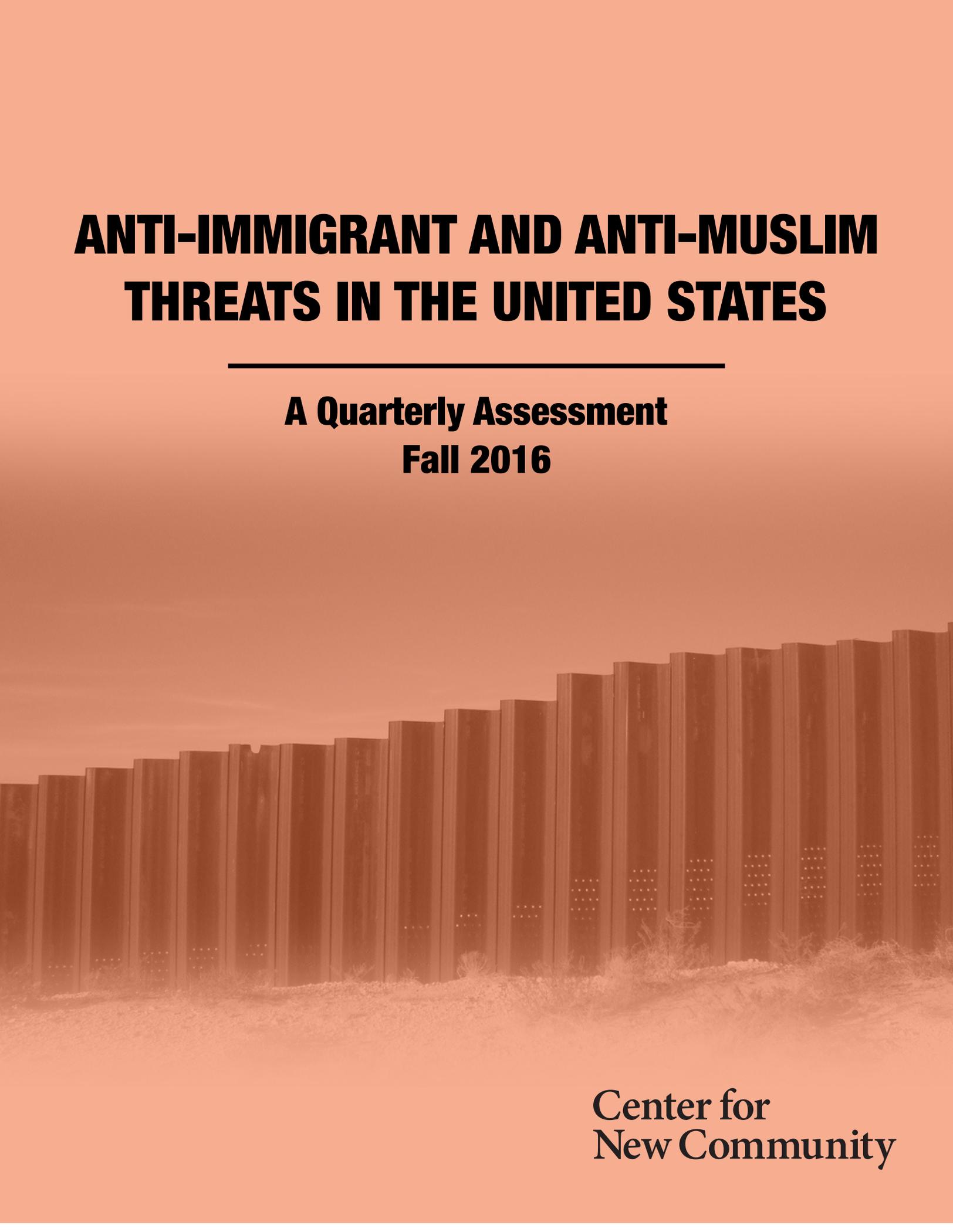


ANTI-IMMIGRANT AND ANTI-MUSLIM THREATS IN THE UNITED STATES

**A Quarterly Assessment
Fall 2016**



**Center for
New Community**

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Introduction

As the presidential campaign opens up new space for xenophobic hate in mainstream politics, organized nativist and white nationalist movements have continued to expand into it.

