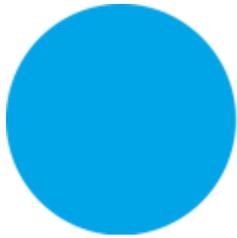


# **The Inauguration of Donald J. Trump**

The 45<sup>th</sup> President  
of the United States of America



**Political Discussion Group Packet**  
**February 2017**



**USA  
TODAY™**

# Fact check: The controversy over Trump's inauguration crowd size

**Lori Robertson and Robert Farley, FactCheck.org** Published 9:57 a.m. ET Jan. 24, 2017 | Updated 12:55 p.m. ET Jan. 24, 2017

White House Spokesman Sean Spicer doubled down on his claim that President Trump's inauguration was the most watched in history. He also said his intention is to "always tell the truth," but said there may be disagreement over the facts. (Jan. 23) AP



*(Photo: Timothy A. Clary, AFP/Getty Images)*

White House counselor Kellyanne Conway claimed that "alternative facts" were employed by Press Secretary Sean Spicer when he tried to make the case that "this was the largest audience to ever witness an inauguration, period, both in person and around the globe." Actually, Spicer got several facts wrong.

He has since admitted that some of the figures he used were incorrect — though he believed them to be accurate at the time.

The crowd-size controversy began on Saturday, Jan. 21, a day after the inauguration, when President Trump claimed the media had misrepresented the number of people attending his inauguration. Trump [spoke at CIA headquarters](#) and said that "one of the networks" had shown "an empty field," while he saw a crowd that "looked like a million-and-a-half people" and "went all the way back to the Washington Monument."

Trump [claimed](#) that "we caught [the media] in a beauty, and I think they're going to pay a big price."

Spicer then read a prepared statement later that day, further [criticizing](#) the media for "dishonesty."

**Spicer, Jan. 21:** "Secondly, photographs of the inaugural proceedings were intentionally framed in a way, in one particular tweet, to minimize the enormous support that had gathered on the National Mall. ... We know that from the platform where the president was sworn in, to 4th Street, it holds about 250,000 people. From 4th Street to the media tent is about another 220,000. And from the media tent to the Washington Monument, another 250,000 people. All of

this space was full when the president took the oath of office. We know that 420,000 people used the D.C. Metro public transit yesterday, which actually compares to 317,000 that used it for President Obama's last inaugural. This was the largest audience to ever witness an inauguration — period — both in person and around the globe."

Photos of the crowd, including one taken at 12:01 p.m. from the top of the Washington Monument, clearly show that the crowd witnessing Trump's inauguration didn't extend all the way to the monument. Metro's figures for both 11 a.m., a half-hour before the inauguration ceremony began, and for the full day show fewer trips taken this year than for past inaugurations.

At a Jan. 23 press conference, Spicer made an alternative argument, [saying](#) the number of people watching the inauguration on TV, online and in person had to be the largest ever.

"I have a right to say if you add up the network streaming numbers, Facebook, YouTube, all of the various live streaming that we have information on so far, I don't think there's any question it was the largest watched inauguration, ever," Spicer said.

On that point, Spicer *may* be correct. While Nielsen TV ratings were higher in past years, some data suggests online viewership was up compared with 2009. But there is no comprehensive measurement available that would prove or disprove this claim.

## Facts Versus the 'Alternative'

[Several media outlets wrote](#) about Spicer's claims about the crowd size this year versus Obama's inaugurations. And there are [severalside-by-sidephoto comparisons](#) of the crowd in 2017 and the visibly larger crowd in 2009 — a historic event as the nation inaugurated its first black president.

On NBC's *Meet the Press*, host Chuck Todd [asked](#) White House counselor Kellyanne Conway, "[W]hy the president asked the White House press secretary to come out in front of the podium for the first time and utter a falsehood?" Conway responded: "Don't be so overly dramatic about it, Chuck. What — You're saying it's a falsehood. And they're giving Sean Spicer, our press secretary, gave alternative facts to that."

To be clear, there are not "alternative facts." There are certainly alternative interpretations of the facts, or alternative data sets, or, in this case, potentially different crowd-size estimates from experts. But a "[fact](#)," in the words of Merriam-Webster is

“something that has actual existence” or “a piece of information presented as having objective reality.”

An alternative to that, as Todd pointed out, is a falsehood.

Let’s go through the evidence on Spicer’s and Trump’s crowd-size claims.

**Photos.** Side-by-side photos of the 2017 inauguration crowds and 2009 inauguration crowds on the National Mall show a noticeable difference, with 2009’s crowds filling up more of the space, from the perspective of the Washington Monument looking toward the Capitol.

See Reuters’ side-by-side photos [here](#), both pictures taken by the news agency. The Jan. 20, 2017, photo was taken at 12:01 p.m., the Reuters photo caption says. Trump took the oath of office at noon.

Reuters editor Jim Bourg [posted on Facebook](#) that he was the one who assigned the photographer to take pictures from the top of the Washington Monument. Bourg wrote that he had seen “a lot of inaccurate talk and allegations online about the crowd photos from Friday’s Trump inauguration that are simply not borne out by the FACTS.”

“Only one news organization had a still photographer atop the Washington monument for the inauguration and I assigned him to be there,” Bourg wrote on Jan. 22. “This photo by Reuters News Pictures staff photographer Lucas Jackson was taken at 12:01:18 p.m. on Friday and not much earlier as many people are trying to claim.”

