled for over 20 years since that law's enactment. President Trump was the first president to dedicate a full-time staffer to this role and fill it on a permanent basis.
- February 4, 2020–During his State of the Union address, President Trump called on Congress to pass legislation that would ban late-term abortions. To highlight the need for this legislation, he invited special guest Ellie Schneider, who was born at just 21 weeks gestation.
- February 5, 2020–Secretary of State Mike Pompeo launched the International Religious Freedom Alliance. The Alliance united government leaders from like-minded nations to strategize ways to promote religious freedom and protect religious minorities around the world.
- February 25, 2020–OMB issued a Statement of Administrative Policy strongly supporting two pro-life bills being voted on in the U.S. Senate: the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act and the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. Had Congress passed these bills, the president's advisors would have recommended that he sign both into law.
- March 24, 2020–The DOJ filed a statement of interest in a case protecting biological women against biological men intruding on their sporting competitions. The statement made clear that athletic qualifications on the basis of "gender identity" were harmful to women's sports.

- March 28, 2020—Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the HHS OCR issued a strong statement reminding health care entities of their obligation to treat persons with disabilities with the same dignity and worth as everyone else.
- April 2, 2020—U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom Sam Brownback held a special briefing. He called upon China, North Korea, Iran, and Russia to release their prisoners of conscience in light of the contagious COVID-19. Many of these prisoners were imprisoned for their religious faith.
- April 3, 2020—The Small Business Administration (SBA) issued a FAQ document confirming that churches and religious nonprofits are eligible for assistance like the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) in the COVID-19 relief legislation known as the CARES Act. These clarifying protections ensured organizations would not be discriminated against based on their religious affiliation and would not have to give up their religious freedom in order to participate in these programs. In addition, the administration used an affiliation rule to ensure that large abortion providers like Planned Parenthood would not be eligible for COVID-19 relief in the CARES Act.
- April 14, 2020—DOJ filed a statement of interest protecting the religious liberty of churchgoers in Greenville, Mississippi. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the city of Greenville had banned all religious services, even those that were able to abide by social distancing standards with drive-in church services.
- April 17, 2020—The Department of Homeland Security included “clergy for essential support” in its list of personnel and entities deemed “essential” for purposes of responding to COVID-19. This designation allowed clergy and pastors more freedom to continue to operate and serve those around them in need.
- April 27, 2020—Attorney General William Barr directed

federal prosecutors to monitor and, if necessary, take action to correct state and local policies that discriminate against religious institutions and believers while battling the COVID-19 pandemic.

- May 3, 2020—The DOJ filed a statement of interest supporting the religious freedom of Lighthouse Fellowship Church in Chincoteague Island, Virginia. After the church held a 16-person worship service on Palm Sunday (following strict social distancing protocols), a criminal citation and summons were issued against the pastor pursuant to Governor Ralph Northam's executive order, which banned in-person religious services but allowed large gatherings for businesses like liquor stores and dry cleaners.
- May 12, 2020—HHS finalized a rule revising the AFCAR (Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting) system and their data collection processes by not asking questions about the sexual orientation of the child, foster parent, adoptive parent, or legal guardian.
- May 15, 2020—The DOL issued guidance implementing the administration's Religious Liberty Executive Order and DOJ religious liberty guidance. The DOL guidance also cited the OMB memo from earlier this year, which directed all grant-administering agencies to detail how they will protect religious liberty in the context of such grants and included specific action steps to ensure that religious liberty is protected.
- May 15, 2020—ED issued Title IX violation notices to Connecticut's interscholastic sports governing body.
- May 18, 2020—USAID Acting Administrator John Barsa sent a letter to the UN Secretary-General advocating that the UN not push abortion during the COVID-19 crisis. Barsa noted that abortion is not an "essential service," and there are many actual health needs at this time. Therefore, the United States, which stood with the international pro-life community under the Trump administration, did not look kindly on these efforts to

promote abortion.