White nationalism is a racist ideology in which whiteness is essential to national identity. White nationalists argue that their views promote racial self-preservation, yet the racism and white supremacy inherent in white nationalist groups is overt.

While Hillary Clinton's campaign has failed to advocate for policies that resist nativist goals, such as an end to programs that profile Muslims, Donald Trump's campaign and the GOP are increasingly providing a platform for leaders of the extremist movements that promote them.

The Trump campaign's decision to hire Stephen Bannon, the executive chairman of Breitbart News, cements its support for extremist movements. Breitbart News has long served as the most notorious media platform for the organized anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim movements. Breitbart has similarly emerged as a prominent outlet for the white nationalist-driven "alt-right" movement that Trump has emboldened. Bannon's hire represents a full embrace of the dangerous and virulent nativism on which Trump has predicated his campaign since day one.

Nativism is a racist, xenophobic ideology that supports attacking and excluding immigrants and those thought to be foreign to the dominant culture. Nativism is based on the deep-seated belief, drawn from white supremacy, that the targeted outsiders are racially, culturally, or religiously inferior.

Meanwhile, Trump and the Republican National Convention have significantly boosted the visibility of the Remembrance Project, a rising group within the organized anti-immigrant movement. The Remembrance Project takes real, heartbreaking stories from victims of violence and their families and disingenuously uses them to spread fear of immigrants. The group has played a key role in promoting anti-immigrant legislation that has proliferated over the past year, since the tragic death of Kathryn Steinle.

Trump has also helped elevate the Remembrance Project's own platform, appearing in person at the Remembrance Project's inaugural national conference in September 2016. He parroted the group's talking points alongside one of the nation's most notorious anti-immigrant legal minds, Kris Kobach. Both Trump and Kobach called for measures to punish jurisdictions that protect immigrants from inhumane deportation proceedings, referring to immigrants as "criminal aliens" and "illegal immigrants."

Despite the frenetic activity of organized nativist movements at the national level, public activity at the state level has been limited because most legislatures have finished their sessions for the year.

Unfortunately, just because anti-immigrant activity is not visible does not mean it's not happening. For instance, the state-wide anti-immigrant group Oregonians for Immigration Reform (OFIR) has already filed two nativist ballot proposals for the 2018 election. OFIR failed to qualify similar ballot measures for the 2016 election, but advocates should be prepared for a more robust effort for the midterm election.

Similarly, the failure of anti-refugee legislation in states across the country does not mean these efforts will end. Organized nativist movements are already preparing anti-refugee measures for 2017. If we don't fight back, these nativist bills could turn into laws.

The rise of nativism and the white nationalist alt-right has continued over the past quarter and is likely to be reflected at the state and national level in the coming months. The result of the presidential election will certainly influence the way in which organized nativist movements advocate in the public sphere. But regardless of the outcome, nativist movements will surely remain a force to reckon with for the foreseeable future.

Scope of Work

The threat assessment primarily focuses on state and regional nativist activity tied to organized racist movements. We do not attempt to describe all nativist activity nationally; that is beyond the scope of this report. The report includes, for instance, state legislation proposed by legislators with ties to the organized anti-Muslim movement or supported by the organized anti-immigrant movement. Mostly however, the assessment highlights non-legislative organizing and events supported by anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim, or anti-refugee leaders or groups.

Within these bounds, we have prioritized activities that have or will pose greater threats, and have seen serious nativist mobilization behind them. This assessment covers nativist activity since June of 2016.

We created this assessment to be used as a resource for state and local organizations and activists working with communities impacted by nativism, to provide information about existing nativist threats, and to serve as a warning about current trends in organized hate.

Icon Key



Outcome supporting rights of immigrants, Muslims, and refugees



Ongoing legislative activity



Win for nativist movements



Grassroots nativist organizing



Electoral activity

Western Region

Grassroots anti-refugee organizing has spiked in Idaho, exploiting a tragedy to generate xenophobia.