*The New York Times* tweeted photos from Getty Images in 2009 and the 58th Presidential Inaugural Committee for 2017, [writing](#) that both were taken 45 minutes before the respective presidents’ swearing-in.

[View image on Twitter](#)



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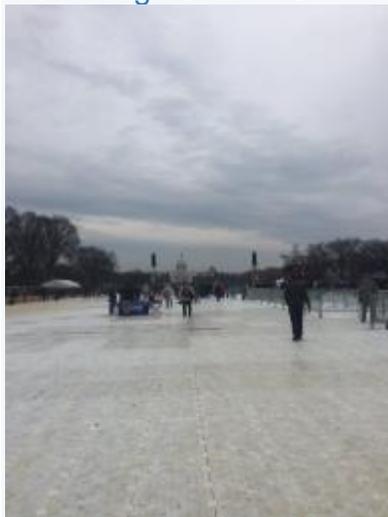


[The New York Times](#)

Comparing the crowds at Donald Trump's and Barack Obama's inaugurations <http://nyti.ms/2j3yaDE>  
2:57 PM - 20 Jan 2017

PBS' "NewsHour" also posted a [timelapse video](#) of the crowd throughout Inauguration Day, which shows it didn't quite stretch back to the Washington Monument, as Trump and Spicer said. And as our fact-checking colleagues at *The Washington Post* [pointed out](#), other journalists had more photographic evidence on Twitter.

[View image on Twitter](#)



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[Lisa Desjardins](#)

THE CROWD: now ends at about 10th st on the mall.

10:46 AM - 20 Jan 2017 · [Washington, DC](#)



Follow



[Gillian Brockell](#)

#PEOTUS arrives in 15 minutes and this is the crowd (or lack thereof) at 12th Street.

W @bterris #Inauguration#InaugurationDay2017

10:03 AM - 20 Jan 2017

**Metro ridership.** At the press conference, Spicer also gave inaccurate numbers for those taking the Washington, D.C., Metro system for Trump's inauguration compared with Obama's.

**Spicer, Jan. 21:** "We know that 420,000 people used the D.C. Metro public transit yesterday, which actually compares to 317,000 that used it for President Obama's last inaugural."

But that's not what Metro said, and Spicer [acknowledged](#) that during his Jan. 23 press conference.

**Spicer, Jan. 23:** "At the time the information that I was provided by the inaugural committee came from an outside agency that we reported on. And I think knowing what we know now we can tell that WMATA's numbers are different, but we were trying to provide numbers that we had been provided. That wasn't like we made them up out of thin air."

WMATA is the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, also referred to simply as Metro.

Spicer's 317,000 figure was the number Metro gave for riders as of 11 a.m. on Inauguration Day 2013. The comparable number, for 11 a.m., for Trump's inauguration was 193,000.

And 2009's Metro ridership as of 11 a.m. was much higher: 513,000. Even in 2005, for President George W. Bush's second inauguration, the ridership figure was 197,000, a bit higher than the 2017 number.

Follow



**Metro** @wmata

Metro Ridership: As of 11am, 193k trips taken so far today. (11am 1/20/13 = 317k, 11am 1/20/09 = 513k, 11am 1/20/05 = 197k) #wmata

[10:34 AM - 20 Jan 2017](#)

(Note, Metro [corrected the 2013 date](#): Inauguration that year was held on Jan. 21.)

The comparable full-day figures from Metro, as [reported by The Washington Post](#), showed 570,557 trips taken from 4 a.m. Friday until midnight. Full-day numbers for the past two inaugurations were also higher: 782,000 for 2013 and 1.1 million for 2009, the busiest day in Metro's history.

The Women's March on Washington held on Saturday, Jan. 21 was the second-busiest day in Metro's history, the *Post's* Dr. Gridlock transportation reporter also [wrote](#). Metro General Manager Paul J. Wiedefeld told the *Post* that 1,001,613 trips were taken Saturday.

**Crowd-size experts.** Spicer was right about one thing: It appears, as he said, that no one has scientifically calculated estimates of the crowd size for Trump's inauguration. Congress has prohibited the National Park Service from making official estimates after it [produced an official estimate](#) that 460,000 turned out for the so-called "Million Man March" in 1995, prompting organizers to threaten a lawsuit.

Estimating crowd size is a notoriously difficult task in Washington, D.C., for a variety of others reasons, explained [Steve Doig](#), a professor at Arizona State University who analyzed the crowd size of Obama's 2009 inauguration. To get a really good crowd estimate, he said, you need a true overhead image. In Washington, D.C., the FAA makes certain areas [no-fly zones](#) during the inauguration, and there are few very tall buildings.

Satellite photos would provide the best evidence, he said, but because of the overcast skies on Friday, the low cloud cover did not allow for useful satellite images.

The top of the Washington Monument provides an oblique view, Doig said, though it is not a true overhead shot. Still, he said, looking at side-by-side photos from the 2009 Obama inauguration and Trump's, that vantage point makes it clear that the crowd was much smaller for Trump's inauguration.

"You can clearly see that Obama's [crowd] was substantially higher," Doig said. "I'd be happy saying three times larger."

*The New York Times* reported that Keith Still, a professor at Manchester Metropolitan University in England and a crowd safety consultant, estimated that the crowd for this year's inauguration was about a third of the size of the crowd in 2009.

Spicer argued that floor coverings over the grass on the National Mall "highlight[ed] where people were not standing, while in years past the grass eliminated this visual."

Doig called that argument absurd. Yes, he said, grass covering was not used in 2009, but he said the blank spaces would still be readily apparent.

