

**India And Democratic Presidential Nominee Joe Biden
(Hindu American Voters Perspective)**

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Executive Summary

- **Kashmir:-** Kashmir is considered one of the cradles of Hindu culture and civilization, with the earliest recorded settlements dating back 4600 years. After the division of Undivided India and creation of Pakistan in 1947, Pakistan has invaded Jammu and Kashmir on 3 occasions and still controls 1/3rd of the state in spite of the fact that the ruler of Jammu and Kashmir legally acceded to India after the first Pakistani invasion in October 1947. Article 370 was a temporary provision¹ in the Indian constitution, the removal of which happened on August 5, 2019, completes the full application of Indian sovereign laws in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The removal of Article 370, allowed for the first time equal rights to women and members of the LGBTQ community.
- **CAA:-** Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 (CAA) is an extension of India's Citizenship Act, 1955 that fast-tracks Indian citizenship for persecuted religious minorities, who fled Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, the three countries sharing contiguous borders with India. To be eligible for naturalization under the provisions of this act, those who fled persecution are required to have entered India on or before 31 December 2014 and resided in India for a period of at least five years. This amendment was to address the specific problem of the above mentioned 31,313 persons already residing in India. Religious minorities who are fleeing persecution and seeking Indian citizenship, including Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims, atheists and ethnic minorities like Baloch, Hazaras and Ahmadiyyas. It is similar to the act, USA has passed in the past to protect minorities across the world. As a reference, the **Cuban Adjustment Act (CAA)**², Public Law 89-732, which is a United States federal law enacted on November 2, 1966, passed by the 89th United States Congress and signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson. The **Cuban Adjustment Act (CAA)** law applies to any native or citizen of Cuba who has been inspected and admitted or paroled into the United States after January 1, 1959 and has been physically present for at least one year; and is admissible to the United States as a permanent resident.
The Lautenberg Amendment³, first enacted in 1990 as part of the U.S. foreign operations budget to facilitate resettlement of Jews from the former Soviet Union, allowed HIAS to bring tens of thousands to safety. As the worldwide refugee situation changed, the Lautenberg Amendment was expanded to include persecuted religious minorities in other countries, such as Jews, Christians, and Baha'is from Iran.
- **Treatment of Hindus in Theocratic State:-** As per the first census in Pakistan in 1951, Hindus made 13.5% of total population which has been reduced drastically to 1.2% or 1.96 million of the total population. The constitutional amendments introduced by

¹<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/article-370-is-a-temporary-provision-in-constitution-government-tells-rajya-sabha/article28349533.ece>

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<https://ecollections.law.fiu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=https://www.google.com/&httpsredir=1&article=1069&context=lawreview>

³ <https://www.hias.org/lautenberg-amendment>

General Zia-ul-Haq have adversely affected the position of the Hindu minority. The conditions are further deteriorated when the Criminal Law (Protection of Minorities) Bill, 2015, passed by Sindh Assembly in December 2016, rejected by the Governor at the Instance of the National Govt (PPP). Anti- Forced Conversion bill rejected in Sindh Assembly in 2019. In every field , Hindus are subjected to humiliation, racism, tortures, threats, forced conversions and deaths either by blasphemy law or by other means.

- **Hinduphobia by Democratic Elected Officials and the Democratic Party:-** Hindu Americans typically are highly educated⁴, hard-working, and enterprising and affluent whose natural liberal values traditionally aligned with that of the Democratic Party. Bigotry against Hindus has intensified in recent years.

Prominent leaders of the Democratic party have at various points in time indulged in various prejudices against Hindus or have been apathetic to Hindu concerns especially with respect to issues related to India.

The hearing by the House of Representatives subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and Non-Proliferation chaired by a Democrat from California, Congressman Brad Sherman: Though the hearing was ostensibly on “Human Rights in South Asia”, it was mostly focused on Kashmir.

The Hindu community is also cognizant of Congresswoman Pramila Jaypal’s H.Res.745⁵ who criticizes the Indian government’s handling of a complicated situation, there is no mention of Kashmiri Pandits genocide and their exodus.

Prominent Democrat Senator Elizabeth Warren also expressed concerns on a temporary “communication blockage and other restrictions” in Kashmir,⁶ but did not voice concern for those Hindu Kashmiris who were assassinated.

Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez expressed concern over the ‘blockade from communication’⁷ which proved to be temporary but had nothing to say about the genocide of Hindu Kashmiri Pandits or the violence unleashed by Islamic terrorists. Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib’s H.Res.724⁸ on human rights violations in Kashmir fails to mention the plight of Kashmiri Pandits.

The Hindu American community has also noted that city council members affiliated to Democratic parties voted for resolutions against India’s Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 (CAA). Though city resolutions like the one passed by Seattle and Saint Paul have no bearing on CAA, the bad faith, abject distortion of facts in those resolutions and the lack of compassion for persecuted minorities including large numbers of Hindus who seek to benefit from CAA is shocking.

⁴ <https://www.pewforum.org/2016/12/13/hindu-educational-attainment/>

⁵ <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-resolution/745/text>

⁶ <https://twitter.com/ewarren/status/1180475897549340678?lang=en>

⁷ <https://twitter.com/aoc/status/1178781885641773057>

⁸ <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-resolution/724/text>

Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard, the first Hindu American to be elected to the congress was relentlessly attacked for her professional ties with Indian leaders during the presidential primaries. She has also been attacked for her Guru, her faith as well and for accepting campaign donations from fellow Hindu Americans.

Democrats like Jennifer Rajkumar, Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi have also been criticized similarly. They are routinely expected to speak out on issues related to India's internal affair just because they are Hindus. We see these attacks as vicious attempts to disenfranchise Hindu Americans and deny them from having a political voice.

Introduction And Objective

Introduction

Immigrants from India first arrived in the United States in small numbers during the early 19th century, primarily as low-skilled farm laborers. In 1960, just 12,000 Indian immigrants lived in the United States, representing less than 0.5 percent of the 9.7 million overall immigrant population. Migration from India swelled between 1965 and 1990 as a series of legislative changes removed national-origin quotas, introduced temporary skilled worker programs, and created employment-based permanent visas.