 Anti-refugee activists across the country have seized on an assault case in Twin Falls, **Idaho**, to foment anti-refugee sentiment. Aided by inflammatory reporting and columns published in outlets including Breitbart News and Refugee Resettlement Watch, activists have sought to interfere with law enforcement's investigation of the case. Their success in turning this case into national news illustrates both the zeal with which they are attempting to malign refugees, and the susceptibility of the media to their efforts. In August, ACT for America founder Brigitte Gabriel spoke at an event in the Twin Falls area.

Activists also announced events featuring strident anti-Muslim activist Pamela Geller and Refugee Resettlement Watch's Ann Corcoran, but these were later cancelled.

We can expect anti-refugee activists to continue exploiting crimes, and particularly sexual assaults, to vilify people seeking freedom and safety.

[Read more from BuzzFeed: Meet the Charming, Terrifying Face of the Anti-Islam Lobby](#)



Refugee Resettlement Watch is a blog run by anti-refugee activist Ann Corcoran. Corcoran claims that most refugees are chosen by the United Nations to come to the U.S. from “countries that hate us.” She says the UN, the State Department and Christian and Jewish resettlement agencies are aiding in “Muslim colonization” and claims this is part of a larger scheme for Muslims to “dominate” America and “all lands in the world.” Corcoran has worked closely with nativist groups including the Center for Immigration Studies, the Center for Security Policy, and the anti-Muslim grassroots organization ACT for America.

The anti-immigrant movement in Oregon remains undeterred by a recent failure.



In **Oregon**, anti-immigrant activists affiliated with Oregonians for Immigration Reform (OFIR) abandoned signature-gathering efforts to place four anti-immigrant referendum on the November ballot. Despite this failure, OFIR activists are continuing to promote nativist policies. In fact, they have already filed two anti-immigrant ballot proposals for the 2018 election: One proposal would repeal so-called sanctuary policies in Oregon, and another would cancel all voter registrations within two years if

individuals did not prove their citizenship. These proposals pose a real risk to immigrant communities, and Oregon groups should be prepared for a more aggressive effort to qualify them for the midterm election. On August 13, OFIR held a meeting featuring an anti-refugee presentation by Montana nativist Paul Nachman. This event builds on OFIR’s previous efforts to collaborate with prominent nativist leaders, and we can expect more of the same moving

Oregonians for Immigration Reform (OFIR) is the Oregon state contact group of the Federation for American Immigration Reform, and maintains strong connections with the organized anti-immigrant movement nationally. OFIR is responsible for advancing the 2014 ballot measure that overturned legislation to grant undocumented immigrants access to driver's licenses.

Paul Nachman is a Montana-based activist and regular contributor to white nationalist website VDARE.com. Nachman also sits on the advisory board of two organizations founded by white nationalist John Tanton: the Federation for American Immigration Reform and ProEnglish. Nachman has played an active role bolstering ACT for America’s anti-refugee efforts in the northwest.

Nativists in California continue their brazen and vitriolic anti-immigrant organizing.

 Anti-immigrant activists in Southern **California** continue to be some of the most publicly active in the country. Groups including We the People Rising and San Diegans for Secure Borders—both led by activists formerly affiliated with the border vigilante Minutemen movement—have organized public demonstrations and counter-demonstrations of varying size nearly every week throughout the summer. The groups have also attended local city and county council meetings and court hearings during cases where undocumented immigrants are the accused.

We the People Rising and **San Diegans for Secure Borders** are the two most active anti-immigrant groups in California. After receiving leaked information from Border Patrol sources, the groups were responsible for the despicable anti-immigrant protests outside of a Border Patrol facility in Murrieta, California. As numerous media reports showed, nativists blocked government buses carrying Central American families. Murrieta City Manager Rick Dudley lamented the protests as they were occurring, describing them as a “black eye” on the city.

The organized anti-immigrant movement could gain a Congressional ally in Arizona.