"I don't know how [Spicer] kept a straight face when he said that," Doig said.

If you look at the photo of the Obama inauguration, he said, unoccupied areas would have shown up as green or brown (rather than white), but he said they would have been easily visible.

"It's not as if everyone was wearing camouflage," Doig said.

As for Trump's claim that when he looked out, he could see people "all the way back to the Washington Monument," that's entirely possible, Doig said, given Trump's low vantage point.

There were reports that demonstrators may have been blocking people from getting onto the Mall, Doig said. And, he said, there were a couple of "mini entry points" where it appears demonstrators were trying to block entry.

"Perhaps as many as hundreds may have been delayed getting in," Doig said, "but not hundreds of thousands."

Back in 2009, Doig did an analysis of the crowd that attended the Obama inauguration using a satellite image taken on a clear day. The image was then broken into grids to make counts. Doig's estimate of 800,000 was far lower than the 1.8 million figure reported by the *Washington Post*, based on counts by Washington, D.C., officials. The

higher estimate included people along the parade route and estimates of people watching from windows, Doig said, while his did not.

Such an estimate will not be possible this time due to the lack of useful satellite photos, Doig said. But for the purposes of fact-checking, the exact number is less relevant than whether or not it was the largest crowd ever for an inauguration. And Doig said the photo from atop the Washington Monument —while less than an ideal overhead photo — provides enough evidence to make clear that Obama’s first inauguration was far more heavily attended.



President Trump delivers his inaugural address on Jan. 20, 2017. (Photo: Brendan Smialowski, AFP/Getty Images)

**TV and online viewership.** But at the Jan. 23 press conference, Spicer emphasized the *combined* audience — in person, watching on TV and watching online — was the highest in history. Asked if he was now saying that it was the largest in-person crowd for an inauguration, Spicer said, “I am not. I am saying that it was the total largest audience witnessed in person and around the globe.”

According to [Nielsen](#), TV viewership for the Trump inauguration — an estimated 31 million people — was about 19% below the number that tuned in to watch Obama’s first inauguration in 2009. And it is far below the 41.8 million who tuned in for Ronald Reagan’s first inauguration in 1981.

But that only tells part of the story, as Spicer highlighted at his Jan. 23 press briefing. If you add in those who watched it online via livestream, Spicer said, “Sure, it was the most watched inaugural.”

That’s a difficult number to quantify, let alone to compare with the 2009 inauguration. But some data suggest Spicer is correct that online viewership was up dramatically from 2009.

Spicer argued that if you add the 31 million TV viewers estimated by Nielsen with 16.9 million who viewed it on CNN, that alone would be the highest in history. The 16.9 million, though, isn’t a hard number. If someone were to log on and off repeatedly, that person would be counted multiple times.

A CNN spokeswoman told us that at the peak of CNN’s livestream coverage at 12:15 p.m., there were 2.3 million devices (desktop, mobile, connected TVs) streaming CNN’s feed of the inauguration.

Digital comparisons to the inauguration in 2009 are difficult, though. Online viewing of Obama's first inauguration [set records](#) at the time. A CNN spokeswoman told us that in 2009, there were 23.7 million live video starts on CNN during the inauguration. But she cautioned that that figure is likely inflated because technology at the time often required users to restart frequently. "There were roughly 8.3 million visits to the streaming content in 2009, which was much lower than 2017," the spokeswoman said.

And that's just CNN. As Spicer noted, there were lots of other platforms from which viewers watched the inauguration via livestream, such as on YouTube and Facebook.

Akamai Technologies, a content delivery network for most of the major networks and newspapers, [reported](#) that the Trump inauguration was the largest single live news event that the company has delivered. At its peak, the company recorded 4.6 million people watching the inauguration simultaneously (up from a peak of 3.8 million back in 2009), said Chris Nicholson, a spokesman for Akamai. Many more people may have tuned in to the inauguration online at other times, he said. And, he noted that Akamai's customers represent "a big chunk but not all" of the online providers of the live video of the inauguration.

Does all that add up to the most viewed inauguration in history? Maybe, but data necessary to make apples-to-apples comparisons are limited. The firm comScore, for example, says it is developing [technology](#) to measure audience across platforms — including TV and online — but that has not yet been rolled out.

Regardless, Trump and Spicer argued that the media misrepresented the size of the crowd at the inauguration, and we don't find any evidence of that. To the contrary, it was Trump and Spicer who provided false information to feed a false narrative about crowd size.

# Police injured, more than 200 arrested at Trump inauguration protests in DC



By [Gregory Krieg](#), CNN

Updated 4:06 AM ET, Sat January 21, 2017

**Washington (CNN)**Six police officers were injured and 217 protesters arrested Friday after a morning of peaceful protests and coordinated disruptions of Donald Trump's inauguration ceremony gave way to ugly street clashes in downtown Washington.

At least two DC police officers and one other person were taken to the hospital after run-ins with protesters, DC Fire Spokesman Vito Maggiolo told CNN. Acting DC Police Chief Peter Newsham said the officers' injuries were considered minor and not life threatening.

Bursts of chaos erupted on 12th and K streets as black-clad "antifascist" protesters smashed storefronts and bus stops, hammered out the windows of a limousine and eventually launched rocks at a phalanx of police lined up in an eastbound crosswalk. Officers responded by launching smoke and flash-bang devices, which could be heard from blocks away, into the street to disperse the crowds.

"Pepper spray and other control devices were used to control the criminal actors and protect persons and property," police said.

