

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

**A Quarterly Assessment
Winter 2017**

**Center for
New Community**

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Table of Contents

◆ Introduction	3
◆ Scope of Work	4
◆ Icon Key	5
◆ National	5
◆ Western Region	7
◆ Southern Region	10
◆ Midwest Region	13
◆ Eastern Region	15
◆ Moving to Action	16
◆ Looking Ahead	20

Introduction

The opening weeks of Donald Trump's presidency have affirmed many of the fears communities of color and other targeted communities harbored during last year's campaign. Amid his many headline-grabbing tweets, breaks from expected decorum, and attacks on the media, the president has signed over a dozen executive orders designed to implement nativist policy goals.

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.

The orders, which have already adversely affected thousands of immigrants and people of color directly, signal that the president's words on the campaign trail were not empty promises.

Meanwhile, a majority of Congress has proven unwilling to oppose the new president's extreme actions. Congress has approved every one of the myriad unqualified and even overtly racist individuals the president has chosen to serve in his administration--with little to no opposition in most cases. This effective rubber stamping of Trump's priorities is a dangerous sign and sets the stage for a regression in numerous policy areas, including the advance of legally-sanctioned nativism.

While members of Congress are failing to provide a check on the executive branch, they are also working to strip themselves of accountability. Lawmakers inaugurated the 115th Congress with a sneaky, late night effort to gut the Office of Congressional Ethics. The effort was fortunately abandoned following intense public pressure, but it was a telling sign that lawmakers in the majority would, much like the new president, quickly act to further entrench their own power.

State lawmakers are also following in the president's fear mongering footsteps. Legislation to restrict refugee resettlement and impose punitive measures on so-called sanctuary cities has been introduced in statehouses across the country. The Center for New Community noted the anti-immigrant movement would pursue this anti-sanctuary strategy at the state level last fall. With allies at virtually all levels of government, the movement's destructive nativist agenda is sure to make gains in the coming months.

More urgently, the nation has already begun to witness the human cost of the president's executive orders. Immigrant families are being torn apart by the deportation machine now in the hands of an overzealous administration working in concert with recommendations from the organized anti-immigrant movement. Muslims, including refugees, have been denied entry into the United States--a reality lauded by leaders of the organized anti-Muslim movement. Thankfully, these measures are being challenged in our nation's courts. But the process is lengthy, keeping many people susceptible to harm in the process.

Now is the time to organize against these harmful policies. We must be united in our opposition to racist policies and clear in our support for those targeted by Trump.

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 October 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

National

Mayors across the nation assert commitment to sanctuary protections following Trump's election.



Following the election, mayors from many of the country's largest cities issued statements committing to protect immigrant communities under the Trump administration. Mayors of these so-called sanctuary jurisdictions expect punitive measures, including denial of future federal funds if they maintain that immigration authorities must have a warrant before taking detained immigrants into federal custody. Additionally, several cities including Chicago, Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles announced new defense funds to assist immigrants ensnared in the deportation machine President Trump has inherited.

Trump's cabinet and advisors are a reflection of the nativist movements that helped him gain power.



Meanwhile, President Trump's personnel picks show no sign that he will moderate the extreme positions on which he campaigned. To fill cabinet and advisor positions, Trump has picked over 20 people with ties to organized anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim groups.

Nativists at the White House

The Center for New Community recently launched a new online resource cataloguing Trump's advisors who have connections to organized nativist movements.

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ProEnglish was founded in 1994 by John Tanton, the white nationalist architect of the contemporary organized anti-immigrant movement. ProEnglish still operates as a project of Tanton's philanthropic foundation, U.S. Inc. Over the years, the group has employed white nationalists including former executive director Robert Vandervoort. Last year, the group announced that Paul Nachman, a nativist activist and contributor to white nationalist website VDARE.com, joined its advisory board.

Executive actions implement nativist priorities nationally.



