

For so many children, the harm starts long before detention ever happens. It starts with fear.

For months now, every single school group that has come into my office or that I have visited has raised ICE as one of its top concerns. Elementary students, middle schoolers, high schoolers, even college students, for all of them, ICE is their top concern.

At a time when teachers aren't getting paid enough, and the Department of Education is getting gutted, young people are coming to Congress and asking: How can we stop our friends from being taken away?

This administration is traumatizing an entire generation. That is why we are here today to call for an end to cruel immigration enforcement against children.

End child detention. Defund and dismantle ICE, and save our children from this nightmare.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on a moral crisis unfolding in our country. One that demands the attention of my Republican colleagues and the American people.

Last month, in Portland, Oregon, a seven-year-old girl was detained outside an urgent care clinic while her family sought medical help. Just weeks earlier, a five-year-old was detained while walking home from school in Columbia Heights, Minnesota. These are not isolated incidents. These are children, frightened, vulnerable, and in need of care, caught in an indiscriminate immigration enforcement dragnet.

After their arrests, both children were transferred with their families to the Dilley Family Detention Center in Texas, where reports detail inadequate medical care, limited drinking water, poor nutrition, and little access to education. These are conditions no child should endure, let alone in the custody of the United States government.

Although public outcry and legal intervention led to their release, hundreds of other children remain detained. Many are held for months—over 180 days on average—in facilities never designed for long-term care. They suffer deep psychological harm: anxiety, depression, and trauma compounded by separation and uncertainty.

Policies implemented through the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) are now effectively prolonging detention. Barriers to family reunification, like invasive sponsor requirements and information-sharing with enforcement agencies, trap children in custody, often indefinitely. Some are even pressured to abandon their legal rights and return to dangerous conditions.

This is not who we are. Children seeking safety should not be treated as enforcement targets. They should be protected, cared for, and given a fair chance to pursue their legal rights.

Congress must act. We must conduct oversight, end family detention, restore due process protections, and ensure children are placed in the least restrictive settings.

History will judge us not by our rhetoric, but by whether we chose compassion over cruelty. Let us choose wisely.

SHARIA-FREE AMERICA

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. SELF of Texas was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues from the Sharia-Free America Caucus, which my good friend and fellow Texan Congressman CHIP ROY and I proudly co-chair.

Just today, we added our 60th member. I am delighted to announce that the caucus now has representation from 25 States across the United States, which is half of all the States in this Union.

America was founded on a timeless principle, individual freedom secured by self-government under our clear and supreme rule of constitutional law.

As John Adams warned: "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

Today, we witness the painful truth of those words. Multitudes arrive at our borders with no intention of assimilating into our culture or embracing the founding principles of liberty under the U.S. Constitution.

The clash is not new. In 1786, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams asked the Ambassador from Tripoli why his nation attacked peaceful countries with no provocation. He replied that it was their right and duty under their laws of the prophet and the Koran to make war on all who do not acknowledge Islamic authority to enslave prisoners and that every fighter slain would go to paradise.

This was then and remains today a stark contrast of civilizations, one rooted in submission and domination, the other in individual liberty under constitutional law.

Sharia poses a unique and profound danger. It is far more than a personal faith. It is a comprehensive system of governance, culture, and domination that enforces submission through violence.

All cultures are not morally equivalent. Whereas, Christianity is the religion of peace, reconciliation, and love, Islam is a religion of the sword. It stands in direct irreconcilable conflict with a maximum individual freedom at the heart of Western civilization and our Judeo-Christian heritage.

Our rights derive from our creator, not from any man-made supremacist code. America gladly welcomes those who come to assimilate and worship freely according to conscience, but we

must never accommodate a system that demands the submission of every surrounding society. And sharia explicitly requires precisely that.

The evidence is mounting right here in my home State, the Lone Star State. In my own Congressional District, Texas' Third District, the East Plano Islamic Center, one of the largest mosques in north Texas, already operates a sharia-adherent enclave in Plano. This is not merely a house of worship. It serves as the foundation for something far more troubling.

The same organization spearheaded a proposed 400-plus acre residential development in unincorporated Collin and Hunt Counties near Josephine originally called EPIC City now rebranded as The Meadow to deflect scrutiny and confusion over its separatist intent.

Marketed as a Muslim-centric community, it was designed around sharia-adherent living, over 1,000 homes, a new mosque, a K-12 school, and other facilities tailored to enforce submission rather than assimilation.

Both the existing EPIC enclave and this affiliated project are abominations that threaten American principles of equality, individual liberty, and the rule of law.

We have seen alarming incidents of Muslim intimidation. An imam in Dallas called the police on a fellow Muslim for merely speaking to a Christian pastor. Another in Houston captured on video threatening to occupy non-compliant businesses under sharia.

Texas is seeing explosive growth with roughly 48 new mosques in just the last 2 years.

That is why on March 3, Texas Republicans overwhelmingly passed proposition 10 with 95 percent support, a clear mandate to ban sharia in our State.

Texans have spoken: American law only. No foreign ideology should make Americans feel like foreigners in their own country. Texas stands as ground zero in this fight. Yet, this is not just a Texas issue. Sharia's influence is advancing from Arizona to Minnesota to Alabama, Florida, and beyond. No State is immune. That is why our caucus has surged to 60 members across 25 States bolstered by strong Senate support from figures like Senator TUBERVILLE.

