

September 30, 2021

Abigail Johnson, CEO of Fidelity Investments
Jacob Clauson, Vice President of Compliance - Fidelity Investments
Pamela Norley, President of Fidelity Charitable
Nageeb Sumar, Vice President of Philanthropic Strategies - Fidelity Charitable
Jill Weiner, Chief Administrative Officer and Vice President - Fidelity Charitable
Fidelity Charitable Board of Trustees

Dear Fidelity Investments and Fidelity Charitable Leadership,

We represent the Unmasking Fidelity coalition, anchored by Action Center on Race & the Economy, Asian American Resource Workshop, Community Labor United, Muslim Justice League, Political Research Associates, and Resource Generation. We are supported by the 30 local and national organizations listed below. Our organizations collectively represent thousands of community members, including hundreds of account holders with \$7Mil in Fidelity Charitable DAF accounts and \$53Mil in Fidelity Investment accounts, along with Financial Advisors who manage \$2.6 Bil in Fidelity Investment accounts.

We are writing to you about our continuing concern¹ that Fidelity Charitable's Donor-Advised Funds (FC DAFs) contribute to tax-exempt non-profits that promote anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim, anti-Black or anti-LGBTQ rhetoric and policies² that enable white supremacist and fascist violence. This includes Turning Point USA, an organization that is connected to the January 6th attacks on the Capitol³, Alliance Defending Freedom, an organization that defended forced sterilization of transgender people⁴ and, Center for Security Policy, whose biased research underpinned the recently overturned Muslim Ban.⁵

In the two years since members of our coalition met with Fidelity and Fidelity Charitable leadership about this issue, we have seen no evidence of alteration of policy or practice. The most recent publicly available records suggest that FC has continued to direct millions of dollars⁶ in grants to organizations promoting rhetoric and policies that enable white supremacist and fascist violence. Such inaction will further challenge Fidelity Charitable's standing as a reputable organization in the philanthropic sector.

FC DAFs also play a significant role in granting money to a US-based tax-exempt non-profit, Central Fund of Israel, that funds internationally illegal Israeli settlements built on stolen Palestinian land⁷ and another organization, Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation, that enables the growth of the Hindu

¹ [Campaign Letter sent to Abigail Johnson and Fidelity, 2019](#)

² [Sludge Report, "America's Biggest Charities Are Funneling Millions to Hate Groups From Anonymous Donors" February 19, 2019.](#)

³ [Reuters, "How Trump's pied pipers rallied a faithful mob to the Capitol" January 11, 2021.; Business Insider, "A former firefighter charged in the Capitol riot took a bus organized by Turning Point USA to DC, filing says" March 3, 2021.](#)

⁴ [Southern Poverty Law Center, "Anti-LGBT Hate Group Alliance Defending Freedom Defended State-Enforced Sterilization for Transgender Europeans" July 27, 2017.](#)

⁵ [BBC News, "Trump's 'Muslim lockdown': What is the Center for Security Policy?" December 8, 2015.](#)

⁶ [Fidelity Charitable FY2019 990 Schedule I](#)

⁷ [CCR Justice, "Reps. Tlaib, Ocasio-Cortez, Carson, Betty McCollum, Pocan, Pressley and Bush seek Treasury Dept examination into charities supporting illegal settlements in Palestine" July 23, 2021. ; T'ruah, "T'ruah Files IRS Complaint Against U.S. Jewish Groups Sending Funds to Israeli Terrorist Orgs" August 30, 2018.](#)

nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, which has reportedly overseen a drastic increase in anti-Muslim violence in India.⁸

We are calling on Fidelity Charitable to take the following actions by October 25th:

1. Publicly disclose all contributions in the last five years, from FY16-FY21, to the ten organizations we've identified below.

- 1.1. Alliance Defending Freedom
- 1.2. Americans for Peace and Tolerance
- 1.3. Center for Security Policy
- 1.4. Central Fund of Israel
- 1.5. David Horowitz Freedom Center
- 1.6. Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation
- 1.7. Family Research Council
- 1.8. Federation for American Immigration Reform
- 1.9. Turning Point USA
- 1.10. VDARE Foundation

2. Publicly disclose all related fees for contributions listed above.

3. Share publicly about policies or screens that are currently being used to determine which organizations can receive DAF grants, and provide examples of organizations you have determined will not receive DAF grants based on your criteria.

