Department of Homeland Security

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was created in the direct aftermath of the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center. DHS was created by the “Homeland Security Act” in 2002. The newly formed Department brought punitive border control agencies such as Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Transportation Security Administration (TSA), and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) under the same umbrella as the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Currently, DHS and all the agencies within it have no legal protections against profiling. This means that profiling based on race, ethnicity, national orientation, sexual orientation and/or gender identity is completely within the letter of the law. This is done through programs such as the Controlled Application Review and Resolution Program (CARRP), through which green card holders who immigrated from Muslim majority countries or have Muslim names can be intentionally caught up in the processing of their application to become U.S. Citizens. When this all-too-frequent profiling occurs we have no legal recourse. NQAPIA, along with other South Asian, Muslim, and API organizations, has been leading a campaign to demand that DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson end the legalized profiling of our communities.

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?