The president has also quickly used his executive authority to implement policies favored by Beltway nativist groups like the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR), the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS), and NumbersUSA. While some executive

actions have already been challenged in court, others have dramatically increased the scope of immigration enforcement placing hundreds of immigrants into deportation proceedings. Prior to Trump's inauguration, anti-immigrant groups including FAIR and CIS published recommendations for the incoming administration. Several of these executive orders appear to implement those very policies. This is no surprise, as officials closely tied to the organized anti-immigrant movement such as Jeff Sessions, Kris Kobach, and Stephen Miller were widely reported to have been directly involved in crafting the language of the nativist executive orders. The administration also reportedly sought input on the executive orders from House Judiciary Committee staffers, without the knowledge of Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte (R-VA). The organized anti-immigrant movement has developed and maintained a close relationship to judiciary committee members over the years.

Western Region

California voters approve language access ballot measure.



On Election Day, California voters overwhelmingly approved a ballot initiative lifting restrictions on bilingual education. 73% of voters approved Proposition 58, repealing a majority of California’s so-called “English-only” education immersion requirements. Most of the requirements stemmed from a 1998 referendum vote. Before the election, anti-immigrant group ProEnglish pledged it “will be active in California,” encouraging voters to reject Proposition 58. “We are on the front lines in California with all important radio and social media ads to preserve English immersion and urge Californians to VOTE NO on Proposition 58,” the group stated on Election Day. “If we lose this battle, then we risk eroding the very language that binds us together as a nation – and bilingual education could spread across America.” ProEnglish’s failure was the latest in a string of defeats and setbacks the group has faced in recent years.

Communities defeat two notorious anti-immigrant sheriffs in Arizona.



Also on Election Day, two of Arizona’s most strident anti-immigrant sheriffs were officially

ousted from their positions. Voters selected replacements for both Sheriff Joe Arpaio, of Maricopa County, and Sheriff Paul Babeu, of Pinal County. The two Arizona sheriffs have been staunch allies of the organized anti-movement for years and were some of the most vocal proponents of draconian immigration enforcement tactics. Both Arpaio and Babeu were also regular attendees of anti-immigrant group Federation for American Immigration Reform’s annual Hold Their Feet to the Fire event in Washington, D.C. Arpaio leaves his office riddled with scandal and legal trouble. Mere days before the election, a federal judge found Arpaio in contempt of court in a racial profiling case.

Anti-Muslim operative leads training for law enforcement in Glendale, Arizona.



John Guandolo and his anti-Muslim consulting group Understanding the Threat led a three-day training in Glendale, Arizona. The training was sponsored by the Arizona Police Association and the Arizona Tactical Officers Association, and was titled “Understanding and Investigating the Jihadi Threat.” According to a flyer for the training, Guandolo was scheduled to provide “a detailed understanding of street violence

emerging from the alliance among the Muslim Brotherhood and violent anarchist groups including Black Lives Matter.” The training was said to provide “an understanding of Sharia, its foundation, its authority, and its relation to threats posed by jihadis.” Guandolo has previously claimed that “Sharia adherent muslims are mentally ill.”

John Guandolo is the founder and president of Understanding the Threat, a counter-terrorism consulting firm he created to profit from instilling anti-Muslim bigotry in law enforcement agents. Guandolo resigned in disgrace from the FBI in 2008 amid controversy involving a relationship between him and a key witness under his protection in a corruption case. Since then, he has leveraged his FBI background to gain legitimacy as a full-time consultant providing trainings on anti-Muslim bigotry masquerading as counterterrorism to law enforcement professionals and civilians.

Anti-Muslim activity intensifies in Montana.

 In Montana, activists affiliated with anti-Muslim grassroots group ACT for America continue to organize anti-Muslim events in Flathead County. The ACT chapter’s visibility grew

significantly over the last year as it organized events featuring prominent anti-Muslim speakers like ACT founder Brigitte Gabriel and Austrian activist Elisabeth Sabaditsch-Wolff. This year, the group has already organized a screening of a documentary featuring anti-Muslim Dutch politician Geert Wilders. According to a January 16 Montana Public Radio report, the Flathead Valley ACT chapter is focusing its current efforts on increasing its membership, gaining more media attention, and advancing an anti-Shariah law.