- May 19, 2020—ED issued a final rule on “Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance” that eliminated the requirement that religious institutions submit a written statement to qualify for the Title IX religious exemption and expressly prohibited retaliation against individuals for exercising rights under Title IX.
- June 2, 2020—President Trump signed an Executive Order on Advancing International Religious Freedom, which recognized the promotion of international religious freedom as a moral and national security imperative for the United States.
- June 12, 2020—HHS finalized its regulation clarifying that discrimination on the basis of sex in section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act is to be interpreted under the plain meaning of the word. Therefore, it did not include “gender identity” or “termination of pregnancy” as set forth by a 2016 Obama administration regulation. The HHS rule would continue to enforce existing civil rights protections; however, it made clear that the federal government would not force physicians to participate in gender reassignment surgeries or abortions.
- June 19, 2020—The DOJ filed a statement of interest defending the constitutionality of Idaho’s Fairness in Women’s Sports Act. The Fairness in Women’s Sports Act ensures that only biologically female athletes are permitted to compete in female sports. By restricting biologically male athletes from participating, female athletes have a fair shot when competing.
- June 24, 2020—President Trump issued an Executive Order to strengthen America’s foster care and adoption system. Among other things, this action sought to increase partnerships with faith-based organizations to

care for children and preserve families.

- June 29, 2020—The White House released a statement condemning the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in June *Medical Services v. Russo*. This ruling concluded that requiring individuals who perform abortions to have admitting privileges at hospitals is unconstitutional.
- June 30, 2020—The White House released a statement praising the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Espinoza v. Montana Department of Revenue*. This ruling was a victory for religious freedom, ensuring that religious schools are not discriminated against in state voucher programs.
- July 8, 2020—HHS Secretary Alex Azar issued a statement celebrating the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Little Sisters of the Poor v. Pennsylvania*. The ruling upheld the Trump administration's expansion of religious freedom protections under the Affordable Care Act's contraception mandate.
- July 9, 2020—The Treasury Department sanctioned four current or former Chinese government officials and one Chinese government entity for their abuses against the Uyghur Muslim minority in China.
- July 21, 2020—The HHS OCR resolved a religious discrimination complaint against the Prince George's Hospital Center of the University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS). Because of COVID-19 restrictions, the hospital denied a patient's request to have a Catholic priest visit the hospital to provide spiritual care. The OCR worked with the hospital system to revise their visitor's policy to allow religious visitations during the pandemic.
- July 31, 2020—The Treasury Department sanctioned a Chinese paramilitary organization in connection to their human rights abuses against Uyghur Muslims in China.
- August 5, 2020—Vice President Mike Pence gave a speech on the importance of protecting life and reaffirmed the administration's pro-life positions. He

also became the first vice president to visit a pregnancy resource center. These centers are valuable lifelines that offer abortion-free services for women facing crisis pregnancies.

- August 7, 2020—ED issued guidance regarding the administration's Religious Freedom Executive Order, detailing how Department regulations protected the religious freedoms of institutions and individuals and the process by which both faith-based organizations and individuals could inform the Department of a burden or potential burden on religious exercise under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA).
- August 17, 2020—The State Department, in coordination with other federal agencies, released a second review of the PLGHA Policy. This report reaffirmed the policy's effectiveness and that the U.S. government can both protect unborn life and promote better health outcomes for women globally.
- August 18, 2020—The Human Fetal Tissue Research Ethics Advisory Board, which was convened as a part of President Trump's June 5, 2019, fetal tissue research policy, issued a report providing recommendations on the ethics of fetal tissue research proposals. The report recommended that HHS not fund 13 of the 14 proposals because of ethical concerns with how fetal tissue from aborted babies would be inappropriately used.
- August 20, 2020—The HHS OCR resolved a civil rights complaint against the state of Utah, helping the state amend its crisis standards of care (CSC) guidelines to prevent discrimination against the elderly and disabled when medical resources are scarce. This was the OCR's seventh resolution helping states create CSC plans that value the dignity of all human life.
- August 25, 2020—USAID released its updated Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy with the purpose of "empowering women and girls to participate fully in and equally benefit from the development of their

societies.” The updated policy took into account the biological differences between males and females and recognized the importance of strengthening “families and communities” to achieve its goal.

