

Problematic Quotes

From Elected Representatives

Rep. Steve King (R – IA)

- During a town hall event in his district on August 27, 2019, King laughed while criticizing the abuse of Muslims in China, who have been rounded up and detained by the government in a crackdown on the nation's ethnic Uighur minority and other Islamic groups, according to the United Nations.

“They want them to put on Chinese clothing and eat Chinese diet, which includes trying to force the Muslims to eat pork,” King said. “That’s actually the only part of that that I agree with, everybody ought to eat pork. If you have a shortage of bacon, you can’t be happy.”

Under the rules of Islam, Muslims are forbidden from eating pork. Iowa is the top pork-producing U.S. state.

- King scorned Islam's dietary restrictions in a 2018 Breitbart interview, during which he said he did not want his district's meatpacking plants to employ Somali Muslims because, he claimed, they see consumers as “infidels” who should be sent to hell.

“I don’t want people doing my pork that won’t eat it, let alone hope I go to hell for eating pork chops.”

- A brief guide to Steve King’s ‘long history of racist statements’ Washington Post
- Before his remarks to the New York Times, King retweeted a neo-Nazi. He sat on a panel with white nationalists. He praised both the German and Austrian far right. According to the ADL, he even “denigrated the Jewish history of the Holocaust.”
- Tweet on 3/12/2018: *“Wilders understands that culture and demographics are our destiny. We can’t restore our civilization with somebody else’s babies”* responding to @VoiceofEurope tweet: *“Hundreds of Islamists shouting ‘Allahu Akbar’ in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Wilders is right for over 10 years #turkijere!”*
- Tweet on 6/12/2018: *“Europe is waking up...Will America...in time?”* retweeting @MarkCollett’s tweet: *“65% of Italians under the age of 35 now oppose mass immigration. Europe is waking up...”*
 - Mark Collett is a British author who, as The Post’s Avi Selk wrote, “questions the Holocaust, wants to separate the continents by races, blames slavery on Jews, mocks interracial children, wrote a book embracing National Socialism, and once called himself a ‘Nazi sympathizer.’”
- In a New York Times interview on 1/10/2019, King asked: “White nationalist, white supremacist, Western civilization - how did that language become offensive?”

Rep. Ilhan Omar (D – MN)

- Tweet on 11/16/2012: *“Israel has hypnotized the world, may Allah awaken the people and help them see the vile doings of Israel. #Gaza #Palestine #Israel”*

- Tweet on 5/31/2018: “Drawing attention to the apartheid Israeli regime is far from hating Jews. You are a hateful sad man, I pray to Allah you get the help you need @JohnGilmore.”
- Tweet on 2/11/2019: “It’s all about the Benjamins baby” responding to Glenn Greenwald’s tweet:

“GOP Leader Kevin McCarthy threatens punishment for @IlhanMN and @RashidaTlaib over their criticism of Israel. It’s stunning how much time US political leaders spend defending a foreign nation even if it means attacking the free speech rights of Americans.”

- Tweet on 2/11/2019: “AIPAC!” responding to: Batya Ungar-Sargon’s tweet: “Would love to know who Ilhan Omar thinks is paying American politicians to be pro-Israel, though I think I can guess. Bad form, Congresswoman. That’s the second anti-Semitic trope you’ve tweeted.”
- Statement of apology on 2/11/2019 in response to “It’s all about the Benjamin’s tweet:

“Anti-semitism is real and I am grateful for Jewish allies and colleagues who are educating me on the painful history of anti-Semitic tropes. My intention is never to offend my constituents or Jewish Americans as a whole. We have to always be willing to step back and think through criticism, just as I expect people to hear me when other attack me for my identity. This is why I unequivocally apologize. At the same time, I reaffirm the problematic role of lobbyists in our politics, whether it be AIPAC, the NRA or the fossil fuel industry. It’s gone on too long and we must be willing to address it. - Listening and learning, but standing strong.”

- Tweet on 2/13/2019: “Hi @realDonaldTrump - You have trafficked in hate your whole life - against Jews, Muslims, Indigenous immigrants, black people and more. I learned from people impacted by my words. When will you?”
- What did Ilhan Omar say? Here’s the full transcript of her response to a question about anti-Semitism at a book store Institute for Policy Studies

Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R – CA)

- Tweet on 10/24/2018: “We cannot allow Soros, Steyer, and Bloomberg to BUY this election! Get out and vote Republican November 6th. #MAGA”
 - Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy posted this tweet AFTER a bomb was sent to Soros’ house and pinned the tweet to the top of his twitter profile page (tweet has since been deleted, but McCarthy has never apologized).

Rep. Steve Scalise (R – LA)

- House Majority Whip Scalise confirms he spoke to white supremacists in 2002 Washington Post

Rep. Louie Gohmert (R – TX)

- Appearing on Fox Biz, on 12/6/2018, Louie Gohmert says

“George Soros is supposed to be Jewish, but you wouldn’t know it from the damage he inflicted on Israel and the fact that he turned on fellow Jews & helped take the property that they owned.”

