



Hindu American Community Policy Platform 2022

The Hindu community in America is an ethnically diverse community of over 3 million. While the majority of Hindus are of Indian origin, there are also vibrant communities of Caribbean, African, European, Hispanic, and East and Southeast Asian descent.

DOMESTIC POLICY PRIORITIES

Hindu Americans want to see positive, accurate portrayals of Hinduism and Hindu Americans in schools, the media, and the public sphere. Hindu Americans look to elected officials to protect religious liberty and civil rights, prevent hate crimes, and fight for immigration reform consistent with Hindu American values.

FEDERAL

- **HAF supports H.R.3215 Temporary Family Visitation (TFVA) Act** creating a new nonimmigrant visa for family of US citizens and permanent residents to facilitate family visits
- **HAF supports H.R.3648 Equal Access to Green cards for Legal Employment (EAGLE) Act** removing discriminatory greencard country caps so H1-B/H-4 visa holders may securely establish roots in the US.
- **HAF supports H.R.2383 / S.1086 The National Opposition to Hate, Assault, and Threats to Equality (NO HATE) Act of 2021** and other similar legislation.

STATE

- **HAF supports NY A.6846 / NY S.5710** establishing Diwali as a public holiday and **NY A.7062 / NY S.5709** establishing Diwali as a public school holiday.
See Dharmic Days and Hindu Holidays: A Guide to Religious Accommodation
- **HAF opposes** language in legislation mislabeling swastikas as Nazi hate symbols, ignoring their auspicious use in Hinduism, Sikhism, Jainism, and Buddhism for 4,000+ years.
See HAF-AJC-ICMW brochure: The Swastika: Use and Abuse of a Sacred Symbol
- **HAF opposes** legislation that seeks to target and discriminate against people of Indian origin and reinforce false, negative stereotypes about the Hindu American community.

FOREIGN POLICY PRIORITIES

Hindu Americans enjoy the bond between the world's two largest democracies, India and the United States, and want to see a strengthened U.S.-India relationship at all levels. This includes furthering peace in South Asia, ending terrorism, and championing religious pluralism.

FEDERAL

- **HAF supports** a strong US-India relationship | *India: Democracy in Diversity*
- **HAF supports** India's sovereignty and territorial integrity, including in Jammu & Kashmir, and supports Kashmiri victims of terrorism | *Human Rights Report in Jammu & Kashmir*
- **HAF supports** recognizing the 1971 Bengali Hindu Genocide | *1971 Bengali Hindu Genocide*
- **HAF opposes** the systematic abduction, forced conversions and forced marriages of young Christian, Hindu and Sikh girls in Pakistan | *Save Pakistan's Stolen Girls*
- **HAF opposes** blasphemy laws in Pakistan and Bangladesh that violate religious freedom and are used to justify mob violence against religious minorities
- **HAF opposes** Pakistan's International Religious Freedom Act "CPC" waiver for its violation of religious freedom and ongoing support for terrorism against US interests | *Hindus in Pakistan*