

Foundation for India and Indian Diaspora Studies (FIIDS)

501 C-3 Nonprofit Tax Exempt



FIIDS is an institute for policy and advocacy which conducts research and analysis to provide insights and advocacy on issues and policy matters related to US-India relations, India, and the Indian diaspora. FIIDS bases its analysis on data, trends and expert opinions to create awareness about timely policy issues. The Institute mainly disseminates information to think tanks, the media, elected officials, and the public.



Capitol Hill - Advocacy: FIIDS Delegation, Nancy Jackson(DAS State department) Ambassador Taranjit Singh Sandhu and Audience

Advocacy Day 2023: FIIDS hosted a historic Advocacy Day on April 27th, the largest outreach among Indian Americans, providing a political voice to 4+ million. Delegates engaged with 75+ representatives, addressing critical issues: US-India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (ICET), global supply chain partnerships in Indo-Pacific, immigration issues (GC backlog, H1B concerns), and religious phobia against Indian-origin religions. FIIDS will host annual advocacy summit in April 2024.

Celebration of US-India Partnership: FIIDS and American Jewish Committee (AJC) hosted the Celebration on Capitol Hill, addressed by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Nancy Jackson, Amb. Sandhu, Drug Control Director Dr. Rahul Gupta, AJC's Jason Isaacson, think tank experts, and 13 prominent house of representatives. Comments were made about Indian American influence on presidential election, FIIDS effective advocacy, human rights, commitments for immigration policy and importance of the US-India relations.



Press meeting with the State department on immigration



FIIDS AJC met Hon. PM Modi and Hosted India's EAM Dr. Jaishankar



Immigration: FIIDS has been actively advocating changes in legal immigration, pushing for the elimination of country-wise limits on employment-based permanent residency, relief for laid off H1Bs, and extensions in OPT for foreign students. USCIS responded to FIIDS providing a guidance for relief to laid-off H1B individuals. FIIDS has made appeals to the Congress and India Caucus. Additionally, FIIDS has engaged the US State Department for consular services on visa appointment delays and opening up visa stamping in the US.

Indo-American Political Engagement: FIIDS is involved in civic/political engagement to create awareness about various policy issues among elected officials. In 2024, FIIDS will also engage, and develop Indian American candidates/leadership at all levels.

Policy Monitoring and Advocacy: FIIDS monitors legislations in the House, Senate and elsewhere impacting Indian American diaspora, India-related matters and issues alerts. In 2024, we would establish monitoring and alerting advocacy with both hiring and automation.

Internships: Last four years, FIIDS host an annual summer internship for high school students and a congressional internship for undergraduates in Capitol hill. In 2023, 85 students applied and 40 participated high school internship cohort program on civic engagement and leadership. We plan to scale high school internship to 100 and congressional internship to 5 interns in 2024.

Building Bridges: FIIDS actively fosters relationships with Jewish, Afghan, Fijian, Caribbean, Armenian, Hispanic, African American and Asian Pacific Islanders.



1. Internship 2. Conference with NSA Ajit Doval and Amb. Sibal



3. Indo Afghan Meet 4. Meeting with Yazidi Refugees (AZ)

FIIDS Works on Human Rights, Religious phobias and Terrorism: FIIDS creates awareness in elected officials and authorities about threats human rights violations and terrorism against Indian diaspora, e.g. Hindus in Pakistan and Canada. FIIDS also criticized forced deportations of Armenians by Azerbaijan & Afghans by Pakistan. FIIDS hosted sessions on Armenian, Jewish and Bangladeshi Hindu-Sikhs genocides. FIIDS Collaborates with Jewish organizations on anti-Semitism and religious phobia.

Surveys and Analysis: FIIDS conducted surveys on Indo-Americans covering youth perspectives on identity, experiences of bias, and economic impacts during the pandemic. Their opinion polls encompassed issues, policies, and performances in both US and Indian elections. The organization plans to continue hosting surveys in 2024.

Policy Analysis Papers: FIIDS conducts fact-based research and publishes papers on topics such as High Skilled migration Policies, CAA, Article 370, Situation in Kashmir, Plight of Yazidis, and Illegal Immigration from Bangladesh. In Sept 2023, FIIDS published a paper on Manipur riots to address a false propaganda about religious divide in the US.

Awareness on US Election 2024: Like we did in 2022, FIIDS will campaign to increase voter registration, and voting to increase influence in policy making. We continue to update <http://indoamericanElectionGuide.org> with information related to candidates, their views/voting scorecard.



1. Talk on India's Inclusive Development 2. Indo China Conference

Conferences: FIIDS successfully hosted conferences on US-India, Indo China, Indo Israel, Indo Afghan Relations, Caribbean/ Fijian Indian Diaspora, Terrorism, and the Af-Pak region. FIIDS plans to host conferences on Countering Terrorism, Human Rights, US-India Relations, IndoPacific Partnerships in 2024

Funding needs for 2024 Projects:

To amplify, scale and systematize FIIDS impact on policies

- * Capitol Hill Annual Advocacy Day
 - * Conferences: Hosting, expert speakers/guests and publishing proceedings
 - * Infrastructure: Web and Action Alert
 - * Surveys, and Research Publications
 - * Part-time / off site Staff: Research analysts, Administrative / Program Managers and Liaison officer in DC
 - * Internship: Paid Internship and program cost
- Zelle: donate2fiids@gmail.com 501C(3) Tax Exempt

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