Anti-Trump protests also broke out Friday in US cities, including New York, Seattle, Dallas, Chicago and Portland, Oregon. Authorities in Seattle say one person was in critical condition at a hospital with a gunshot wound. Demonstrations also took place overseas in Hong Kong, Berlin and London.

In Washington, Newsham told CNN the several hundred demonstrators who actively confronted police were vastly outnumbered by the thousands of nonviolent protesters who swarmed the nation's capital for Inauguration Day and Saturday's Women's March on Washington.

"We have been pointing out all along that this is a very isolated incident, and by and large, everything is going peacefully and a lot of folks have come to the city to enjoy this historic day, not only the Capitol but walking all around the city," he said.

But many protesters, including permitted marchers, accused security personnel of denying them access to their planned routes.

Ashley Link, 37, made her way to Franklin Square after an ANSWER Coalition protest slated for the Navy Memorial on Pennsylvania Avenue, about a mile away, was effectively blocked by what many there described as onerous security restrictions. She expressed concern that isolated clashes with police would overshadow other messages on display, but sympathized with the rowdier elements in the street.

"I'm all about peaceful protesting, practicing nonviolence, but at the same time, I understand why people are so frustrated," she said. "They are so upset about so many things in our country right now that to make a poster? There's not a poster big enough to cover all the things that people are frustrated about."

Hours earlier, Lysander Reid-Powell, a 20-year-old student from New Mexico, joined in a Black Lives Matter-led blockade of an entrance onto the National Mall.

"I think Donald Trump is a fascist, and it's very easy for people, especially people who are in pain, to slip into fascism," he said. "It's easy for people to feel like the individual has no power and that you're just one small little ant in the big hill, so ultimately all that matters is popular resistance."



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[Greg Krieg](#)

Another protester is screaming at the crew smashing a limo. Lots of ppl here frustrated by actions of few:

[3:06 PM - 20 Jan 2017](#) · [Washington, DC](#)

As Trump supporters and other spectators began to emerge from their hotels, many in the new president's signature red caps, and head for the security checkpoints on Friday morning, protesters at multiple entry points sought to cut off access by staging coordinated sit-ins. As the swearing-in ceremony neared around noon, hundreds of people remained snarled in long lines.



Demonstrators protest against US President-elect Donald Trump before his inauguration on January 20, 2017, in Washington, DC.

Three women were chained together at the neck on 10th Street, and more than 150 DisruptJ20 demonstrators surrounded an entrance near the Canadian embassy. "This checkpoint is closed," they chanted, forcing Trump supporters to turn back and walk

along Indiana Avenue in search of a clearer path.

An assortment of "pop up" protests also lined the streets surrounding the secure zones on the mall. "We're here to take a stand against the ideas that Trump spouted throughout the course of this campaign -- sexism, Islamophobia, his bigotry and nationalism," said protester Jed Holtz, from New York City.



A man is washed with water after being sprayed by police pepper spray during an anti-Trump demonstration on January 20, 2017 in Washington, DC.

The protests did not stop at the checkpoints. A half-dozen members of "Democracy Spring," a group that agitates against the influence of money in politics, obtained tickets that placed them within shouting distance of the swearing-in ceremony.

As Trump stepped forward to take the oath of office, six protesters, each wearing a letter of the word "RESIST," stood up to chant the preamble to US Constitution.

Their shouting made it difficult for those seated nearby -- including former campaign staffers and volunteers, as well as Trump's ex-wife Ivana Trump -- to hear Trump utter the words that officially made him the 45th President of the United States.

The disruption was compounded when, much as it happened at Trump's campaign rallies, his supporters responded, erupting in shouts of "Trump, Trump, Trump!" as they tried to drown out the interlopers.

Liberal groups praised the work of protesters, many of whom traveled from around the country to rail against a president they called "illegitimate" in thousands of signs and songs.

"The only source of light on this miserable day is the massive, multi-racial, multi-generational progressive resistance movement led by women and people of color that's already emerging to confront Donald Trump's agenda of hate and growing stronger every single day," Democracy for America Executive Director Charles Chamberlain said in a statement following the inaugural ceremony.

## Demonstrations elsewhere

In New York, nine people were arrested for disorderly conduct, according to the New York Police Department. Authorities said five people were arrested at a protest in Dallas, six in Chicago.

In Portland, Oregon, protesters were armed with clubs, sticks and throwing unknown liquid at officers, according to the Portland Police Department. Six people were arrested in Portland Friday, Portland Police Sgt. Pete Simpson tells CNN.

In Seattle, people threw bricks and other items at officers during a demonstration on the the University of Washington campus, city police said. Harborview Medical Center in Seattle confirmed it was treating a man who was shot at the protest and is in critical condition. Seattle police said a man turned himself in to campus police and was being questioned.

## Global protests

The anti-Trump protests extended well beyond water's edge, with rallies popping up in Australia, London, Hong Kong and Berlin -- where demonstrators held a sign that read, "Walls divide." In the West Bank, Palestinians protested against Israeli settlements and Trump's plan to move the US Embassy to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv.

In Sydney, anti-Trump protesters and Trump supporters spilled into the city's streets Saturday to protest the US President.

Thousands of people attended a Women's March in Martin Place in the central part of the city. Event organizers claimed nearly 5,000 people attended the march, but Sydney police estimate that the number was closer to 3,000.

Chants from the crowd included "women united will never be defeated" and "when women's rights are under attack, what do we do, stand up fight back."

A separate, smaller protest of approximately 30 people, in support of Trump also took place at Martin Place on Saturday.