 Pinal County, **Arizona**, Sheriff Paul Babeu became the Republican candidate for the open 1st Congressional district after winning the primary race in August. Babeu is arguably one of the organized anti-immigrant movement's closest allies in law enforcement. He regularly attends events in Washington, DC and on the U.S.-Mexico border organized by the Federation for American Immigration Reform. In 2011, the group honored Babeu with its "People's Sheriff" award at its annual media and citizen lobbying event, Hold Their Feet to the Fire. This year, Babeu's congressional campaign held a fundraiser in Washington, D.C. coinciding with Hold Their Feet to the Fire. The organized anti-immigrant movement would surely have a congressional ally in Babeu should he be elected.

Southern Region

FAIR is likely to continue influencing law enforcement based on trips to the border.

 In recent years, the anti-immigrant group Federation for American Immigration Reform has organized a “Sheriff Border Summit” in cities near the U.S.-Mexico border and will likely do so again this year. The event has marked a disturbing trend of some local sheriffs and other law enforcement officials increasingly cooperating and collaborating with FAIR and other extremist organizations comprising the organized anti-immigrant movement. [Last year’s summit](#), in El Paso, **Texas**, included a visit to the headquarters of border vigilante group Texas Border Volunteers and a presentation from anti-government activist Richard Mack. FAIR has long argued that sheriffs throughout the country need to adopt nativist policies, whether they are near the U.S.-Mexico border or not. The existence of events like FAIR’s Sheriff Border Summit and a recent national television advertisement produced by FAIR featuring sheriff testimonials suggests some law enforcement officials continue to embrace the anti-immigrant movement’s extremism.

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.

Anti-immigrant leaders’ cynical exploitation of tragedy is likely to remain a central strategy.

 The Remembrance Project held its first ever national summit in **Texas** on September 16-18. The Remembrance Project has become one of the country’s most visible advocates of anti-immigrant policies. The group, founded in 2009, primarily holds (often brazenly exploitative) events to politicize the grief of victims of crimes committed by undocumented immigrants. Representatives from the Remembrance Project spoke on the main stage at this year’s Republican National Convention and have appeared at multiple presidential campaign events throughout the year. Since the Remembrance Project and allies used the tragic death of

Kathryn Steinle in San Francisco in order to attack so-called sanctuary cities, this long-running strategy has seen significant recent success. We can expect nativist groups to continue to rely on it.

David Duke seeks to mainstream hate in Louisiana.



In **Louisiana**, former Ku Klux Klan leader and rabid anti-Semite David Duke launched a campaign for U.S. Senate. Duke was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives in 1989 and unsuccessfully ran for governor in 1991. Duke has been a strident supporter of Donald Trump and was no doubt emboldened by the television mogul's campaign after Duke himself toiled in relative political obscurity for nearly two decades. Duke's campaign demonstrates how much room for overt hate in now exists in politics, thanks largely to Trump's campaign. The repercussions of bringing hate into the public forum will likely have long-term consequences.

Community groups in North Carolina defeat four nativist bills, but should be prepared for future challenges.



In **North Carolina**, a series of anti-immigrant bills ultimately died in the state legislature. Anti-immigrant groups in the state expressed support for four bills in particular that sought to halt refugee resettlement

(HB 1086), require more stringent workplace employment authorization (HB 1069), punish sanctuary cities (SB 868), and prohibit local governments from accepting certain forms of identification (HB 100). Local anti-immigrant groups lamented the bills' failures. "Unfortunately all 4 immigration enforcement bills, that had been introduced in the short session of the NCGA, have failed," wrote North Carolinians for Immigration Reform and Enforcement's James Johnson in a July 5 email. "While this set back is extremely disappointing, rest assured, NCFIRE will not give up. We will continue our efforts to enact strict immigration enforcement laws in NC." Community mobilization in North Carolina was a large factor in defeating these four anti-immigrant bills, and local organizations should be prepared for another fight in 2017.

Major loss for refugee rights in Texas demonstrates risks to other states.



In **Texas**, Gov. Greg Abbott announced that state resources will not be used for refugee resettlement purposes. Abbott's move will not halt all resettlement, as federal resources will still be used to assist refugees, but the announcement will affect local agencies that support refugees. Texas' withdrawal from refugee resettlement also risks generating copycat moves in other states.

