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Common Cause
Cheryl Turner
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated
Kelley Robinson
Human Rights Campaign
Shawn Fain
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Saki Mori
Japanese American Citizens League
Amy Spitalnick
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Damon Hewitt
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League of United Latin American Citizens
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League of Women Voters of the United States

Janai Nelson
NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Inc.
Larry Wright, Jr.
National Congress of American Indians

Jody Rabhan
National Council of Jewish Women
Rebecca Pringle
National Education Association
Lisa Rice
National Fair Housing Alliance
Kim Villanueva
National Organization for Women
Jocelyn Frye
National Partnership for Women & Families

Marc Morial
National Urban League
Svante Myrick
People for the American Way
Rabbi Jonah Pesner
Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism
April Verrett
Service Employees International Union
Harman Singh
Sikh Coalition
Bryan Fair
Southern Poverty Law Center
Janet Murguía
UnidosUS

President and CEO
Maya Wiley

May 20, 2026

Dear Member of Congress:

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, Nonprofits Together, and the additional undersigned 442 civil and human rights, faith, environmental, nonprofit organizations, and labor unions unequivocally condemn the criminal charges brought by the Trump administration against the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC). This is a transparent effort to silence and discredit an organization that has worked tirelessly to serve our communities, protect our rights, and hold violent extremists accountable. The indictment against the SPLC has no basis – it is a naked attempt to weaponize the criminal justice system to silence speech and activities this administration dislikes. We call on you to put a stop to it.

The criminal indictment of one of our nation's most prominent civil rights organizations is the latest example of a long pattern of abuse of power by this administration. President Trump has not been coy about radicalizing the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to attack his perceived political enemies. The administration has repeatedly trampled legal, constitutional, and ethical norms to persecute its peaceful critics. It is targeting groups that check abuses of power and strive to ensure that democracy belongs to all of us – including civil rights, labor, environmental, community-based, humanitarian, and faith-based organizations around the country.

This is a coordinated strategy to consolidate power by seeking to eliminate institutions capable of challenging it.

As the Trump administration aggressively moves to dismantle civil and human rights safeguards in areas such as voting, education, housing, gender equity, employment, health care, and immigration, it is also stepping up its attacks on nonprofit organizations, labor unions, advocates, and watchdogs that have been exercising their right to speak out, organize, advocate, and litigate against these actions. In the past year, we have seen countless examples of this, including:

- Threats to designate civil rights and community groups as “domestic terrorists” and revoke their nonprofit status;
- Billions of dollars in federal grants terminated or frozen, leaving deep holes in life-saving community services, without justification or due process;
- The weaponization of executive branch agencies to undertake targeted government investigations aimed at discouraging lawful speech and chilling public participation and association;
- Public intimidation campaigns designed to isolate and discredit community and faith organizations;

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- Coercion of law firms, universities, the press, corporations, faith leaders, and nonprofits to sever long-standing relationships with vulnerable communities and bow to the will of the administration out of fear of government retaliation;
- Civil rights laws weaponized against the very communities they were designed to protect; and
- Acts of discrimination, violence, and wanton extrajudicial killings by federal agents being left uninvestigated and unpunished.

This administration's unprecedented leveraging of government power against its political enemies is causing a level of damage to our democracy, rule of law, economy, and global standing that may take decades to undo. It is past time for Congress to step up and meaningfully exercise its authority as a critical check on the executive branch. For starters, we urge you to use your oversight authorities to demand the following information from the administration:

- **Communications Regarding the SPLC Indictment**
 - All communications between the White House and DOJ regarding the indictment of the SPLC.
 - Records of any meetings between White House staff and DOJ leadership specifically about SPLC or similar organizations.
 - All communications between the White House, DOJ, and other federal agencies or officials and financial institutions regarding SPLC.
- **Targeting of Nonprofit and Advocacy Organizations**
 - A complete list of all nonprofits, advocacy organizations, labor unions, law firms, or individuals flagged for investigation by the DOJ or IRS since January 2025.
 - The complete list compiled by the FBI under Section 3 of NSPM-7 of groups or entities engaged in acts that may constitute domestic terrorism, including the criteria and methodology used to populate that list.
 - Communication records between the White House, DOJ, and other federal agencies or officials regarding the targeting of nonprofit organizations for investigation.
 - Internal DOJ prosecutorial guidelines or directives issued since January 2025 regarding nonprofit organizations.
 - IRS communications with the White House or DOJ regarding tax-exempt status reviews of nonprofit organizations.
- **Outside Coordination and Financial Pressure**
 - Communications with banking regulators regarding financial institutions' relationships with specific nonprofit organizations, including SPLC.
 - All communications between the White House, DOJ, IRS, FinCEN, DHS, and outside organizations regarding the identification of nonprofit targets for investigation, or investigations into nonprofit organizations.