According to the Pew Research Survey's published report from 2015, there were 2.23 million American Hindus in 2014⁹. The population is projected to be more than 4 million in 2020. Additionally, there are more than 20 million Americans who regularly follow Hindu practices. This huge American Hindu electorate has also emerged as a fundraiser and vote bank in the US elections.

Objective

During 2016 Presidential Elections, Hindu Indian American community overwhelmingly leans Democratic, with 70 percent planning to vote for Hillary Clinton compared with 7 percent for Trump¹⁰. The survey led by Karthick Ramakrishnan¹¹, professor and Associate Dean in the School of Public Policy at UC Riverside, during the 2016 election, told **India-West**: "There was a greater recognition of South Asian Americans" during the 2016 election cycle. **Seventy-seven percent of Hindu Indian Americans who responded to the 2016 National Asian American Survey voted for former Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton**. He further stated that eighty percent of Hindu Indian Americans view President Donald Trump unfavorably, according to the survey, which was conducted shortly after the Nov. 8, 2016 general election. Democrats more effectively captured the large population of South Asian Americans.

But in the **2020 Presidential elections**, it seems that now the table has turned. According to Al Mason¹², co-chair of the Trump Victory Hindu Indian-American Finance Committee, he asserted that due to the aggressive outreach of Trump, there are indications of a sizable swing of the community away from the Democratic Party they have traditionally supported and voted for.

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<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/article-370-is-a-temporary-provision-in-constitution-government-tells-rajya-sabha/article28349533.ece>

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https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/indian-americans-vote-solidly-democratic-but-some-hope-trump-can-change-that/2016/10/14/bc6820cc-915b-11e6-a6a3-d50061aa9fae_story.html

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https://www.indiawest.com/news/global_indian/nearly-80-percent-of-indian-americans-voted-for-hillary-clinton-in-2016-election-reports-new/article_55377a68-40c1-11e7-b539-73def1afeba6.html

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<https://www.financialexpress.com/world-news/us-elections-2020-indian-american-community-to-play-key-role-in-battleground-states-says-trump-supporter/2002274/>

The Hindu American community is set to play a vital role in some of the key battleground states like Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Texas, Michigan, North Carolina Florida and Pennsylvania in the coming 2020 US presidential polls as Hindu Americans constitute approximately 1.4 million potential voters. The votes of this minority will be very critical in many battleground states for the nominee to win the White House.

The reason for this changed mindset is because of President Trump's approach towards India and his willingness to listen to the Hindu American minority group.

Needless to mention that Vice President Joe Biden's approach towards Hindu American can turn the tide and can force this minority to rethink and vote back to his Democratic party which has always been the first choice for them.

Vice President Biden should and must address the key issues highlighted in this paper, especially based on the statements printed and circulated in the media. The objective of this paper is to help Vice President Joe Biden to understand India, its ethnic population of Hindus and their culture & tradition, Article 370, Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and National Registration (NRC) and engage with these undecided voters.

Kashmir: Historical background and Article 370

History

1. Kashmir is considered one of the cradles of Hindu culture and civilization, with the earliest recorded settlements dating back 4600 years¹³. Kashmiri Shaivism is one of the oldest Hindu philosophical schools.
2. Kashmiri Buddhist monk Kumarajiva¹⁴ is considered the father of Chinese Buddhism.
3. Kashmiri Hindus provided safe-haven to Persian Zoroastrians, Hindus of Afghanistan, Punjab and Sindh and Buddhists from Central Asia, who fled waves of Islamic invasions, colonization and forced conversions, between the 7th and 12th century (500+ years)¹⁵.
4. Kashmir was eventually conquered by Islamists in 1323 CE and large segments of its population was forced into Islam by the end of 16th century¹⁶.
5. The present-day nation of Pakistan sees itself as the beholders of the historical Islamic military objective, called "Ghazwa-e-Hind"¹⁷.
6. Since its creation in 1947, Pakistan has invaded Jammu and Kashmir on 3 occasions. They control 1/3rd of the state. The ruler of Jammu and Kashmir legally acceded to India after the first Pakistani invasion in 1947¹⁸.
7. The 1948 UN resolution on Kashmir¹⁹, that Pakistan regularly refers to, first calls for full withdrawal of Pakistan from the 1/3rd of Kashmir that it occupies.
8. Since 1989, the entire indigenous Hindu population of the Kashmir Valley has been living as refugees in other parts of India, after Islamists, in their version of 'Kristallnacht' killed and raped thousands of Hindus in a span of a few weeks²⁰.
9. While it threatens nuclear war with India over Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan continues to be home to 130 UN designated terrorists and 25 terrorist organizations listed by the UN²¹. This is despite the so-called "cooperation" that Pakistan has purportedly given to

¹³ Stein, Marc Aurel (1979) [1900]. "Chronological and Dynastic Tables of Kalhana's Record of Kashmir Kings". [Kalhana's Rajatarangini: A Chronicle of the Kings of Kashmir](#)

¹⁴<https://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/4th-century-indian-monk-kumarajiva-was-venerated-by-the-chinese-as-national-teacher-scholars/1665558>

¹⁵ Stein, Marc Aurel (1979) [1900]. "Chronological and Dynastic Tables of Kalhana's Record of Kashmir Kings". [Kalhana's Rajatarangini: A Chronicle of the Kings of Kashmir](#)

¹⁶ Kaul, S. (1967). *Rājataranginī / Jonarāja-kr. tā ; Śrīkaṇṭhakaulena saṃpāditā*. India: Viśveśvarānanda-Sansthānam,vi.2024.

¹⁷ <https://torontosun.com/opinion/columnists/fatah-the-alarming-story-of-ghazwa-e-hind>

¹⁸ http://jklaw.nic.in/instrument_of_accession_of_jammu_and_kashmir_state.pdf

¹⁹ <https://www.windowtonews.com/news.php?id=263065>

²⁰ <https://www.opindia.com/2020/01/30-years-kashmir-pandit-hindu-genocide-exodus-islamic-terrorism-then-now/>

²¹ <https://www.state.gov/reports/country-reports-on-terrorism-2019/>

the global community after Osama bin Laden was killed, one mile from Pakistan's premier military academy.