As I have said repeatedly, sharia has no place in America. Do not sharia our America. Defend the West. Ban sharia.

The urgency of this fight was laid bare in the opening days of March when a disturbing wave of Islamist-inspired attacks struck our soil. On March 1, in Austin, a gunman opened fire outside a downtown bar, killing three innocent young Americans and wounding more than a dozen others. The Islamist terrorist, a naturalized citizen from Senegal with prior arrests, wore a sweatshirt proclaiming: "Property of Allah," an undershirt bearing an Iranian flag, and left a Koran in his vehicle.

This was no isolated act.

March has seen multiple incidents linked to Islamist extremism: a failed ISIS-inspired bombing attempt outside Gracie Mansion in New York City on March 7; a vehicle ramming and a shootout at a synagogue in Michigan on March 12, injuring dozens; and an ISIS-inspired shooting at Old Dominion University in Virginia that same day, targeting ROTC members and claiming one life.

□ 1700

These attacks, clustered in a single month, underscore a chilling reality: The enemy is inside the gate, driven by a supremacist ideology that claims divine authority over our Constitution and justifies violence against those who refuse submission.

Nowhere in this ideology is it more barbaric than its treatment of women. Under sharia, women are relegated to second-class status. It explicitly permits wife beating as discipline. Imams have preached that women feel honored by beatings, or liken them to livestock, cows, sheep, horses, and mules, created solely for men's use.

Sharia codifies female genital mutilation, forced child marriage, honor killings, half inheritance for women, and testimony worth half that of a man.

Its nations enforce these rules, from Iran's reign of terror to places where adultery brings stoning, apostasy brings death or public floggings, and men and women live in slavery.

Even more horrifying, sharia permits the rape and enslavement of non-Muslim women, with some scholars openly declaring it permissible under the Koran and hadith. These are not fringe opinions. They are preached publicly, and they are infiltrating Western Civilization.

If you don't believe this is happening, Mr. Speaker, then tell that to the thousands of British teenage girls groomed, plied with alcohol, gang-raped by Muslim gangs, and then arrested by police for being drunk while their rapists go free.

Let me repeat: The victims are arrested. This is sharia. Sharia does not content itself with private practice. It demands eventual dominance over the host culture. Look at France and the U.K., Mr. Speaker, where unchecked immigration has eroded heritage, culture, and freedoms. We cannot allow that fate here in the United States.

According to Islam, many non-Muslims like me are regarded as infidels, and Muslims who convert to Christianity or any other faith are apostates, punishable by death under Islam.

As Karl Popper wisely cautioned: "Unlimited tolerance must lead to the disappearance of tolerance." Mr. Speaker, we must claim the right to not tolerate the intolerant.

Sharia embodies that intolerance, rejecting free speech, equal rights, and constitutional supremacy. We must reject it in turn.

Legislation alone cannot halt this creeping threat. Congress has a sworn duty to act. Seven bills stand ready to ban sharia's influence regarding immigration and legal systems, deporting adherents who promote it, designating the Muslim Brotherhood and CAIR as terrorist organizations, strengthening vetting, advancing the PAUSE Act to stop all immigration, and ensuring no court ever considers sharia or any foreign religious code.

Mr. Speaker, the American people demand that we defend the Constitution against ideology seeking to supplant it and replace it. That is why Congressman ROY and I founded this caucus. It has grown rapidly because patriots nationwide are awakening.

Mr. Speaker, I urge every colleague, Republican or Democrat, who believes in American sovereignty to join the Sharia-Free America Caucus today. Let us stand firm: one nation, one Constitution, and one rule of law.

Sharia has no place in America.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER).

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. He is on the right track. When I was in the Texas House, we were already being concerned about that.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today on something that ought to go without saying, but here we are. In the United States of America, as my colleague so eloquently pointed out, there is one law of the land: the Constitution of the United States, period—not foreign law, not some imported systems, not, if I can be a little backward, not nothing else, Mr. Speaker, not anything else, period.

That is why I am proud to stand with my fellow Texan, Congressman KEITH SELF, and support the Sharia-Free America Caucus.

Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, this is not new for me. I already said back in the Texas House in 2009 through 2012 that it was a problem. We knew it. I tried to get a bill in that actually the chairman of the committee wouldn't take, stating that no court in the State of Texas could use sharia law as a legal basis, none. Yet, he said: Oh, you don't need to fight that battle yet.

That was in 2019. I am afraid we have waited way too long. I led the fight against sharia law back then from ever taking root in our courts. I am so glad that KEITH SELF, along with CHIP ROY, has put this caucus together.

I knew where it was headed back then, and here we are today. Now, we are seeing examples that should wake the folks up who claim to be woke.

In Irving, Texas, Mr. Speaker, you see a neighborhood developed by Hamra Homes with street names like Ali Akbar Court, Salma Jameel Court, and Hasina Drive, all built around a mosque.

Folks can live however they want to and however they choose. That is America. But hear me clearly: You don't bring a separate legal system

into the United States of America, not on my watch, not now, not ever.

We are one nation under one Constitution with one standard of law that applies equally to every single American. That is what the Sharia-Free America Caucus is all about. It is about drawing a line, standing firm, and saying that we will not compromise on the foundation of this country—not now, not then, and not ever.