ACT for America is the largest anti-Muslim grassroots group in the United States. The vitriolic group claims more than 500,000 members and over 1,000 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.

Anti-Muslim activists in Idaho are promoting anti-Shariah legislation.

 In Idaho, ACT for America activists are similarly pushing anti-Shariah legislation. The Montana House State Affairs Committee recently introduced HB 94. State Rep. Heather Scott, a member of the

committee, spoke at the Treasure Valley ACT chapter's February 14th meeting. Scott has previously said, "It is important to keep in mind that Islamic immigration is different from non-Muslim immigration." Idaho ACT chapter co-chair Tom Howie, shares a similar view of Islam as a threat. "We have to maintain our culture," he told a local CBS affiliate recently. "For some people that's not important to them, but it is important to me.

Anti-Shariah measures, often described as "**American Laws for American Courts**," seek to prevent state courts from applying Islamic doctrine or other "foreign laws." Anti-Muslim lawyer David Yerushalmi is the author and mastermind behind this model legislation. Such bills are often exported to state legislatures by anti-Muslim groups like ACT for America and the Center for Security Policy. They have not held up to Constitutional scrutiny and have been deemed by legal experts as a "solution in search of a problem."

Southern Region

Nativist movements push anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim legislation in Texas.



Far-right activists and legislators in Texas are wasting no time advancing nativist measures as the 2017 legislative session begins. After Election Day, Gov. Greg Abbott pledged to eliminate funding for sanctuary cities and encouraged lawmakers to send a bill outlawing sanctuary jurisdictions to his desk this legislative session. One such bill, State Sen. Charles Perry's SB 4, has been promoted by the dangerous anti-immigrant group FAIR. This national anti-immigrant group has also backed the introduction of State Sen. Charles Schwertner's SB 23, which would require state contractors use the deeply flawed federal E-Verify workplace authorization program. Far-right Texas activists have also announced their intent to once again introduce anti-Muslim "American Laws for American Courts" (ALAC) legislation. Texas anti-Muslim activists have unsuccessfully pushed for the legislation in the past. This year's effort is being spearheaded by members of the Texas Eagle Forum, who have given presentations on the bill to local right wing groups before the legislative session began.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott has been at the forefront of efforts to advance nativist policies through the court system. In 2014, as Texas Attorney General, Abbott worked with notorious anti-immigrant legal mind Kris Kobach to file a lawsuit challenging President Obama's expanded deportation relief program DAPA. As governor in 2015, Abbott signed HB 11, which included a provision making it a crime to "encourage or induce a person to enter or remain in this country in violation of federal law by concealing, harboring, or shielding that person from detection." The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals heard arguments against the provision in January and a decision is pending.

Anti-Muslim law enforcement trainer heads to Texas.



John Guandolo's anti-Muslim consulting outfit, Understanding the Threat, hosted a six-day "Train the Trainer" event at an unspecified location in Texas. The training was intended for law enforcement and civilians alike, and addressed the so-called "jihad threat" in the United States. According to an advertisement for the

event sent via email, the program provided attendees with a supposed “understanding of the threat of the Jihadist Movement and the network in the United States.” The course was said to be “open to law enforcement, military, civilians, and all others who want to be able to teach and train others about the jihadi threat.” Anti-Muslim figures Clare Lopez and Robert Spencer were listed as co-instructors for the event.

Islamophobia Academy

The Center for New Community’s new resource, Islamophobia Academy, exposes and monitors the anti-Muslim movement’s efforts to indoctrinate law enforcement with hate. It catalogues each known anti-Muslim training or other activity that directly or indirectly targets law enforcement, and will continue to be updated as new efforts are uncovered.

[READ MORE](#)

Virginia sheriff hosts two anti-Muslim hatemongers.