- September 8, 2020—The DOJ filed an amicus brief with the Supreme Court of Indiana in support of the Catholic Archdiocese of Indianapolis’ right protected by the First Amendment to “decide for itself who should personify its beliefs, inculcate its teachings, and instruct students at religious high schools affiliated with the Archdiocese.”
- September 9, 2020—ED published a final rule on “Improving Free Inquiry, Transparency, and Accountability at Colleges and Universities.” This rule made clear that First Amendment rights are to be upheld on campuses. It provided colleges and universities controlled by religious organizations with guidance on how to protect religious freedom in the context of Title IX. The rule also leveled the playing field for religious groups on campuses and upheld their right to assemble and free speech.
- September 14, 2020—The Trump administration proposed a new regulation to apply the PLGHA policy to contracts and subcontracts. This regulation would ensure that more foreign organizations must certify they will not perform or promote abortions in order to receive government aid. The Trump administration had identified a loophole in which foreign organizations performing or promoting abortions were still contracting with the United States for global health programs. This unprecedented expansion of PLGHA further solidified the administration’s commitment to protecting life abroad.
- September 14, 2020—U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) issued five withhold release orders on a number of Chinese companies in order to prevent products known to be made through forced labor by Uyghur Muslims from entering the United States.

- September 18, 2020—A resolution agreement was signed by Franklin Pierce University after the Department of Education looked into its policy allowing biological males to participate in sports programs for biological females and found that it violated Title IX.
- September 21, 2020—The DOJ filed a statement of interest in a case “challenging New Mexico’s more stringent COVID-19 capacity limits on private schools than public schools.” In doing so, the Trump administration supported parents’ right to select the school of their choice for their children.
- September 22, 2020—President Trump addressed the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly. In this speech, the president highlighted his administration’s commitment to advancing religious liberty, protecting unborn children, and combating human trafficking.
- September 25, 2020—President Trump signed an Executive Order that reinforced existing protections for children born prematurely, with disabilities, or in medical distress, including infants who survive abortion. This order, which clarified the enforcement of existing laws and prioritized medical screenings for vulnerable infants, was in response to Congress’ inaction to pass meaningful legal protections for infants that survive abortion.
- September 30, 2020—Secretary of State Mike Pompeo spoke in Rome, Italy, at a Holy See Symposium on Advancing and Defending Religious Freedom through Diplomacy.
- October 2, 2020—The DOJ filed a statement of interest in federal court in support of Capitol Hill Baptist Church’s lawsuit against Washington, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser “arguing the Constitution and federal law require the District of Columbia to accommodate Capitol Hill Baptist Church’s effort to hold worship services outdoors, at least to the same extent the District of Columbia allows other forms of outdoor First Amendment activity, such as peaceful protests.”

- October 20, 2020—The HHS OCR resolved two religious discrimination complaints involving hospital policies that restricted clergy access to patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. The first involved a Maryland hospital's policy that denied a new mother's request to have her son baptized because she had tested positive for COVID-19. The other case involved a Virginia hospital's policy that prohibited a Catholic priest from administering last rites to a COVID-positive patient who was in an end of life situation. Both policies were updated to ensure that religious freedom is not diminished at the expense of public health policies.
- October 22, 2020—HHS Secretary Alex Azar and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo hosted the Geneva Consensus Declaration signing ceremony. This declaration was a historic effort by the United States, Brazil, Egypt, Hungary, Indonesia, and Uganda to strengthen global initiatives that promote women's health, preserve human life (including the unborn), strengthen the family, and protect national sovereignty.
- November 19, 2020—HHS and the DOJ collaborated to resolve a complaint that the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families (DCF) discriminated against a parent with intellectual disabilities. A mother with intellectual disabilities had to give up her two-day-old child, but then DCF denied her equal access to support and services to be able to reunite with her child. This was a historic action by HHS and the DOJ to ensure that those with disabilities are treated equally under federal law.
- December 9, 2020—The DOL finalized its rule clarifying the scope and application of religious exemptions for federal contractors.
- December 16, 2020—HHS followed through on enforcement action announced in January 2020 to disallow \$200 million in federal Medicaid funds from going to California due to its refusal to comply with federal

law. California was given an opportunity to amend its mandate that all health insurers provide abortion coverage but refused to comply. HHS also referred the University of Vermont Medical Center for enforcement action after they unlawfully forced a nurse to participate in an elective abortion against her conscience.