The pro-Trump crowd waved US and confederate flags in the air and shouted: "It's all over lefty scum" and "drain the swamp," witness to the protest Eliza Berlage told CNN. Some Trump enthusiast also carried placards saying "Aussies for Trump," Berlage said.

The police refrained the pro-Trump protesters from going into the area with the anti-Trump protesters.

Scuffles ensued as police tried to physically restrain some of the rally goers, Berlage said.

## DeploraBall

On Thursday night in Washington, protesters gathered on 14th Street outside the National Press Club to demonstrate against "DeploraBall," an event organized by some of Trump's most aggressive online supporters. The name riffs off the campaign description of some Trump backers by his defeated opponent, Hillary Clinton, as a "basket of deplorables."



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[Greg Krieg](#)

[#DeploraBall](#) entrants passing through behind cops being serenaded ("Racist bow ties")  
[7:10 PM - 19 Jan 2017](#)

As attendees -- some of whom were clad in suits and red hats, others dressed in gowns -- entered the event, demonstrators chanted "Shame" and "Nazis go home" behind a phalanx of police. Some held signs that read "No Alt Reich" and "No Nazi USA."



A protester has her eyes flushed with water.



## The Women's March gets ready for prime time

On Saturday, the [Women's March on Washington](#) could attract a quarter million participants, organizers said.

"We're really trying to set a tone of resistance for the coming years," Lacy MacAuley, a [DisruptJ20](#) organizer, told CNN. "Donald Trump represents a shift in our politics in a dangerous, harmful, exclusionary direction. We oppose those policies of hate."

According to Department of Homeland Security chief Jeh Johnson, as many as 900,000 spectators may attend inaugural ceremonies.

Johnson told reporters last week that 28,000 security personnel from dozens of agencies, including local and out-of-town police officers, will be fanned out across the city on Inauguration Day and into the weekend.

Organizers of the march, which begins near Capitol Hill at 10 a.m. ET, now say internal divisions, many of them stemming from a divisive Democratic primary fight, are being put aside in the name of solidarity.

"We have already proven that Hillary and Bernie Sanders supporters can work together against fascism, xenophobia, and racism," Linda Sarsour, a Palestinian-American Muslim activist from Brooklyn, told CNN.

The march, which began with [a modest Facebook call in the aftermath of the election](#), has grown in to what could be one of the larger political demonstrations ever in DC.

There are more than 600 "sister marches" planned around the country and fundraising for the event has largely come in chunks of \$20 and \$30 online donations.

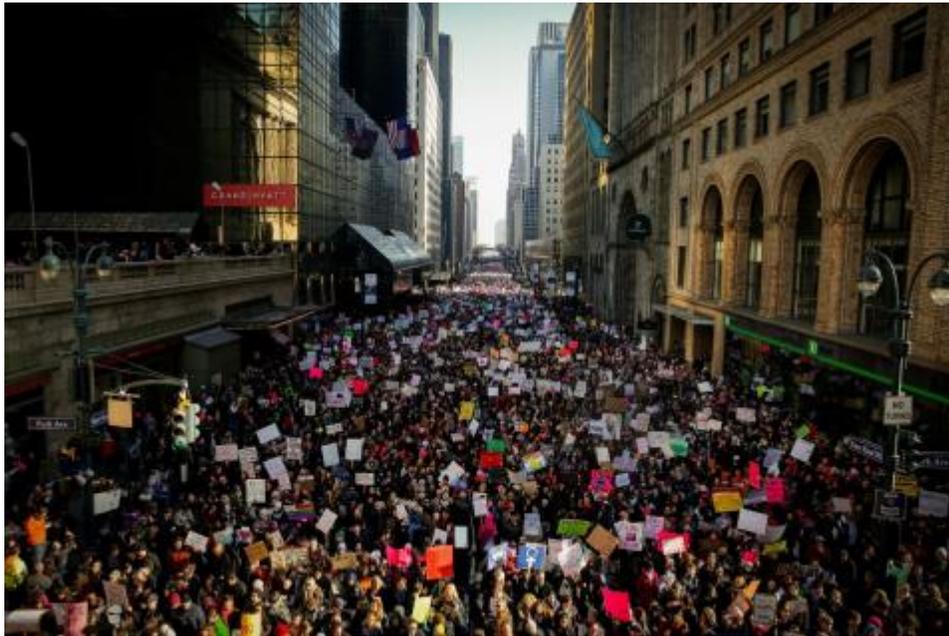
"It really reminds me of the Sanders campaign," Sarsour said. "A very grassroots, very grass-powered movement."

*CNN's Azadeh Ansari, Brian Todd, Sarah Ganim, Noah Gray, Bex Wright, Dugald McConnell, Pallavi Reddy, Jeremy Diamond, Betsy Klein, Joe Sutton and Chris Welch contributed to this report.*

# The New York Times

## *Women's March Highlights as Huge Crowds Protest Trump: 'We're Not Going Away'*

By ANEMONA HARTOCOLLIS and YAMICHE ALCINDOR Jan. 21, 2017



Protesters on 42nd Street in front of Grand Central Terminal during the Women's March in New York. Credit Nicole Craine for The New York Times

- Hundreds of thousands of women gathered in Washington on Saturday in a kind of counterinauguration after President Trump [took office on Friday](#). A [range of speakers and performers](#) cutting across generational lines rallied near the Capitol before marchers made their way toward the White House.
- They were joined by crowds in cities across the country: In Chicago, the size of a rally so quickly outgrew early estimates that the march that was to follow was canceled for safety. In Manhattan, Fifth Avenue became a river of pink hats, while in downtown Los Angeles, even before the gathering crowd stretched itself out to march, it was more than a quarter mile deep on several streets.

