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Talking About Rep. Peter King Hearings

For nearly two decades, the Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC) has been closely engaged in the monitoring and assessment of national security and violent extremism concerns. In 1993, we published *The Counter-Terrorism Chronicles*, our first series of policy memos on the topic.

Since then, MPAC has remained a thought leader within the Muslim American community through the publication of reports such as *Counter-Productive Counter-Terrorism* and *Building Bridges to Strengthen America*, and the dissemination of community-oriented anti-extremism messages, such as the *Injustice Cannot Defeat Injustice* video and the *National Grassroots Campaign to Fight Terrorism*.

Below are a series of suggested media talking points to deal with the points anticipated to be raised by the upcoming radicalization hearings held by Rep. Peter King (R-NY):

SUGGESTED MESSAGES

Pure political posturing

These hearings appear little more than political circus with Rep. King as the ringleader. Due to his inflammatory rhetoric, Rep. King has based his claims on unknown sources, proposed witnesses with no community credentials and created a toxic conversation on an important issue. The Congressman has missed an important opportunity to engage in a serious dialogue on extremism in the U.S.

Active community/law enforcement partnerships already exist

Muslim American communities have consistently engaged with law enforcement on all levels. Since 9/11, two out of every five Al-Qaeda plots threatening the U.S. have been prevented with the help of tips and vigilance from Muslims. That's why federal and local law enforcement, ranging from FBI Director Robert Mueller to LA County Sheriff Lee Baca, maintains community partnerships with Muslim Americans.

Hearings hurt our national security

The narrow scope of these hearings is to the detriment of our national security. As Ranking Member of the House Homeland Security Committee Bennie Thompson recently said, "While I agree that homegrown terrorism... deserve[s] continuing attention, a single-minded approach ignores all other threats."