



Indian Diaspora Council

Shared heritage, aspirations and interests

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PRESS STATEMENT

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CELEBRATION OF USA INDEPENDENCE 2023



The Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC) and its global affiliates congratulate the people of United States of America (USA) on the 247th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, and convey its best wishes for continuing progress in championing the cause of freedom, justice and liberty throughout the world. We are gratified that America and its institutions remain

strong and resilient as a progressive nation, despite recent setbacks due to achieving racial, gender and economic inequities, roll-back of long established women's reproductive rights, reversal of affirmative action for college admissions, worldwide effects of rising costs of food and fuel, and perpetuating misinformation leading to ideological disputes in many segments of American society.

We are grateful for the enormous sacrifices made for the hard fought independence of the USA and the continuing diligence, resilience and determination to maintain and advance freedom and liberty which universally endear the USA as a global beacon of hope, freedom and refuge for the persecuted and downtrodden. USA's struggle for independence and promoting freedom worldwide exemplify the indomitable human spirit to choose and make decisions for "the pursuit of life, liberty and happiness", and has inspired nations, racially diverse and ethnic groups and individuals to advance their own struggles for freedom. The USA strives to be introspective and adapt to changing times and recognition of past injustices to better serve the needs of its citizens with established institutions and processes for social justice.

"Our democracy has endured for generations because Americans have stood together to defend it. That includes brave service members, veterans, and their families, selfless first responders who protect our communities, and hardworking people of all backgrounds who build our Nation and power our prosperity. Today, we remember that America is a covenant requiring constant care and commitment. Let us agree that upholding democracy must never be a partisan issue but rather an American issue. And let us keep the flame of liberty burning in our time as it did for past generations of Americans — through the fight for our independence; the Civil War; the Great Depression; two World Wars; the Civil Rights Movement; and all the sustained struggles of citizens to make America more prosperous, just, and free. To celebrate our shared American spirit and the sacrifices so many of our fellow citizens have made, the Congress, by Public Law 85-529, as amended, has designated the first day of May each year as Loyalty Day. On this day, let us reaffirm our commitment to the values that bind us together and honor all those who have defended our freedom and ideals". *US President Joseph Biden*

The celebration of USA independence is also of historic significance to the rapidly growing Indian American community who have benefited enormously from the Luce-Celler Immigration Act of 1946 signed into law on 3rd July 1946 by President Harry Truman granting naturalization rights to Filipinos and Asian Indians. The Immigration Act of 1946 also "allowed Filipino Americans and Indian Americans to naturalize and become United States citizens". Upon becoming US citizens, the new Americans could own homes and farmland, and petition for family unification. This reversed the Naturalization Act of 1870 which had denied Asians the right to gain US citizenship.

The prominent positions of increasing numbers of persons of Indian origin in the Biden administration, US Congress, state and local elected and appointed positions, academia, business media, medical/legal/science professions, reflect the changing demographics and the diversity of America as well as the rapid strides that Indian Americans are making in every segment of American society, and contributing to America's progress.

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Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC), established in 1997, is an international non-profit organization with global affiliates and membership in 21 countries with the objective to embrace, engage and enhance the shared heritage, aspirations and interests of persons of Indian origin with optimum inclusivity.