

## Trump's fear-o-meter must stop to maintain unity

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President Donald Trump capitalizes on fears and not on facts. It's our moral obligation, including that of all mainstream media, to continue educating Trump's base about the facts. They will be the ones who will determine his presidency. His supporters appear to be misinformed, not uninformed.

Let me use one example: undocumented immigrants and crime rates.

A large body of research finds no link between immigration and high crime rates, with some studies even suggesting places with more immigrants actually enjoy lower crime rates. The Cato Institute [recently published a report](#) using American Community Survey data and concluded that legal and illegal immigrants are less likely to be incarcerated than natives relative to their shares of population.

Yet Trump issued the executive order "[Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States](#)" directing the Department of Homeland Security to deport most illegal immigrants because, he said, "Many aliens who illegally enter the United States ... present a significant threat to national security and public safety."

He has also proposed to potentially withhold federal funds from so-called sanctuary cities despite the fact that [a recent analysis](#) by the University of California-San Diego found crimes to be lower in sanctuary cities.

The acting director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Thomas Homan, during an off-camera briefing at the White House [said that](#) undocumented immigrants didn't commit more crimes than native-born Americans.

This comment is in stark contrast to what Trump said during his campaign. The idea that immigrants in the country illegally are inextricably linked with crime was embedded deeply in Trump's candidacy. The candidate brought parents of children killed by undocumented immigrants onto the stage during his rallies and appeared with them at news conferences. He invited relatives of people killed by immigrants to sit in the audience at his address to Congress.

Trump knows how to play with the emotions of the average person and uses tools to capitalize on those emotions. Fear is one of the tools he used to win the presidential election.

Now, as he did during the campaign, Trump has invited the victims of crimes perpetrated by undocumented immigrants to support his anti-immigrant rhetoric ahead of two votes in Congress on immigration.

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One is a bill that would increase maximum penalties for people who have been deported and illegally re-enter the country.

The second takes aim at so-called sanctuary cities.

The proposals' critics say the language fails to adequately distinguish between criminals and otherwise law-abiding undocumented immigrants or asylum seekers who attempt to enter the United States.

Trump has also called in his executive order for creation of an ICE department called VOICE, Victims of Immigration Crime Engagement. The goal of this office is to provide proactive, timely, adequate and professional services to victims of crimes committed by "removal aliens," and to provide quarterly reports studying the effects of the "victimization by criminal aliens present in the United States." The latter charge drew comparisons to Nazi Germany, given that the German government under Adolf Hitler published statistics about crimes committed by Jewish people.

I encourage our friends, coworkers and neighbors to work with us at We Are Many: United Against Hate to organize educational events in both rural and urban areas based on facts and to invite the mainstream media to become strategic partners in promoting such events. You can reach me at [makhtar623@gmail.com](mailto:makhtar623@gmail.com).

Together we can build an America that is strong, free of violence and fear, and united.

God bless America.