 The Greene County Sheriff’s Office sponsored a public seminar featuring Chris Gaubatz of Understanding the Threat, the anti-Muslim consulting group run by John Guandolo. Despite criticism from civil rights groups and the local Muslim

community, Sheriff Steve Smith stood by the seminar, titled “Understanding the Jihadi Threat.” Gaubatz was joined by Michael Del Rosso, an employee of the anti-Muslim think tank the Center for Security Policy. During the session, both individuals disparaged Muslim civil rights and advocacy organizations. Del Rosso went as far as to claim the “goal” of the Qur’an is to “terrorize you.”

Notorious anti-immigrant activist targets local governments in Georgia.

 D.A. King, founder of the Georgia anti-immigrant group Dustin Inman Society, continues to battle local governments he has accused of violating Georgia’s immigration-related laws. King filed his seventh complaint with the state’s Immigration Enforcement Review Board (IERB) against the city of Atlanta for not seeking records compliance with immigration law from local non-profit groups. The IERB was created as part of a notoriously anti-immigrant state law modeled on Arizona’s “show me your papers” measure, and was left in place after most of the original law was overturned by litigation. King has filed seven of the eight complaints the IERB has considered since its creation in 2011. “My hope is that the IERB will use all of its power to send a message to the other officials who are allowed to scoff at the law,” D.A. King told *Creative Loafing* in December.

“Best case? Mayor Reed takes a heavy personal fine as the final authority in charge of what are admitted violations.” A Review Board official later sent the City of Atlanta a letter saying it “might further consider all ramifications and remedial actions.”

Arkansas lawmakers pursue voter suppression and anti-immigrant legislation.



In Arkansas, lawmakers are continuing voter suppression efforts following the U.S. Supreme Court’s 2014 decision to repeal sections of the Voting Rights Act. New bills requiring voters to present a photo ID at polls were introduced in both the Arkansas House and Senate. Lawmakers passed a similar bill in 2013, which the Arkansas Supreme Court ruled as unconstitutional. On social media, anti-immigrant group FAIR promoted the bills’ introduction, and regularly expresses support for voter suppression measures. On February 8, FAIR also issued an action alert to its

Arkansas members urging support for House Bill 1042, which would prohibit sanctuary policies at state universities.

Tennessee legislators consider lawsuit to prevent refugee resettlement in their state.



In Tennessee, lawmakers may soon initiate a lawsuit against the federal government to prevent refugee resettlement in their state. After the Tennessee Attorney General’s office refused to take action against the federal government last year, state lawmakers approved a measure allowing the far-right Thomas More Law Center to file a lawsuit against the government on Tennessee’s behalf. According to *The Tennessean*, Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris claimed “We will be working on the complaint that we intend to file I hope before the end of [January].” Norris also said Kentucky may join the lawsuit. At this time, the lawsuit has not been filed.

Midwest Region

Anti-Muslim speakers head to Minnesota, claim the Twin Cities are “enemy-held territory.”

 Rural Minnesota continues to be fertile ground for anti-Muslim speakers. In October, Minnesota Public Radio reported that disgraced FBI agent John Guandolo and virulently anti-Muslim pastor Usama Dakdok gave presentations in northern Minnesota. Following the trip, Guandolo’s organization, Understanding the Threat, published a blog post claiming its

Pennsylvania State Rep. Darryl Metcalfe is a longtime ally of the organized anti-immigrant movement. In 2007, Metcalfe founded State Legislators for Legal Immigration (SLLI), a coalition of state lawmakers that works with the organized anti-immigrant movement. In recent years, Metcalfe has introduced and co-sponsored myriad pieces of nativist legislation including an “English-only” bill and legislation to counter the phantom threat of Shariah Law. In 2008, bluntly refused to vote for a resolution honoring a local Muslim organization, claiming “The Muslims do not recognize Jesus Christ as God and I will be voting negative.”

“professional assessment” is that “the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota – known as the ‘Twin Cities’ – are in enemy-held territory. They are, at least for the time being, lost – meaning, they are under the control of a collaborative jihadist/marxist element there.”

Anti-refugee activists in South Dakota begin to formally organize.

