

To,

The Respected Mayor Edison Township Mr. Samip Joshi & Edison Council Members,

We are surprised and disappointed that a “March For Unity” is being organized on behalf of the Indian diaspora claiming to celebrate “unity in diversity,” but without participation from any mainstream Indian Muslim, Sikh, Christian or Dalit groups. In fact, this march appears to be organized by Hindutva Organizations, including the Indian Business Association (IBA) that had itself admitted that its August Independence Parade was divisive and anti-Muslim.

This deliberate omission of mainstream Indian American organizations representing minority faiths, such as Indian American Muslim Council, Hindus for Human Rights and Dalit Solidarity Forum, sends a clear message that Indian Muslims, Dalits, Sikhs, and Christians are not seen as worthy of inclusion in a Unity March despite having a strong presence in the US.

It is deeply alarming that one of the event’s co-sponsors is the Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (HSS), which is the international wing of India’s Hindu supremacist paramilitary group [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh](#) (RSS). It has been widely reported that the RSS is bent on [committing a genocide of Muslims in India](#). Indeed, the RSS has a [long history of committing violence](#) against Indian minorities, including mob lynchings and public beatings.

A study released by South Asia Citizens Web, which tracked [Hindu Nationalist influence in the US from 2014-2021](#) found that a number of major US-based Hindu organizations maintain ideological and monetary ties with fascist-inspired groups in India. Rutgers professor Audrey Truschke has also [released a report](#) on the dangers of these US-based groups.

The HSS believes in the [ideology of Hindutva](#), which is explicitly a hate ideology, inspired by Nazism and modeled on the lines of the KKK. It is a [vile, racist, hate-filled, bigoted ideology](#) that has no place in the United States.

The HSS and the IBA obviously do not care for diversity, but actively seek to eradicate it and promote a Hindu-centric vision, both in India and the US. Their presence at a unity march is both insidious and dangerous.

It is deeply disappointing that despite our many attempts to inform Edison’s leadership about the way Hindutva Organizations are threatening the unity and wellbeing of the diaspora community, your office has issued a permit for this march.

We have repeatedly asked Edison’s leadership to do their due diligence in learning about Hindu nationalism in the United States and its manifestations in our city. [You yourself criticized](#) the IBA’s use of a Hindu nationalist hate symbol in their Independence Day parade, as have [Senators Bob Menendez and Cory Booker](#) and several of your [fellow city officials](#).

We hope that you will not follow up these denunciations of hatred with support for this event via your attendance, and instead support events that celebrate the true spirit of diversity and tolerance in the diaspora.

Should you need more information or have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

The Delegates from:

- Indian American Muslim Council of New Jersey ([www.IAMC.com](http://www.IAMC.com))
- American Muslims for Democracy (<http://americanmuslimsfordemocracy.org/>)
- CAIR New Jersey (<https://cair-nj.org>)
- Federation of Indian American Christian Organizations FIACONA)(<https://www.fiacona.org/>)
- World Without Genocide (<http://worldwithoutgenocide.org>)



Copy CC'ed to:

- The Organizers of the "March for Unity",
- Mr. Ankur Vaidya
- Mr. Kenny Desai
- Mr. Srujal Parikh FIA
- Mr. Alok (FIA)