- Begun as [a Facebook post](#) just after the election, the march is the start of what organizers hope could be a sustained campaign of protest in a polarized America, unifying demonstrators around issues like reproductive rights, immigration and civil rights. The movement has also [encountered divisions](#).
- The Times had journalists covering the marches in Washington; New York; Boston; Atlanta; Denver; Los Angeles; Phoenix; St. Paul, Minn.; and Key West, Fla. Check out [what they posted on Twitter](#) and what [readers asked of them](#) live. See [photos from marches around the world](#), too. (All times listed below are local.)



Hundreds of thousands of demonstrators gathered for the Women's March on Washington on Saturday. Credit Chang W. Lee/The New York Times

### **Here are some highlights from the rally in Washington:**

(Or [watch video of the whole event](#).)

- The singer and actress **Janelle Monae** highlighted the issue of police violence, leading the crowd in a chant of “Sandra Bland! Say her name!”, a reference to [the high-profile case](#) where a black woman died in police custody in Texas after being arrested in 2015.

She then brought the microphone to each of the women in [“Mothers of the Movement”](#) who had joined her onstage. One by one, they joined in the chant, each inserting the name of her child who had died at the hands of the police.

- The actress **Ashley Judd** delivered an uninhibited speech that ended with her referencing how Mr. Trump bragged, in [a 2005 recording](#), that he could use his celebrity status to force himself on women, even groping their private parts.

They “ain’t for grabbing,” she said. “They are for birthing new generations of filthy, vulgar, nasty, proud, Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, Sikh, you name it, for new generations of nasty women.”

- **Gloria Steinem**, the feminist icon of the 1960s and 1970s, told the women in the group to get to know one another more personally.

“Make sure you introduce yourselves to each other and decide what we’re going to do tomorrow, and tomorrow and tomorrow,” she said. “We’re never turning back!”



Gloria Steinem spoke to thousands of people gathering at the Women’s March in Washington. Credit Ruth Fremson/The New York Times

- “It’s been a heart-rending time to be both a woman and an immigrant in this country,” said the actress and activist **America Ferrera**. “But the president is not America. His cabinet is not America. Congress is not America. We are America! And we are here to stay.”

- After getting to the crowd to repeat a number to call Congress, the filmmaker **Michael Moore** urged people to run for office:

“This is not the time for shy people! Shy people, you have two hours to get over it.”

- The actress **Scarlett Johansson** told a story about how she had visited a Planned Parenthood clinic in New York City after starting her acting career, and how a doctor there had treated her with compassion, “no judgment, no questions asked.”

“I feel that in the face of this current political climate, it is vital that we all make it our mission to get really, really personal,” she said.

“President Trump, I did not vote for you,” she continued. “I want to be able to support you. But first I ask that you support me. Support my sister. Support my mother. Support my best friend and all of our girlfriends.”

Otherwise, Ms. Johansson said, her own daughter, “may potentially not have the right to make choices for her body and her future that your daughter Ivanka has been privileged to have.”

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### What’s up with those “pussyhats” I’ve heard about?



A sea of pink hats on march participants in Washington on Saturday. CreditRuth Fremson/The New York Times

Many participants believed that Mr. Trump expressed misogynistic views during the presidential campaign, with remarks about [Megyn Kelly](#), [Carly Fiorina](#) and [Hillary Clinton](#). After the 2005 [recording](#) surfaced, several women came forward [to accuse Mr. Trump of inappropriate sexual conduct](#). He dismissed the recording as “locker room banter” and assailed [his accusers](#).

In a sly allusion to the crude remarks Mr. Trump made in the recording, many marchers, men and women alike, wore pink “pussyhats,” complete with cat ears. The hats are described on [pussyhatproject.com](http://pussyhatproject.com) as a way to “make a unique collective visual statement which will help activists be better heard.”

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### **Mr. Trump seemed to go out of his way to ignore the march**

Just after 10 a.m., Mr. Trump and his family headed in the opposite direction of the march in Washington for the National Prayer Service, an inaugural tradition, at the National Cathedral. When he spoke at C.I.A. headquarters in Langley, Va., in the midafternoon, he told his audience that they were his “No. 1 stop” on his first full day in office, because they were “really special amazing people.”

He also [ruminated about how big the attendance](#) had been at his inaugural speech, but he did not mention the large crowds of the women’s march, where demonstrators were challenging his administration on a number of policies, or even that the march was taking place as he was speaking.

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### **Hillary Clinton tweets her support**

Mrs. Clinton was not expected to attend the march in Washington, [The Times reported on Friday](#), but her Twitter account sent a midmorning note anyway.

Follow



[Hillary Clinton](#)

Thanks for standing, speaking & marching for our values [@womensmarch](#). Important as ever. I truly believe we're always Stronger Together.  
[9:07 AM - 21 Jan 2017](#)

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### **Elizabeth Warren: ‘Me, I’m here to fight back’**

In a speech in Boston, Ms. Warren, a Democratic senator from Massachusetts, said fundamental freedoms, like abortion rights and gay marriage, could be at stake under Mr. Trump’s Supreme Court.

“We can whimper, we can whine or we can fight back,” she said, as demonstrators in pink hats waved American flags. “Me, I’m here to fight back.”