10. Since August 5, 2019; Muslim Brotherhood linked organizations, like ICNA, ISNA and StandwithKashmir have launched a vicious campaign in the United States, that has given rise to Hinduphobia in American communities²².

Current status

1. Article 370 was a temporary provision²³ in the Indian constitution, the removal of which on August 5, 2019, completes the full application of Indian sovereign laws in Jammu and Kashmir²⁴.
2. The removal of the discriminatory Article 370, for the first time, allows the Indian Government to provide equal-opportunity employment to members of the LGBTQ community and women. It also allows for the first-time, affirmative action in jobs and education, to the poorest sections of the society, as guaranteed by the Indian Constitution²⁵.
3. The removal of Article 370, opened up the ability of all women, irrespective of their ethnic background, equal inheritance rights in marriage, as is guaranteed by the Constitution of India, in the rest of the country²⁶.
4. At this moment, there are more restrictions on movement and civil liberties of people in Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan, than in India²⁷.
5. There has been no curfew encompassing the entire Jammu and Kashmir since September 27, 2019. In 83 terror attacks, 152 armed terrorists have been killed in the first 7 months of 2020, while 33 Indian security forces have been martyred²⁸.
6. All phone lines are working and cable/satellite channels, that were available in

²² <https://www.meforum.org/islamist-watch/60983/stand-with-kashmir-linked-to-violent-islamists>

²³ <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/article-370-is-a-temporary-provision-in-constitution-government-tells-rajya-sabha/article28349533.ece>

²⁴ <http://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2019/210407.pdf>.

²⁵ <https://www.hinduamerican.org/blog/kashmir-right-now-6-things-you-need-to-know/>

²⁶ <https://www.indiatoday.in/mail-today/story/kashmir-article-370-women-cheer-equal-property-rights-1577637-2019-08-06>

²⁷ <https://www.thequint.com/voices/opinion/pok-gilgit-baltistan-jihad-sexual-assault-rape-kashmiri-women?fbclid=IwAR0I93ciCABlkMTYBiTmI57RIHG-PjDi9QaKcW1zYRx2fCINkxqaFNF-ODg>

²⁸ <https://satp.org/datasheet-terrorist-attack/fatalities/india-jammukashmir>

Kashmir Valley prior to August 5, are available. 2G internet has been available in 8 of the 10 districts in Jammu and Kashmir, since May 2020.

7. All banks/ATMs and transportation hubs/airports are operating in full strength, as in the rest of India, given the general nationwide restrictions, that are in place due to COVID-19.
8. Stocks of petroleum products, water, food and medicine are adequate with no inflation in prices. All medical/surgical facilities, emergency rooms and hospitals are operating²⁹.
9. All primary, middle and high schools are operating. All colleges will re-opened on October 15, 2019. They face the same restrictions as those in other parts of India under COVID-19 protocol³⁰.
10. Elections to block development councils were conducted and completed in October 2019. More than 95% voting was recorded³¹.

Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and National Register of Citizens (NRC)

What is CAA?

Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 (CAA) is an extension of India's Citizenship Act, 1955 that fast-tracks Indian citizenship for persecuted religious minorities, who fled Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, the three countries sharing contiguous borders with India. To be eligible for naturalization under the provisions of this act, those who fled persecution are required to have entered India on or before 31 December 2014³² and resided in India for a period of at least five years.

²⁹ Data provided by the Embassy of India public bulletins, from September 2019 to May 2020

³⁰ <http://www.thenorthlines.com/84117-2/>

³¹ <https://www.firstpost.com/politics/jammu-and-kashmir-bdc-election-result-2019-live-updates-block-development-councils-panchayati-raj-counting-voting-j-k-bdc-polls-article-370-bjp-congress-nc-pdp-7545981.html>

³² <http://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2019/214646.pdf>

As per the report of the Joint Committee on the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 the amendment benefits an estimated 31,313 individuals, including 25,447 Hindus, 580 Sikhs, 55 Christians, 2 Buddhists and 2 Parsis.³³

Why CAA?

Religious minorities from the three said countries, fleeing persecution or fear of persecution³⁴ have been seeking refuge in India for many years now.³⁵ But, because of constraints such as their inability to provide documentary proof like a valid passport or other travel documents, naturalization became a difficult and time consuming process.

Over time, political support for granting citizenship to such individuals on humanitarian grounds grew across the spectrum. Apart from the ruling party leaders, prominent opposition leaders like Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav³⁶, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh³⁷ spoke about it at various times. Provincial leaders like the Chief Minister of the state of Rajasthan, Mr. Ashok Gehlot³⁸, Punjab State Congress party and others supported the idea at various points in time.³⁹

Objections

Objection: Muslims and ethnic minorities like Baloch, Hazaras and Ahmadiyyas from the three said countries or other countries are not covered under the amendment.

Clarification:

This amendment was to address the specific problem of the above mentioned 31,313 persons already residing in India. Others fleeing persecution and seeking Indian citizenship, including Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims, atheists and ethnic minorities like Baloch, Hazaras and Ahmadiyyas who were not residents of India as of 31 December 2014, can continue to apply for Indian citizenship under the existing provisions.

