

Islamophobia — Judged Based on Actions of a Few!

Our nation is one divided by a misguided fear of Islamic groups. Since the devastating attacks on September 11th, as well as other acts of terrorism around the world, fear born out of ignorance of the Muslim community has increased exponentially. For the last 15 years, Muslims around the world have been subjected to hate speech, violence and overall hostility. The main stream media has escalated this racism by condemning Islam instead of condemning extremists – those actually responsible for these heinous acts.

For the last few of years, fear-mongering comments about Muslims have become commonplace. The majority of this rhetoric has come from right-wing political groups, and is used as a tool to further divide our country. Many of these so-called groups identify themselves as Christian, yet routinely spout hateful rhetoric that goes against the very principles of Christianity, those of acceptance and respect. Over 1.5 billion people identify as Muslim around the world – the tiny fraction of those who identify as radical Islamists should not cast the entire religion as a large terror network. This is a gross and wholly inaccurate view of over one sixth of the world's population.

Anti-Islamic fear mongering has even infused the 2016 Presidential race. Those on the right have used recent tragedies perpetrated by radical terrorists as an excuse to spread dangerous misinformation about the Islamic faith and create fear among voters. In one of the most egregious examples of such hateful speech, presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump called for a ban of all Muslims from entering the United States. Not only was this statement patently unconstitutional, it was a glaring example of how our political discourse around the Islamic community has become dangerously hateful. Moreover, former presidential candidate Ted Cruz called for a patrolling of Muslim neighborhoods after the terrorist attacks in Brussels. This type of hate speech will only get worse as we move closer to election-day in November, and does nothing but create a dangerous environment for the Muslim communities in our country.

We must remember to move past unfair and inaccurate generalizations of an entire group and instead focus on stopping the violent few with radical views. Characterizing an entire religious group on the actions of a tiny minority is unjust.