We are founded on Judeo-Christian principles, and that is what we are going to keep it on. We will defend our Constitution, and we will keep America America.

God bless Texas. God bless the United States of America. God bless our caucus.

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HARRIS).

Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to my colleague for yielding to me and allowing me the time to share this afternoon on this important subject.

I want to share some facts, because facts make a difference.

Fact number one, sharia law is not compatible with Western Civilization.

Fact number two, radical Islam glorifies violence.

Fact number three, sharia law has no place in our country. Radical Islam teaches harming innocent people, which, the last time I checked, is the complete opposite of America's Constitution, which protects the liberty of all people.

Listen to these key ideologies that sharia teaches its followers: honor killings, stoning, lashes and/or amputation for crimes such as theft, blasphemy, or adultery, and imposing the death penalty for apostasy. For those who don't understand apostasy, it means if someone wanted to leave Islam.

For anyone wondering why radical Islam is dangerous and should be kept as far away from America as possible, they should consider these few examples I have just given.

To think radical Islam is not a close threat is far from the truth. We all see the rise of Zohran Mamdani's New York, which is becoming a front page for radical Islam, a place where extremists feel emboldened. We all witnessed the recent ISIS-inspired terrorist attack in New York, where two young men threw homemade bombs into a group of protesters.

What was Mamdani's response to that terror attack? He blamed it on white supremacy.

Radical Islam is staining America. It is not just a danger in places like New York. It has made itself clear in a small, quiet suburban town, Mint Hill, in my district in North Carolina.

At age 14, Christian Sturdivant pledged his allegiance to ISIS. Then, 4 years later, he planned an ISIS-inspired terrorist attack, using knives and hammers to target people at a grocery store and a restaurant on New

Year's Eve, a time normally filled with fireworks, food, and friends. However, Mint Hill, North Carolina's near reality was an ISIS-inspired terrorist attack.

I have to ask how many more impressionable American teenagers are being influenced by this violent Islamist ideology. We must not ignore this growing threat.

□ 1710

If we don't act now to stop sharia law, what will America look like in 5 years or 10 years from now?

I believe all of our roles in Congress are to set America up for a better future. We will not be silenced because we will speak the truth that others may be too afraid to say. America is not a place for radical Islam to thrive, period. Full stop.

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER).

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman SELF for holding this Special Order and for confronting an issue that too many are afraid to name with clarity and conviction.

Sharia law is fundamentally incompatible with our Constitution and the values that define our Nation. Its mission is to expand, influence, and impose control at the expense of basic human rights.

We are currently witnessing the chilling rise of Islamic terrorists who openly adhere to sharia. They reject assimilation. They reject our laws. They reject the very idea of America itself.

Many of my colleagues on the other side have chosen to stay silent. They sit on their hands while sharia law marches through America. They refuse to speak honestly or act with urgency to defend the fundamental rights of the American people.

Let me be very clear: We will not allow sharia to take root in our schools or our institutions. We will not allow it to erode the foundation of our civilization.

This is a defining moment, a test of whether we have the will to defend what has been entrusted to us. That is precisely what we are doing here today, exposing a dangerous ideology and refusing to bow to the pressures of political correctness or intimidation.

If we fail to confront it now, it will not stop. It will continue to expand in an attempt to reshape our society into something unrecognizable, something fundamentally un-American.

We will remain strong, sovereign, and free. Responsibility begins here in this Chamber. It requires the courage of every one of us to stand firm in defense of the principles that have made this country the greatest and most free nation on Earth.

I am proud to join the Sharia-Free America Caucus to stand alongside my colleagues. My thanks to President Trump for restoring law, order, and security.

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. FULCHER).

Mr. FULCHER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand beside my colleagues here today. The rapid growth of the Sharia-Free America Caucus underscores the importance of this issue to millions of Americans.

Sharia law is an oppressive, radical legal system that enables violent intolerance of nonbelievers, the subjugation of women, and stoning or flogging as punishment for theft, adultery, or blasphemy, as defined through their lens.

Sharia law cannot coexist with the U.S. Constitution and the American rule of law. Sharia goes against the very principles that we in America hold dear: the right to practice the religion you hold to be true or not, the freedom to speak without fear of consequences, and the equal right of every man or woman to pursue liberty and happiness.

Our Constitution provides guidelines for freedom, for independence, and prosperity, and the rule of law is written around it. However, sharia governs every aspect of one's life. That alone makes it unconstitutional.

As you have heard from my colleagues here, parts of our country are witnessing just how devastating and conflicting sharia law can be to our citizens and the American way of life.

We must be clear: Our Constitution, which has made the United States a beacon of freedom, is and must remain our sole legal foundation, and that foundation is not negotiable.

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak against the invasion of sharia law in America and across Western civilization.

America was founded on Christian values by seeking freedom from a tyrannical government. Our Nation is now the beacon of freedom around the world and the benchmark of Western civilization.

Sharia law represents everything that America is against. It destroys society. It strips citizens of their dignity and God-given rights. Women are forced to be subordinates and second-class citizens. Speaking out against the government will get you killed, like the 30,000 Iranian protesters murdered in January of this year.

