



May 19, 2020

Respected Council Members Dai Thao, Rebecca Noeker, Chris Tolbert, Mitra Jalali, Amy Brendmoen, Nelsie Yang and Jane Prince:

On behalf of the members of the Alliance for Persecuted Peoples Worldwide (APPWW) we are writing to express our **opposition** to the City Council's resolution 20-712, on India's Citizenship Amendment Act and their consideration of a National Register of Citizens (NRC).

The laws passed by the Government of India are an internal matter of another country and are between it and its citizens. No other country, let alone a city government has either the authority, background nor insight to sit in judgement on the internal affairs of another Sovereign Democratic Republic. The Minneapolis City Council is in violation of its ethical duties to its citizens. They elected you to help solve local problems and not use taxpayer money and time to feed your political ambitions.

The CAA and NRC are unrelated. One of them, the CAA was passed by an overwhelming majority of legislators, signed by the President of India, and reviewed by the Supreme Court of India. The other, the NRC, is something that is being discussed. It has neither been formulated nor been passed. The Government is engaged with citizens, intellectuals, and other Indian experts to formulate a proposal.

**The assertion in your resolution that the CAA will strip 200 million Indian Citizens who follow the Islamic faith is categorically FALSE.** To the contrary, **CAA gives citizenship to over 30,000 religiously persecuted minorities** from countries in the region. It is no different than our Lautenberg Amendment which until recently was regarded highly by Congresswoman Rep. Pramila Jayapal from Washington State.

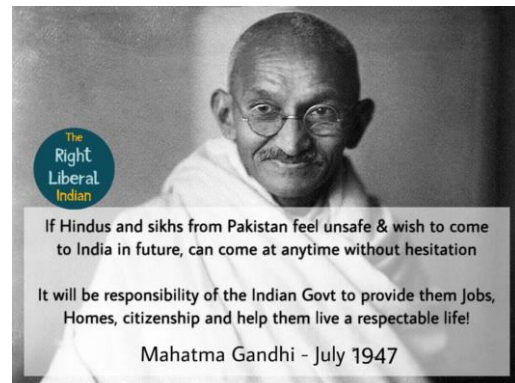
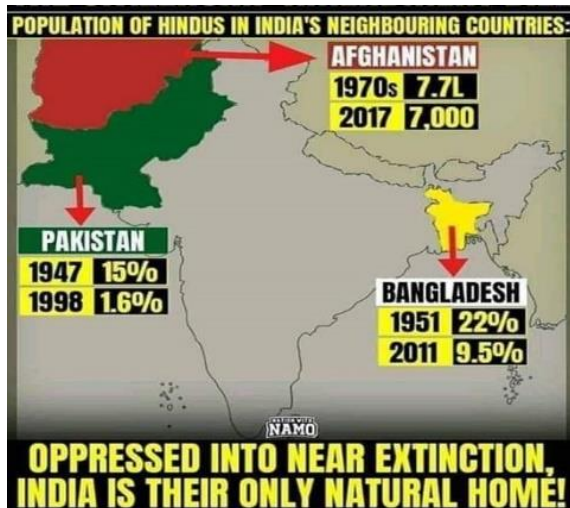
### **History of the CAA**

Since you have taken it upon yourselves to deliberate on an internal matter of another sovereign country, we hope that you will spare some time to understand the historical facts about the matter.

After the violent separation of undivided India into India and Pakistan in 1947, the Indian Prime Minister Nehru signed the [Nehru-Liaquat Pact](#) in 1950 with the then Pakistani Prime Minister. This pact required each country to ensure that its minorities enjoy complete equality of citizenship and receive treatment identical to that available for other nationals of their country.

Between 1950 and recent times, the population of non-Muslims in Pakistan and Bangladesh (formerly East Pakistan) has decreased to precipitously low levels.

According to Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Foundation's [White Paper on the Citizenship Amendment Bill](#), the percentage of Hindus in Pakistan in 1941 was nearly 14% and today it is just around 1.5%. Similarly, in Bangladesh, it was 22% in 1951 but is now less than 10%. These numbers amount to millions of lives.



A casual perusal of the facts of the 1971 Bangladesh war show how Islamist militias killed nearly 3 million Hindus, raped anywhere between 200,000 to 300,000 Bangladeshi Hindu women, internally displaced an estimated 30 million people and systematically attempted to purge any Hindu influence in Bangladesh. All of this because they were not Muslim and wanted to follow their own faith. Minority rights are practically non-existent in these Islamic countries. Until 2017 a Hindu marriage was not even considered legal in Pakistan.

At the same time, the percentage of Muslims in India since 1950 has grown from approximately 9% to 15% (as per the 2011 census).

Several studies such as from Pew Research show that by 2050 India will be home to the largest number of Muslims in the world.

1. <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/04/21/by-2050-india-to-have-worlds-largest-populations-of-hindus-and-muslims/>
2. <https://www.pewforum.org/2015/04/02/religious-projections-2010-2050/>

The CAA is limited in scope and targeted to help rehabilitate minorities left behind as a vestige of partition. **CAA has nothing to do with Indian citizens irrespective of their religions.**

CAA as it stands is only for those persecuted minorities who are already in India and are languishing in refugee camps prior to December 2014. CAA provides a pathway to citizenship to these persecuted people. It does not deprive a single Indian of their citizenship.

Irrespective of CAA, all regular naturalization routes continue to be available to all, Muslim and non-Muslim.

We hope you see that India's Citizenship Amendment Act is one of the most generous human rights laws ever passed by a country to help repatriate its erstwhile citizens who have been languishing as religious minorities in neighboring countries. We also hope you see that the National Registry of Citizens has nothing to do with the CAA.

This city council must unequivocally oppose this misinformed resolution that will create unnecessary divide and hate in our diverse communities. Let us focus on building bridges instead.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Ram Dixit, Bhakti Joshi, Archana Sunil  
Board Members  
Alliance for Persecuted Peoples Worldwide (APPWW)  
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#### References

1. [Text of CAA](#)
2. [Becoming a Naturalized Indian Citizen](#)
3. [Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation's White Paper on CAB](#)
4. <https://www.hafsite.org/human-rights-issues/bangladesh-policy-brief-genocide-and-ethnic-cleansing-hindus>
5. <https://www.dailyo.in/politics/the-missing-hindus-in-south-asia-and-a-conspiracy-of-silence/story/1/1149.html>