“We believe in science,” Ms. Warren said, adding, “we know that climate change is real.” A police officer patrolling the rally pumped his fists in agreement.

“We also believe that immigration makes this country a stronger country,” Ms. Warren said. “We will not build a stupid wall and we will not tear millions of families apart.”

“You know, I could do this all day,” she added, to laughs and cheers. “But we gotta march.”

*Jess Bidgood*



Crowds gathered outside the National Center for Civil and Human Rights for the start of the march in Atlanta on Saturday. Credit Kevin D. Liles for The New York Times

**John Lewis: ‘Don’t let anybody, anybody, turn you around’**

**Notable Signs:** “Bend toward justice,” evoking the work of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

“I’m ready to march again,” said Mr. Lewis, a Democratic representative of Georgia, who chaired the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee in the 1960s. “I’ve come here to say to you: Don’t let anybody, anybody, turn you around.”

Citing the demonstrations across the country, Mr. Lewis urged marchers, who flowed onto the street running near the Center for Civil and Human Rights, to “use this unity to organize” future political efforts.

”The next election, we must get out and vote like we never, ever voted before,” said Mr. Lewis, who was embroiled in a public clash with Mr. Trump recently.

*Alan Blinder*

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### **Everyone wants to know: How many people turned out?**

The crowds appeared to be huge in most places, with marchers in Washington, New York City and Chicago seeming to stretch to the horizons. Police departments, at times, decline to provide crowd estimates, and [crowds are notoriously hard to estimate](#), even with a good satellite image. But some official and unofficial estimates have given a sense of the turnout.

Attendance in **New York City** was more than 400,000, according to Mayor Bill de Blasio’s office. The **St. Paul** police issued an official crowd count of 50,000 to 60,000 people. Attendance in Boston was 175,000, according to Nicole Caravella, a spokeswoman for Mayor Martin J. Walsh.

The **Atlanta** Police Department estimated about 60,000 people attended a rally there. The Department of Public Safety in **Phoenix** estimated that some 20,000 marched, while in **Key West, Fla.**, a town of 25,000, police said more than 2,000 people marched.

Organizers in **Chicago** estimated the crowd there at 250,000, the [Chicago Tribune](#) said. The Office of Emergency Management and Communications there said late on Saturday morning that Grant Park, the sprawling area where the rally-goers had gathered, had been filled to capacity. Though the official march was canceled, many still chose to walk through downtown holding protest signs.

Although the mayor’s office in **Washington** and organizers declined to provide an estimate of the size of the flagship march, The Associated Press reported that the District of Columbia’s homeland security director, Christopher Geldart, said it was safe to say the crowd at the march there was more than the 500,000 that organizers told city officials to expect.

“The crowd was so heavy, we didn’t know which way to go,” said Sabitha Pillai-Friedman, a psychotherapist who traveled to Washington from Philadelphia with her 17-year-old child, Sanji, and a friend, Pallavi Sreedhar. “We were squeezed, touching.”

(March organizers offered a worldwide [tally](#) for the 673 “sister” marches, but when asked, could not provide an explanation of how the tally had been calculated.)

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**Here’s a rundown of scenes across the country. First up? Location: Washington. Time: 4:43 p.m.**

**Overheard Chant:** “Yes we can” as people walked past the White House.

As the sun set downtown, protesters made their way to the White House and assembled in small groups in a park just across from the building’s entrance. There in an area surrounded by temporary gates, people walked single file through one open entrance and one by one laid protest signs across gates set up for inauguration several hundred feet away from the White House.

While the temporary gates made walking up to the building impossible, people stood shaking their heads in frustration.

Fontella Garraway, a 50-year-old retired Army veteran who drove three and half hours from her home in Rocky Mount, N.C., sat on a bench staring at the White House with a pin that read “girl power.”

“Even looking at the White House, it’s like I hope he’s looking out here at us,” she said of Mr. Trump. “I hope it’s penetrating to him that we mean business and we are serious.”

Moments later she lay a handwritten sign that read “Love trumps hate; Hear our voice,” on the a fence facing the White House.

”That’s his inauguration gift,” she said.

*Yamiche Alcindor*

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Women's March participants in Phoenix on Saturday carried signs and American flags along the procession's route. Credit Caitlin O'Hara for The New York Times

**Location: Phoenix. Time: 1:01 p.m.**

**Notable Chant:** "Tell me what America looks like! This is what America looks like."

**Notable Sash:** "65,855,610 votes for a woman," worn by Sara Powell, 61, of Phoenix, and nine of her friends.

**Overheard:** "My arms are tired. This is a good workout," said Rima Borgogni, 50, owner of a Pilates studio in Sedona, Ariz., after holding a sign throughout the mile-long march.

Ellen Ferreira and her friends felt as if they were fighting for some of the same things they used to. They are mostly retired and many of them are veterans of past protests, including the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in 1963, when Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech.

"For our right to choose," said Piya Jacob, 70, a retired elementary school principal.

"For equality," said Mary Helsaple, 67, an artist.

"For healing justice," said Gretchen Vorbeck, 72, who runs a nonprofit that buys grocery gift cards for public schoolteachers.

Carol Decker, 70, a retired magazine publisher, jumped in and said, "We're mad as hell and we're not going to take it anymore."

*Fernanda Santos*

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**Location: Washington. Time: 3:10 p.m.**

**Notable Chants:** "We are the popular vote!"

**Notable Shirt:** A blue shirt with "Make Sexism Wrong Again" in the same style as "Make America Great Again" campaign shirts.