Sharia law teaches believers to hate and to kill those who do not share their values, including Christians and Jewish people. For 47 years, Iranians have been risking their lives to protest the Ayatollah for their human rights abuses, government corruption, and crippling their economy to the point of implosion.

The Iranian leaders are radical Shia clerics. They spread hatred across the region and the world as the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism.

Iranian Americans from my home State of Georgia and all over the country are telling me how proud they are that President Trump is taking action.

America heard their calls for help. Our brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces have annihilated most parts of the Iranian military and have eliminated many of the top leaders. This includes Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, who was responsible for the deaths of thousands of Americans.

Iran helped sponsor and orchestrate the October 7 attacks that killed innocent Israelis at a music festival, including 46 Americans. President Trump is absolutely correct, Iran can never have a nuclear weapon, and his action has saved millions of lives.

Unfortunately, the story is not the same in Europe. Every day, we see examples of how far many of our allies across the pond have fallen to mass immigration of those who refuse to embrace Western values. These same people instead bring their radical Islamic beliefs with them, the same values that ran them out of their own countries. European culture is disappearing due to open-border policies.

They have allocated more resources, benefits, and handouts to illegal immigrants than they ever had for their own citizens. All the while, crime across the board has skyrocketed. Thankfully, patriotic Europeans are beginning to stand up to their self-sabotaging governments and vote for policies and policymakers who will save their countries from destruction. This is an existential threat that is spreading across the world at a rapid rate.

It has never been clearer to me than it is now that the United States must not make the same mistake as Europe. In the 4 years under the Biden-Harris regime, they did their best to destroy our Nation with open-border policies.

Americans responded by overwhelmingly reelecting President Trump to the White House. With Republicans in control, there is no better time than now to stand up and stop the infection of sharia law into our communities.

In Dearborn, Michigan, the influence of sharia law instituted a daily call to prayer and the election of Islamic extremist leaders, who have publicly attacked local citizens who have criticized their policies.

New York City elected an Islamic, communist mayor, who openly supports Islamic extremism and has attacked the State of Israel and its citizens.

America, if we do nothing and stand idly by like Europe did, this is only the beginning.

Mr. Speaker, America was founded on the principles of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Under sharia law, none of this is achievable. Freedom of religion is a core principle of this country and enshrined in our Constitution. However, it does not protect religious groups that shout threats of death to entire religious groups as we have seen with the tyrannical Shia theocracy in Iran.

History will look back on America 100 years from now and analyze the decisions that were made here in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, my question is: Will we roll over and make the same mistake as Europe or will we stand up for what we believe in and fight for what America has always stood for?

I can tell you one thing for sure: When they want to run our country down, they are walking on the fighting side of me, and I will always be on the fighting side of America and its freedom.

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. MOORE).

□ 1720

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, America has one law, the United States Constitution. It is the foundation of our Republic and the ultimate authority in our legal system. It applies equally to every person in every place and in every case.

The principle of equal justice under the law is what sets our Nation apart and ensures that no one is above the law and no one is beneath it.

Sharia law is not simply a matter of personal religious belief or private practice, it is a comprehensive legal and political framework.

Where it has been enforced around the world, it has often led to restrictions on basic freedoms that Americans recognize not only as God given, but constitutionally protected.

In practice, sharia law has been used to target and disadvantage women, limit the rights of religious minorities, and punish political dissent.

Our system is built on individual liberty, accountability, and fairness, not on unequal treatment or restrictions based on belief, gender, or background.

No foreign legal code should ever influence American courts and create a parallel system of justice. Allowing outside legal framework to seep into our system would undermine the consistency and integrity of American law.

Sharia law must never be allowed to override the Constitution in any kind of way. America does not bend itself to radical ideologies, whether they come from within or outside our borders.

Our duty is to preserve and defend the freedoms that generations of Americans have fought to protect. That means remaining vigilant, upholding our Constitution, and ensuring that liberty, equality, and justice remain the guiding principles of the United States of America.

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Mrs. BIGGS).

Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Texas for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a Member of the Sharia-Free America Caucus. America was built on the Constitution, one system of law that protects individual liberty, equal justice, and the rights of every single citizen.

Sharia stands in direct conflict with those principles. It does not belong in

our legal system, and it will not replace the Constitution of the United States of America.

Back home in South Carolina, people understand exactly what is at stake. They expect their leaders to defend our values and to not water them down. They expect one standard of law applied equally, and they are not interested in importing systems that undermine our freedoms.

Across the country, Americans are watching what is happening in Europe. They are seeing what happens when leaders look the other way, and Americans don't want that here. We are not going to apologize for defending our country, our Constitution, or our way of life. If you come to America, you come to live under American laws, period. That is the end of the story.

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FINE).

Mr. FINE. Mr. Speaker, I will start by acknowledging that I think this is a bit of a historic moment to my colleague, Congressman SELF, because you have just had more than a dozen Members of Congress talk openly and honestly about one of the greatest threats that is facing the United States today, the Islamification of our country.

As I will talk about in my remarks, too many would try to shut us down, using open threats and words to try to stop what they consider blasphemy. I will acknowledge before I begin the efforts of Congressman SELF and Congressman ROY to form this caucus, reaching 60 members.

Every time I get asked how many there are, I get the number wrong because there is always one or two more, but I don't think we will be happy until every Member is a part of this caucus.

