

SACRED ACTS ILLINOIS NON-VIOLENCE PLEDGE: FACT SHEET

WHO WE ARE

SACRED Acts unites progressives to overcome hate and strengthen our multi-faith, multiracial democracy.

OUR ASK: TAKE OUR PLEDGE

While anti-democratic agendas may seem distant, Illinois is home to one of the largest South Asian populations in the country—and harmful ideologies are making their way into our politics through campaign contributions. As these threats grow both globally and locally, we urge you to sign the pledge and affirm that, as a current or aspiring Illinois elected official, you will not accept money connected to anti-democratic movements.



SOUTH ASIAN AMERICAN COALITION TO RENEW DEMOCRACY ACTS



www.sacreddemocracy.org



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THE ISSUE



South Asian Americans -- like Vivek Ramaswamy and Kash Patel -- are increasingly prominent members of the MAGA movement. At the same time, MAGA has embraced anti-democratic South Asian groups, including the group that inspired Gandhi's assassin, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), banned in India for promoting hate and religious supremacy. Today, RSS-aligned groups are in power in India, and are exporting this ideology to the U.S. They're infiltrating American politics using campaign donations and undercutting our democracy.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ILLINOIS



South Asian supremacist donors have funneled nearly \$2.5 million to political candidates of both parties in Illinois over the last ten years. Most people are unaware of these donors' ties to anti-democratic ideologies, and Illinois, with one of the largest South Asian populations in the country, is being directly targeted.

WHY IT MATTERS



Protect Our Communities, Starting in Illinois

1

Groups like the Illinois-based Republican Hindu Coalition are using dark money and progressive-sounding rhetoric to connect the South Asian American community with the alt-right, fueling intolerance in Illinois politics.

Stand Against Coordinated Global Fascism

2

Far-right movements are working across borders—including in India and the U.S.—to erode democracy and spread hate. The pledge is a public stand for peace, pluralism, and human rights.

Reclaim the Legacy of Nonviolence

3

Inspired by Dr. King and Gandhi, this pledge affirms a multiracial, multifaith commitment to justice—and resists those who would weaponize identity for division and violence.

STAND WITH US!

SIGN THE PLEDGE TODAY!



OUR COALITION

SUPPORTERS

State Legislature:

- Sen. Ram Villivalam
- Sen. Robert Peters
- Sen. Omar Aquino
- Sen. Celina Villanueva
- Sen. Rachel Ventura
- Rep. Kevin Olickal
- Rep. Kelly Cassidy
- Rep. Abdelnasser Rashid
- Rep. Aaron Ortiz
- Rep. Edgar Gonzales
- Rep. Lillian Jimenez
- Rep. Dagmara "Dee" Avelar
- Rep. Norma Hernandez
- Rep. Will Guzzardi

Chicago City Council:

- Ald. Desmon Yancy (5)
- Ald. Jeanette Taylor (20)
- Ald. Ronnie Mosely (21)
- Ald. Michael Rodriguez (22)
- Ald. Byron Sigcho-Lopez (25)
- Ald. Rossana Rodriguez Sanchez (33)
- Ald. Andre Vasquez (40)
- Ald. Angela Clay (46)
- Ald. Matt Martin (47)
- Ald. Leni Manaa-Hoppenworth (48)
- Ald. Maria Hadden (50)
- Former Ald. Carlos Ramirez-Rosa (35)

Municipalities/County:

- Trustee Nazneen Hashmi (Streamwood, Village Trustee)
- Trustee Asad Khan (Streamwood, Mayoral candidate)
- Ankur Singh (Cicero City Council candidate)
- Chicago Board of Ed. Anusha Thotakura
- Cook County Commissioner Alma Anaya

Federal:

- Bushra Amiwala (IL-09 candidate)
- Junaid Ahmed (IL-08 candidate)

QUOTES OF SUPPORT



Rep. Pramila Jayapal

Congresswoman (WA-07)
& Congressional
Progressive Caucus Chair

"Where is the progressive, South Asian American, multifaith organization that is going to fight for democracy?" Here it is. What SACRED Acts is doing is really phenomenal—it's deeply meaningful."



Keith Ellison

Minnesota Attorney
General

"America cannot be a place that just has another self-interested ethnic group, we've got plenty of them. What we need is some people who have a sense of the common good who want to see the prosperity and rights of all and that is what SACRED Acts is about. That's why I'm proud to be with you today."



Rep. Ilhan Omar

Congresswoman (MN-05)

"...We see the kind of supremacy and religious bigotry and discrimination that has created so much violence... and it is my mission and hope that we continue to fight for change here to make sure communities are living safely. That we push back against that supremacy... It is really good to see you guys organizing yourselves in this way."



Tushar Gandhi

Gandhi's Great-Grandson

"My best wishes to SACRED.... They need to succeed—we have no other hope."