It is worth noting that the idea of offering Indian citizenship to Pakistani/ Bangladeshi Muslims will essentially delegitimize the partition of India and the creation of Pakistan/ Bangladesh

³³https://www.prsindia.org/sites/default/files/bill_files/Joint%20committee%20report%20on%20citizenship%20%28A%29%20bill.pdf

³⁴ <https://thediplomat.com/2016/06/the-plight-of-pakistans-hindu-community/>

³⁵ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-19540774>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-34645370>

³⁶

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/India-willing-to-give-asylum-to-Hindus-from-Pak/articleshow/15499985.cms>

³⁷ <https://twitter.com/BJP4India/status/1207542398282162177>

³⁸ <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/west/story/pak-hindus-in-jodhpur-clamour-for-citizenship-116798-2012-09-24>

³⁹

<https://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/caa-protests-when-manmohan-singh-sought-citizenship-for-persecuted-minorities-from-bangladesh-pakistan-watch/1798668/>

because it will then violate the spirit behind the partition, famously justified by the 'Spiritual Father of Pakistan' Mohammad Iqbal as, "The religious ideal of Islam, therefore, is organically related to the social order which it has created. The rejection of the one will eventually involve the rejection of the other. Therefore the construction of a polity on national lines [India with both Hindus & Muslims], if it means a displacement of the Islamic principle of solidarity, is simply unthinkable to a Muslim."⁴⁰

Objection: CAA endangers citizenship of Indian Muslims:

Clarification:

Nothing in the amendment or in the original Citizenship Act has any provision to rescind Indian citizenship regardless of their religion or ethnicity. Any such objections are fallacious at best, malicious at worst.

Objection: National Register of Citizenship (NRC) will strip marginalized communities of their Indian citizenship:

Clarification:

NRC is a historical database of Indian citizens, restricted only to the eastern state of Assam. The database was recently updated to address the complex historical ethno-linguistic conflict. Post partition, the eastern state of Assam saw a massive influx of migrants from erstwhile East-Pakistan (now Bangladesh) which eventually led to ethnic strife between native Assamese and Bengali migrants. In 1985, advocating for peace, the then Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, signed the Assam Accord with the state government and the ethnic Assamese groups, promising to expel foreigners who infiltrated into Assam on or after 25th March 1971. Though ethnic discontent simmered, nothing much was done till the Supreme Court of India, responding to a petition praying for deletion of non-citizens' names from electoral rolls, directed the state and central governments to update the registry of citizens only in 2013. The process of compiling this registry is expected to be long drawn given that those who are excluded can appeal to the Foreigner's Tribunals followed by the High Court and Supreme Court.⁴¹ It should be noted that this exercise is restricted to the State of Assam and the Government of India has made it clear that there is no plan for a pan-India NRC.⁴²

Conclusion

Much like the Lautenberg Amendment of 1990⁴³ and President John F. Kennedy's Cuban Adjustment Act of 1966⁴⁴, CAA is a large-hearted promise of a better life to the persecuted minorities who left behind everything in their quest for a dignified life for themselves and their families. A similar gesture was recently shared, when, on June 25th, 2020, twenty US senators wrote to Secretary Mike Pompeo, urging him to grant emergency refugee status to Sikh and

⁴⁰ http://www.columbia.edu/itc/mealac/pritchett/00islamlinks/txt_iqbal_1930.html

⁴¹

<https://www.asianage.com/india/all-india/310819/from-1947-to-2019-nrc-timeline-shows-milestones-in-assams-history.html>

⁴²

<http://muslimmirror.com/eng/for-now-no-plans-of-pan-india-nrc-home-ministrys-first-official-confirmation-in-parliament/>

⁴³ <https://www.uscis.gov/policy-manual/volume-7-part-i-chapter-2>

⁴⁴ <https://www.uscis.gov/green-card/green-card-eligibility/green-card-for-a-cuban-native-or-citizen>

Hindu religious minorities facing persecution and existential threat in Afghanistan.⁴⁵ While similar sentiments were echoed by Vice President Biden,⁴⁶ India has already started facilitating relocation of Afghani Hindus and Sikh to India⁴⁷.

Attempts to mischaracterize and vilify the well-intentioned amendment is unacceptable, as are the attempts to brush all Hindus as 'fascists' for defending the rights of these religiously persecuted minorities. More than anything else, it is the quintessential American spirit to stand up for the "huddled masses yearning to breathe free," a spirit we can generously share with the CAA.

Finally, it is interesting that the very groups that are busy trying to vilify India's magnanimous gesture to settle the persecuted minorities, have remained singularly mute on the root cause of their flight in the first place, namely their brutal persecution in their respective native countries.

Treatment of Hindus in Theocratic State

Minorities and Indigenous peoples in Pakistan

Ethnic minorities include Sindhis (14.1 per cent), Pashtuns or Pashtuns (15.42 per cent, 2006 Census of Afghans in Pakistan), Mohajirs (7.57 per cent), Baluchis (3.57 per cent).

Religious minorities include Christians (1.59 per cent, 1998 Census), Ahmadis (0.22 per cent, 1998 Census), Hindus (1.6 per cent) 1998 Census), Shi'as, Isma'ilis, Bohras, Parsis and Sikh.⁴⁸

Hindus in Pakistan

The Hindu population of Pakistan has experienced massive attrition in the last 70 years. From a starting point of 13.5% in 1951, today they make up only about 1.2 % or 1.96 million of the total population, the rest having been lost to genocide, forced religious conversion under the threat of the blasphemy law, and emigration. An overwhelming majority of the Hindus (96% of the total Hindu population in Pakistan) live in rural areas of Sindh. There are heavy concentrations of

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<https://www.foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/06-25-20%20RM%20letter%20to%20Pompeo%20on%20Afghan%20Sikhs%20and%20Hindus.pdf>

⁴⁶

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/punjab/former-us-vice-president-biden-for-relocating-afghan-sikhs-hindus-85271>

⁴⁷

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/india-facilitating-visa-requests-of-afghanistan-s-hindu-and-sikh-minorities/story-bhT4CSKPXH4TmAiNkB52WN.html>

⁴⁸ <https://minorityrights.org/country/pakistan/>

Hindus in Sanghar and Tharpakar district, which borders India. There are also small pockets of Hindus in interior Baluchistan and Punjab. The Hindus of Pakistan – residing in the interior of Sindh or Baluchistan – are primarily landless bonded labourers, working on the lands of big Sindh landlords (known as Jagirdars). Those who live in towns and cities are generally employed in menial labor jobs.