 Anti-Muslim activists in South Dakota have begun formally organizing their efforts to oppose refugee resettlement. Last fall, a group calling itself “Americans First, Task Force” hosted a presentation by nativist activist Ron Branstner. Members of the group have since formed the Keep South Dakota Safe PAC, with the purpose of producing “education materials, advertising and bringing additional speakers” to Aberdeen.

Kobach’s voter suppression plans in Kansas face additional hurdle.

 Before November’s election, a Kansas judge ruled against Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach’s planned two-tier voting system that would limit the ability of thousands of voters to vote in local elections. Kobach first proposed the two-tier system to

comply with previous court decisions ruling against the strict proof-of-citizenship requirements Kobach shepherded through the state legislature. According to the American Civil Liberties Union, who led the legal challenge against the two-tier system, Judge Larry Hendricks's ruling reinstated the rights of at least 19,000 Kansas voters to fully participate in last year's election.

Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach has been a driving force in the Republican Party's embrace of hardline nativist and voter suppression policies. As one of the organized anti-immigrant movement's most active legal minds, Kobach has co-authored some of the country's most draconian and destructive policies, including Arizona's SB 1070. He also created a Muslim registry program after 9/11 and has advocated for policies to restrict voter turnout. Kobach has served as an immigration policy advisor to the Trump administration.

Eastern Region

Anti-refugee efforts escalate in Rutland, Vermont.

 The town of Rutland, Vermont has become another flashpoint in ongoing nativist efforts to halt refugee resettlement. After Mayor Christopher Louras last year said that he wanted to “do the right thing” and host refugees, the U.S. Committee on Refugees and Immigrants announced it would open a Rutland office in January. The effort to assist refugees in Rutland was highlighted by anti-Muslim activist Ann Corcoran’s Refugee Resettlement Watch and a group calling itself Defend Rutland began expressing opposition and organizing local anti-refugee presentations. Mayor Louras’s commitment to refugees has inspired Alderman Dave Allaire to once again challenge him in Rutland’s March 7 election. Rutland First activists have supported Allaire’s bid and several, including the group’s founder Timothy Cook, have expressed intent to run for alderman.

Pennsylvania lawmakers target sanctuary cities.

 In Pennsylvania, lawmakers attempted to pass HB 1885, anti-

sanctuary legislation co-sponsored by over 40 lawmakers including State Reps. Martina White and Darryl Metcalfe. The proposed bill would hold jurisdictions liable for any crime committed by immigrants released by sanctuary jurisdictions was approved by both the Pennsylvania House and Senate in late October, but because House members did not approve all Senate amendments, it was not sent to Gov. Tom Wolf.

Massachusetts sheriff offers to send imprisoned people in his custody to build border wall.

 Sheriff Tom Hodgson, of Bristol County, Massachusetts, announced in November that his office would be signing a 287(g) agreement with Immigration and Customs Enforcement to allow his officers to enforce federal immigration laws. The agreement follows Hodgson’s increased anti-immigrant advocacy in recent years and more closely aligning himself with the organized anti-immigrant movement. Shortly after announcing the 287(g) agreement, Hodgson offered to send inmates in his custody to assist in building a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border. Representatives from anti-immigrant groups predictably lauded Hodgson’s proposal.

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](#).

CNC monitors anti-immigrant, anti-refugee, and anti-Muslim figures within the Trump Administration in the resource [Nativists at the White House](#). Entries are regularly updated.

