

THE FEDERATION FOR AMERICAN IMMIGRATION REFORM

A guide to FAIR's racist agenda—and how to expose it

From the Center for New Community

The Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) is widely considered a hate group because of its roots in white nationalism and eugenics and its virulent and false attacks on immigrants. FAIR's work advances deeply racist immigration enforcement legislation that maligns communities of color—both immigrant and native-born.

What is FAIR?

The Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) sits at the apex of the contemporary anti-immigrant movement. FAIR's racist goal is to severely reduce immigration, including legal immigration. Per FAIR's founder, reducing immigration would help maintain a white majority in the U.S.

FAIR has been designated a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center because of its virulent and false attacks on non-white immigrants. However, FAIR remains active and influential; this hate group designation has only resulted in FAIR receding slightly from its role as the public voice of the anti-immigrant movement.

FAIR's founding, racist ideology does not only extend to immigration: many FAIR officials have advocated for extreme population control measures including forced sterilization.

What does FAIR do?

FAIR's work advances deeply racist, and sometimes unconstitutional, immigration enforcement legislation that maligns both immigrant and native-born communities.

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- ◆ FAIR’s legal staff played a critical role in securing the passage of anti-immigrant legislation to foster “self-deportation” in Arizona, Alabama and Georgia.

FAIR maintains a national network of state-level anti-immigrant groups and individuals, many of whom have current or past affiliations with the vigilante Minutemen movement. With FAIR’s support, some of these groups are able to successfully push anti-immigrant laws in their states.

- ◆ Until March 2016, FAIR’s website listed at least one state contact group in 31 states. (Now all listings have been removed from the website.)
- ◆ Oregonians for Immigration Reform, a FAIR contact group, successfully used a ballot measure campaign to overturn a law allowing undocumented Oregonians access to driver licenses. OFIR is now pursuing three more anti-immigrant ballot initiatives.
- ◆ FAIR supported (financially and otherwise) Protect Arizona Now’s efforts to pass the anti-immigrant Proposition 200 in 2004. The successful referendum campaign eventually inspired more extreme anti-immigrant policies including SB 1070.
- ◆ FAIR state-level groups also play a critical role in delivering FAIR’s extremist anti-immigrant message to state lawmakers and grassroots activists.

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Why is FAIR important?

Despite its status as a known hate group, FAIR continues to successfully foster ties with law enforcement officials and legislators, and continues to be regularly quoted by mainstream media—often without acknowledgement of its extremist positions.

FAIR is an extremist hate group, and its opinions do not belong in the mainstream media.

Direct Quotes from Federation for American Immigration Reform Staff

Dan Stein, FAIR President

- ◆ "Immigrants don't come all church-loving, freedom-loving, God-fearing... Many of them hate America, hate everything that the United States stands for. Talk to some of these Central Americans." ([Source](#))
- ◆ "Should we be subsidizing people with low IQs to have as many children as possible, and not subsidizing those with high ones?" ([Source](#))
- ◆ "I blame ninety-eight percent of responsibility for this country's immigration crisis on Ted Kennedy and his political allies, who decided some time back in 1958, earlier perhaps, that immigration was a great way to retaliate against Anglo-Saxon dominance and hubris, and the immigration laws from the 1920s were just this symbol of that, and it's a form of revengism, or revenge, that these forces continue to push the immigration policy that they know full well are [sic] creating chaos and will continue to create chaos down the line." ([Source](#))
- ◆ "Not everyone thinks that replacing strawberry fields with dim-sum restaurants and noodle houses is necessarily an enhancement in their quality of life." ([Source](#))
- ◆ "Today's erroneous interpretation of the 14th Amendment is defeating the operation of US immigration controls. It is trumping the legislative intent of the statutes, it is rewarding illegal immigration and making the laws unenforceable." ([Source](#))
- ◆ "The U.S. and Mexico, if they're going to remain friends they're going to need good fences." ([Source](#))
- ◆ "In the end, take a look at what happened to the Native Americans when they didn't properly screen for contagious diseases back in 1620." ([Source](#))

Bob Dane, FAIR Executive Director

- ◆ "Our immigration system is degrading the quality of classrooms all over America." ([Source](#))
- ◆ "To deal with this tidal wave of human beings coming across the border, repealing the 14th Amendment would be an effective tool." ([Source](#))
- ◆ "The offensive aspect of 'anchor baby' isn't the term itself, but the practice of having children on U.S. soil for the sheer purpose of gaming the system." ([Source](#))

John Tanton, FAIR Founder

- ◆ "I've come to the point of view that for European-American society and culture to persist requires a European-American majority, and a clear one at that." ([Source](#))

Susan Tully, FAIR National Field Director

- ◆ "[Muslims] are not coming here to become Americans. ... [They are] promoting colonization of their own religion, of their own culture in towns and taking them over." ([Source](#))

Ira Mehlman, FAIR Media Director

- ◆ "Just because you have kids does not mean that they should shield you from the consequences of your own actions, which is knowingly violating the laws of the United States." ([Source](#))