



**Human Rights First
Mike Pompeo Confirmation Hearing Questions
April 12, 2018**

Views with Respect to Muslims

Given your troubling past statements about the Muslim community within the U.S. and abroad, why do you believe that you will be an effective advocate for the safety, security, and interests of Muslims around the world, and able to effectively advance U.S. interests in relations with Muslim-majority countries?

You received an award in 2016 from Act for America, a hate group that espouses false anti-Muslim narratives. You have also associated with Frank Gaffney, an anti-Muslim extremist. Are you willing to renounce the badly discriminatory views of groups and individuals like these? Do you believe that Muslims are a threat to America? Why do you believe that you are fit to represent all Americans, irrespective of their religion, as Secretary of State?

Views with Respect to LGBT People

During your time in Congress, you repeatedly supported discriminatory legislation and policies aimed at curtailing the rights of LGBT persons. How have your views on issues related to the rights of LGBT persons evolved, if at all?

In many countries around the world, the United States is seen as essential partner of LGBT people, many of whom are faced with discrimination and violence solely based on who they are. Can you affirm that, if confirmed, you will maintain the United States' life-saving work of speaking up for and otherwise supporting the rights of LGBT people?

You opposed the repeal of the Department of Defense's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. In your view, has the repeal of that policy, and the ability of gay men and women to serve openly in the U.S. armed forces, strengthened or weakened U.S. national security?

Refugee Resettlement and Domestic Policy

As of April 1st, halfway through the fiscal year, only 10,548 refugees have been resettled, just 23% of the 45K admissions ceiling. How will you ensure that the State Department makes a good faith effort to meet the refugee admissions ceiling in FY18?

How will the Department of State utilize federal funding for the rest of FY18 to ensure the U.S. refugee admissions program resettles 45,000 refugees this fiscal year?

How many refugees does the President plan to admit this next fiscal year, and how does this compare to the historical average since the 1980 Refugee Act?

The FY 2019 HHS congressional budget justification foresees only resettling 45,000 refugees in FY19 Is this consistent with your budget plans for the US Refugee Admissions Program in FY19?

What can you tell me about the future of family reunification?

As a veteran, you undoubtedly saw how critical the service of foreign nationals were in countries where the US has military missions. How do the Administration's plans for refugee resettlement ensure that Iraqi allies continue to have a path to safety, given that only 36 Iraqi P2s have arrived this FY?

Refugee Resettlement and U.S. Foreign Policy

For nearly four decades, the United States has been a humanitarian world leader, often being a catalyst for other nations to resettle or provide other life-saving support for refugees.

- a) What have foreign policy and national security experts said about the impacts of reduced refugee admissions this fiscal year?
- b) Former DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff wrote in an [op-ed](#) "Our values and our national security interests argue for raising our refugee ceiling, not lowering it." Do you agree or disagree?
- c) What have been your discussions with refugee hosting countries that are critical U.S. allies, including Jordan, Turkey, Egypt, and Kenya?

The Administration has said that the 45,000 FY 2018 refugee admissions ceiling "was consistent with" its "foreign policy goals." Please elaborate on how slashing the number of refugee admissions is consistent with the State Department's foreign policy goals.

- a) A recent Heritage Foundation report states that "resettling refugees is one way for the U.S. to exercise global leadership"? Do you agree or disagree with this assertion?
- b) What have been the foreign policy and national security impacts of reduced refugee admissions this fiscal year, and what do you anticipate those impacts being if lower arrivals continue next year?

Do you believe that it is important for the United States to continue to serve as a global resettlement leader and increase the number of refugees we resettle as part of our response to the growing number of humanitarian emergencies around the world?

What are your plans to use resettlement to address the Rohingya refugee crisis?

For decades, the Lautenberg Program has provided persecuted religious minorities with a path to resettlement in the U.S. This year, an unprecedented percentage of Lautenberg asylum-seekers are being rejected. In light of the Administration's public commitment to aiding persecuted religious minorities, what is your plan for continuing the Lautenberg Program?

The Council on Foreign Relations' Center for Preventative Action recently published a [Contingency Planning Memorandum](#) recommending that the United States help Venezuela's neighbors mitigate a refugee crisis by creating an interagency refugee plan as the basis for a larger coordination effort. How does the State Department plan to address the situation in Venezuela, and what possibility is there for resettlement in the U.S.?

Democracy and Human Rights as a Government Priority

Do you agree that the FY19 budget request reflects a retreat in U.S. support for democracy and human rights?

Do you pledge, if confirmed, to work with the White House to expeditiously identify and nominate an appropriately qualified candidate for Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy and Human Rights?

When do you expect to appoint an appropriately qualified Special Envoy for Anti-Semitism, and can you commit to adequately staffing and resourcing this office?

Russian Influence in the 2018 Midterm Elections

Is the United States prepared to combat Russian attempts to interfere in the 2018 midterm elections? What would you, as Secretary of State, prioritize to contribute to this readiness?

Democratic Backsliding in Europe as a Threat to NATO and boon to Russia

Do you believe that democratic backsliding in certain NATO member states (e.g., Turkey, Poland, and Hungary) inhibits these states' ability to contribute to our shared security, or to be strong allies of the United States? If so, what more should the United States be saying and doing with these allies to ensure that our collective security is upheld? Would you, as Secretary of State, be prepared to support foreign assistance programming to combat the embrace of authoritarian values and standards in Central and Eastern Europe?

As Secretary of State, would you commit to allocating funds to support independent media in Central Europe, in service of a larger strategy to combat authoritarianism in the region?

Human Rights and Counterterrorism in Egypt

Secretary Tillerson withheld almost \$200 million of U.S. foreign military assistance to Egypt, in part out of concern over the government's human rights practices. What conditions will Egypt have to meet for you, if confirmed as Secretary, to release this hold and deliver the aid?

Global Magnitsky Act

As Secretary of State, will you commit to supporting implementation of the Global Magnitsky Act? Will you further commit to implementing the law wherever it will have positive impact, irrespective of geographical boundaries?

Torture

Do you agree that waterboarding and other so-called enhanced interrogation techniques are unlawful and inappropriate for the fight against terrorism?

Using Tools Beyond the Military to Fight Terrorism

Do you agree that to effectively fight terrorism, we need an approach that combines military action with contributions from a diverse group of U.S. government institutions?

What are the dangers of relying too heavily on military force and underutilizing other counterterrorism tools like diplomacy, intelligence sharing, and law enforcement?

Effectiveness of Federal Courts for Trying Terrorism Suspects

If confirmed as America's top diplomat, would you agree that U.S. federal courts have an important role in preventing and punishing acts of terrorism?

Do you support the continued use of Article III courts for prosecuting individuals accused of terrorism-related offenses, including individuals who are captured overseas?

Transparency on Use of Force Policies

Do you agree with the national security experts who [wrote](#) to the administration that transparency and oversight enhance the legitimacy of U.S. counterterrorism operations?

Civilian Harm

Do you agree that minimizing civilian casualties helps further U.S. national interests, particularly in the context of counterterrorism and counterinsurgency operations?

Do you agree that civilian casualties should be minimized even where they are permitted under applicable law?

Legitimacy of U.S. Counterterrorism Mission

How have doubts about the U.S. commitment to upholding human rights and the rule of law harmed our ability to work with partners and allies to counter the terrorism threat?

Preference for Capture

The prior administration believed that capturing suspected terrorists when feasible was far preferable to the use of lethal force due to the opportunity to gather critical intelligence. From your engagements with partners and allies, do you have a perspective on this question?