Why now? Why now? Why do we deal with this issue now? Why do we deal with this issue today? Because we have seen what lies before us. We can see it if we look across the ocean.

France, the United Kingdom, and Western Europe are no longer recognizable.

In France, they have had to cancel celebrations because they are afraid that they are not sharia compliant.

In the United Kingdom, they are actually debating in Parliament the idea of cousin marriage, a Member of Parliament crying, how could it be banned because under sharia it is allowed.

We have seen these countries become unrecognizable, but why now? Because we have to worry about it coming here. I could have done a greatest hits and read hundreds of quotes, quotes that are not hidden. They are not hidden camera quotes. These are statements that imams and Mosques in the United States publicly make with pride about their intention, but I just want to read one from one person, and I will put it in context again for why now.

I will read some quotes from Imam Siraj Wahhaj from Brooklyn, New York, that he has said quite openly.

"Islam is better than democracy. Allah will cause Islam to become a

complete way of life, to prevail over every kind of system." I wonder what system he is talking about. "And you know what? It will happen." That is his first quote.

Second quote: "If only Muslims were clever politically, they could take over the United States and replace its constitutional government with a caliphate." "If we were united and strong, we would elect our own emir and give allegiance to him . . ." "Take my word, if 8 million Muslims unite in America, the country will come to us."

The final quote: "You don't get involved in politics because it is the American thing to do. You get involved in politics because politics are a weapon to use in the cause of Islam."

Now, why this imam? Why read three quotes from one leader when I told you I could read many. Because I want to explain who publicly praised him just a few months ago as "one of the Nation's foremost Muslim leaders." That is a quote, "one of the Nation's foremost Muslim leader."

That is not my statement. That was the statement of the leading American-Muslim politician in the United States, the new mayor of New York, Zohran Mamdani. Every quote that I read, again, as he put it, "one of the Nation's foremost Muslim leaders."

We have a challenge in this debate. Even some of my colleagues here today want to talk about radical Islam. I will talk about why they do that, but when you look at who the leading Muslim politicians are in the United States and their views on the issues, affinity for sharia, embracing of Muslim terror, you have to say that is not radical. That is the mainstream.

We have had four terror attacks by those who believe in sharia over the past month or so, but not outcries from those who are upset about it. So, having this discussion and talking about this is critical because what we have learned is, they will use our values to impose theirs upon us. It is okay to come to the United States and it is okay to practice your religion in peace and prosperity, but the line gets crossed when in order to advance your religion, others must submit to it.

Congressman SELF was talking about not all cultures being equal, but part of what makes this debate so difficult is we are told that we are one giant, human family, that we all believe the same things, that we all share the same ideals, but if we have learned anything in the past few years, that is not always true.

We have seen those who have taken to terror to stop freedom of assembly in New York, freedom of worship in Michigan, freedom to go to a bar in Austin, Texas, and freedom to go to a university in Virginia.

I saw what sharia could do to the human soul on October 7, and not all Muslims are terrorists. Not even everyone who believes in sharia wants to hurt everybody else, but the fact that not all do doesn't mean that none do.

On October 7, a young man called his parents to brag about an achievement that he had done in his faith in advancing sharia, and he called his parents and he told them, mom and dad, I had an extraordinary achievement today, and his parents were crying.

Now, for us, in our culture, in our society, you would have thought he got into college, he got a job, he had a baby, or he is getting married. No. He called his parents who cried with joy because he had killed 10 infidels. He had killed 10 Jews.

□ 1730

Not only did he feel that was something to brag about to his parents, but his parents cried with tears of joy.

We have to be willing to have the difficult conversations about the threat that exists because, as Congressman SELF said: The enemy is no longer at the gates. They are inside.

Now, they will stop at nothing to stop us from having this conversation. They will ratchet up. They will use a war of rhetoric to try to silence us. They will claim that we are racist, despite the fact that the philosophy we are talking about is not limited to any one race. It doesn't matter what you look like. You can believe in sharia.

They will say we are irrationally afraid of it. They will use the term "Islamophobia," a word developed, by the way, not to say you are against something but to say that you are afraid of something.

Well, I think all of us who have spoken today would say this: We are afraid. We are afraid of what we have seen in Afghanistan. We are afraid of what we have seen in Iran. We are afraid of what we have seen in Gaza. We are afraid of what we have seen in France and Germany and the U.K. We are afraid of what we have seen in Dearborn and at Old Dominion University and in New York City. We are afraid of what we saw on September 11, 25 years ago.

We have ample reason to be afraid, but the good news is, because of these 60-and-counting folks being led by Congressman ROY and Congressman SELF, perhaps there is hope that we will not need to be afraid for too much longer.

Again, I thank my colleagues for organizing this. It is an extraordinary moment. I know that this fight is just beginning, but I know by working together we will ultimately win it. We will make sure that we can continue to have that phrase that we put up there above that flag, above the Speaker's rostrum: In God we trust.

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments, and I now recognize my colleague from Arizona (Mr. CRANE.)

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to warn Americans about the growing threats posed by adherence to sharia law.

Supporters of this radical framework believe in a mandate to dominate those who refuse to conform to their belief system.

Across the West, politicians have welcomed millions of foreigners who do not share our values, culture, or tradition. As a result, they have undermined not only stability but also the identity of their own nations. In Europe especially, weak leaders have ignored serious human rights abuses while punishing their citizens for speaking out against open-border policies.