- December 19, 2020—A final rule was published that leveled the playing field for faith-based organizations wishing to participate in grant programs or become a contractor. The rules eliminated two requirements placed on faith-based organizations that were not placed on secular organizations.
- December 29, 2020—President Trump issued a Proclamation on the 850th Anniversary of the Martyrdom of Saint Thomas Becket, honoring his fearless defense of religious liberty.
- On January 8, 2021—ED issued a memo responding to the U.S. Supreme Court's *Bostock* decision, affirming that sex is still to be determined biologically.
- January 11, 2021—HHS proposed a new federal regulation to strengthen safeguards against using aborted fetal tissue in research. This regulation formalized the policies that the administration issued in June 2019 to cut off federal funding of fetal tissue research and institute an ethics advisory board to review future fetal tissue research projects.
- January 12, 2021—HHS finalized its rule that removed burdensome requirements that had compelled all grantees (including faith-based ones) to accept same-sex marriages and profess gender identity as valid in order to be eligible to participate in grant programs. These requirements had been used to shut down faith-based providers of foster care and adoption.
- January 13, 2021—DOL Deputy Secretary Patrick Pizzella sent a letter to all governors and state workforce agencies ensuring and reiterating that religious

organizations are eligible to participate in DOL programs on the same basis as any other organization.

- January 15, 2021–HHS proposed a new federal regulation to protect infants that survive abortion and ensure that any patient with a disability is not discriminated against in the provision of health care. This regulation formalized the Executive Order issued on September 25 to reinforce existing protections for children born prematurely, with disabilities, or in medical distress, including infants who survive abortion.
- January 17, 2021–DOJ issued a memo on the *Bostock* decision to clarify its limited application.
- January 18, 2021–President Trump declared January 22, 2021, to be National Sanctity of Human Life Day. He then issued this message for America: “Today, I call on the Congress to join me in protecting and defending the dignity of every human life, including those not yet born. I call on the American people to continue to care for women in unexpected pregnancies and to support adoption and foster care in a more meaningful way so that every child can have a loving home. And finally, I ask every citizen of this great Nation to listen to the sound of silence caused by a generation lost to us, and then to raise their voices for all affected by abortion, both seen and unseen.”
- January 19, 2021–Secretary of State Mike Pompeo officially declared that China is committing genocide and crimes against humanity through its campaign of repression against Uyghur Muslims.

At the end of his term, the Trump administration nominated and had confirmed 230 federal judges, including three U.S. Supreme Court justices and 55 federal appeals court judges. An overwhelming number of President Trump’s judicial nominees have been constitutional originalists, who will interpret the law as written rather than interpret it according to their

personal policy preferences.

Catholic League Report: Biden Administration and Thought Control

No administration in American history has tried harder to promote thought control than the Biden administration. Orwellian at its finest, the goal is to induce the public to accept its highly politicized vocabulary as a means of controlling its thought patterns. Here are some examples of how this is being done.

Gender Identity

“President Biden has long promised that he would be an advocate for the LGBTQ community should he be elected president. Now, just hours into his presidential term, Mr. Biden’s White House website allows users to choose their pronouns, a change that drew swift praise from advocates. As part of the website revamp that occurs during presidential transitions, the White House changed its contact form. The form now allows individuals to select from the following list: she/her, he/him, they/them, other, or prefer not to share. Those who select other also have the option to write-in what pronouns they use. People can also choose which prefix they use: Mr., Ms., Mrs., Dr., Mx., other, or none.” ([CBS News, “Biden administration allows users to choose their pronouns on remastered website”, January 20, 2021](#))

In August, the department rolled out new guidelines titled, ‘Updated Department Guidance Regarding Transgender Employees

in the Workplace' and mandates that all employees and applicants should be addressed 'by the name, pronouns, and honorific (Mr., Mrs., Ms., Miss, Mx., etc.) that they themselves use in everyday interactions, and as they choose to communicate to their supervisor/manager and colleagues.' 'Continued intentional use of an incorrect name, pronoun, and/or honorific – also known as misgendering – could, depending on its severity and pervasiveness, contribute to a hostile work environment allegation, and constitute misconduct subject to disciplinary action, up to and including separation or removal,' the guideline states." (["GOP Sen. Ted Budd demands State Department roll back requirement for employees to use preferred pronouns" Fox News, October 23, 2023](#))

"The EEOC's newly proposed guidance similarly includes 'Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity' as the basis for prohibited 'sex-based discrimination' under Title VII and asserts that 'sex-based harassment includes harassment on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, including how that identity is expressed.' 'Harassment,' according to this guidance, includes epithets and physical assault as well as 'intentional and repeated use of a name or pronoun inconsistent with the individual's gender identity (misgendering).' Also included as a form of harassment is 'the denial of access to a bathroom or other sex-segregated facility consistent with the individual's gender identity.'" (["The EEOC is trying to make 'misgendering' a thought-crime" The Hill, October 8, 2023](#))