For decades, the SPLC has been at the forefront of working to dismantle violent hate groups, including the Ku Klux Klan. Its employees have repeatedly put their own safety on the line in order to do so. The fact that the SPLC is facing criminal charges for its work only shows how much more work the SPLC has to do.

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As it faces this latest attack by extremist forces, we will stand with it – and the principles it has spent 55 years fighting to uphold – every step of the way. We urge you to do the same. History will remember those who stood up in this moment and those who stayed silent.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
Nonprofits Together
1 Million Madly Motivated Moms (1M4)
198 methods
Action Center on Race and the Economy
Advocacy for Principled Action in Government
Advocates for Youth
Afghan Legal Empowerment Portal
AFT
Alliance for Justice
America's Voice
American Association of People with Disabilities
American Association of University Women (AAUW)
American Atheists
American Civil Liberties Union
American Constitution Society
American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
American Humanist Association
American Library Association
American Oversight
American Russian-Speaking Association for Civil & Human Rights (ARA)
Americans Against Government Censorship
Americans for Financial Reform Education Fund
Americans for Tax Fairness
Americans United for Separation of Church and State
Amnesty International USA
Andrew Goodman Foundation
Aqui: The Accountability Movement
Arab American Institute (AAI)
As You Sow
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC
Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote (APIAVote)
Asian Law Caucus
Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment, Advocacy and Leadership (APPEAL)
Asylum Access
Autistic People of Color Fund
Ballot Initiative Strategy Center (c4)

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Bayard Rustin Center for Social Justice
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action
Branch4
Brennan Center for Justice
Campaign Legal Center
CEEJH INC — Center for Engagement Environmental Justice and Health
Center for Applied Environmental Law & Policy
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Constitutional Rights
Center for Environmental Health
Center for Gender & Refugee Studies
Center for International Environmental Law
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Center for Policing Equity
Center for Public Representation
Center for Responsible Lending
CenterLink Inc
Charity & Security Network
Citizens for Responsibility & Ethics in Washington (CREW)
Civic Shout Foundation
Clearinghouse on Women's Issues
Climate Communications Coalition
Climate Museum
Coalition of Black Trade Unionists
Coalition on Human Needs
COLAGE
College Matrix
Coming Clean
Common Cause
Common Counsel Foundation
Community Change
Compassion & Choices
Conceivable Future
Constitutional Accountability Center
Consumer Action
CorpGov.net
Council for Global Equality
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)
Court Accountability
DAYLIGHT | Rule of Law • Access to Justice • Advocacy
Defend Public Health
Defend the Vote Action Fund
Democracy 21
Democracy Defenders Fund
Democracy Fund
Demos
Desert Advocacy Media Network

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Desiree Alliance
Detention Watch Network
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund
Diversity in Aquatics
Drug Policy Alliance
Earth Island Institute
Earthworks
Economic Policy Institute
EdTrust
Education Law Center
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC)
Environmental Protection Network
Equal Rights Advocates
Everybody Votes Campaign
Fair Count
Fair Elections Center
Fair Fight Action
FairVote
Feminist Majority Foundation
Five Oaks Consulting, Inc.
Fourth Branch Action
Free Press Action
Free Speech For People
Freedom From Religion Foundation
Freedom Trainers
Freedom Writers Collaborative
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Friends of the Earth
Fund for Leadership Equity Access and Diversity (LEAD Fund)
Get Free
GIFFORDS
GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD Law)
Grantmakers in the Arts
Grassroots Global Justice Alliance
GreenLatinos
Harm Reduction Therapeutics, Inc.
Health in Partnership
HIAS
Hispanic Federation
Human Rights Campaign
Human Rights First
Ibis Reproductive Health
If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice
Impact Fund
Inclusion Allies Coalition
Indivisible
Institute for Constitutional Advocacy & Protection

