
STATEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND CIVIL RIGHTS COMMUNITY IN SUPPORT OF FLYRIGHTS 2.0

“Airport safety measures based on someone’s race, gender or faith are not safety measures at all – they alienate targeted communities and make victims out of travelers. The new FlyRights mobile app being introduced today will empower travelers to fight back against profiling with new tools.”

--- Congresswoman Judy Chu

“A process for travelers to submit complaints can provide recourse while helping improve TSA’s performance.”

--- Congressman John Mica

“Racial profiling is against our American values and it wastes valuable resources. It's time that we move forward in guaranteeing to every American in this country equal justice under the law. The vast majority of our law enforcement officials handle their jobs with professionalism, diligence, and fidelity to the rule of law. But we need a uniform definition of racial profiling so that DHS and other law enforcement can concentrate on investigating real crimes and real leads, and men and women flying or traveling anywhere across the country can feel secure that they are not being harassed by law enforcement solely based on their race, religion, national origin, or ethnicity.”

---- United States Senator Ben Cardin

“Since the launch of the app, reports of racial profiling and discrimination to the TSA have increased almost 20 fold. And while the app was launched to address the pervasive profiling that happens to Sikhs, South Asians, and Muslims, it has been embraced and used by African Americans, wheelchair users, women, Hispanics, and many others.”

---- Wade Henderson, President and CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

The concept that we must somehow choose between public safety and the protection of our Constitutionally protected civil rights is misguided, at best, and woefully unconstitutional. There is no tradeoff between effective law enforcement and protection of the civil rights of all Americans; we can and must have both. By using the FlyRights 2.0 app we are empowering people to record and easily and in real-time report instances of racial profiling. Anyone seriously committed to effective law enforcement and public safety will tell you that “smart” law enforcement must be data-driven.

---- Hilary Shelton, Washington Bureau Director, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

"Whether in the form of TSA screening, immigration enforcement, or NYPD surveillance, profiling is ineffective and violates the civil rights of all Americans. Though it is often couched under the name of national security, it wastes our limited government resources and destroys community relationships, making them less likely to reach out to law enforcement and thereby making us *less* safe. While we await the passage of the End Racial Profiling Act in Congress and the elimination of discriminatory profiling procedures, the Fly Rights 2.0 Mobile App provides an immediate avenue for U.S. travelers to track, record and relay their experiences, bringing us one step closer to documenting these civil rights violations, advocating for change, and remedying the harmful and long-lasting effects of racial and religious injustice that continue to plague our nation."

---- **Deepa Iyer, Executive Director, South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)**

"Some law enforcement officials act as if airports are a constitution-free zone, but they're not. TSA agents should not be targeting travelers based on their race, ethnicity, national origin, or religion. And if they do, travelers should know they have an easy way to report this mistreatment right through their smartphones. Racial profiling should never be part of any traveler's experience."

The federal government should take two steps to make this practice illegal. Congress must pass the End Racial Profiling Act, and the Justice Department needs to finally update its Guidance Regarding the Use of Race by Law Enforcement Officers."

---- **Jennifer Bellamy, Legislative Counsel, American Civil Liberties Union**

People with disabilities expect the same civil rights and access when flying as all global citizens. TSA officials often do not have the knowledge to appropriately screen a person with a disability with respect and appropriate language and behavior, often violating a person's civil rights in the process. Inappropriate, often humiliating and invasive comments are made and actions are taken during screenings that are unnecessary and illegal. Preparation and education around ALL disabilities are essential. The new FlyRights mobile app will for the first time allow travelers with disabilities of all races, genders and ethnicities to be able to immediately file a complaint with regards to their experiences and moving us closer to greater inclusivity and civil rights for all.

---- **Rhonda Neuhaus, Policy Analyst for Government Affairs, Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)**