Conditions of Hindus in Pakistan

The tiny minority of Hindus that remains in the truncated Pakistan of today, continues to find itself vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. The constitutional amendments introduced by General Zia-ul-Haq have adversely affected the position of the Hindu minority. More significantly, the rise in religious extremism within South Asia, with periods of tense political relations between India and Pakistan, has led to greater violence and physical attacks on Hindus.

Just in the year 1992, over 120 Hindu temples were destroyed in various parts of Pakistan. In a number of instances, gangs of frenzied men entered these temples, smashed the idols of revered Hindu gods and goddesses, snatched the jewels that adorned them, and made off with the charity boxes containing donations. Several shops were looted or burnt, with the cost of damages running into millions of rupees. More than 500 non-Muslims, primarily Hindu families, were victimized and tortured; angry crowds entered their houses, destroyed their furniture and household goods and took away their savings and jewelry. There were also physical attacks on members of the Hindu community. A number of Hindus were killed, including a family of six who were burned to death in Loralia. Compensation for the damage to life and property has not been forthcoming.⁴⁹

World & Pakistan Reports on Minorities' Religious Persecution:

1. The Criminal Law (Protection of Minorities) Bill, 2015, passed by Sindh Assembly in December 2016, rejected by the Governor at the Instance of the National Govt (PPP). Anti- Forced Conversion bill rejected in Sindh Assembly in 2019.
2. Pakistan Institutionalized Discrimination and Persecution against Minority groups.⁵⁰
3. Minorities under attack: Faith-based discrimination and violence in Pakistan.⁵¹
4. Pakistani Hindus lose daughters to forced Muslim marriages.⁵²
5. In practice, non-Muslim minorities do face discrimination and persecution.⁵³
6. Pakistan government ignores rape of 17 years old Hindu girl.⁵⁴
7. Pakistan executes rape victims – Media is silent to avoid damaging Islam's image.⁵⁵

⁴⁹ <https://minorityrights.org/minorities/hindus-2/>

⁵⁰

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/eu-parliament-releases-report-on- plight-of-minorities-in-pakistan/articleshow/69335370.cms?from=mdr>(EU Parliament Report, May, 2019)

⁵¹ <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/57fb91e54.pdf>

⁵²

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2017/02/15/pakistani-hindus-lose-daughters-forced-muslim-marriages/97013614/>(Naila Inayat, Special for USA TODAY, February 15, 2017)

⁵³ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-50720273>(Reality Check Team, BBC News, Dec 12, 2019).

⁵⁴ <http://pakistanhindupost.blogspot.com/2010/05/pakistan-government-ignores-rape-of-17.html>

⁵⁵ <http://www.threalnews.net/2019/01/pakistan-executes-rape-victims-media-is.html>

8. Hindu cricket player faces religious discrimination within team⁵⁶
9. For Pakistan's Dalit Christians, embracing Islam is an escape from stigma.⁵⁷



Does anyone need any more evidence of persecution of religious minorities in Pakistan?



⁵⁶ <https://indianexpress.com/article/sports/cricket/shahid-afri-danish-kaneria-ban-pcb-shoaib-akhtar-6412357/>

⁵⁷

<https://www.firstpost.com/world/for-pakistans-dalit-christians-embracing-islam-is-an-escape-from-stigma-1338639.html>

Here below are pictures from the Refugee Camps in India for the persecuted

Reality of Persecution in Pakistan

1. Inter-religion marriages are not legal in countries like Pakistan. Married women from minority community are being abducted, tortured and forcefully converted to Islam and married off to Muslim men.
2. Every year 1000s of young vulnerable and economically downtrodden Hindu , Sikhs and Christian girls like Sunitha's, Raveena's, Reena's, Anila's, Jagjit Kaur's, Nimrata's, are being abducted for ransom, raped, murdered, and forcefully converted to Islam.
3. Minorities are tortured under **Blasphemy law**. Many cases like Asia Bibi are some of the examples.⁵⁸
4. Most gruesome, it is institutionalized persecution.⁵⁹

Some statistics of decimation of minorities in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, as given below: What are the Expectations of those Religious Persecuted Minority Refugees?

Pakistan Population	Muslim (%)	Hindu (%)	Sikh (%)	Christian(%)	Buddhist & Others (%)
1951	79.2	13.5	5.2	1.5	NA
2015 (PBS)	96.28	1.60	-	1.59	0.54
Bangladesh Population					
1951	76.9	22.0	-	0.3	0.8
2010 (PEW-GRF)	90.4	8.5	-	0.3	0.7
Afghanistan Population					
1951	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2010 (PEW-GRF)	99.7	<1	-	<1	<1

Note: Afghanistan had been a historically predominantly Buddhist and Hindu population.

What needs to be done for minorities?

The basic expectations of those religious persecuted minority refugees are (enough to put humanity to shame) just:

1. Human dignity;
2. Follow their faith without fear;
3. Live without the fear of their womenfolk being abducted.

⁵⁸ https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/idt-sh/Asia_Bibi

⁵⁹ <https://www.dawn.com/news/672000/pakistan-schools-teach-hindu-hatred>

Hinduphobia by Democratic Elected Officials and the Democratic Party

Hindu Americans typically are highly educated⁶⁰, hard-working, and enterprising and affluent whose natural liberal values traditionally aligned with that of the Democratic Party. Of late though, Hindu Americans have found it very difficult to call the Democratic Party their natural home. The alienation can be attributed to several factors, from casual bigotry against Hindus to religion weaponization against Hindu democratic politicians and the party's inability to stand up against such bigotry.

Bigotry against Hindu Americans has been going on for decades. We are often told that our gods are funny, that we smell like curry, that instead of enjoying steaks we worship cows and our temples are vandalized.^{61 62 63} In spite of such challenges, we continued to be peace loving and contribute positively to our communities in both personal and professional capacities.

