

Faith Leaders for America

- [Faith Leaders for America](#) is a new **coalition of Jewish and Christian clergy**, pushing for the US government to designate the Muslim Brotherhood as a terrorist organization.
- The campaign [describes itself](#) as “an effort to assist the clergy of America in promoting real tolerance and freedom of religion in the face of the intolerant and repressive agenda of Islamic supremacists.” They are **concerned that “Islamic supremacists” are using “clearly fraudulent ‘interfaith dialogue’”** to advance their “‘civilization jihad’ agenda” and seek to “counter” the work of them and their “enablers.”
- Faith Leaders for America launched their campaign [shortly before](#) President Donald Trump’s inauguration, and after Senator Ted Cruz [proposed](#) a bill in Congress **advocating the designation of the Muslim Brotherhood as a “foreign terrorist organization.”** Faith Leaders of America strongly supports the legislation.
- The group is **supported by the Center for Security Policy (CSP)**, an organization which the Southern Poverty Law Center [considers an anti-Muslim hate group](#). CSP [registered](#) Faith Leaders’ web domain in October 2016, and also published [Faith Leaders’ press release](#) on their website. On January 26, 2017, CSP head, Frank Gaffney, [acknowledged](#) that CSP gave “some initial administrative support and counsel” for the group and could continue to do so. In statements, Faith Leaders [echoes](#) many of the concerns of CSP, namely that “Muslim Brotherhood front groups, mosques and other Islamist organizations are making it into our nation’s religious life, communities and national fabric.” CSP’s **falsified claims about a Muslim Brotherhood “civilization jihad”** in America, to which Faith Leaders also [ascribes](#), have been [debunked](#).
- On its website, Faith Leaders **calls Islamophobia a “made-up condition,”** and does not acknowledge the recent rise in anti-Muslim hate crimes that have been recorded by the [FBI](#) and other [civil rights groups](#). Faith Leaders also [laments](#) the mainstreaming of interfaith partnerships with Muslim organizations and the use of phrases like “Islam is a religion of peace” and “Islam is a great Abrahamic faith.”
- Faith Leaders for America urges clergy to sign their [statement](#). So far about 80 Jewish and Christian clergy people have signed. The group’s “call to prayer” **encourages the President to enact policies that Muslim and civil rights groups believe will target Muslims**. It [reads](#): “When you stop the mass importation of unvetted immigrants from areas that harbour, train, and send out jihadists, we support you. When you require appropriate **extreme vetting** for those who do enter the USA from these same areas, we support you.” Since the group’s launch, the administration has [issued](#) an executive order which would temporarily halt all refugee entry, and ban those from seven Muslim-majority countries from entering the US.
- At the campaign’s [press conference](#), Rev. Jerry Johnson said: “From the Middle East to Europe, from Africa to America, the evil specter of Islamic jihad has reared its ugly head again and again... Now the time has come to pray for our new president to counter this death cult.” During the Q&A, he **claimed this about US Muslim leaders: “A lot of them agree with the jihadist agenda, the sharia agenda, the Muslim Brotherhood agenda. They’re part of the nexus. They’re part of the problem. But some of them probably do not agree.”**
- Lt. Gen. and Rev. Jerry Boykin [claimed](#) at the press conference that “the only groups that [the Bush and Obama administrations] reached out to were those that were the enemy.” Elsewhere, Boykin [said](#) he doesn’t believe **Islam** is a religion and thus “it **should not be protected under the First Amendment.**”
- At the [press conference](#), speakers spoke of their Muslim family members, saying they “wouldn’t for anything want to hurt” or “discriminate against” Muslims.

IMPACT: Faith Leaders for America is a group of Christian and Jewish clergy pushing the Trump administration to designate the Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist organization. The group also expresses skepticism about interfaith dialogue between Muslims and other groups, which they [consider](#) part of the “the larger, stealthy Brotherhood ‘civilization jihad’ agenda” of “Islamic supremacists.”