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Interconnected Justice
Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility
International Refugee Assistance Project
Japanese American Citizens League
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Just Futures Law
Justice for Migrant Women
Justice in Motion
Justice Outside
LatinoJustice PRLDEF
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics (LEAP)
League of Conservation Voters
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
League of Women Voters
Legal Defense Fund
MALDEF (Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund)
Media and Democracy Project
Minorities in Shark Sciences
Mosaic Changemakers
Movement Advancement Project
Movement Strategy Center
MoveOn
MPower Change Action Fund
Muslim Advocates
Muslims for Progressive Values
National Abortion Federation
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)
National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
National Association of Social Workers
National Center for Law and Economic Justice
National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development (National CAPACD)
National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy
National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council of Nonprofits
National Domestic Workers Alliance
National Education Association
National Employment Lawyers Association
National Health Law Program
National Hispanic Media Coalition
National Homelessness Law Center
National Immigration Law Center
National Immigration Project
National Institute for Workers' Rights
National Network of Abortion Funds
National Partnership for Women & Families

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National Urban League
National Voter Corps
National Wildlife Federation
National Women's Law Center
National Women's Studies Association
National Working Positive Coalition
Nature Connection Network
NCNW
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
New Disabled South
New Disabled South Rising
Normandie Foundation
NPNA
OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates
Oxfam America
Partnership for Southern Equity
PEN America
People For the American Way
People's Action Institute
Pesticide Action & Agroecology Network
Philanthropic Initiative for Racial Equity (PRE)
Popular Democracy
Pregnancy Justice
Project On Government Oversight
Protect Democracy
Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)
Public Citizen
Public Justice
Public Rights Project
QWELL Community Foundation
Ranked Choice Voting Resource Center
Ready for Change
RepresentUs Education Fund
Rethinking Schools
Rural Coalition
SAGE
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF)
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)
Southern Coalition for Social Justice
Special Horses Inc.
Stand.earth
State Voices
Stop AAPI Hate
Sustainable Advisors Alliance LLC
The Acacia Center for Justice
The Advocates for Human Rights

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The African American Policy Forum
The Arc of the US
The BTS Center
The National Center for LGBTQ Rights
The National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls
The National Institute for Reproductive Health
The National Vote
The Ocean Project
The People's Justice Council
The Rebel Alliance
The Sikh Coalition
The Workers Circle
Third Act Virginia
Transformative Justice Coalition
U.S. Climate Action Network
UnidosUS
Union of Concerned Scientists
Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community
United Planet
Vera Institute of Justice
Voices for Progress
Voter Participation Center
Voto Latino
Western States Center
Western Watersheds Project
Woka Foundation
Wren Collective
Youth MOVE National

State/Local Organizations

350 Bay Area Action
7 Directions of Service
AAPI Equity Alliance
AAPI New Jersey
Abortion Forward Alliance
Accountability Counsel
AFP South Sound
Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT)
Alianza Center, Inc.
Arizona Education Association
Arkansas Community Organizations
Arkansas Education Association
Art Reach of Mid Michigan
Asian American Resource Workshop (AARW)
Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California
Asian Counseling and Referral Service

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Association for Special Children and Families
Association of Chinese Americans
AZ AANHPI Advocates
Battle Born Progress
BELA Brooklyn Emerging Leaders Academy
Bergen County LGBTQ Alliance
Better Ballot SC
Cadillac Urban Gardens
CAIR-Arizona
CAIR-Florida
CAIR-Ohio
California Latinas for Reproductive Justice
California Teachers Association
CalNonprofits
Center for Elder Law & Justice
Central American Resource Center
Charlotte Trans Health
Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights
Chinese for Affirmative Action
Clean Air Council
Clean, Healthy, Educated, Safe & Sustainable Community, Inc.
Climate Conversation Brazoria County
Communities United Against Police Brutality
Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto
Compass Community Center
Comunidades Aliadas Tomando Accion
Cottonwood Institute
Delaware State Education Association
Democracy North Carolina
Detroit Disability Power
Diversity Richmond
Divine Truth Unity Fellowship Church
Downtown United Presbyterian Church Justice Team
Dutchess County Pride Center
Earth Ethics, Inc.
Education, Economics, Environmental, Climate and Health Organization (EEECHO)
Equality California
Equality Florida
EqualityMaine
EVkids, Inc.
Fabulous Arts Foundation
Fair Wisconsin
FAIRNY
FairVote Minnesota
Federal Education Association
Feed the Streets Outreach
Fighting Tyranny

