

June 26, 2023

Dear President Biden,

Thank you for your continued leadership in countering domestic terrorism. We appreciate your clear guidance to the American public, including your unambiguous statement from the recently released National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism that “our intelligence agencies have determined that domestic terrorism rooted in white supremacy—including antisemitism—is the greatest terrorist threat to our Homeland today.”

We are thankful that Americans are hearing this urgent message from the highest levels of government. We share your commitment to uniting communities and want to be partners in building bipartisan solutions to prevent hate-fueled violence.

Nearly two years ago, we also welcomed the U.S. government’s first-ever comprehensive Strategy to Counter Domestic Terrorism; and interagency approach to more adequately address the rising threat of domestic violent extremism: among them violent white supremacy and anti-government extremism.

The four pillars of the National Strategy: (1) understanding and sharing domestic terrorism information (2) preventing domestic terrorism recruitment and mobilization (3) disrupting and deterring domestic terrorism activity (4) confronting long term contributors to domestic terrorism – represent a cohesive plan that focus federal resources on big solutions to best eradicate threat. Since its release, we have seen an increase in law enforcement and terrorism prevention efforts that bear real success. However, we have seen little evidence that the FBI has increased its emphasis on domestic terrorism. Additionally, we are equally troubled by the continuing normalization of extremist ideologies in our nation, which foments extremist beliefs and actions.

We know you share our belief that a strategy can lack rigor without an accompanying implementation approach that clearly articulates each department and agencies’ responsibilities and benchmarks for success. As such we call on your Administration to fully report on the status of its commitments – specifically, how each agency has implemented, and will continue to implement the Strategy. Additionally, we encourage the Administration to release a public version of any Strategic Implementation Plan which will advance civil society’s understanding of and ability to support, and help execute, the Strategy where possible.

Strategies can only be as effective as their implementation. Upon the two-year anniversary of the Countering Domestic Terrorism Strategy, we urge you to provide a public review of its performance and any possible legislative changes that may help strengthen it.

We want to be partners in the “whole of society” approach to combating domestic violent extremism and that starts with a clear and concise understanding on how the Strategy has been implemented. We look forward to continuing our work together, to being a partner in the fight to address domestic extremism which has no place in our great nation.

Sincerely,

ADL (Anti-Defamation League)

Center for the Study of Hate & Extremism

Human Rights First

Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD)

National Action Network

National Urban League

Sikh Coalition

Western States Center