

## **Joint Statement in Support of Representative Omar**

The vote to remove Representative Ilhan Omar from the House Foreign Affairs Committee (HFAC), following the partisan decision to keep Reps. Adam Schiff and Eric Swalwell off the House Intelligence Committee, lacked any legitimate justification and marks a disgraceful opening to the 118th Congress. In pressing ahead with the resolution of removal, Speaker McCarthy has robbed HFAC of a member of Congress committed to universal human rights, international justice and diplomacy, and the defense of democracy, while stirring up hate against a leading Black woman and Muslim member of Congress. We, the undersigned organizations, condemn this vote and affirm our intent to continue engaging with Rep. Omar as a leader in shaping U.S. foreign policy.

In the last four years, Rep. Omar has used her position on HFAC to center human rights and democracy, support critical humanitarian assistance to conflict-affected and disaster-stricken communities, combat hate and authoritarianism, and promote international justice. Her signature efforts include the [Pathway to PEACE](#), a package of seven bills that would block arms sales to human rights-abusing governments, redirect funds from the Pentagon's overseas slush fund to global peacebuilding efforts, and enhance congressional oversight of the executive's sanctions authorities. She co-led the [Combating International Islamophobia Act](#), which passed the House in 2021. She has led or co-led congressional letters [expressing solidarity](#) in defense of Brazil's democracy, urging the creation of a [Loss & Damage Finance Facility](#) to help developing countries recover from climate catastrophes, and [supporting](#) the rights of [migrants](#) and [refugees](#) at every turn.

The partisan decision to remove her from HFAC as she becomes the first African-born ranking member of its Africa, Global Health, and Global Human Rights subcommittee is particularly egregious. Her [formation](#) of the U.S.-Africa Policy Working Group is an example of her willingness to push for a U.S. foreign policy that prioritizes partnerships with civil society and social movements. Her support for international accountability mechanisms, including the International Criminal Court, and close scrutiny of U.S. military operations in [Somalia](#), [the Sahel](#) and [elsewhere](#), are a needed corrective to policymakers who believe that the United States should be allowed to play by a different set of rules, thereby trying to preserve the integrity of international laws and norms.

In addition to uplifting her substantive contributions to HFAC, we cannot let this moment pass without condemning the obvious anti-Black, anti-Muslim, and anti-immigrant sentiment behind this decision. Until this vote, Rep. Omar was the most senior Black woman serving on HFAC, in addition to being its second most senior Black member and its only Muslim member. Speaker McCarthy's resolution is the latest in a line of attacks animated by [unapologetic](#) and vile [Islamophobic smears](#) that seek to marginalize Black and Muslim perspectives. Previously, these attacks have encouraged [death threats](#) against Rep. Omar. In addition to ginning up further hate, this latest vote is another in a string of efforts to silence her and others who share her background from determining and influencing key U.S. policies.

We vow to continue to engage with Rep. Omar on U.S. foreign policy, and we will work to ensure that policy discussions in Congress and throughout the country make room for her views and voice.

Sincerely,

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Amazon Watch

America Indivisible

American Friends Service Committee

Americans for Indian Opportunity

Americans for Peace Now

Arab American Civic Council

Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance

Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project

Borderlands for Equity

Bridges Faith Initiative

Center for Economic and Policy Research

Center for Victims of Torture

Civic Ark

CODEPINK

Colombia Acuerdo de Paz NGO

Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES)

[CommonDefense.us](http://CommonDefense.us)

Council for a Livable World

Council for Global Equality

Defending Rights & Dissent

Demand Progress Education Fund

Democracy for the Arab World Now (DAWN)

Demos Action

Femena

Foreign Policy for America (FP4A)

Foreign Policy In Focus

Freedom Forward

Friends of the Earth

Giniw Collective

Global Zero

Greenpeace USA

Hindus for Human Rights

Human Rights First

Indivisible

Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti

Institute for Policy Studies Climate Policy Program

Institute for Policy Studies, New Internationalism Project

Islamophobia Studies Center

Jean-Michel Cousteau's Ocean Futures Society  
Jetpac Resource Center  
Jewish Voice for Peace Action  
Just Foreign Policy  
Justice Democrats  
Keystone Progress  
Lansing Area Peace Education Center  
Latin America Working Group (LAWG)  
Libyan American Alliance  
MADRE  
Mennonite Central Committee U.S.  
Minneapolis DFL  
Movement Voter Project  
MPower Change Action Fund  
Muslim Community Network  
Muslim Counterpublics Lab  
Muslim Public Affairs Council  
Muslims for Just Futures  
National Iranian American Council Action  
National Priorities Project at the Institute for Policy Studies  
National Religious Campaign Against Torture  
Our Revolution  
Pacifica Strategies  
Pax Christi USA  
Peace Action  
Peace Action New York State  
Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
Poligon Education Fund  
Progressive Change Campaign Committee  
Progressive Democrats of America  
Project on Middle East Democracy (POMED)  
Rethinking Foreign Policy  
[RootsAction.org](https://RootsAction.org)  
School of the Americas Watch  
Social Security Works  
SOUTH ASIAN NETWORK  
South Dakota Voices for Peace  
The Advocates for Human Rights (a Minnesota-based organization)  
The Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI)  
The Black Hive @ M4BL  
The People's Justice Council

The Quincy Institute

Tunisian United Network

UltraViolet

US Council of Muslim Organizations (USCMO)

Win Without War

Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center

Women Cross DMZ