Bigotry against Hindus has intensified in recent years. Starting with innocuous pieces in the western media, it is now more sinister, shriller, complete with jargons like 'Hindutva', 'Nazi', 'fascist', 'Hindu Nationalist', etc.⁶⁴ The casual bigotry has metamorphosed into an irrational vilification of Hindus. Everything is kosher when it comes to such attacks, be it an attire like sari⁶⁵, or the much-loved egg curry.⁶⁶

Curiously, we are never told why 'Hindutva', (Sanskrit equivalent of the word 'Hindu-ism') was necessarily evil? Or what made Hindutva or Hinduism or Hindu-ness akin to Nazism/Fascism? How was an all-inclusive Hindu, who goes by 'Vasudhaiva kutumbakam' (The family of mother earth, the idea that all living beings on the planet are one family) comparable to the exclusionary

⁶⁰ <https://www.pewforum.org/2016/12/13/hindu-educational-attainment/>

⁶¹ <https://www.cnn.com/2019/02/01/americas/kentucky-temple-vandalized-hate-crime-trnd/index.html>

⁶² <https://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-nn-washington-hindu-temple-20150228-story.html>

⁶³ <https://dfw.cbslocal.com/2015/04/18/hindu-temple-upset-and-guard-after-temple-vandalized/>

⁶⁴ <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/14/opinion/the-incendiary-appeal-of-demagoguery-in-our-time.html>

⁶⁵ <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/12/fashion/india-nationalism-sari.html>

⁶⁶ <https://cooking.nytimes.com/recipes/1020912-egg-curry>

and narrow-minded Nazis or Fascists. It is this idea of 'Vasudhaiva kutumbakam' that drives organizations like SEWA to mobilize and distribute more than 625,000 homemade masks in the USA at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic.

While bigotry directed at Hindu American in the mainstream media is highly regrettable, it becomes dangerous when such bigotry is mainstreamed by politicians. That is exactly what has happened over the past few months, unnerving Hindu American supporters of the Democratic Party.

Prominent leaders of the Democratic party have at various points in time indulged in various prejudices against Hindus or have been apathetic to Hindu concerns especially with respect to issues related to India. Though Hindu Americans mostly focus on domestic issues, vilification of Indian Hindus affects Hindu Americans in unexpected ways⁶⁷ because many Hindu Americans are also part of the Indian diaspora having close connection with India. Below are some examples of Democrats indulged in either passive bigotry by erasing Hindu experiences or active bigotry by vilifying Hindus.

- The hearing by the House of Representatives subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and Non-Proliferation chaired by a Democrat from California, Congressman Brad Sherman: Though the hearing was ostensibly on "Human Rights in South Asia", it was mostly focused on Kashmir. Kashmir a tragedy. Strangely, the hearing did not care for the brutal killing of 1,400 Hindu Kashmiri pandits,^{68 69 70} or the exodus of four hundred thousand Pandits or the 20,000 families that are refugees in their own country after three decades and continue to live in refugee camps in Jammu. Regrettably, in the context of Kashmir, the committee did not give a fair hearing to Ms. Aarti Tikoo Singh⁷¹, a genocide survivor and one of the several hundred thousand that were rendered homeless as a result of the ethnic cleansing of Hindu Kashmiri Pandits from the Kashmir valley. She was uncharitably branded an official mouthpiece by Congresswoman Ilhan Omar. For all her credentials as a champion for human rights, Congresswoman Omar showed an abject lack of empathy towards a genocide survivor and a refugee much like herself. As the chair, Congressman Brad Sherman was not kind to Ms. Singh either and was rightly called out by the Kashmiri Overseas Association (KOA), an umbrella organization representing the interests of Kashmiri Pandits refugees.⁷² It should be mentioned that Ms. Singh's testimony turned out to be prescient in the light of continued assassination

⁶⁷ <https://twitter.com/Drambardar/status/1235019031351943168>

⁶⁸

<https://www.jammukashmirnow.com/Encyc/2019/11/4/4th-Nov-1989-When-Justice-Neelkanth-Ganjoo-was-brutally-killed-in-broad-daylight-by-JKLF-terrorists-30-Yrs-of-planned-and-organized-secessionist-terrorism.html>

⁶⁹ https://www.huffpost.com/entry/kashmiri-pandits-observe_n_286019

⁷⁰

<https://www.jammukashmirnow.com/Encyc/2019/6/25/25th-June-1990-Brutal-Killing-of-Kashmiri-Woman-Girija-Tickoo-A-story-that-is-wiped-off-from-our-memory.html>

⁷¹ <https://docs.house.gov/meetings/FA/FA05/20191022/110143/HHRG-116-FA05-Wstate-SinghA-20191022.pdf>

⁷²

<http://koausa.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/ORIGINAL-FINAL-KOA-Open-Letter-to-Brad-Sherman-Release.pdf>

of Kashmiris, Pandits⁷³ and Muslims⁷⁴ who dare to participate in the democratic process defying the diktats of Islamic terrorists. The hearing almost ignored the persecution of Hindus and other religious and ethnic minorities in Sindh and the state of Tamils in Sri Lanka, even though they were very much on the agenda.

- The Hindu community is also cognizant of Congresswoman Pramila Jaypal's H.Res.745⁷⁵. While the resolution is quick to criticize the Indian government's handling of a complicated situation, there is no mention of Kashmiri Pandits genocide and their exodus. Prominent Democrat Senator Elizabeth Warren also expressed concerns on a temporary "communication blockage and other restrictions" in Kashmir,⁷⁶ but did not voice concern for those Hindu Kashmiris who were assassinated for participating in a legitimate democratic process or for the Hindu Kashmiri Pandits who survived the genocide. Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez expressed concern over the 'blockade from communication'⁷⁷ which proved to be temporary but had nothing to say about the genocide of Hindu Kashmiri Pandits or the violence unleashed by Islamic terrorists. Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib's H.Res.724⁷⁸ on human rights violations in Kashmir fails to mention the plight of Kashmiri Pandits. That Pandits are thus erased from the story of Kashmir is concerning, especially because many Hindu Pandits are now productive American citizens.⁷⁹
- Hindu community has also noted that the unfortunate Delhi communal riots was mischaracterized by several prominent democrats as "anti-muslim mob violence",⁸⁰ "anti-muslim violence"⁸¹, "religious intolerance"⁸² "...ethnically cleansing of the country's religious minorities"⁸³, "violence against Muslims"⁸⁴ "violence against peaceful protestors"⁸⁵ though Indian journalists at that time were reporting that both Hindus and Muslims were affected by the violence.⁸⁶ Subsequent investigation by Delhi police has

