



Officers

Chair

Judith L. Lichtman
National Partnership for
Women & Families

Vice Chairs

Margaret Huang
Southern Poverty Law Center
Derrick Johnson
NAACP
Thomas A. Saenz
Mexican American Legal
Defense and Educational Fund

Secretary

Fatima Goss Graves
National Women's Law Center

Treasurer

Lee A. Saunders
American Federation of State,
County and Municipal Employees

Board of Directors

AFL-CIO
American Association of People
with Disabilities (AAPD)
AAUW
American Civil Liberties Union
American Federation of Teachers
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination
Committee - ADC
Anti-Defamation League
Arab American Institute
Asian Americans Advancing
Justice | AAJC
Common Cause
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority,
Incorporated
HRC | Human Rights Campaign
International Union, UAW
Japanese American Citizens
League - JAACL
Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA)
Lawyers' Committee for Civil
Rights Under Law
League of United Latin
American Citizens (LULAC)
League of Women Voters
NAACP Legal Defense &
Educational Fund, Inc (LDF)
National Congress of American
Indians (NCAI)
National Council of Jewish Women
National Education Association
National Fair Housing Alliance
National Organization for Women
National Partnership for
Women & Families
National Urban League
People for the American Way
Religious Action Center of
Reform Judaism
Service Employees International Union
Sikh Coalition
UnidosUS

President and CEO

Maya Wiley

June 17, 2025

Dear President Trump:

The undersigned are 93 nonpartisan civil rights organizations representing millions of people of every background in every ZIP code across America. We embrace the historic role that free speech has played in advancing civil rights in our country for centuries. And we condemn the efforts you have taken to attack this fundamental freedom and those who have lawfully exercised it to speak out against your policies.

The right of all people to free speech, including the right to protest government actions, was enshrined as the very First Amendment to our Constitution as a recognition of just how important it is. Along with voting on election day, free speech is central to how we engage in our democracy. We talk with our neighbors and friends and colleagues, we post on social media, and we peaceably assemble in the streets to protest. America has a rich tradition of people of conscience exercising their right to speak out; indeed, it has been central to every movement for civil and human rights in our history.

A central tenet to freedom of speech is that all people must be treated fairly and equally by the government, regardless of viewpoint. Everyone must be allowed to express disagreement with government policies. This is the essence of what makes us a free society.

That is why we are profoundly alarmed that you, over and over again, have tried to use every lever at your disposal to retaliate against those who have exercised their First Amendment right to disagree with your policies. For example, you and your administration have:

- Taken away the collective bargaining rights of unions that have filed lawsuits against you;
- Unlawfully imposed policies aimed at punishing law firms, private charities, and universities that you perceive as being hostile to you;
- Locked up and tried to deport students simply because they criticized U.S. foreign policy;
- Filed criminal charges against a sitting U.S. Representative, LaMonica McIver;
- Arrested and charged the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) California president David Huerta;
- Warned that anyone who protests in Washington D.C—without distinguishing between lawful and unlawful activity—is “going to be met with very big force”; and
- Most recently, violently threw to the ground and handcuffed a sitting U.S. Senator, Alex Padilla, for merely trying to ask a question during a press conference.

June 17, 2025
Page 2 of 4

Your actions against these institutions and individuals are punitive, unnecessary, and unlawful.

Your recent decision to deploy the National Guard and the U.S. Marine Corps in Los Angeles is, regardless of how you misrepresent the situation there, yet another attack on the right of the people to peaceably assemble. It is a stunning extralegal overreach that is not only unwarranted, but which poses a grave concern for the safety of the people who live and exercise their constitutional rights there.

If allowed to stand, your actions would pose a threat to the First Amendment, our Constitution, and the rule of law in America. But we will not allow those actions to stand. We have the right to assemble—and on behalf of the communities we represent, we will continue to do just that.

Sincerely,

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

AAPI NJ

Advancement Project

American Atheists

American Civil Liberties Union

American Constitution Society

American Governance Institute

American Humanist Association

Americans for Financial Reform

Americans for Tax Fairness (ATF)

America's Voice

APIAVote

Arab American Institute (AAI)

Asian Americans United

Asian Law Alliance

Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education

Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network

Bend the Arc: Jewish Action

Center for Democracy & Technology

Center for Inquiry (CFI)

Chinese for Affirmative Action

Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

Coalition on Human Needs

COLAGE

Common Cause

Defend The Vote Action Fund

Defending Rights & Dissent

Demand Progress Education Fund

Democracy SENTRY

Economic Policy Institute

June 17, 2025
Page 3 of 4

Education Law Center
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC)
Equal Rights Advocates
Fair Fight Action
Feminist Majority Foundation
First Focus Campaign for Children & Kids Can't Wait
FL National Organization for Women (FLNOW)
Free Press Action
Free Speech For People
Future of Us
Government Information Watch
Greater Orlando National Organization for Women (NOW)
Greenpeace.org
Human Rights First
Indivisible
Japanese American Citizens League
Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA)
Juvenile Law Center
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement
League of Conservation Voters
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
League of Women Voters of the United States
Legal Aid at Work
Mi Familia Vota
Michigan Alliance for Special Education
National Abortion Federation
National Association of Social Workers
National Bar Association
National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI)
National Council of Jewish Women
National Education Association
National Employment Law Project
National Fair Housing Alliance
National Health Law Program
National Hispanic Media Coalition
National Immigration Law Center
National Organization for Women
National PLACE
National Urban League
National Women's Law Center Action Fund
OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates
OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates, Greater Cleveland Chapter
PBC NOW National Organization for Women

June 17, 2025

Page 4 of 4

PEAK Parent Center
People For the American Way
PFLAG Sacramento
Planned Parenthood Action Fund
Project On Government Oversight
Public Citizen
Public Justice
Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights
Sarasota / Manatee NOW Chapter
Secular Coalition for America, Inc.
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Serving at-risk families everywhere, Inc.
Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF)
Stop AAPI Hate
The Advocacy Institute
The Parents' Place of MD
The Sikh Coalition
The Workers Circle
Towards an Anti-Racist North Kingstown (TANK)
Voices for Progress Ed Fund