

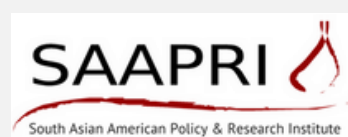
ENGAGED
COMMUNITIES SERIES



Here's what you need to know

Navigating the Early Days of the Trump
Administration 2.0

April 10, 2025



Our Panelists' Insights

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: Navigating the Early Days of the Trump Administration



Kalpana V. Peddibhota
*Executive Director, SAAJCO
and Immigration Attorney*



Amol Sinha
Executive Director, ACLU-NJ

Our Panelist's Take

“Our communities are not a monolith. We fall across the ideological spectrum—and I know people feel very differently. But some **fundamental things unite us**, including immigrants, rights, the rights of individuals, to be able to exercise their constitutional rights, and so many other things, but **basic humanity and dignity matter to all of us.**”



Amol Sinha

Executive Director, ACLU-NJ

Our Panelist's Insight

What's happening with **SEVIS, student visas,** and **ICE** under the current political climate?

Visa Revocations Are Happening—Fast

- Since around March 22, international students have been receiving sudden notices:
 - Their student visas were revoked
 - Their SEVIS records terminated
 - With no prior warning or explanation

Why It's Concerning:

SEVIS terminations are supposed to happen only if a student violates F-1 visa terms.

But now:

- Students receive vague notices citing "foreign policy grounds" or "criminal records checks"
- Some don't get any explanation at all
- They are immediately told: Leave or risk ICE detention and removal

Our Panelist's Insight

What's happening with **SEVIS**, **student visas**, and **ICE** under the current political climate?

Impacted students are disproportionately:

- A lot of students are from India, China, and other Asian or Muslim majority countries
- In STEM fields, PhD programs, postdocs, and Ivy League or major public universities
- Many students near graduation have suddenly lost their status, work authorization, and housing.

No Due Process:

Normally, students should be able to:

- Apply for reinstatement
- Seek administrative review
- Present their side

But now:

- They're being removed without a chance to appeal
- Even minor issues like traffic stops are triggering SEVIS termination
- For example, a student using an international license was not convicted, and charges were dismissed. But their name showed up in a record check—and they lost their visa. These are **not deportable crimes, yet the consequences are life-altering.**

Our Panelist's Insight

What's happening with **SEVIS**, **student visas**, and **ICE** under the current political climate?

What This Means

- We are seeing:
 - Abuse of power
 - Collapsing protections for international students
 - Threats to academic freedom and global scholarship

“These are not criminals. These are students. These are researchers. These are future leaders.”

— Kalpana Peddibhotla

Who is protected under the Constitution and the Bill of Rights—specifically the First Amendment? Do its protections apply only to U.S. citizens, or to everyone present in the country?

Everyone in the U.S.—not just citizens.

That includes:

- U.S. citizens
- Permanent residents (green card holders)
- Undocumented immigrants
- Visa holders (F-1, H-1B, etc.)

“The First Amendment protects anyone inside the United States. Free speech is a constitutional right for everyone on U.S. soil.”

— Amol Sinha

Are There Limits to Free Speech?

Not all speech is protected under the First Amendment—but most of it is. Here's what you need to know:

What Speech is Not Protected?

Only a few narrow categories:

- True threats (e.g., directly threatening someone with harm)
- Incitement to violence (e.g., calling on a mob to attack someone)
 - These are situations where speech can directly cause harm or chaos.

What Is Protected?

- Political speech
- Criticism of the government
- Peaceful protest
- Academic, scientific, and artistic expression
 - These forms of speech are highly protected—even if they're unpopular or controversial.

Every advancement—scientific, technological, academic—has come from the right to free speech.

Free speech must be for everyone, not just a privileged few.

"Our client, Mahmoud Khalil, was engaging in political speech—the most protected kind in our democracy." – *Amol Sinha*

Our Panelist's Insight

Isolation as a Silencing Tactic

Many immigrants are being:

- Transferred to detention centers in Louisiana
- Cut off from legal support
- Placed in legal deserts with few immigration attorneys

That's not by accident—it's to isolate people and strip them of their ability to fight back.

Why This Series Matters

I envisioned the Engaged Communities Series before all this escalated, because I believed **our communities deserve to know their rights, their histories, and how to move forward.**" — *Kalpana Peddibhotla*

We must fight not only in the courts—but in the court of public opinion.

ENGAGED COMMUNITIES SERIES!

STANDING UP: YOUR RIGHTS WITH ICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT!



Focused on educating the community about their rights when interacting with law enforcement. This session will provide clear, practical information from legal experts to help you understand your rights and protect yourself in encounters with police and other authorities.



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APRIL 24

3PM PT | 5PM CT | 6PM ET

Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/ecsstandingup>