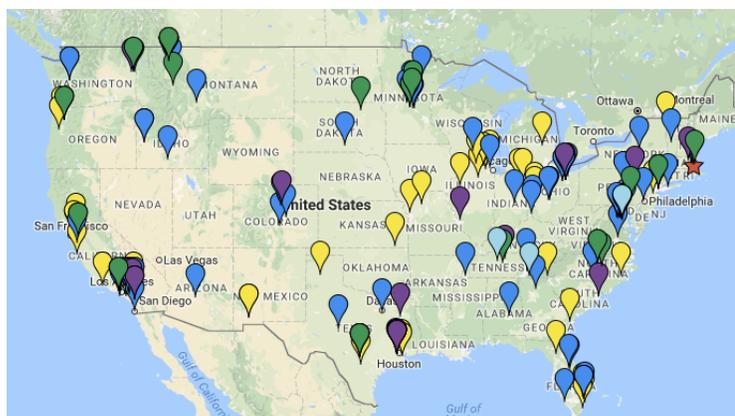
CNC also recently released a resource tracking anti-Muslim influence on law enforcement. Completed and upcoming anti-Muslim trainings for law enforcement are included in the [Islamophobia Academy](#) timeline. Check back regularly to see if a training is planned in your state. Contact CNC at advocacy@newcomm.org if you would like help calling on the host to cancel the training.

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

CNC is also launching an Anti-Nativist Rapid Response network to inform local activists and communities about anti-immigrant, anti-refugee, and anti-Muslim activity in their state—and provide resources to fight back. Email frequency will be very low, and will be based on your location.

[Join the Anti-Nativist Rapid Response Network now.](#)

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 or anti-Muslim spokespersons is quoted in a national or local publication.

Resources on Anti-Muslim Groups

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

Resources on Anti-Immigrant Groups

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

Spanish versions:

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

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.

As nativism takes hold of the mainstream, now is the moment to organize. Together, we must create a broad consensus against racism and nativism. We must defend each and every targeted community and work toward an inclusive, liberatory vision of the future.

Looking Ahead

Moving forward in 2017, we are likely to see a significant escalation of existing nativist trends on the federal and the state level, with devastating human costs.

For decades the anti-immigrant movement has promoted stereotypes of immigrants as criminals and marshaled biased data to back it up, but their efforts in more recent years have propelled this criminalization narrative to mainstream prominence. The Remembrance Project has sought out stories of people harmed by undocumented immigrants to give this bigoted narrative new legs, pretending against all reason that these tragedies are uniquely caused by people who have moved from one country to another.

Trump's nativism has now graduated from the name-calling of his campaign announcement to effecting the actual mass criminalization of all undocumented immigrants and many documented immigrants as well, with the help of anti-immigrant organizations and their leaders. Trump has already made plans to increase raids, detentions, and deportations beyond their high level under the Obama Administration. Over the next year, the anti-immigrant movement is likely to continue to press for increased targeting of sanctuary cities, more deportations without due process, and the closing of additional avenues for legal immigration, all using the specter of the "criminal immigrant" to sow fear.

Trump has already begun satisfying key demands of the anti-refugee movement with his executive order that implemented a travel ban from seven Muslim-majority countries and suspended the refugee resettlement program. Despite a defeat in court on the "Muslim ban," the Administration is still working toward these goals. We can expect additional efforts to destroy the refugee resettlement program and block Muslims from entering this country over the next year, buoyed by state-level efforts toward the same goal.

One of the key demands of the anti-Muslim movement has been to label the Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist group. Esoteric on its face, this proposal grows out of a conspiracy theory regularly promoted by anti-Muslim figures: that the Muslim Brotherhood is secretly infiltrating the U.S. government and plotting to overthrow it from within. A corollary to this fear mongering falsehood is that a large number of

Muslim civil society organizations, student groups, and community leaders are fronts for the Muslim Brotherhood and are working in service of a global Islamic conquest. News outlets have reported that drafts of an executive order labeling the Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist group (against all advice from terrorism and foreign policy experts) is already circulating. We can expect the signing of such an executive order to be used to vilify Muslim civil rights leaders and those connected to them, sparking a McCarthyite witch hunt.

Beyond the nativist policies that are already unfolding, organized racist movements are likely to take advantage of this moment to build toward their long-term goals, such as repealing birthright citizenship, drastically reducing legal immigration levels, and normalizing the surveillance and sociopolitical exclusion of Muslim Americans.

In the face of the devastating institutionalization of nativism and bigotry that has likely only begun, we are also seeing a heartening commitment to resist rise up from communities across the country. Knowing who our opposition is and what they want can only help us to be more strategic in our resistance.

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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