A Record of Bigotry and Hate: Donald Trump's Long History of Anti-Muslim Animus

In January 2017, just days after his inauguration as President of the United States, Donald Trump issued the first iteration of his signature Muslim Ban policy, preventing the nationals of several overwhelmingly Muslim countries from entering the United States. Over the next several months, and in the face of multiple legal challenges, President Trump has proceeded to issue two subsequent versions, the most recent of which went into full effect in December 2017.

As the Muslim Ban has repeatedly wound its way through the courts, President Trump’s lawyers and supporters have argued that the Ban is not driven by anti-Muslim animus. Donald Trump’s own words, however, belie those assertions. As highlighted in this fact sheet, and as Muslim Advocates’ new issue brief lays out in detail, Donald Trump has a lengthy and undeniable history of hostility and animosity towards Muslims. And now that he is president, those sentiments are being translated into policy. You can read Muslim Advocates’ full issue brief here.

Trump falsely claims to have watched Muslims in NJ celebrate after the 9/11 attacks. Despite being quickly and widely debunked, Trump continues to repeat the falsehood.

Apr. 2011

Trump states that he believes “Islam hates us,” that Muslims harbor “unbelievable hatred,” and that it is “very hard” to separate “radical Islam” from the religion as a whole.

Mar. 2016

Trump retweets three anti-Muslim propaganda videos originally posted by Jayda Fransen, the deputy leader of an extreme far-right British nationalist group. The videos purport to show Muslims engaged in acts of violence and destroying Christian symbols.

Aug. 2017

For years, Trump has demanded that U.S. leaders make use of the phrase “radical Islamic terrorism,” a problematic phrase that reinforces a false synonym between “Islam” and “terrorism.” Since becoming President, Trump has used the phrase in public on at least 26 different occasions, often while advancing his trademark anti-Muslim policies.

June 2018

Trump repeatedly calls for surveillance of American Muslims and mosques, indicates his support for a Muslim registry, and says there is “absolutely no choice” but to shut down U.S. mosques.

Oct./Nov. 2015

Trump announces that he is “calling for a total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States.”

Dec. 2015

Trump valorizes a U.S. General on the basis of a long-debunked myth claiming he once subdued a Muslim insurgency in the Philippines by extrajudicially executing Muslim prisoners using bullets dipped in pigs’ blood.

Mar. 2016

After the Supreme Court hears oral argument in the Muslim Ban case, Trump again refuses to back away from his campaign pledge, saying there is “nothing to apologize for.”

Apr. 2018