While Washington prioritizes neutralizing the capabilities of adversarial nation-states, we too often ignore growing dangers from within our own borders.

These internal vulnerabilities are far more difficult to confront since they spread quietly through our culture, rather than kinetic warfare. Whether it is communism, socialism, or radical frameworks like sharia, we have all observed movements counter to our Nation's interest on the rise.

If we don't shield our Constitutional Republic from ideological subversion, we risk eroding our liberties to appease those who refuse to assimilate.

This should not be a controversial message. We have every right and obligation to defend the principles and structure implemented by our Founding Fathers.

If people wish to live under sharia law, there are dozens of nations that operate under it. That is not the system we have chosen, nor is it compatible with our Constitution. Our laws are rooted in individual liberty, not religious authoritarianism.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join Representative ROY, Representative SELF, and other colleagues as a member of the Sharia-Free America Caucus. We refuse to sit by as radicals pursue their goal of a global caliphate, and we will not pretend it has no threat to our way of life.

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments. And I now recognize the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY), the cofounder of this caucus and my fellow Texan.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my friend from Texas, and I don't want to take up too much time. It has been a great hour. We have had a lot of good conversation. I appreciate the remarks from the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FINE.) He and my friend from Arizona outlined very well a lot of the concerns in addition to what my friend from Texas has done.

The fact is you cannot win a war that you do not acknowledge exists. Let's be very clear: There is a war being waged against Western civilization, against the United States of America, and against the State of Texas where I live. It is happening in real time, and it has been going on now for decades. In fact, go all the way back to the 1991 memorandum that was put forward by the Muslim Brotherhood with a number of provisions in it. The one I want to highlight is this: "In order for Islam and its movement to become 'a part of the homeland' in which it lives, 'stable'

in its land, 'rooted' in the spirits and minds of its people, 'enabled' in the lives of its society and has firmly established 'organizations' . . . its movement must plan and struggle to obtain 'the keys' and the tools of this process to carry out the grand mission as a 'Civilization Jihadist' responsibility which lies on the shoulders of Muslims and—on top of them—the Muslim Brotherhood in this country.

"The process of settlement is a 'Civilization-Jihadist Process' with all the word means."

I can keep going. This is organized. There are 600 organizations operating in this country and in Texas trying to drive the Islamification of the United States of America in direct conflict with our laws, our Constitution, and the Declaration of Independence.

This has been brought onto this country by our own actions as a government. Since 9/11, some 5-million people have been granted the ability to come into our country from majority Muslim countries, in a post 9/11 world after we were attacked.

In real time in Texas, we have more mosques being built in Texas than any other State in the Union. The problem here is that people are going to hide behind the First Amendment to say this is something that is protected by carrying out your exercise of free expression of your religion and carrying out your rights under the First Amendment.

What I am here to tell you is that this, by what I just read and by every action that I have seen in concert with this memorandum, is a political ideology that is designed to attack and take over our civilization and to carry out the civilization Jihad that I just described.

Mr. Speaker, it is for this reason that we have this Sharia-Free America Caucus. It is for this reason that we are gathering to highlight for the American people what is happening right now in real time such that if you look at Paris and London and you think that is somehow acceptable, then you are misguided because they are losing their way. So much so that I have said repeatedly that we should be as concerned about a nuclearized United Kingdom and as concerned about nuclearized France as we are a nuclearized Iran. It is coming to the shores of the United States, and it is here.

□ 1740

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EVANS of Colorado). The gentleman from Texas has 13 minutes remaining.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I thank both my friends, the gentlemen from Texas, for having the guts to do this.

Unfortunately, it is now acceptable. It is now acceptable. As we watched in Texas, it is amazing. If you built a community in any State, including Texas, and you said that only Christians need to apply, only Christians, can you imagine? Can you imagine?

Our Constitution—I have it right here—very specifically says: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” Yet, this is what is literally being attempted in States like Texas.

Mr. Speaker, sharia means the law. That is the definition of it generally, and it is all-encompassing. It is everything about your being, your spirituality, your actions. It means the law.

There are Muslims in the world. There are Muslims in my community who are persecuted because they are the wrong kind of Muslims, because they don't agree with this one or that sect of the Muslim faith.

They will come to me and say that they don't believe in sharia by the sword, which is comforting. It is comforting. I don't want to see my community and my country taken over in violent overthrow because I don't believe the same thing.

Yet, they will say that they do believe in sharia by the pen—by the pen. So it is not violent, Mr. Speaker, but what they are talking about is conquering your nation one way or the other. We have to decide what we are going to do about this.

I hear that there are sharia courts overseas in the U.K. and in Europe, but there aren't any where I live or maybe in the United States of America, but how would you know?

I suspect that the gentleman from Texas will tell us that there are sharia courts in Texas and that the community is very tight-knit, so if they are going to adjudicate things in a sharia court, which is even against the law because it flies in the face of the Constitution of the United States of America and our laws, how can you prove that there has been an infraction of the law when you have no witnesses since there are no witnesses because they will not speak out against their own laws?

Let's talk about what some of those things include. Leaving the faith, under sharia, is punishable by death. Things like theft, which is a serious crime—and we have punishments in the United States of America, but they don't involve removing your limbs, but that is true in sharia.

