Imagine a World Without Hate™

July 26, 2013

The Honorable Steve King
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative King,

We write to urge you to stop using inappropriate and incendiary language in the press and in Congress.

According to press reports, you claimed that many of the undocumented children in the U.S. are drug mules. An article in Newsmax last week quoted you as saying, “For everyone who’s a valedictorian, there’s another 100 out there that weigh 130 pounds and they’ve got calves the size of cantaloupes because they’re hauling 75 pounds of marijuana across the desert….Those people would be legalized with the same act.”

Immigration remains a deeply polarizing issue in American politics and public life. Policies adopted in the halls of government — and the words used in the debate, whether on the floors of Congress or on the nightly news —directly impact our ability to sustain a society that ensures dignity and equality for all. Incendiary language and rhetoric does little to advance the discussion and perpetuates stereotypes that have no place in today’s debate.

To make matters worse, instead of apologizing for your offensive comments, on the House floor you compared your situation to Jesus facing Jewish accusers. By referencing Jews as Jesus’s accusers you raise the specter of the idea that Jews killed Jesus, which has helped to foster and reinforce anti-Semitism throughout the centuries. We find these comments deeply offensive.

We urge you to retract your statements and reject such odious comparisons in the future and instead focus on working with other Members of Congress to craft comprehensive reform that honors the United States’ history as a nation of immigrants.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Abraham H. Foxman
National Director

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