



Support our work!

We achieve more together.



Make a gift + a difference.

Dear <NAME>

As we begin to look at the priorities for Bridges Faith Initiative for 2021 with a new administration, I am reminded of one of the holy texts that motivates me to do this work:

“When a refugee lives with you in your land, do not mistreat them. The immigrant living with you must be treated as one of your native-born. Love the immigrant as yourself, for you were refugees in a Narrow Place”. (Leviticus 19:33–34)

We as people of faith have a chance to **transform what has been a narrow place to a country that is expansive in its policies towards immigrants and refugees**. We are grateful to you for the victories we accomplished together in our first year, but we know our collective action can have an even greater impact going forward.

Your support will help us to enact a vision that not only restores our past approaches to immigration and civilian safety, but that deepens our country’s commitment to a more peaceful, just, and compassionate world.

Retrospective: Winning against the Odds

We helped ensure that 22 of the 28 children and families who were going to be deported in October 2020 could remain in the United States and have their immigration cases reexamined for residency eligibility. Because of this action, there are currently no immigrant children being detained in the state of Pennsylvania.

We also worked with a coalition of partners to secure the release from detention of all the immigrant women in the Irwin Detention Center who alleged medical abuse.

Through unrelenting advocacy and education, together with many activists, religious advocates, and people of color, we convinced the incoming administration to end the racist Muslim and Africa/Black bans on its’ first day in office.

So Much Left to Achieve: 2021 Priorities

We are counting on you to join us in pursuing our priorities with the Biden administration and this new congress.

1) Undo cruel Trump immigration policies

The Trump administration passed over 400 Executive Actions that inflicted terror and harm on immigrant communities and compromised our country's moral fiber. We will work to **overturn these actions swiftly and push for policies that unite families** and make restitution for harms suffered.

2) Build a new immigration system.

We will work with Congress and the Biden administration to **pass legislation to transform the federal immigration system**. We are advocating for humane and just immigration policies that treat refugees and immigrants with fairness and dignity. We will emphasize policies that welcome immigrants as new Americans.

3) Support democracy and demilitarization from civilian spaces.

Democracy is the best protection for civilian security. In our own country, we just had the election with the best voter turnout because so many were empowered to vote. To build on this momentum, we aim to **expand voter rights and access and pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Act**. We will also work to **demilitarize our police** and non-military civilian forces, including the Customs and Border Protection.

4) Support accountability and mass atrocity prevention in Burma and Sri Lanka.

We will urge the Biden-Harris administration to **impose targeted sanctions against the Burmese military to end the coup in Burma**. And to **support accountability mechanisms to bring justice to the Burmese people**. Our hope is for a pluralistic Burma where democracy for all its peoples flourish. We will **ask the U.S administration to rejoin the UN Human Rights Council** and push for an international investigation into the mass atrocities committed in Sri Lanka.

In closing, a new day has dawned! In 2021, we have an incredible opportunity to **bring a powerful multi-faith voice to Washington D.C. to ensure that our shared values influence domestic and foreign policies** for the better. But we cannot do it alone.

Your gift to Bridges enables our work at this critical time.

DONATE

Thank you for reading, giving, and taking action with us.

Rabbi Joshua Lesser
and the BFI Team

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