"'All employees should be addressed [by] the names and pronouns they use to describe themselves,' an HHS email sent to employees and shared with CNA read. The mandate is part of the department's new Gender Identity and Non-Discrimination Guidance, which was established to outline 'employee rights and protections related to gender identity,' according to the email." (["Biden Health and Human Services Imposes Trans Pronoun Mandate on Employees" National Catholic Register,](#)

[October 12, 2023](#))

“An internal U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) memo obtained by the Heritage Foundation’s Oversight Project and shared with Fox News Digital prohibits agents from using ‘he, him, she, her’ pronouns when initially interacting with members of the public. ‘DO NOT use ‘he, him, she, her’ pronouns until you have more information about, or provided by, the individual,’ reads the memo obtained by Heritage via Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).” ([“CBP memo orders agents not to misgender ‘members of the public”’ Fox News, November 22, 2023](#))

“The transgender policy deployed by Interior leadership in September urges employees to ‘use gender-neutral language in broad communications to avoid assumptions about gender identity.’ Examples of ‘pronouns,’ according to the policy, are ‘they, them, theirs, ze/hir/hirs, ze/zir/zirs, xe/xem/xyrs.’ Bathroom use is up to personal discretion, it says, and those who refuse to abide by departmental policies are warned of retribution for ‘unlawful discrimination.’ ‘Repeated, intentional refusal to use the employee’s affirming name/gender/pronouns, and/or repeated reference to the employee’s dead name/gender/pronouns by supervisors/managers, or coworkers is contrary to the goal of treating all employees with dignity and respect,’ the policy states. ‘Such intentional conduct could constitute unlawful discrimination.’” ([“Interior Department Transgender Policy Threatens Employees Who Won’t Play Along With Fake Pronouns”, The Federalist, December 21, 2023](#))

“The USDA issued a May 12, 2022, memo stating how it planned to comply with a Biden executive order issued on Jan. 30, 2021, to prevent discrimination on the basis of gender identity and sexual orientation..The May 2022 memo on Biden’s executive action also called for developing ‘gender-inclusive language in agency internal and external communications,’ to include ‘the proactive use of pronouns in the workplace.’ It

also included a plan to ‘update USDA Style guide for email signatures and business cards to include and encourage pronoun use.’” ([“EXCLUSIVE: Biden Admin Adds LGBTQ Strings to Foreign Agriculture Grants” Daily Signal, January 9, 2024](#))

“The Federal Reserve conducted diversity, equity, and inclusion trainings in which staff members learned that ‘correct pronoun usage is a civil right’ and were told to acknowledge their ‘white privilege,’ documents obtained by the Washington Free Beacon show. The Fed held at least four DEI training sessions in the spring and summer of 2021, the documents reveal. During the training sessions, staffers learned to use ‘inclusive language,’ like ‘Latinx,’ and were shown an illustration of a transgender gingerbread man that could have a woman’s brain and male reproductive organs. Staffers were also told to refer to Federal Reserve chairman Jerome Powell as ‘chair,’ an example of ‘gender-inclusive language.’” ([“Federal Reserve Staff Underwent DEI Training Amid Rising Inflation, Documents Show”, Washington Free Beacon, January 10, 2024](#))

Illegal Immigration

“Acting U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) head Tracy Renaud reportedly directed officials to overhaul their language in all official documents, outreach efforts and other communications, in a memo first reported Tuesday by Axios and confirmed by BuzzFeed News. Suggested terminology swaps reportedly include using ‘noncitizen’ or ‘undocumented noncitizen’ instead of ‘alien’ or ‘illegal alien,’ and referring to the ‘integration’ of immigrants into society instead of ‘assimilation,’ which has been criticized as racist.” ([“Aliens’ No More: Biden Administration Directs Immigration Officials To Use ‘Inclusive Language”” Forbes, February 16, 2021](#))

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) employees must use gender-neutral language when addressing border crossers,

according to documents obtained by the Heritage Foundation's Oversight Project. [Border patrol agents allegedly told to use preferred pronouns during migrant encounters: 'Rock bottom' \(ABC15 News, November 27th 2023\)](#)

At his 2024 State of the Union address, President Biden referred to an illegal alien accused of murdering a 22-year-old woman as an illegal alien. After being criticized by Democrats, he later said he regretted using this term. ["White House: Joe Biden 'Did Not Apologize' to Laken Riley's Accused Killer" \(Breitbart.com, March 12, 2024\)](#).

