

# REPORT: HOW THE “FREEDOM” FOUNDATION IS ASSOCIATING WITH, AND IN SOME CASES PARTICIPATING IN, BOTH DISCRIMINATORY AND HATEFUL ACTIVITIES CATEGORIZED BY GROUPS TARGETED



## BY NATIONAL ORIGIN:

- In 2019, the Freedom Foundation hired Laura Ingraham to speak at their fundraiser. Ingraham has made a profitable career of promoting antisemitism, homophobia, and white supremacy. She has said that immigrants are coming to replace “old America with new America,” and that Mexican immigrants “have come here to murder and rape our people.” She said immigration is pushing “western civilization” to “tipping over a cliff.” This particular brand of [white supremacist rhetoric](#) inspired the recent mass shooting terrorist attack in El Paso that killed 22 people.

## BY ETHNICITY:

- In 2018, the Freedom Foundation hired Dinesh D'Souza to speak at their fundraiser. D'Souza has made millions from his racist, homophobic, misogynistic, and anti-working class writings and movies. He [opposes the Civil Rights Act](#), called President Obama a “boy” from “the ghetto”, said that American slaves were treated “[pretty well](#)” and African Americans behave differently from other races through [negative behavior and dependency](#).
- The Freedom Foundation has [dismissed anti-racism curriculum](#) as “a curriculum that openly espouses hatred for their country and assigns guilt for countless alleged wrongdoings purely on the basis of skin color.”

## BY GENDER (INCLUDING PREGNANCY):

- The Freedom Foundation’s staff consistently attacks Planned Parenthood, an organization that is dedicated to providing women’s health services, calling them a “[radical social organization](#)” and a “[baby killing, body-part brokering, government money consuming machine](#).”
- Freedom Foundation ex-CEO, now President, Tom McCabe has criticized “women’s groups,” saying there’s a concerted effort by [environmentalists, liberals and women’s groups to eradicate all manly jobs](#).
- One of the Freedom Foundation’s largest donors has been the Murdock Charitable Trust, which has also funded “crisis pregnancy centers” across the Pacific Northwest. These groups pose as health clinics and often advertise as if they provide abortion services, but, according to NARAL Pro-Choice America, are “almost entirely funded by national anti-choice umbrella organizations and that the [mission of these organizations is to manipulate women into not choosing abortion by giving them false medical information](#).” [IRS via The National Center for Charitable Statistics, accessed 9/9/2015; Mic.com, 9/22/2014; Murdock Charitable Trust, accessed 10/6/2015]



## BY GENDER IDENTITY:

- The Freedom Foundation invited anti-LGBTQ crusader Mike Huckabee for a 2019 fundraiser. During his 2016 presidential campaign, Huckabee called for revisions to hate crime legislation to [allow for discrimination](#) against LGBTQ people and [signed a pledge](#) that described same-sex parents as “unconscionable and destructive” and a “threat to security.” In 2015, Huckabee publicly [mocked transgendered individuals](#) when he cracked, “Now I wish that someone told me that when I was in high school that I could have felt like a woman when it came time to take showers in PE.”

## BY SEXUAL ORIENTATION:

- Freedom Foundation employees and staff members have received fellowship funding from the Alliance Defending Freedom, an organization the Southern Poverty Law Center called “[virulently anti-gay](#).” That same organization’s co-founder has suggested that AIDS is one way God punishes the LGBT community. [Dr. James Dobson’s Family Talk, [accessed 6/3/2015](#)]
- Freedom Foundation staff publicly opposed the Supreme Court ruling that legalized same-sex marriage arguing that it is a “threat to personal freedom.” [Freedom Daily Podcast, June 29, 2015]

## BY RACE:

- The Bradley Foundation, a [major funder](#) of the Freedom Foundation, also funded the fellowship of Charles Murray, a social scientist who argued that [success in America was based on genes](#). The Southern Poverty Law Center has [this to say](#) about Murray: “[Murray] has become one of the most influential social scientists in America, using racist pseudoscience and misleading statistics to argue that social inequality is caused by the genetic inferiority of the black and Latino communities, women and the poor.”
- While working as Freedom Foundation Oregon Director, Anne Marie Gurney wrote in a personal blog: “We all know there were [good and bad slave owners](#), just like there are good and bad dog owners.”

## BY POLITICAL AFFILIATION:

- The Freedom Foundation has repeatedly crossed the legal line in using their tax-exempt dollars to [push a political agenda on behalf of right-wing](#) candidates and causes. They characterize Democratic elected officials as “the enemy.” Their partisan fund-raising materials have said “Are you tired of the Pacific Northwest being dominated by left-wing radicals?” “Freedom Foundation is leading the most aggressive push in twenty years to take back the Pacific Northwest.”
- While Senior Fellow at the Freedom Foundation, (now-ex) Rep. Mike Nearman illegally opened a locked door at the Oregon Capitol during session, allowing armed protesters inside the building. The invaders attacked State Police officers. Nearman was [expelled](#) from the state legislature for his anti-democracy actions. Nearman later [pleaded guilty](#) to a criminal misdemeanor.



## IMMIGRATION STATUS:

- One of the Freedom Foundation's recent employees was (now ex-)Representative [Mike Nearman](#), one of the leaders of the [anti-immigrant hate group](#) Oregonians for Immigration Reform. Their 2018 ballot measure, which tried to repeal decades-old immigrant protections in Oregon received funding from a white nationalist group in Michigan, the Federation for Immigration Reform, whose founder the Southern Poverty Law Center [called](#), "the racist architect of the modern anti-immigrant movement."

## BY RELIGIOUS BELIEF:

- The group's National Outreach Director, Matt Hayward, gave an anti-vaccine speech to far-right activists [in front of a swastika](#) at a rally in Olympia. The use of such symbols legitimizes antisemitism and points to a growing lack of education amongst our citizens of the horrors perpetuated by hate and racism.
- A [major funder](#) of the Freedom Foundation, the Bradley Foundation, has [funded the work of Frank Gaffney](#), a known anti-muslim bigot who played a key role in drafting Trump's [Muslim Ban](#). The Southern Poverty Law Center called Gaffney "[one of America's most notorious Islamophobes](#)".
- Extremist (now ex-) Washington State Rep. Matt Shea was an "honored guest" and speaker at the Freedom Foundation's 2015 Honors Dinner and promoted in a Freedom Foundation email as "one of Washington State's leading conservative voices." In 2018, Shea produced and proudly accepted credit for a dangerous 4-page manifesto he calls the "[Biblical Basis for War](#)". This document sets the stage for widespread violence, assassination, use of deception, and waging war to stop same-sex marriage. This manifesto also includes the terrifying step of "If they do not yield - kill all males."
- Freedom Foundation staff have regularly made bigoted statements, including [calling for the deportation of all Muslims](#).