If a woman is charged with adultery, the punishment is stoning to death. They have honor killings in sharia. For forced marriages, if a young lady barely out of her teens or still in her teens refuses to marry as she is directed by her parents, they are justified under sharia in killing her.

This has no place in America. It just simply has no place in America.

People will say that it is over there. It is not here. I want to remind every-

body: Egypt was not always under sharia. Neither was Syria. Neither was Turkiye. Neither was Iran. These countries were all something else. We have just grown up in our lifetime thinking that that is what they always have been because that is what we have always known them to be. They were not always that way.

Sharia is tolerated, I think, because it is characterized as a religion. It is characterized as a religion, but I would ask you this: If it is characterized as a religion, and there are many in this body who fight continuously for, as they call it, the separation of church and state, which, by the way, cannot be found in the United States Constitution, how is it that schools in some States are now forcing sharia-compliant meals in their schools?

The schools are funded by the States. The schools are funded by the Federal Government. How is that possible? Yet, it is possible. It is possible, and it is happening.

My friend from Texas mentioned the Holy Land Foundation investigation, the largest terror investigation in the United States' history, where it was laid out by the Muslim Brotherhood how they were going to conquer America. We have the plan. We know the plan, under sharia.

Since 1991—it is 2026—their plan is, generally, to come not to be Americans but to be in America, to act as the underclass, to use the sympathy and guilt of the nation that they have come to and prey upon those who feel sympathy and guilt for them being in the underclass. They refuse to assimilate to that culture, whether it is America, Europe, or any other culture other than their own. They just live in that culture.

Others around them, because they don't want to be a part of that, move away. Then, more sharia-compliant individuals move into the neighborhood. Once they reach a critical mass, they start instituting sharia law. That is how it goes.

I am not saying, and I don't think either gentleman from Texas—we all know. I have upstanding, law-abiding, life-loving, freedom-loving, Constitution-loving Muslims living in my community. There are whole nations, believe it or not, of those kinds of folks.

But I will tell you this: Once the local imam says that you are going to comply or become an apostate, and the wages and the penalty for apostasy are death, that is a very strong motivator to say that I know I live in America, or I know I live in the U.K., or I know I live in Ireland or Spain or France, but my religion says this.

Sharia law has no place in America, and it is time for all of us to wake up and make sure that we have a righteous conversation with all Americans—with Christians, with Buddhists, with Muslims, with atheists, with everybody to preserve what we all love in America, which is the freedom to exercise our own beliefs.

There is only one so-called law, sharia law, that disallows that for everyone else, and that is why it is not appropriate to have it.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding to me.

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, sharia is alive, well, and operating in Plano, Texas. Right now, as I speak, there is an existing sharia-adherent enclave run by the East Plano Islamic Center in my congressional district. It has been functioning for 12 years right in our midst. This is not a hypothetical or future threat. It is here now and operational.

Let me lay out exactly what already exists in Plano today under EPIC's control: 74 homes sold exclusively to Muslims affiliated with EPIC, no outsiders permitted; a massive megamosque, serving as the central anchor of the enclave; sharia-adherent Islamic schools indoctrinating the next generation—by the way, we believe that the girls disappear at a certain point; a medical clinic; multiple businesses; and an Islamic financing institution providing sharia-compliant financing that rejects conventional American banking principles.

Most alarming of all, according to a former senior Plano law enforcement official, there is speculation that there are unattended deaths in this Muslim-only community that are not being reported, as required under State law. That is, individuals in this community die, as is natural, and first responders are never called to the scene.

□ 1750

Let me be clear. Not reporting a death is a crime under Texas State law. My office is going to follow every lead we have on this to ensure American law is being followed.

The bottom line: This is no ordinary neighborhood. It is a parallel society, a de facto sharia enclave operating in defiance of full assimilation into American law, situated immediately adjacent to the very law enforcement facilities meant to protect our communities.

Alarming, and as a matter of fact, the pattern of Islamic centers being built next to police training facilities is emerging. There is also one in Irving, Texas. Intimidation is clearly the intent.

EPIC is phase 1 of a broader strategy. EPIC City, a proposed 400-acre, Muslim-only housing development, now rebranded as The Meadow to deflect scrutiny and public opposition, is phase 2.

While this larger proposed development remains in the planning stages, with no construction underway, it is far from resolved.

As of March 2026, developers continue pushing forward, submitting plat applications, refiling despite rejections, and facing ongoing legal battles. Collin County has paused or rejected plans due to deficiencies, missing documentation, and incomplete submissions.

State investigations led by Governor Greg Abbott, Attorney General Ken Paxton, and agencies like the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality have secured court orders, including a recent temporary restraining order in March, blocking illegal utility district maneuvers.

Federal probes, such as HUD's active Fair Housing Act investigation into potential religious discrimination, add significant pressure. Yet the developers persist, rebranding and refile to wear down resistance.

Make no mistake, the enemy is inside the gates: building exclusive zones, enforcing foreign codes, and seeking to grow despite every obstacle.

Sharia does not assimilate. It dominates and conquers.

America welcomes people of every faith to come to live under our Constitution and assimilate into our society, but we will never tolerate a system that creates submission-based enclaves, exclusive housing markets, or fortresses overlooking our police academies.