Health

The Centers for Disease Control and the National Institutes of Health published a new style guide focusing on promoting "non-stigmatizing" language; it offered more "inclusive" alternatives. Below are several examples:

- "Convict/ex-convict" becomes "People who were formerly incarcerated"
- "Disabled" is replaced by "People with disabilities/a disability"
- "Drug-users/addicts/drug abusers" should now be called "Persons who use drugs/people who inject drugs"
- "Homeless people/the homeless" and "Transient populations" should be referred to as "People experiencing homelessness" or "Clients/guests who are accessing homeless services"
- "Poverty-stricken" now becomes "People with lower incomes"
- "Crazy" is replaced by "People with a pre-existing mental disorder"
- "Asylum" is changed to "Psychiatric hospital/facility"
- "Illegals" should be called "People with undocumented status"
- "Elderly" should be replaced with "'Older Americans"
- "Afro-American" should now be referred to as "Black or

African American persons; Black persons”

- “Rural people” are now “People who live in rural/sparsely populated areas”
- “Homosexuals” should be called “Queer”
- “Transgender/transgendered/transsexual” is replaced by “LGBTQ (or LGBTQIA or LGBTQ+ or LGBTQIA2)”

[\(“Preferred Terms for Select Population Groups & Communities”, CDC November 3, 2022\)](#)

Aviation

“The FAA has had much to say about the system under [Transportation Secretary Pete] Buttigieg’s watch, but not for matters relating to its functionality or upkeep. Rather, the agency announced in December 2021 that it had changed the system’s name from ‘Notice to Airmen’ to ‘Notice to Air Mission,’ a ‘more applicable term’ that the agency said is ‘inclusive of all aviators and missions.’ ‘The language we use in aerospace matters,’ the FAA tweeted from its official account. ‘We’ve begun to adopt gender-neutral and inclusive aviation terminology as part of our agency-wide initiative.’”

[\(“Here’s What the FAA Has Been Focused on Instead of Keeping Planes in The Air” Washington Free Beacon, January 11, 2023\)](#)

“The air safety system’s name change came months after an FAA advisory committee issued a report in June 2021 recommending the agency replace a wide swath of words and phrases with gender-neutral terms. The updated language, the advisory committee said, would help combat unintentional bias and reflect a ‘more modern recognition that gender can be binary.’ Recommendations included replacing ‘airman’ with ‘aircrew,’ ‘manned aviation’ with ‘traditional aviation,’ and ‘cockpit’ with ‘flight deck.’” [\(“Here’s What the FAA Has Been Focused on Instead of Keeping Planes in The Air” Washington Free Beacon, January 11, 2023\)](#)

Government Accountability Office

“Leaked internal memos obtained by DailyMail.com show the Government Accountability Office (GAO) forbids employees from using male and female terms.”

“The ‘style guide’ demands an end to ‘non-inclusive terminology’ and said the GAO’s 3,100-strong army of bureaucrats should avoid ‘wording that diminishes anyone’s dignity.’ It was posted on the GAO site, bans staff from using words such as ‘man-made’ or ‘manpower’ in official communications. The document suggests alternatives such as ‘artificial’ or ‘workforce’ instead.” ([“EXCLUSIVE: Joe Biden’s new woke madness as top watchdog bans gendered language: Diversity management officer blacklists terms such as ‘man-made’ and ‘police man’ in new inclusivity push” Daily Mail, May 28, 2023](#))

State

Secretary of State Antony Blinken issued a memo instructing State Department employees to refrain from using what he deemed to be “problematic” language. Blinken’s memo notes that gender is a social construct and a person’s gender identity “may or may not correspond with one’s sex assigned at birth.” He goes on to say that assuming someone’s gender identity based on their appearance or name is not only “problematic” but also could convey a “harmful, exclusionary message.” Blinken further instructs staffers not to “pressure someone to state their pronouns.” Instead, he offers a list of commonly used pronouns including “she/her, he/him, they/them, and ze/zir” explaining that people use a variety of pronouns. Regardless of what pronouns someone chooses to use, he states that “is a personal decision that should be respected.”

