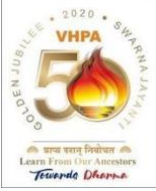
	<h1 style="color: red;">HinduPACT USA</h1> <p style="color: orange;">An Initiative of World Hindu Council of America (VHPA)</p>	
<p><b>Utsav Chakrabarti</b> Executive Director <b>Ajay Shah</b> Convener</p>	<h2>HinduPACT USA Questionnaire for Congressional Candidates</h2>	

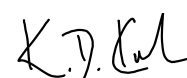
**September 1, 2020**

### Domestic Issues

1. Will you ensure that the Homeland Security, Justice Department, and the FBI will work closely with the Hindu Mandirs (Temples) and other organizations to ensure that they are provided protection against hate crime and discrimination? Yes, I will.
2. As an elected representative, will you:
  - a. Consult practitioners of Hindu faith to develop guidelines related to accommodation of Hindus in workplaces, educational institutions, hospitals, prisons etc.? Yes.
  - b. Ensure that the textbooks and instructional materials that promote Hinduphobia and reflect misrepresentation of Hindu dharma (faith) in school textbooks are removed. I'm not in favor of banning books, but they would definitely need to be marked as being misinforming.
  - c. Defund Universities and colleges that continue to institutionalize Hindupobic teachings? Yes.
3. Over 80% of high skilled immigrants who are eligible for Green Card are Hindus. What are your views on extended delays in Green Card processing times (often more than 20 years) for these legal immigrants? I would like to open the immigration process to anyone that passes a criminal background check and health check to immediately qualify for a work permit.

### Global Issues:

1. Will you promote equal rights and security for Dharmic communities (Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist) in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh? Yes, everyone deserves to live as they choose as long as they are not causing harm to others.
2. The United States has a long tradition of offering hope and safe haven to refugees and to those seeking asylum. Will you give persecuted followers of Dharmic faiths who are minorities in these countries, asylum under the "emergency refugee protection" program? Yes.
3. Will you refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of fellow democracies like India that seeks to give asylum to religious minorities that are legally or constitutionally persecuted in theocratic countries in the region? Yes, who a country wants to give asylum to is their own affair.
4. Will you promote stronger relations with India and support India's role in a new vision for the Indo-Pacific, to counter-terrorism and advance our shared security and economic interests in the region? Yes. I believe the US and India have much common ground in the region. My understanding is that India historically was a leader of the non-aligned movement. Where it makes sense to work together to promote peace and economic growth, we should.



October 7, 2020

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