Rep. Matt Gaetz (R – FL)

- He invited the notorious Holocaust denier Chuck Johnson to be his guest at the 2019 State of the Union and later defended Johnson:

“He’s not a Holocaust denier; he’s not a white supremacist. Those are unfortunate characterizations of him.”

- In January of 2018, he appeared on Alex Jones’s “Infowars” show. Jones has said,

“It’s not that Jews are bad, it’s just they are the head of the Jewish mafia in the United States. They run Uber, they run the health care, they’re going to scam you, they’re going to hurt you.”

- On Twitter on 10/17/2018 he suggested the caravan of migrants that set out from Central America in October 2018 was funded by George Soros, who might be “*giving cash 2 women & children 2 join the caravan & storm the US border.*”
- In a Trump tweet on 7/13/2018 he called Gaetz “*one of the finest and most talented people in Congress.*”

Rep. Paul Gosar (R – AZ)

- In an interview with Vice News on 10/16/2017, he claimed that the far-right rally held in Charlottesville, Virginia, in August 2017 — at which marchers chanted “*Jews will not replace us*” — was “*created by the left*” and led by an “*Obama sympathizer.*” He has also suggested that Soros funded the event and falsely claimed that the Jewish billionaire “*turned in his own people to the Nazis.*”
- In October of 2017, his own family has felt the need to publicly denounce him.

“We are aghast that Paul has sunk so low that he now spews the most despicable slander against an 87-year-old man without a shred of proof,” a letter signed by seven of his siblings said: “It is extremely upsetting to have to call you out on this, Paul, but you’ve forced our hand with your deceit and anti-Semitic dog whistle.”

- On October 31 2018, Gosar’s brother David wrote an open letter, describing the representative’s rhetoric as having “*helped feed the anti-Semitism that just resulted in the murder of 11 people in a Jewish synagogue and an attempt on Mr. Soros’s life.*”

Rep. Jay Rodne (R – WA)

- Tweet on 11/23/2015: “*Are you freaking kidding me? How long are you going to be an apologist for brutal barbarians? Islam is barbarian medievalism. Wake the f-- up!*”
- On his facebook page on 11/14/2015, as chronicled in multiple news reports, Rodne referred to Muslims as “*barbarians*” and said Islam was “*incompatible with western civilization.*” He also said that Obama had a plan to import 1.5 million Muslims into the United States, a claim ruled false by the Seattle Times.

Ben Carson (R – Sec. of Housing and Urban Development)

- In an interview for NBC on 9/20/2015 , Ben Carson said:

“I would not advocate that we put a Muslim in charge of this nation. I absolutely would not agree with that.”

When asked “so do you believe that Islam is consistent with the constitution?” Ben Carson answered “No, I don’t, I do not.”

Rep. Keith Ellison (D – MI)

- In a 2010 speech Ellison asked why “US foreign policy in the Middle East is governed by what is good or bad through a country of 7 million people.”

“A region of 350 million all turns on a country of 7 million. Does that make sense? Is that logic? Right?”

Rep. Alan Grayson (D – FL)

- October 2013, sent out a fundraising email equating the GOP with the KKK and even included an image of a burning cross.

Rep. Alvin Holmes (D – AL)

- During a conversation about abortion on the House Floor on 3/6/2014 said:

“Ninety-nine percent of all the white people in here [Congress] now, if their daughter got pregnant by a black man, they are going to make their daughter have an abortion.”

Rep. Charlie Rangel (D – NY)

- On 3/19/2014 during a TV interview with NY1, he claimed the Tea Party was made up of “mean, racist people.”

“Now why do I say that? Because in those red states, they’re the same slave-holding states. They had the Confederate flag. They became Dixiecrats; they had the Confederate flag. They’re now the Tea Party; they still got the Confederate [flag]. I don’t think that’s a coincidence.”

“There is nothing the president can do – not love of country, not love of party – that they’re not prepared to kill themselves to get to him.”

Jeff Roorda (Democratic Member of the Missouri House of Representatives)

- In 2010, when Rep. Holly Rehder sponsored legislation that would prohibit public-sector unions from using their fees for political purposes without annual written consent from members, Roorda called her a Nazi.

- As quoted in the Springfield News-Leader:

In remarks that drew a rebuke from Speaker Tim Jones, R-Eureka, Rep. Jeff Roorda, D-Barnhart, suggested Rehder was following the example of the Nazis in the lead-up to World War II.

Roorda read a quotation from Martin Niemoller that includes the famous line: "*Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out — Because I was not a Jew.*"

"*Who are you coming after next, lady?*" Roorda said to Rehder after reading the quotation.

Gov. Pat Quinn of Illinois (D)

- Tweeted and retweeted on 4/14/2014, a link to a Chicago Sun-Times column from Neil Steinberg that compared black Republicans to Jews who helped the Nazi's.

"As a general rule, individuals will sell out the interests of their groups in return for personal benefit. It isn't just a black thing. Jews collaborated with the Nazi's during WWII, helping them round up their own people in the hopes they'd be the last to go."