Additionally, Blinken identified other common terms that State Department employees should avoid using. Instead of saying “manpower,” he suggests substituting “labor force.” “You guys” and “ladies and gentlemen” should be replaced by “everyone,” “folks,” or “you all.” Rather than saying “mother/father,”

staffers should say “parent” instead. Likewise, “son/daughter” should be replaced with “child.” Meanwhile, “spouse” or “partner” should be used in place of “husband/wife.”

Finally, Blinken tells staff they should “use more specific language” to “avoid using phrases like ‘brave men and women on the frontlines.’” He recommends more precise wording such as “brave first responders,” “brave soldiers,” or “brave DS agents.” ([Secretary of State urged staffers to avoid ‘problematic’ terms like ‘manpower’ and ‘mother/father’ New York Post, February 20, 2024](#))

GOV. ABBOTT MADE IMMIGRATION #1 ISSUE

[Bill Donohue](#)

Whether one agrees with Texas Gov. Greg Abbott’s decision to bus illegal aliens to sanctuary cities around the country or not, it is indisputable that he is responsible for making immigration the Number One issue in the nation. His gambit was sociologically brilliant. He turned what was perceived by most Americans to be a regional issue into a national one.

What Abbott did was right out of the playbook of the Left’s favorite radical, Saul Alinsky. In his 1971 book, *Rules for Radicals*, Alinsky listed 13 tactics for activists. Abbott mastered two of them.

The fourth rule is “*Make the enemy live up to their own book of rules.* You can kill them with this, for they can no more obey their own rules than the Christian church can live up to Christianity.” By busing migrants to sanctuary cities—making

the “compassionate” ones experience what it is like for Texans to put up with the illegals—Abbott called their bluff. Now they are up in arms.

The eighth rule is “*Keep the pressure on*, with different tactics and actions, and utilize all events of the period for your purpose.” Abbott has not only been relentless in shipping migrants to liberal cities, he has quickened the pace. He has also spread his goodwill around, from east to west, showing his penchant for diversity and inclusion.

We prepared a [report](#) on exactly how Abbott rolled out “Operation Lone Star.” It was in April 2022 that he began transporting the migrants. He has now bussed over 100,000 to sanctuary cities. There will be more. In December, illegal aliens came in record numbers—over 300,000 crashed our southern border.

We know that Abbott’s policy is working by examining the polling data.

We looked at surveys conducted by the Harvard CAPS-Harris Poll examining the top three most pressing issues facing the nation, beginning with the start of “Operation Lone Star.” Here is what we found.

April 2022

1. Price/Inflation: 33 percent
2. Economy and Jobs: 28 percent
3. Immigration: 22 percent

Approximately 200 migrants had been relocated by that time.

October 2022

1. Price/Inflation: 37 percent
2. Economy and Jobs: 29 percent
3. Immigration: 23 percent

Over 12,700 migrants had been relocated by that time.

April 2023

1. Price/Inflation: 34 percent
2. Economy and Jobs: 25 percent
3. Immigration: 24 percent

Over 19,040 migrants had been relocated by May 2023 (Texas did not provide data for April 2023).

October 2023

1. Price/Inflation: 32 percent
2. Immigration: 27 percent
3. Economy and Jobs: 24 percent

Over 58,900 migrants had been relocated by that time.

January 2024

1. Immigration: 35 percent
2. Price/Inflation: 32 percent
3. Economy and Jobs: 25 percent

Over 102,100 migrants had been relocated by that time.

The AP-NORC polls found similar outcomes.

2022

1. Economy, general: 31 percent
2. Inflation: 30 percent
3. Immigration: 27 percent

2023

1. Immigration: 35 percent
2. Inflation: 30 percent
3. Economy, general: 24 percent

The evidence is clear: There is a direct line between the expansion of Abbott's busing and the nation's intolerance for

illegal aliens. Had he not done so, this would still be regarded as a regional issue, and those who live along the border would be its only victims.

Some say it is cruel to bus migrants to cities around the country. We think it is cruel to make Texans pay for the policy prescriptions of those who never suffer the consequences of their own ideas.

Our one complaint with Abbott is that he didn't exclusively choose to bus the illegals to the wealthiest and most liberal neighborhoods in the country. Only when those who live in places like Beverly Hills and East Hampton feel the pinch of their politics will matters change.

To see the full report, click [here](#).