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<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/kashmiri-pandit-sarpanch-killed-by-terrorists-in-anantnag-parties-co-ndemn-attack/story-KaeSpT9BYDYtn0wFHrCSdM.html>

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<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/kashmir-bjp-leader-waseem-bari-shot-dead-militants-bandipora-1698459-2020-07-08>

⁷⁵ <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-resolution/745/text>

⁷⁶ <https://twitter.com/ewarren/status/1180475897549340678?lang=en>

⁷⁷ <https://twitter.com/aoc/status/1178781885641773057>

⁷⁸ <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-resolution/724/text>

⁷⁹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AYjER9oauaY>

⁸⁰ <https://twitter.com/berniesanders/status/1232763321163579395?lang=en>

⁸¹ <https://twitter.com/rashidatlaib/status/1232474345802321921?lang=en>

⁸² https://twitter.com/RepJayapal/status/1232419023025057793?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw

⁸³ <https://twitter.com/repaoc/status/1234593931532423169?lang=en>

⁸⁴ <https://twitter.com/TomSteyer/status/1233150413198639105>

⁸⁵ <https://twitter.com/ewarren/status/1232462840230903810>

⁸⁶ <https://twitter.com/sardesairajdeep/status/1232701219711463428>

revealed that the riots were pre planned^{87 88} and were connected to a radical Islamic preacher.⁸⁹ Communal riots are tragic like any other needless loss of human life. But to characterize a communal riot as violence directed at only one community is dishonesty at best, and callous disregard for the other side at worst. Speaking for one side when both sides are affected during communal riots goes on to signal to the other side that their tragedy is somehow less or that they do not need a kind word or two.

- The Hindu American community has also noted that city council members affiliated to Democratic parties voted for resolutions against India's Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 (CAA). Though city resolutions like the one passed by Seattle and Saint Paul have no bearing on CAA, the bad faith, abject distortion of facts in those resolutions and the lack of compassion for persecuted minorities including large numbers of Hindus who seek to benefit from CAA is shocking.
- It is also not lost on the Hindu community that Hindu democrats are held to a different standard compared to others. Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard, the first Hindu American to be elected to the congress was relentlessly attacked for her professional ties with Indian leaders during the presidential primaries. She has also been attacked for her Guru, her faith as well and for accepting campaign donations from fellow Hindu Americans. Democrats like Jennifer Rajkumar, Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi have also been criticized similarly. They are routinely expected to speak out on issues related to India's internal affair just because they are Hindus. We see these attacks as vicious attempts to disenfranchise Hindu Americans and deny them from having a political voice.

It is because of these broad experiences that Hindu Americans are finding it difficult to support the Democratic party. Not many democrats court Hindu voters these days either, Vice President Biden's campaign being an exception. We remember Vice President Biden's Holi greetings and his campaign's decision to retain Mr. Amit Jani when the latter was under Hinduphobic attacks. Democratic party however has a lot of catching up to do. To begin with, not interfering in India's internal affairs will help, as will a reminder that careless statements based on poor understanding of complex foreign policy issues, is more likely to harm constituents at home and alienate allies abroad.

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<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/delhi-riots-planned-to-discredit-india-during-trump-visit-delhi-police-17007-02-2020-07-15>

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<https://www.deccanherald.com/national/north-and-central/delhi-riots-tahir-hussain-gave-money-for-purchasing-ammunition-for-big-riot-police-tells-court-847313.html>

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<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/delhi-riots-links-to-zakir-naik-saudi-arabia-pfi-established-in-police-probe-1696849-2020-07-04>

Hindus and Education

A Brief Introduction/ Facts

The American Hindu community believes that a quality public education is vital for building a populace of civically engaged and globally conscious citizens. While we applaud Vice President Biden's *Plan for Educators, Students, and our Future*⁹⁰ for recognizing that "*students [must] work and learn in safe and healthy environments,*" safety must also include anti-discrimination policies and awareness that can help thwart bullying and create an atmosphere respectful of all religious traditions. This is crucial in a multi-religious, multi-ethnic society. To that end, this policy brief will outline specific areas of focus and concern for the American Hindu community.

The chief concerns of American Hindu parents and students stem from the way in which the U.S. public education system teaches and narrativizes Hinduism--and India more broadly-- to students. Depictions of India in textbooks and other materials often continue to portray its people as backward and exotic as compared to those from other parts of the world⁹¹ and give disproportionate attention to and false attribution of the caste system as a Hindu theological construct. For instance, three out of five Hindu American middle and high schoolers reported

⁹⁰ "Education: Joe's Plan for Educators, Students, and Our Future." *Joe Biden 2020*.

<https://joebiden.com/education/>

⁹¹ For documented examples: see

- A. <https://www.hindueducation.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Review-of-HMH-Kids-Discover-California-Social-Studies-Grades-K%e2%80%936-.pdf>
- B. <https://www.hindueducation.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Review-of-HMH-Social-Studies-for-California-Grades-6%e2%80%938-.pdf>
- C. <https://www.hindueducation.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Review-of-National-Geographic%e2%80%93World-History-California-Textbook.pdf>

that their school's instruction on Hinduism focused almost solely on caste.⁹² Combined, this often can lead to bullying or feelings of shame as a direct result of the means of instruction in upto one out of every three Hindu American students.⁹³

Given Hinduism's unique position as a minority, non-monotheistic, non-Abrahamic religious tradition, little attention is given to explaining Hinduism's unique view of the Universe, understanding key beliefs, or gaining an understanding of how Hinduism has shaped world history. For instance, Hinduism's impact on great American intellectual movements-- Transcendentalism, "the Hippies," and New Age movements-- are often eschewed in favor of tropes. This shortchanges students and belies the systemic effect that coloniality continues to have in depictions of Hinduism.