Midwest Region

Nativists target Paul Ryan at his Wisconsin home.



In July, activists affiliated with the Remembrance Project held a press conference outside of House Speaker Paul Ryan's **Wisconsin** home to endorse his primary opponent, Paul Nehlen. At the press conference Nehlen said, according to Breitbart, “We will not tolerate one more death of an innocent American because Paul Ryan wants to satisfy his donors. We will not let one more family be torn apart by open borders.” Nehlen sought to replicate Rep. Dave Brat of Virginia's upset 2014 primary victory over then-House Majority Leader Eric Cantor. As Brat did, Nehlen embraced the endorsements of far-right nativist figures, including Ann Coulter. Unlike Brat, Nehlen lost his primary challenge. Wisconsin voters handed Nehlen a decisive defeat, only giving him 15% of the vote.

Victory for voter rights in Kansas amid ongoing legal battle.



Forced by a federal court decision in late September, **Kansas** Secretary of State Kris Kobach reluctantly announced his office will allow thousands of registered voters to fully participate in November's election. The events follow Kobach's strident

efforts to disenfranchise thousands of voters who did not provide proof of citizenship when registering to vote. To comply with federal law, Kobach instituted a new, “two-tier” system allowing Kansans whose registration status was “in suspense” to only vote in federal elections and not in local Kansas elections. According to the Associated Press, the announcement will expand ballot access to approximately 20,000 voters, a figure that state officials suspect may grow to 50,000 before Election Day.

Kris Kobach's efforts to pass discriminatory policies targeting immigrants and suppress voting rights have made him the face of hardline nativist policies. Kobach currently serves both as the Kansas Secretary of State and as counsel at the Immigration Law Reform Institute (ILRI), the legal arm of the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR). He co-authored Arizona's draconian anti-immigrant law SB 1070 and helped draft Alabama's copycat bill, AB56, two notoriously severe immigration laws that sanction racial profiling. Kobach has also championed voter suppression laws in Kansas, which have been held up as a model to suppress votes in other states.

GOP embraces anti-Muslim extremist on national platform.



This year the Republican National Convention in Cleveland, **Ohio**, provided a platform for prominent nativist figures. Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn (Ret.), who sits on the board of the aggressive anti-Muslim grassroots group ACT for America, spoke on the convention stage during primetime. He also spoke at several events organized by local Ohio ACT chapters in the days ahead of his convention speech. Extremists like Flynn have not been so openly welcomed at the RNC in recent memory. This move demonstrates the increasing inroads that organized nativist movements are making into mainstream politics, by way of the GOP.

Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn (Ret.) is the former Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency. After retiring from the agency in 2014, Flynn has become an increasingly active figure on the national anti-Muslim speaking circuit. Primarily speaking to local chapters of ACT for America, Flynn has indicated no desire to distance himself from the organized anti-Muslim movement's bigotry. During one such appearance in August, the Dallas Morning News reported Flynn likened Islam to "a cancer."

Anti-Muslim activists attempt to pinkwash their hate.



Lt. Gen. Flynn was not the only anti-Muslim activist to make an appearance in Cleveland, **Ohio**. Anti-Muslim activists held what they described as "the most fab party at the RNC" featuring strident anti-Muslim activist Pamela Geller and Geert Wilders, a Dutch parliamentarian and one of Europe's most prominent anti-Muslim figures. The party professed to support LGBT rights in the aftermath of the Orlando attacks, but in reality simply used LGBT communities as an instrument to foment anti-Muslim hate. This tactic--using LGBT people as a shield against the exposure of anti-Muslim bigotry--is not a new one for the organized Islamophobia movement. We should expect to see further escalation of pinkwashing as the anti-Muslim movement encounters backlash.

Pamela Geller is an anti-Muslim blogger and activist who gained notoriety while mobilizing opposition to the Cordoba House in lower Manhattan (also derisively referred to as the "Ground Zero Mosque"). Geller is known for her flamboyant and deliberately provocative style, and she has regularly aligned with nearly any group or organization that similarly portrays Muslims and Islam as menaces.

