The FBI's Terrorist Screening Center (TSC) was created after the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center, and formed in 2003. The TSC has a single database that collects information about anyone “known or reasonably suspected of being involved in terrorist activity.” This database is colloquially referred to as the “Terror Watchlist,” and includes the “No-Fly List.”

There is no definition for ‘reasonable suspicion’ of terrorist activity - agencies explicitly do not need “concrete facts” or “irrefutable evidence” to place someone on the terror watchlist. Oftentimes, people only realize that they have been placed on the terror watchlist when they are unable to board a flight, or encounter issues with their immigration status. Since there is no definition of “reasonable suspicion,” people can be placed on the “terror watchlist” for undisclosed reasons, including offenses as innocuous as taking pictures in public, taking notes in public, or asking about the hours of operation of a business.

After the Orlando massacre, the Democrat House of Representatives sit-in called for the use of this ever-expanding “terror watchlist” to regulate guns. Given that the watchlist disproportionately targets Muslims, Middle Easterners, Arabs, South Asians, immigrants, and people of color, the bill Democrats fought so hard for would have relied on a tool that continues to stigmatize and criminalize our communities, without regulation.

Guiding Questions:
- How does this policy impact the daily lives of LGBTQ API people?
- What stories have you heard from your friends, fam, community that are related to this policy?
- How could this policy change, reform, or transform?