The climate of many public Universities has also grown increasingly hostile towards Hinduism and Hindu students, particularly in the last academic year. For example, at Rutgers University in New Jersey, an associate professor referred to Rama-- a deity in Hinduism-- as a "misogynist pig"; students belonging to a University group called the Hindu Students Council were subjected to death threats after an event was forced off campus due to the administration's indifference. At a campuswide symposium organized by several departments at the University of Michigan, a speaker argued that Hinduism was a form of "spiritual fascism," proclaiming that "Destruction of caste is not possible without *dismantling or destroying Hinduism as a religion ... Hinduism does not reform*, does not change because of the *structural problems* in the religion."⁹⁴ Many campuses and professors also hosted a "Holi Against Hindutva" protests against the "oppressive" Hindu celebration of Holi, leading Hindu groups to start a "Holi for Unity" campaign.

These are but three examples that fit clear patterns of recognized religious bigotry in educational spaces. While these incidents are by no means unique across different religious communities on campus, unlike with Jewish American and Muslim American students, there continues to be a complete lack of recognition by policymakers, University administrators, and educators of the systematic religious bigotry (Hinduphobia) that is engendered on campus and in the classroom today.

Our Policy Positions.

- **Recognize Modes of anti-Hindu Discrimination for MASSA Students.**

⁹² "Classroom Subjected: Bullying and Bias Against Hindu Students in American Schools." Hindu American Foundation. 2015.

https://www.hinduamerican.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/HAFN_16_008-BullyingReport_final_RGB_r2.pdf

⁹³ Ibid.

⁹⁴ <https://www.michigandaily.com/section/campus-life/symposium-discusses-elimination-casteism>

The U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division (CRT) and the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) enforce federal civil rights laws in public and federally funded schools at all educational levels. While the OCR officially recognizes that "Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, and Sikh students... may be harassed for being viewed as part of a group that exhibits both ethnic and religious characteristics,"⁹⁵ there are currently no specific resources for educators, administrators, parents, or students to understand the ways in which anti-Hindu discrimination can manifest in the classroom.

In particular, OCR recognizes the "MASSA" (Muslim, Arab, Sikh, and South Asian) category of students while omitting "anti-Hindu" discrimination when it may also have a racial component.⁹⁶ It is vital that the US Department of Education include resources for educators to understand the ways in which Hinduphobia manifests in the classroom, creating a working definition of Hinduphobia for assessing discrimination under both CRT and OCR, and include examples of anti-Hindu bigotry in its online and published resources. This will help Hindu students feel welcome and safe in their schools and create greater cultural competency in teaching topics related to Hinduism and India.

- **Hold a Briefing on Campus Hinduphobia.**

In November 2005, a panel of experts briefed members of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights regarding anti-Semitic incidents on college campuses.⁹⁷ Given the rise of Hinduphobic incidents on college campuses coupled with the lack of cultural competency on topics related to Hinduism and anti-Hindu discrimination, a similar briefing is *required* for policymakers to understand the mechanisms through which Hinduphobia operates on campus.

- **Civil Rights Data Collection in School Districts.**

In 2015-16, the Obama Administration took the landmark step of creating the Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) program, which collected data on race- and religion-based discrimination complaints from every school district in the U.S.⁹⁸ However, 2015 is the last year for which such data is publicly available as part of CRDC, with the program's neglect under the Trump administration. We strongly believe that CRDC is necessary for school districts to be held accountable for creating a learning environment which is welcoming for all. Additionally, we would urge a Biden administration to institute labeling complaints by specific religion, the way CRDC currently differentiates complaints by race.

- **Ensure Tax-Payer Dollars are Not Spent on Bigotry.**

⁹⁵ <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/religion.html>

⁹⁶ <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/aanhpi-massa-factsheet-201606.pdf>

⁹⁷ <https://www.usccr.gov/pubs/docs/081506campusantibrief07.pdf>

⁹⁸ <https://ocrdata.ed.gov/Home>

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 currently states, “No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”⁹⁹ Thus while speech-- even when controversial or offensive-- is protected under the First Amendment, the federal government has a responsibility to ensure that no funds are disbursed to researchers who have a track-record of fomenting any religious bigotry, lest a protected class be “subjected to discrimination” by activities receiving federal funds. This responsibility undergirds the need to create a working definition of Hinduphobia so that Title VI of the Civil Rights Act can be upheld with respect to anti-Hindu discrimination when it is motivated by race or national origin.

Concerns with Current Trends

Many American Hindus today are concerned about the ways in which advocacy and community organizations closely affiliated with the Left and the Democratic Party have stridently opposed the diversity and inclusion measures proposed above. For example, activist collective Equality Labs has characterized attempts to mitigate clear bias against Hinduism in educational materials as “an embittered alliance of conservative Hindu groups hell-bent on rewriting history.”¹⁰⁰ Equality Labs has closely worked with progressive Congressman Ro Khanna (D-CA) in the recent past. Sunita Viswanath of an organization called “Sadhana” has called attempts at seeking changes to educational materials in California introducing “Hindu fundamentalist histories.” Viswanath was recognized as a “Champion for Change” by the Obama administration in 2015.¹⁰¹

The continued support by members of the Democratic Party for groups that exhibit an anti-Hindu ideology, while failing to recognize Hindu Americans in diversity-related education policies and resources continues to be a source of consternation for many American Hindus.

Because anti-Hinduism is often cloaked in the language of social justice, it is imperative that progressive politicians like Vice President Biden condemn Hinduphobia and support the efforts of the Hindu community to create a framework for understanding anti-Hindu attitudes in education, alongside the discrimination faced by other communities.

⁹⁹ <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/frontpage/pro-students/race-origin-pr.html>

¹⁰⁰ <https://www.equalitylabs.org/latest-news/2020/3/20/south-asian-histories-for-all>

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<https://www.theindianpanorama.news/unitedstates/champion-of-change-indian-american-sunita-viswanath-honored-at-white-house/>

Questions

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