Fidelity Charitable has in the past defended its actions on the ground that "Fidelity Charitable is cause-neutral."⁹ Our concern has never been about the legality of what Fidelity Charitable is doing, but rather if it is moral and reflects the public charity's own stated values. In a report FC itself released earlier this year about the "seismic shifts to redefine philanthropy," it was stated that donors are "increasingly prioritiz[ing] social good in everyday decision making.... One-in-five donors have engaged in impact investing and considered social or environmental implications when making investment decisions [and] seven-in-ten donors said that it's important to work for a company engaged in corporate social responsibility."¹⁰ This should push FC to reconsider its "cause-neutral stance."

On September 13, 2019 representatives from the Coalition met via Zoom with Nabil Ashour, Jacob Clauson, Steve Neff, and Catherine D'Amato, employees and trustees of Fidelity Charitable and Fidelity Investments. Following this meeting, Fidelity Charitable responded with the following:

Fidelity Charitable's mission is to grow and further philanthropy as donors seek to make the world a better place... As we hope you heard from our own stories during our meeting, we also care deeply about the issues you raise; however, our responsibility is to all of our donors and the broader nonprofit community.¹¹

We appreciate that donor-advised funds such as the Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund can support important social change efforts; however, allowing these funds to act as conduits to support organizations that promote anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim, anti-Black or anti-LGBTQ rhetoric and policies actively contradicts that intended goal. It is also unacceptable for Fidelity Charitable to earn money from such activities, either through management fees or investment products. Instead,

⁸ [BBC, "Beaten and humiliated by Hindu mobs for being a Muslim in India" September 2, 2021.](#)

⁹ Clauson, Jacob. "[FIDELITY CHARITABLE]." Received by [DARLENE LOMBOS], June 25, 2019.

¹⁰ [Fidelity Charitable, "Seismic Shifts to Redefine Philanthropy"](#)

¹¹ Fidelity Charitable. "[Thank You For Meeting With Us]." Received by [CHRISTOPHER ZIZZAMIA]

Fidelity Charitable should take leadership in the philanthropic sector by publicly disclosing its role in enabling violence along with the current policies and procedures it is utilizing. **These actions will allow Fidelity Charitable to take first steps towards addressing harm that has been caused by its actions.**

We look forward to hearing back from Fidelity Charitable by October 25th. Please contact Fatema Ahmad, Executive Director of Muslim Justice League, at fahmad@muslimjusticeleague.org with any questions or response to this request.

Sincerely,
Unmasking Fidelity Coalition

Action Center on Race & The Economy
Asian American Resource Workshop
Community Labor United
Muslim Justice League
Political Research Associates
Resource Generation

Organizational Sign Ons (Alphabetical)

Access Strategies Fund
BDS Boston
Boston Democratic Socialists of America
Boston Immigration Justice Accompaniment Network
Boston Workers Circle
Center for Constitutional Rights
Council on American-Islamic Relations Minnesota
Chinook Fund
Fresh Pond Capital
Good Shepherd Collective
Herman & Frieda L. Miller Foundation
IfNotNow
Jewish Voice For Peace: Havurah Network, Boston and NC Triangle Chapters
Kavod Boston
Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition
Massachusetts Voter Table
National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy (NCRP)
Palestinian Youth Movement
PRBB Foundation
Public Accountability Initiative / LittleSis
Resource Generation: National, Boston, North Carolina Triangle and Connecticut Chapters
Showing Up for Racial Justice: National and Boston Chapter
Social Justice Fund Northwest
Student Clinic for Immigrant Justice
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call to Human Rights
The Network/La Red
Tufts Asian Student Coalition
Tufts for a Racially Equitable Endowment
US Campaign for Palestinian Rights
Unitarian Universalist Mass Action