

5 Ways to Get Involved

**25 YEARS LATER:
STORIES OF SURVIVAL &
SOLIDARITY**

www.25-years-later.org



Take Time to Reflect.

As we near the anniversary, nonprofits can mark it by creating space and time to remember what happened on 9/11 and how families and communities have been affected. Staff members might have personal connections to 9/11 and are working through grief, loss, and trauma. Staff and members who are of South Asian, Muslim, Sikh or Arab background might have encountered backlash and bigotry over the twenty-five years since 9/11.

Your organization might wish to hold a moment of silence, invite staff into a healing circle, or open up space for conversations using the discussion prompts below.

DISCUSSION PROMPTS

- *What do you remember about 9/11?*
- *If you don't remember the day, what were you taught about the impact of 9/11 and*
- *what do you still want to learn?*
- *How has that day and its aftermath affected you, your family, your community?*
- *On the 25th anniversary of 9/11, what is important to recognize and commit to?*

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Amplify State and Local Efforts.

There are a number of ways to get involved with state and local efforts from a policy standpoint.

In consultation with partners at the South Asian Coalition and allies, the Sikh Coalition has created a state- and local-level resolution/proclamation toolkit as well as additional paths for advocacy.

Visit The Sikh Coalition's Action Page to learn more:

thesikh.co/25A911,

www.25-years-later.org

Connect the Dots.

September 11th is not a historical moment that is frozen in time. The consequences of policy decisions made after 9/11 pervade our lives to this day.

We recommend creating space with staff and members to learn about and discuss the ongoing ways in which public policies and narratives affect us today.

Find resources to help you connect the dots in the Throughlines section of the 25 Years Later Resource Hub.

Examples of Connections

- The current expansion of the immigration enforcement apparatus, including the revitalized surveillance state, is the result of laws passed before and after 9/11 which enabled law enforcement entities to collect and share information regardless of individualized suspicion.
- The counterterrorism framework is now being applied to immigrants and progressive groups through directives building on WOT policies such as National Presidential Security Memorandum - 7.
- Increasing Islamophobia and anti-immigrant sentiments, including the 2026 shooting of a San Diego mosque that took the lives of 3 community members.
- Repression of voices advocating for Palestinian liberation
- Foreign policy targeting countries that are predominantly Black, Brown, and/or Muslim

Partner with and Support Organizations Affected by 9/11

In the aftermath of 9/11, Black, Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, Sikh and South Asian (BAMEMSA) communities experienced backlash in the form of hate violence, workplace discrimination and government profiling and surveillance. Nonprofits working with these communities continue to highlight ongoing effects of the post 9/11 backlash and the War on Terror, from mental health to family separations. In addition, BAMEMSA organizations are addressing issues related to the pandemic, immigration policy, and access to basic benefits. And, BAMEMSA organizations have contributed to movements for justice through organizing, mobilization, narrative change, and advocacy.

Assess whether your organization supports and partners with BAMEMSA groups. How could you include BAMEMSA groups in your coalitions and networks? What connections can be made between the issues that your organization address and those affecting BAMEMSA communities? How can your organization uplift the work of BAMEMSA groups to your networks of funders and partners?

Convene a Solidarity Dialogue.

To mark the 25th anniversary of September 11, 2001, the backlash and the Global War on Terror, you could hold a conversation at your organization, with your friends and family, and with community members using our resources and testimonials as a starting point. Ideas include a dialogue with your colleagues; a meeting of your student/community group; or an organizational learning session.

During the conversation, you could:

Watch testimonials from South Asian community leaders on our [Voices from the Field](#) page

Read one of the articles about the post 9/11 era posted in our [Resources & Learning Library](#).

Facilitate a conversation about your selected testimonial/article using the following questions.

- What came up for you as you listened to this testimonial?
- Were you surprised by anything you've heard?
- Was there new information that was shared?
- What did you learn about community building during the 9/11 backlash?
- What is the infrastructure needed to support organizations today?
- What were the narratives after 9/11 that continue to shape our country today?
- What inquiries and curiosities are you sitting with?
- What commitments can you/your organization make to solidarity?

Find resources and
more at

WWW.25-YEARSLATER.ORG