This is why our caucus continues to grow rapidly. This is why Texans passed Proposition 10 by a 95 percent landslide to ban sharia in Texas. That is why we must remain vigilant at every level: local, State, and Federal.

Mr. Speaker, the American people demand that we defend the rule of law, not allow its gradual erosion. Sharia has no place in Plano. Sharia has no place in Texas. Sharia has no place in America.

I urge every colleague who values American sovereignty to join the Sharia-Free Caucus today. Let us defend the West. Let us defend our freedoms and let us defend American sovereignty.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING ROGER CARPENTER

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Ms. KAPTUR of Ohio was recognized for 30 minutes.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a dear citizen of Oak Harbor, Ohio, Roger Carpenter. He devoted 75 years of his life to shaping character, citizenship, and service in northwestern Ohio.

Roger Carpenter was more than a Scoutmaster. For generations of young people in Troop 316, he was a teacher of values, a steady hand, and a living example of the Scout Oath and Law.

His dedication deeply shaped the character of Oak Harbor. I can feel it.

From the time he joined the troop as a boy in 1941 to his passing at age 97, Roger believed that building good citizens was the most important work any community could do, and he went about doing it.

Under his guidance, more than 50 young men achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. He taught young people how to live with responsibility, humility, and care for others.

As Roger himself said: Scouting does not teach children to throw a ball. It should teach them how to help others and preserve the common good.

Boy, was he a wise man.

What a great privilege it was to honor his service at the Apple Festival last fall. Please let me honor and posthumously thank him on the floor of Congress for preserving the common good. What a patriot. Oak Harbor and all of northwestern Ohio are eternally grateful for Roger's beautiful life and good works that endure and have been nobly passed forward to the aspiring generation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT MUELLER

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I wish to turn to honor the life of Robert Mueller.

When I was very young, I aspired to become an FBI agent. Later, when in college, when I applied, I was told I was not qualified because I was a woman.

But tonight, I rise to honor the life and service of Robert Mueller, the gentleman and honorable Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that I wish I had been able to work for.

He also was a father, a husband, a grandfather, a marine—our family knows a whole lot about that—a public servant, and an American hero.

He served as Director of the FBI under Presidents of both parties.

Director Mueller took his oath to support and defend our Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic, as seriously as anyone could.

He was a very intelligent man whose life was defined by honor, sacrifice, and an unwavering commitment to the Nation he loved and to which he gave his life.

At a time when many chose a different path, he stepped forward to serve. Though he was not drafted, he volunteered to serve in Vietnam. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, earned his commission, and led Marines in combat.

There, under fire, he displayed extraordinary courage. He rescued a wounded comrade, earning the Bronze Star with a V for valor, and the Purple Heart after being wounded in battle.

He led from the front, guided by duty and shaped by the bonds of those he served beside. If he had done nothing else, his military service exemplified what it means to be a patriot for the cause of liberty.

His service did not end when he returned home. He continued to serve this Nation for decades—as a Federal prosecutor, as a leader within the Department of Justice, and as Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation during one of the most consequential periods in our Nation's history.

He took office as FBI Director 7 days before the September 11 attacks on our Nation. True to his marine heritage, he always fought for right and freedom and kept his honor clean. He ushered our country and the bureau through some of our darkest days.

Director Mueller served our Nation in that role for 12 years to the very

day, including a 2-year extension under President Obama.

He was then succeeded by James Comey. Four years later, in May 2017, he was again called to serve. Then-Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein tapped Robert Mueller to lead the investigation into the consequential 2016 Russian election interference. He pursued this investigation indefatigably. He let the facts lead and presented his report.

He did not politicize this investigation for a single second because that is just not who he was, nor what the FBI is.

Across every chapter of his life, Robert Mueller carried himself with humility, discipline, and integrity. He did not seek recognition. He sought to do what was right. He was not a showman. He was a patriot.

His life reminds us that service to country is not confined to a single moment or uniform. It is a lifelong calling.

Robert Mueller answered his Nation's call in war and peace, in public office and in quiet leadership.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation is stronger because of patriotic citizens like Robert Mueller, and I send my heartfelt condolences and those of my constituents to his wife of 60 years, Ann; to his daughters, Cynthia and Melissa; and to his five grandchildren. I know they and his bureau colleagues will miss him dearly.

May we honor his example not only in words but in pledging honorable service to our Nation in any capacity he held. May Director Mueller rest in peace—we have the watch.

□ 1800

HONORING LOUISE J. BROWER

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Women's History Month with naming a steady trailblazer from northwest Ohio, Louise J. Brower.

In 1975, Mrs. Brower broke barriers when she became the first woman to serve as a principal in Toledo public schools. In doing so, she also became the first to lead a large metropolitan Ohio high school. At Scott High School, she led with strength, dignity, and an unwavering belief in her students.

The appointment was a culmination of her Toledo public schools career, which started as a teacher at Robinson Junior High. She then served as principal of both Walbridge School and later McTigue Junior High.

The library at Walbridge was dedicated in her honor in 1971.

Long before recognition followed, her impact was already deeply felt by inspired students. She empowered teachers, and she opened doors for women who would follow.

Mrs. Brower's legacy reminds us that progress is built by those willing to lead where none have gone before.

May we continue her work with purpose, with passion, and with pride. Women know how to do it right even if