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C.A.P.I.

COALITION OF AMERICANS FOR PLURALISM IN INDIA

www.capimichigan.org

PRESS RELEASE: Hamtramck, Michigan Becomes the Fifth City in USA to Pass Resolution Denouncing CAA/NRC Laws in India

Hamtramck, MI – The Coalition of Americans for Pluralism in India (C.A.P.I.) welcomes the recent resolution from the City of Hamtramck denouncing the discriminatory law called the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) that was passed in India. This City Resolution also denounces the highly discriminatory National Register of Citizens (NRC) that targets religious minorities, oppressed castes, backward classes and is reminiscent of the Nuremberg Laws that contributed to the Holocaust.

The South Asian community in Metro Detroit area were very concerned about the impending humanitarian fallout due to the implementation of the CAA & NRC in India. There were multiple protests rallies across metro Detroit against the systemic and sustained discriminatory amendments to the constitution, loss of property and life due to riots, suppression of free speech and erosion of Indian democracy. Metro Detroit Indian community is concerned that their families back in India are being subjected to such oppression by the government which subscribes to the evil fascist ideology.

This resolution by City of Hamtramck comes when Metro Detroit Indian diaspora were looking for avenues to voice their concerns and welcome it whole-heartedly. This Resolution brings awareness about the oppressed state of religious minorities and dalits in India and helps contain the spread of Hindutva ideology here in Michigan and USA.

“The City of Hamtramck, MI has joined the cities like Seattle WA, Albany NY, Cambridge MA and St. Paul MN that have clearly stated their position of preferring inclusiveness & diversity of faith by passing similar resolutions against CAA” said Shujat Khan of CAPI.

CAPI, a non-profit organization based in Michigan and a lead Interfaith coalition, was instrumental in garnering community support for the Resolution.

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“I support this resolution, we should not be discriminatory against anyone” said Mr. Bill Myers, Executive Director of One Hamtramck LLC.

The CAA uses religion as a qualifying criterion for refugees to be granted Citizenship of India while the NRC (National Register of Citizenship) and NPR (National Population Register) are census tools. This CAA bill will deepen the religious divide in the region and cause increase in discrimination and violence. Race, religion and gender should not be controlling factors when it comes to Indian citizens retaining their citizenship.

The CAA requires citizens to prove their Citizenship by asking for unissued documents from the last century. Millions of people are at risk of being made Stateless and wrongfully stripped of both their property and their Rights. Those who cannot validate their records end up in Detention camps which are now called Holding camps.

Most of these people lack the resources to represent themselves in a court of law when subjected to the impractical criteria of CAA, despite being born and living in India for generations. Prime Minister Modi’s right-wing Government has no regard for these people’s lives since it does not fit into Hindutva/BJP/RSS ideology of making India into a “Hindu-only” nation by abolishing the Constitution of India.

“This is an important coming-together of all voices of religious acceptance and cultural pluralism to support this resolution”, commented Mr Masood Rab, president of CAPI.

Mr Ganga from AANA said, “It is important for us Americans to understand the draconian hierarchy-based Hindu Caste system based on feudal Manusmriti Laws. We despise the hateful and intolerant ideology of RSS and BJP which are discriminatory against subjugated & oppressed communities similar to Apartheid, almost akin to slavery; also against women, indigenous people and the LGBTQ community”.

This is another push to oppose injustice, racism and discrimination. Hopefully, other cities would be encouraged to pass similar resolutions followed by federal legislation in the near future.

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