



AHMADIYYA
MUSLIM COMMUNITY

United States of America

*Muslims who believe in the Messiah,
Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani^{ra}*

Press Release

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Contact:
Salaam Bhatti
202.499.7035
salaam.bhatti@ahmadiyya.us
[@Islam_Press](https://twitter.com/Islam_Press)

Congress Members Welcome the True Islam Campaign to Combat Terrorism

True Islam event on Capitol Hill draws bipartisan support

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA announced the True Islam and the Extremists campaign on Capitol Hill today. Seven Congress Members and a State Department representative attended to publicly announce their support of this unprecedented effort to combat terrorism and improve national security. Staff of Congressional offices, NGOs, local city and state officials, members of law enforcement and faith leaders were in attendance as well.

The True Islam campaign uses the Quran and Prophet Muhammad's example to effectively rebut 11 common misconceptions about Islam that extremists use to radicalize youth. These 11 points include Islam's correct view on freedom of speech, religious freedom, and women's rights.

"I'm very proud to be a supporter of your campaign. The True Islam campaign is so important," said Representative Mike Honda (D-CA), "President Obama asked us to unite against ISIS. This is the answer to the President."

"Islamophobia has no place in our country," said Representative Judy Chu (D-CA), "We must never use fear to harm innocent people. Unfortunately, that is happening today." Representatives Honda and Chu spoke about how unchecked and unethical journalism and fear of Japanese people resulted in internment camps. They vowed to work to prevent this from happening to any group ever again, especially given the current Islamophobic rhetoric.

"Your True Islam campaign is a gift to us," said Representative Jackie Speier (D-CA), co-chair of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Caucus, "We need to get rid of ignorance sown by ISIS and politicians." Representative Speier commended the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community's efforts following 9/11, "You did not flinch after 9/11. You have hosted Muslims for Life blood drives here for the past few years. Nationally, you collected over 40,000 units of blood, some of that

blood being yours and even mine. You are not flinching in the aftermath of San Bernardino. You've come forward with this bold claim of True Islam. Your speaking up today is going to do so much to educate Muslims and Americans."

Representative Ted Poe (R-TX), co-chair of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Caucus, said, "[This] is a perfect example of what Muslims can do to advocate against violent propaganda. This country was born on basic rights, which I believe are human rights for everybody. These rights are listed in the first amendment; the first of which is the freedom to exercise one's religion....ISIS thrives on hate and violence. The Ahmadiyya community thrives on peace and tolerance."

Representative Steve Stivers (R-OH) said, "A constituent of mine, Dr Qamar, was murdered in Pakistan. I understand your suffering and appreciate your steadfastness." Representative Stivers referred to the May 2014 murder of Dr Mahdi Ali Qamar, an Ohio resident, whom extremists murdered for his faith while he was on a humanitarian trip to Pakistan.

Representative Pete Aguilar (D-CA), whose district includes San Bernardino County, said, "Your blood drives meant so much to me and meant so much to our community. I will never forget that. Thank you for standing with us during the tragedy." Amjad Mahmood Khan, the event's emcee and Public Affairs Secretary for the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA, noted that San Bernardino County Police Chief Jarrod Burguan was among the first to support the True Islam campaign when the campaign launched in late December 2015.

"Islam is one of the world's great religion. No religion condones the taking of innocent life," said Representative Al Green (D-TX), "We need justice for Islam. If we don't call these extremists evil, then we allow themselves to cloak themselves in one of the world's great religions.

"The US Government cannot do what you are doing," added Bryan Bachman of the U.S. State Department, "and we certainly could not do it as well as you are doing it. We thank you for doing this."

"Today's event shows how the True Islam campaign speaks to universal ideals," said Dr. Nasim Rehmatullah, Senior Vice President of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA, "The bipartisan support and endorsements from Muslims and non-Muslims shows that through education we can drive out hate and make this nation a safer place."

The True Islam campaign will continue to host events across the nation at mosques, libraries, schools, and other venues to educate about Islam's true teachings. Follow the campaign at TruelIslam.com, [@TruelIslamUSA](https://twitter.com/TruelIslamUSA) on Twitter, and at [Facebook.com/TruelIslamUSA](https://facebook.com/TruelIslamUSA).

About Ahmadiyya Muslim Community:

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is a dynamic, reformist and fast-growing international movement within Islam. Founded in 1889, the Community spans 207 nations with membership exceeding tens of millions. Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA, established in 1920, is among the oldest American-Muslim organizations.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is the only Islamic organization to believe that the long-awaited messiah has come in the person of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (1835-1908) of Qadian,

India. Ahmad claimed to be the metaphorical second coming of Jesus of Nazareth and the divine guide, whose advent was foretold by the Prophet of Islam, Muhammad. The Community believes that God sent Ahmad, like Jesus, to end religious wars, condemn bloodshed and reinstitute morality, justice and peace. Ahmad's advent has brought about an unprecedented era of Islamic revival and moderation. He divested Muslims of fanatical beliefs and practices by vigorously championing Islam's true and essential teachings.

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