

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019

Kevin McAleenan  
Acting Commissioner  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20229

Dear Acting Commissioner McAleenan:

We are deeply concerned by revelations of over 9,000 current and former employees of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection participating in a Facebook group where derogatory and racially offensive comments and content are shared. Some of the material suggests that these employees, whom have the public trust to look after refugees and migrants at our border, are dehumanizing these children and families. That content included jokes about the death of a 16-year-old Guatemalan boy.

Given reports of neglect and abuse at these facilities, observed by doctors, lawyers, reporters, and Members of this Congress, the workplace culture demonstrated by this page is not just inappropriate, it is dangerous to the welfare of children, women and girls, and others held in CBP facilities.

We ask the following questions:

- 1) Does CBP have protocols for actively evaluating personnel of potential de-sensitization and/or racial and gender prejudice that could interfere with their duties?
- 2) What efforts has CBP undertaken or will it take to address the potential culture of dehumanization in regards to migrants and refugees?
- 3) What training does CBP personnel receive for upholding the standards of conduct of the agency outside working hours, and what mechanisms are in place when a breach of conduct occurs?
- 4) How many reports were made to the Department of Homeland Security's Office of the Inspector General by migrants, health care professionals, NGOs, lawyers, and other concerned groups about inappropriate behavior by CBP personnel, both on or off duty, for each month and location between January 2017 and August 2019?
- 5) We understand from reports that CBP has contacted the Department of Homeland Security to launch an investigation into staff associated with the Facebook page; aside of termination of personnel found to have violated standards of conduct, what if any actions are you prepared to take in order to address and remedy any damage associated with their behavior?

We await a prompt response to this letter.

Sincerely,



Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress



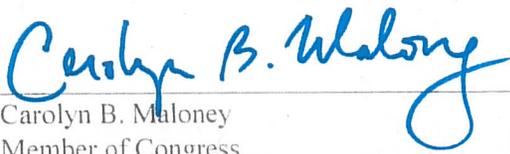
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Member of Congress



Nita Lowey  
Member of Congress



Jose E. Serrano  
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress



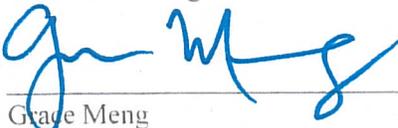
Jerry Nadler  
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Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



Hakeem Jeffries  
Member of Congress



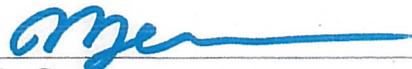
Adriano Espaillat  
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Thomas Suozzi  
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