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Firedoll Foundation
Fix Democracy First
Flint Jewish Federation
Flint Rising
Florida Rising
Foodwise Community
For All Families Oregon
Four Corners Rainbow Youth Center
Friends of Outdoor School
GenderNexus
Genesee Valley Citizens for Peace
Georgia Coalition for the Peoples Agenda
Georgia Equality
Grand Rapids Pride Center
Grand Rapids Trans Foundation
Growing Hope
Hawaii State Teachers Association
Ignite Peace
Indiana State Teachers Association
Indiana Youth Group
Indigenous Idaho Alliance
Indivisible ReSisters Contra Costa
Inquilinxs Unidxs por Justicia
Iowa State Education Association
Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action
Kansas NEA
Kentucky Education Association
Laboratory to Combat Human Trafficking
Legal Aid at Work
Legal Rights Center
LGBT Center of Raleigh
LGBTQ+ Center Lake County
Little Manila Rising
Louisiana Organization for Refugees and Immigrants
Lumina Alliance
LYRIC
Maine Council of Churches
Maine Education Association
Make the Road Nevada
Maryland Lynching Memorial Project
Maryland State Education Association
Massachusetts Teachers Association
MCADSV
McDougal Family Foundation
Metropolitan Playhouse
Meyer Foundation
Micah Six Eight Mission

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Minnesota Interfaith Coalition on Immigration
Missouri NEA
Montgomery County Progressive Asian American Network
NAKASEC TX
Naper Pride Inc
Naples Pride
National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Miami Section
National Education Association Rhode Island
Native Voters Alliance NV
NEA-NM
Nevada Chapter of the National Organization for Women
Nevada Nuclear Waste Task Force
New Haven Immigrants Coalition
New Jersey Education Association
New Jersey Institute for Social Justice
New York Immigration Coalition
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
NJCEH
NM Comunidades en Accion y de Fe
Nonprofit New York
NorCal Resist
North Carolina Council of Churches
North Shore Alliance of LGBTQ+ Youth (NAGLY)
Oasis Legal Services
OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates Greater Cleveland
Ogden Pride, Inc.
Ohio Chinese American Association
Ohio Equal Rights
Ohioans Against Extremism
Oklahoma Policy Institute
one-n-ten
OutFront
PODER
Pride Center of Terre Haute Inc.
Pride Center West Texas
PRISM Florida
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada
Public Justice Center
Rank The Vote Ohio
Read Freely Alabama
Renew Worcester
Resource Center
Rights & Democracy Institute
Rights & Democracy Project
Rise Up WV
Rochester Committee on Latin America
ROSE Community Development Corporation

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Safe Horizon
Safe Space Fort Smith
Safety Net Project - Urban Justice Center
San Gabriel Valley LGBTQ Center
Shenandoah LGBTQ Center
Silver State Equality
SMYAL
South Asian Network
Sowing Justice
Survivor Leader Network San Diego
Texas State Teachers Association
The Center at Sierra Health Foundation
The Door
The Harbour
The Pride Center at Equality Park
The Pride Center of New Jersey
The United People Project
The Welcome Project PA
Transcanwork
Triangle Community Center
Trustees for Alaska
Urban Community AgriNomics
Utah Education Association
UUCA
Vermont-NEA
Virginia Education Association
Washington Education Association
Waterside Workshops
Waves Ahead Corp
WCNY Chapter of the Association of Legal Administrators
WE ACT for Environmental Justice
Wild Iris Family Counseling & Crisis Center