



May 10, 2017

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Dear Mr. Murdoch, Mr. Zucker, Mr. Griffin, Ms. Scott, Mr. Bass, and Ms. Finan:

On behalf of the Coalition Against Hate¹ and the 34 undersigned organizations, we write to express our deep concern regarding the lack of inclusion of Black, Latino, Middle Eastern, Asian-American, and LGBTQ guests on morning political talk shows.

A recent *Media Matters* analysis of cable news networks from January 1 to March 31 found that white men make up an overwhelming percentage of guest appearances on morning shows on CNN, Fox News, and MSNBC. The [study](#) found that Black, Latino, Asian-American and Middle Eastern American voices are critically and

¹ Coalition Against Hate is a group of diverse organizations coming together to #breakhate by elevating the voices of the impacted and hold purveyors of hate speech accountable. More information about the Coalition Against Hate can be found on our website at www.breakhate.net.

routinely underrepresented.

At a time when these communities are disproportionately impacted by the political climate -- including as [targets of a growing wave of hate crimes](#) -- it is imperative that your networks do better to reflect the full diversity of our country.

The numbers documenting the severe lack of diversity are staggering. For example, Latinos, who according to the [census](#) make up 17.6 percent of the U.S. population, were notably absent on these programs. Just 5 percent of the total guest appearances on *New Day* were made by Latinos; on *Fox & Friends*, it was 4.6 percent; and *Morning Joe* had less than 2 percent Latino representation.

Additionally, even though 13 percent of the U.S. population is Black, across all three networks, the percentage of Black guests did not reach double digits; 7 percent of guests who appeared on *Fox & Friends* were Black, compared to 8 percent on *New Day*, and 9 percent on *Morning Joe*.

Across all networks, Asian-Americans -- the [fastest growing](#) group in the U.S. -- made up less than 3 percent of all guests, with *Fox & Friends* leading with 2.3 percent, and *New Day* and *Morning Joe* following with 1.4 percent and 0.7 percent, respectively.

Media Matters' analysis found that people of Middle Eastern heritage made up 2.4 percent of all guest appearances on *New Day*, 1.3 percent on *Fox & Friends*, and 0.2 percent on *Morning Joe*. Additionally, Middle Eastern women were entirely left out of *Fox & Friends* and *Morning Joe*.

At a time when our communities continue to be the victims of hate crimes, the media must do better in representing the broad spectrum of America. Hate crimes in nine U.S. metropolitan areas [rose](#) more than 20 percent last year, seemingly fueled by passions inflamed during the presidential campaign and by an increased willingness of victims to step forward and report hate crimes when they occur. Bias-based crimes appeared to increase in some cities following the election of President Donald Trump, a trend that has extended into this year with a wave of bomb threats.

Additionally, the number of hate groups in the United States rose for a second year in a row in 2016, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center's (SPLC) [annual census of hate groups](#) and other extremist organizations.

In this environment, it is critical that your networks represent our communities with more frequency. Increasing diversity on your cable morning shows could lead to more tolerance, acceptance and less stereotyping. We urge you to take action in the immediate future to correct this oversight in booking more Black, Latino, Middle Eastern, Asian-American, and LGBTQ guests and broadening the scope of issues on which you include their voices.

We also strongly suggest you to take action in the immediate future to ensure that your shows host discussions and debates that more accurately reflect our nation's changing demographics. We are glad to meet with you to discuss constructive solutions to increase the number and scope of topics that our communities should be included in discussing.

Sincerely,
Alex Nogales
Coalition Against Hate

American GI Forum of the US
American Indians in Film and Television
Arab American Chamber of California
Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Los Angeles
Asian Pacific American Advocates (OCA)
Asian Pacific American Media Coalition
Aspira
Center for Media Justice
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights
Common Cause
Council on American-Islamic Relations
Equal Justice Society
Farmworker Justice
GLAAD
HITN TV
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement
Latin American Civic Association
LatinoJustice PRLDEF
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
MALDEF
Media Action Network for Asian Americans
Media Mobilizing Project
National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives (NAHFE)
National Fair Housing Alliance
National Hispanic Media Coalition
National Immigration Law Center
National Institute for Latino Policy (NiLP)
Public Knowledge
Sikh American Legal Defense & Education Fund (SALDEF)
Southern Poverty Law Center
The LGBT Center Orange County
Visual Communications
Wind of the Spirit, Immigrant Resource Center
Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press