

# Calling Students: Build an America For All of Us! Cheat Sheet

Produced by South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)



## TERMS

**BULLY:** to treat abusively; to affect by means of force or coercion

**HARASS:** to annoy persistently; to create an unpleasant or hostile situation for especially by uninvited and unwelcome verbal or physical conduct

**HATE CRIME:** any of various crimes (as assault or defacement of property) when motivated by hostility to the victim as a member of a group (as one based on color, creed, gender, or sexual orientation)

**RACISM:** a belief that race is the primary determinant of human traits and capacities and that racial differences produce an inherent superiority of a particular race; racial prejudice or discrimination

**ETHNOCENTRIC:** characterized by or based on the attitude that one's own group is superior

**SECONDARY SCREENING:** an additional security screening of passengers by immigration and airport security authorities. Often Muslims, Arabs, and South Asians are subject to secondary screenings because of their race, religion, or national origin

**SLUR:** an insulting or disparaging remark or innuendo; a shaming or degrading effect

**XENOPHOBIA:** fear and hatred of strangers or foreigners or of anything that is strange or foreign

**ISLMAOPHOBIA:** hatred or fear of Muslims or of their politics or culture

**BACKLASH:** a sudden violent backward movement or reaction; a strong adverse reaction (as to a recent political or social development)

**POST 9/11 BACKLASH:** various forms of bias and backlash that Muslims, Arabs, and South Asians have experienced in various contexts after 9/11

## STEPS FOR CHANGE

- 1) Identify a problem in your community
- 2) Identify those responsible
- 3) Mobilize your peers
- 4) Create and execute a plan of action

## POTENTIAL PLANS

- Connect with your campus paper to cover the importance of addressing this issues (i.e. bias incidents, hate crimes, etc.)
- Distribute informational fliers around campus
- Organize a vigil to bring attention to incidents of post-9/11 backlash
- Raise awareness about hate crimes and post-9/11 backlash by holding film screenings
- Arrange an informational session around your issue at other student organization meetings
- Organize an information session with campus police to learn how to prevent and report incidents and educate them about cultural and religious barriers that may impact reporting
- If your school does not have a bias crime/intimidation policy, work with campus groups to develop one with school administrators. If your school has a policy in place, publicize it through public events or pieces in your school paper
- Plan *An America for All of Us Week* and incorporate screenings, discussion groups, teach-ins, speakers and arts and culture exhibits

## STATISTICS

- The week after September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001, 645 reports of bias incidents and crimes targeting South Asians and Middle Easterners were reported
- Between September 2001 and February 2002, approximately 1,200 individuals were detained by the FBI and Immigration and Naturalization Service, many of whom underwent secret hearings without legal counsel
- Under the 'Special Registration' program, which required males between certain ages from a number of Muslim-majority nations to register with authorities, over 13,000 people were placed in deportation proceedings due to immigration violations but no national security threats were identified
- A survey found that in 2007, 75% of Sikh male schoolchildren in New York had been teased or harassed on the basis of their religious identity
- That the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) reported a significant spike in workplace discrimination complaints against those perceived to be Muslim, Sikh or South Asian following September 11th

## POLICIES

**Profiling** is a law enforcement tactic that treats individuals as suspects based on characteristics unrelated to criminal conduct. Such characteristics can often include race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, nationality, and perceived immigration status. Law enforcement has improperly used such factors as predictors of criminal activity. The African-American and Latino communities have long been affected by profiling. Since 9/11, Arab, Muslim, Sikh, and South Asian individuals have increasingly been targeted by law enforcement in the name of national security.

**NSEERS:** In late 2002, the Department of Justice implemented a tracking program called NSEERS (the National Security Entry/Exit Registration Program) to monitor visitors to the United States. The domestic portion of this program called "special registration" required male non-citizens, aged 16 and older from 25 designated Arab and Muslim countries, to register with local immigration authorities. Nearly 83,000 men participated in the special registration program. While the program claimed to be a tool to increase security, none of the men who registered were charged with terrorist related crimes. Yet, by the summer of 2003, over 13,000 men were placed in detention and deportation proceedings, primarily for minor immigration status violations.

**End Racial Profiling Act (ERPA)** bars the use of racial profiling practices by law enforcement agencies. If enacted into law, the End Racial Profiling Act will accomplish various goals, including:

- Prohibit profiling based on race, religion, ethnicity, or national origin by federal, state and local law enforcement (including searches in the transportation context and interviews at the border)
- Establish requirements for law enforcement to collect data, provide anti-profiling trainings, and develop a complaint mechanism for affected individuals
- Allow the Department of Justice to withhold grants to entities that fail to comply with the law and provide funding to these seeking to eliminate the practice
- Allow affected individuals to seek redress by being able to file a lawsuit

As we mark ten years since September 11th, America will remember and reflect upon the loss of life on that day, and the events that have transpired since then. Over the past decade, many communities who call America home have been affected by unfair policies and xenophobic rhetoric. This year, let's work together to ensure that our country is true to the fundamental ideals of fairness, diversity and equality, and that we live in –

**An America for All of Us**

<http://is.gd/america4all> | [america4all@saalt.org](mailto:america4all@saalt.org)