Eastern Region

Anti-Muslim group brings hate to Capitol Hill.

 In early September, the aggressive grassroots anti-Muslim group ACT for America held its national conference in **Washington, D.C.** The annual conference brought some of the country's most prominent anti-Muslim speakers together with ACT's most dedicated activists across the country.

ACT for America is the largest anti-Muslim grassroots group in the United States. The vitriolic group claims more than 279,000 members and over 800 U.S. chapters, along with a handful of international chapters. Led by Brigitte Gabriel, the group organizes efforts to lobby legislators, to push anti-Shariah laws, and to influence local law enforcement and national security agencies.

Speakers at this year's event included ACT founder Brigitte Gabriel, Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn, Erick Stakelbeck, and Phil Haney. As in previous years, the conference also included a briefing on Capitol Hill where ten of ACT's most reliable allies in Congress spoke to conference goers. In a departure from previous years, this year ACT refused to

announce the names of members of Congress slated to speak, in order to shield them from scrutiny. Several additional members of Congress also cancelled meetings with ACT in response to public pressure. This demonstrates that exposing ACT's bigotry can help mitigate the group's impact, and that ACT's organizers are feeling the pressure. It will be critical to keep up the pressure over the next year to prevent ACT from gaining more influence.

Case Study: Calling out Hate

Together with allies at MPOWER Change, the Center for New Community circulated a petition asking Members of Congress to boycott ACT for America's events in DC. Nearly 12,000 people around the country called them out.

It worked! At least six Members of Congress cancelled meetings with ACT for America and significantly fewer Members of Congress spoke at ACT's briefing than last year.

[Watch CNC and the Washington Peace Center call out ACT's hate](#)



Anti-immigrant “Border Tour” focuses on U.S.-Canada border.

 In early September, the Center for Immigration Studies held its sixth annual “Border Tour.” While past CIS tours took place along the U.S.-Mexico border, the event moved its focus north for the first time. The week-long event took place along the U.S.-Canada border and “explore[d] both sides of the **New York/Vermont/Ontario/Quebec** portion of the border,” according to an announcement, and included meetings with immigration authorities. As the Center for New Community describes in the 2015 report [Blurring Borders](#), this only continues the troubling trend of immigration enforcement collaboration with extremists.

White nationalists expected to gather in DC in October.

 In October, the white nationalist foundation U.S. Inc. will likely hold its annual Writers Workshop in **Washington, D.C.** U.S. Inc. was created to serve the goals of John Tanton, an avowed white nationalist and founder of the organized anti-immigrant movement. The Writers Workshop is typically scheduled to coincide with the Federation for American Immigration Reform’s annual board of advisors meeting. In the past, the event has brought together some of the most aggressive anti-immigrant leaders from

across the country, so those fighting nativism should keep an eye on whether any of their local opponents decide to attend this white nationalist event.

John Tanton and his foundation, U.S. Inc., have organized the **Writers Workshop** conference to discuss all things immigration for decades. In the past, attendees have included noted white nationalists like Jared Taylor, Peter Brimelow, and the late Sam Francis. Last year’s event, the 39th annual Writers Workshop, attracted elected officials and nativist extremists alike. For example, notorious anti-Muslim activists James Simpson, Diana West, and Ann Corcoran spoke on the same stage as Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach and U.S. Rep. Brian Babin (R-TX).

Moving to Action

If your state or community is encountering threats from organized nativist groups, there are multiple ways to push back and take action to create a more just and inclusive society.

Learn about your opposition.

It's hard to defeat nativist opponents if you don't know exactly who they are and what they want.

The Center for New Community (CNC) provides [resources](#) on organized nativist groups and leaders, including briefing materials on the [organized anti-immigrant movement](#), the [organized anti-Muslim movement](#), and the convergence of these movements to [target refugee resettlement](#).

These resources can help you determine how best to anticipate your opposition, expose their racist motives, and promote your own narrative.

Identify upcoming threats.

