

EVERYONE WINS WHEN **EVERYONE IS COUNTED**



## MUSLIM AMERICANS COUNT!



**Pew Research Center estimates that there were about 3.45 million Muslims of all ages living in the U.S. in 2017, and that Muslims made up about 1.1 percent of the total U.S. population.<sup>1</sup> In California, Muslims make up 1 percent of the state population.<sup>2</sup> Shifts in the federal landscape are creating great concerns over protection of census data and accurate data counting.**

## UNIQUE BARRIERS TO CENSUS PARTICIPATION

While on the campaign trail, President Trump called for the “total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States.”<sup>3</sup> On January 27, 2017 President Trump signed Executive Order 13769, titled “Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States,” also known as the Muslim ban.<sup>4</sup> Over the course of 2017, community advocates witnessed the administration’s increased attacks on immigrants, refugees, and minorities with the rescindment of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and the cancellation of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for hundreds of thousands of individuals—the Muslim community included.

In 2017, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) – California reported a 49% increase in reported discriminatory treatment during travel from 2015 to 2016. The number of immigration matters handled also increased significantly. CAIR-Los Angeles’ Immigrants’ Rights Center alone assisted in more than 400 immigration applications, with an increase of 58% in naturalization petitions from the previous year. The categories receiving the most incident reports for 2016 were immigration (38.8%), law enforcement interactions (17%), hate incidents or hate crime (14.7%) and employment discrimination (10.6%).<sup>5</sup>

**Because President Trump has kept true to his campaign promises, the California Muslim community is apprehensive about engaging in any activity that could be deemed as a registry, which includes the 2020 census. Creating culturally-competent outreach material and education on legal safeguards to personal information is crucial for a successful census.**

### **California's Demographics**

- 1 million Muslims reside in California (1%)
- 9.6 million Californians live in hard-to-count census tracts.
- 2.5 million children under age five live in hard-to-count census tracts, which ranks first among all states.
- We have the highest percentage of foreign-born residents (27%).

### **California Muslim Youth & Refugees**

- 69% of Muslim Youth Ages 11-18 feel safe in schools. This is a 14% decline since 2014.<sup>6</sup>
- 53% of Muslim students are bullied.<sup>7</sup>
- In fiscal year 2016, California resettled the most refugees (7,909).<sup>8</sup>
- The number of Muslim refugees entering the U.S. plummeted by 94% since President Trump came into office.<sup>9</sup>

**These issues are compounded by shifts in the federal landscape, including a rise in Islamophobia, highlighted in multiple Muslim Bans by Executive Orders and limiting Temporary Protected Status for Syrians who came to the U.S. before August 1, 2016.**

In 2018, CAIR-LA's office conducted focus groups of community leaders and surveys for community members from Orange County, Los Angeles County, and the Inland Empire. A total of 33 community leaders and over 1,400 community members participated. According to the survey "both focus groups and surveys examined perceptions, barriers, and potential outreach strategies around the 2020 Census with the diverse Muslim American communities of Southern California."

Of the participants 53% agreed that they do not trust the current administration. The focus groups also highlighted that Black Muslims were more positive overall towards the census, and strongly believe in participating as a way of building representative power for their communities.<sup>10</sup>

Given the ethnic, cultural, and linguistic diversity of the community trusted messengers are needed to ensure that Census 2020 messaging reaches the community.

## **ENDNOTES**

- 1 New estimates show U.S. Muslim population continues to grow: 2018, available at: <http://www.pewresearch.org/facttank/2018/01/03/new-estimates-show-u-s-muslim-population-continues-to-grow/>.
- 2 California Muslim population: 2014, available at: [www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/religious-tradition/muslim/](http://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/religious-tradition/muslim/).
- 3 CNN, Jeremy Diamond, Donald Trump: Ban all Muslim travel to U.S., <https://www.cnn.com/2015/12/07/politics/donald-trump-muslim-ban-immigration/index.html>, December 8, 2015.
- 4 Washington Post, Amy B Wang, Trump asked for a 'Muslim ban,' Giuliani says — and ordered a commission to do it 'legally', [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2017/01/29/trump-asked-for-a-muslim-ban-giuliani-says-and-ordered-a-commission-to-do-it-legally/?utm\\_term=.23357c79c373](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2017/01/29/trump-asked-for-a-muslim-ban-giuliani-says-and-ordered-a-commission-to-do-it-legally/?utm_term=.23357c79c373), January 29, 2017.
- 5 CAIR California, Muslim Civil Rights Report: 2017, available at: <https://ca.cair.com/downloads/CAIRCivil-Rights-Report-2017.pdf>.
- 6 CAIR California, Muslim Student Bullying Report 2017, available at: [https://ca.cair.com/downloads/2017\\_CAIR\\_CA\\_School\\_Bullying\\_Report.pdf](https://ca.cair.com/downloads/2017_CAIR_CA_School_Bullying_Report.pdf).
- 7 Ibid
- 8 Pew Research Center, Number of Refugees Resettled in California, 2016, available at: [http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/12/06/just-10-states-resettled-more-than-half-of-recent-refugees-to-u-s/ft\\_16-12-02\\_usrefugees\\_total/](http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/12/06/just-10-states-resettled-more-than-half-of-recent-refugees-to-u-s/ft_16-12-02_usrefugees_total/).
- 9 Number of Muslim refugees entering the U.S., 2018, available at: <https://www.rescue.org/article/disturbing-new-irc-stats-refugee-resettlement-shattered-under-trump>.
- 10 Special Service for Groups Research & Evaluation Team, February 2019, An Exploration of Perceptions, Barriers, and Outreach Strategies for the 2020 U.S. Census within Southern CA Muslim American Communities Commissioned by the Council on American-Islamic Relations, Greater Los Angeles (CAIR-LA).