

## **Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta strongly opposes the criminalization of Muslim Women.**

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**Atlanta, GA, November 17, 2016** — Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta strongly condemns and opposes House Bill 3 (HB 3) and the criminalization of Muslim women. Filed by Rep. Jason Spencer, R-Woodbine, HB 3 would make it a crime for Muslim women to wear a veil while on public property, including while driving on public roads. The bill would twist Georgia's anti-masking statute - created to prevent cowardly Ku Klux Klan terrorists from evading law enforcement - to target Muslim women. The bill has no other purpose but to target and marginalize the Muslim American community in Georgia.

This bill is a dangerous attack on religious freedom, one of the core founding principles of our country. It is not only a blatant attack on Islam, it is also an attack on Asian American communities in Georgia. More than 10% of Asian Americans adhere to the Islamic faith. We at Advancing Justice - Atlanta will not stand for this bigotry.

We stand with the Muslim women in our communities and in other communities. We will fight against this and all efforts to criminalize and marginalize our communities.

### **About Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta**

Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta (formerly Asian American Legal Advocacy Center or AALAC) is the first non-profit law center dedicated to Asian immigrants and refugees ("Asian Americans") in the Southeast.

Our goal is to engage, educate and empower under-represented Asian Americans to greater civic participation.

We are one of five independent organizations that make up the national Asian Americans Advancing Justice. Together with our affiliates in Chicago, DC, Los Angeles and San Francisco, we bring more than 100 years of collective experience in addressing the civil rights issues faced by Asian Americans and other vulnerable and underserved communities. Visit [www.advancingjustice-atlanta.org](http://www.advancingjustice-atlanta.org).