Identifying specific nativist threats is key to creating opportunities to push back. When nativists show up publicly in your state or community, you have the chance to draw a clear distinction between their values: racism, xenophobia, and hate—and a vision of our shared future that promotes opportunity, fairness, inclusion, and justice.

CNC publishes a blog, [Imagine2050.org](#), that exposes not just anti-immigrant, anti-refugee, and anti-Muslim groups and leaders themselves, but the regular events, research, media appearances, and other activities they rely on to promote their extremist ideas. CNC also maintains a [regularly updated map](#) that tracks events organized by nativist groups, speeches from nativist leaders, and more. We similarly publish a weekly series called [There Goes the Neighborhood](#), which previews upcoming nativist events.

Use the media.

Organized nativist movements have cultivated an incredible level of access to mainstream media, not to mention their prominence in right-wing media outlets. Our movements can have a powerful effect when we push back directly. CNC has developed a guide to easily writing effective letters to the editor any time one of the leading anti-immigrant spokespersons is quoted in a national or local publication.

Resources on Anti-Immigrant Groups

[Federation for American Immigration Reform](#)
[Center for Immigration Studies](#)
[NumbersUSA](#)

[Federation for American Immigration Reform \(español\)](#)
[Center for Immigration Studies \(español\)](#)
[NumbersUSA \(español\)](#)

Resources on Anti-Muslim Groups

[David Horowitz Freedom Center](#)
[Center for Security Policy](#)
[ACT for America](#)

If you're interested in more extensive media work, we offer oppositional messaging trainings on how to effectively get your point across in the face of nativist opposition. [Contact us](#) for more information.

Get trained.

CNC offers webinars and in-person trainings on anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim, and anti-refugee movements nationally and in specific regions. These trainings identify the leaders, goals, strategies, and resources of organized nativist movements, and can include specifics from your state or city.

CNC regularly offers oppositional messaging webinars for anyone who does media work. The training provides a framework for analyzing your opposition's messages and preparing an effective strategy to expose your opposition and pivot back to your primary narrative.

If you have a group interested in doing one or both of these trainings together, [contact us](#) about scheduling a web-based or in-person training.

Shape and promote your own narrative.

Nativist activists don't only promote harmful policies; they also take up too much space. They play off of the fear and anxiety many people feel, and they appeal to lawmakers and journalists to make their ideas mainstream. Negative stereotypes and suspicion of immigrants and Muslims become the norm if left unchallenged.

Craft a narrative that moves beyond debunking stereotypes and instead demonstrates your values and expresses the urgent need for action. Tell a story that shows why anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim policies would harm you, your community, and the broader society. Focus on the impact of these extremist policies, and use this moment to also call out the nativist extremism at the heart of these proposals. Practice telling your story to your friends, family members, and colleagues, and refine it as you go. As part of your broader strategy, share this story with lawmakers, journalists, allies you want to mobilize, and the community that stands with you.

Your story—your individual and collective lived experience—has the power to move others.

Mobilize your community and allies.

It's important to move quickly against nativist policy proposals or a racist demonstration to learn who is behind the attack and shape the narrative. For this to happen, we need to prepare, practice, and build a team. As you develop your campaign—whether it is for or against a proposed policy—take the time to make sure your community and allies are prepared.

First, center the leadership and stories of those most impacted by the xenophobic proposals. It is important to focus on the impact of harmful policies and rhetoric, so it is critical that targeted individuals and communities set the agenda and tell their own stories.

A relatively small group of lawmakers is responsible for introducing bills that restrict rights for immigrants, Muslims, and refugees. These same lawmakers are often the same people who sponsor and support bills that harm other marginalized communities including workers, disenfranchised voters, LGBTQ individuals, and women seeking reproductive justice. Build relationships with activists and organizations working on these issues to lay the foundation for a broader movement that acknowledges intersections and cultivates meaningful solidarity.

We don't have to wait for harmful bills to be proposed or for violent demonstrations to happen to take action. We can prepare by doing the research; practicing our narrative; and building relationships with allies, media, and lawmakers. Whether we are launching a campaign for inclusive and just policies, or if the opposition strikes first, we will be ready when the moment hits.

Looking Ahead

Nationally, organized nativist movements are likely to work to halt refugee resettlement and increase current immigration enforcement measures over the remainder of 2016 and into 2017. Indeed, nativists have pursued similar legislative efforts throughout the country, and these efforts are likely to continue at all levels of government.

Nativist groups are likely to advocate for anti-immigrant amendments to federal appropriations bills for Fiscal Year 2017. In past years, these groups have argued for amendments to prohibit so-called “sanctuary” jurisdictions from receiving federal funds, to halt refugee resettlement, and to limit or block outright certain guest worker visa categories. While these efforts have been unsuccessful in the past, nativist mobilization is expected to continue.

All of these issues were present in a new report FAIR issued this summer outlining the anti-immigrant group’s legislative agenda for state and local governments. In an interview published in FAIR’s June 2016 newsletter, FAIR Director of State and Local Government Relations Sarah Rehberg emphasized that she and her colleagues are placing a specific emphasis on opposing so-called sanctuary policies, which help protect immigrants from unjust deportation and allow victims of crimes to contact the police without fear. “[S]anctuary cities are currently the area where we have the most interest and momentum, Rehberg said, “so much of our focus is on getting those bills across the finish line.”

Leading up to November’s election, nativist groups are expected to use heightened media coverage to broadcast their harmful agendas to wider audiences. Nativist groups like the Federation for American Immigration Reform, NumbersUSA, and Californians for Population Stabilization have all produced television and radio ads supporting dramatic decreases in immigration. Already, FAIR has produced two television ads that have aired nationally and in certain swing states.

As Election Day approaches, so too does the threat of voter intimidation and suppression. Tea Party groups like True the Vote (TTV) have encouraged supporters to become “poll watchers” and observe their local elections--a practice that many have claimed is nothing but intimidation. Founded in 2009, True the Vote has based its work on the blatant falsehood that there is widespread voter fraud in U.S. elections. Despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary, TTV activists have entertained this fiction and

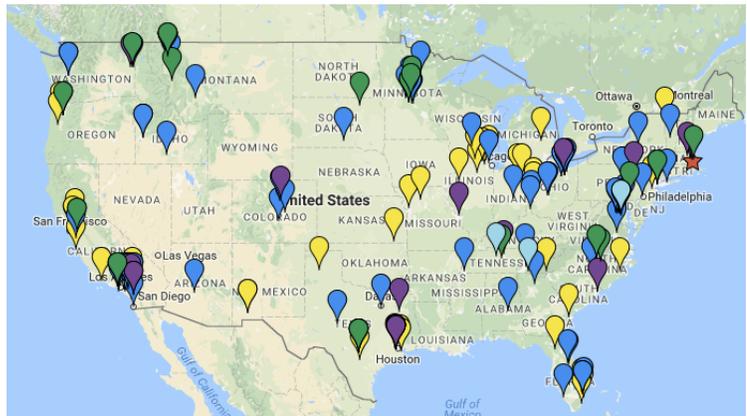
targeted communities of color, as [ABC News](#) reported in 2012. This year, Donald Trump has embraced TTV's narrative and has similarly encouraged supporters to "Go down to certain areas and watch and study, make sure other people don't come in and vote five times." In such a hate-filled political climate, such calls are certainly cause for concern.

We don't have to wait for harmful bills to be proposed, for racist demonstrations, or for thinly veiled calls for vigilantism in order to take action. We can prepare by doing the research, practicing our narrative, and building relationships with allies, media, and lawmakers. Whether we are launching a campaign for inclusive and just policies, or if the opposition strikes first, we will be ready when the moment comes.

The Center for New Community will continue to monitor nativist activity across the country.

CNC maintains an [interactive map](#) as well as a weekly blog series, [There Goes the Neighborhood](#), published every Friday, that previews the upcoming week's nativist events.

If you hear of nativist events in your area, [please let us know](#) so we can add them to the map.



For more information, please visit CNC's blog, [Imagine 2050](#). You can also find us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

[Read more on Imagine2050.org](#)

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