Just off 15th street, a block north of the parade's official end point, a large flatbed float with big "TRUMP" letters arched along the back parked itself in the middle of the street, drawing the ire of the thousands of marchers, who berated the float with chants of "Shame!" and "We are the popular vote!"

Police officers formed a barricade around the float with more than a half-dozen sidecar motorcycles. The six or so men and one woman on the float all took pictures of the protesters.

Yet some of those who chanted to chase the float away weren't surprised at its appearance at their march.

"I mean the inauguration was yesterday," said Chrissy Fiore, 39, of Washington, though she said it was "crazy that they made it down here and that now they're getting police escorted out."

Officers wouldn't let reporters approach those on the float or those driving it, but a magnet on the side said "Trump Unity Bridge."

As the float headed east to move away from the parade, Sheriff David A. Clarke Jr. of Milwaukee County, a Trump supporter, was seen walking along the sidewalk, taking in the scene but remaining silent. He did not respond to a reporter's question about his opinion of the march or protest.

*Nick Corasaniti*



A brass band played for demonstrators at the Women's March in New York City. Credit Jessica Bal for The New York Times

**Location:** New York City. **Time:** 1 p.m.

**Chant:** "Don't take away our ACA" and "Who's the boss? We are!"

**Notable Signs:** "Show us your taxes;" "you can't comb over sexism;" "1459 days;" and "build a bridge not a wall."

**Overheard:** One woman speaking at the rally told the story of having an abortion when she was young, making the minimum wage and could not support a child. She said she was fighting for equal pay “not just for white women.”

At the rally in Mr. Trump’s hometown near Trump World Tower, elected officials and celebrities assailed the president. Signs in the crowd mocked his bouffant hair and the size of his hands. The actress Whoopi Goldberg said it would be the first of many protests against the president.

“This is how people ended the war in Vietnam,” Ms. Goldberg told the cheering crowd.

Grace Huezo, 20, a student at Hunter College, marched with her twin sister holding a “Nasty Woman” sign. She said she was there to defend women’s rights after she was appalled by Mr. Trump’s comments about grabbing women.

“We’re here saying, no, people do not have permission to grab women without our permission,” she said.



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[Emma G. Fitzsimmons](#)

Grace and Gabrielle Huezo say they're marching because they want men to know it's not OK to grab women without their permission.

[11:53 AM - 21 Jan 2017](#)

She said she was buoyed by the huge turnout and the camaraderie.

“I’m hopeful to see so many people that are not giving up and they’re keeping their spirit,” she said. “We’re all just going to stick together over the next four years.”

*Emma G. Fitzsimmons*

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**Location: Denver. Time: 10:22 a.m.**

**Popular chant:** “March! March! March!”

**Notable signs:** “I won’t stop til it rains glass;” “You can’t comb over misogyny” (accompanied by a drawing of Mr. Trump’s hair); “Flunk the Electoral College.”

**Overheard:** “I got to bring my high school punk rock out,” said Emily Hastings, 39, a woman from Denver wearing a black “eat the rich” T-shirt and carrying a “Don’t tread on women” sign. “Punk rock is all about resistance.”

The march began in a park at the center of the city with a group singing “You’ve got a friend.” Marchers blanketed the park nestled between the gold-domed state capitol and city hall, hauling strollers, wearing pink hats and often hugging and kissing.

*Julie Turkewitz*

**Location: St. Paul. Time: 10:55 a.m.**

**Notable Sign:** “Make America Compassionate Again,” and “I Love You”

Thousands of demonstrators gathered on a drizzly morning clad in rain boots, ponchos and pink knit “pussyhats” to march to the Capitol.

“What Trump has said is so based on exclusion and winning and being right versus taking care of everyone,” said Hilary James, 27, a musician from Minneapolis. “Even if he doesn’t listen to us, I feel it’s important to not sit back.”

*Christina Capecchi*

**Location: Boston. Time: 10:25 a.m.**

**Notable Sign:** Make America Think Again

Gloria Cole, 66, had turned the protest into a family affair, traveling here with her wife, her daughter, her daughter’s boyfriend, and her brother and sister-in-law.

“I drew a line, it’s like, I’m an old woman — I’m not that old, I’m 66 — I have to stand up for equal rights for everyone, for human rights,” Ms. Cole said. “We’re here, and we’re not going away.”

Aili Shaw, 14, held a white sign that read, “Our arms are tired from holding these signs since the 1920s.”

Ms. Shaw had traveled here, by train and car, with friends from her home in Coventry, R.I.

“Women don’t have the rights they should,” she said.

*Jess Bidgood*

**Location: Washington. Time: 10:30 a.m.**

**Popular Chant:** “Thank You.” Women were chanting this to the organizers of the march as they kicked off the day’s events.

**Notable Clothing:** At the corner of C and Third Southwest, many women (and some men) were wearing cat-eared “pussyhats” of all shades of pink. Organizers wanted to knit as many as one million hats for this event.

People were also getting creative with the signs they carry. Alan and Alison Lewis drove in from Astoria with their 20-month-old, Grace.



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[Katie Rogers](#)

Alan and Alison Lewis came with their 20-month-old, Grace. [#womensmarch](#)  
[9:39 AM - 21 Jan 2017](#)

“You shouldn’t have to have a relationship to a woman to stand up for women,” Mr. Lewis said. “Equality and justice is enough of a reason to be here.”

*Katie Rogers*

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## **And now meet a family with three generations of marchers**

**Who She Is:** Jessica Coleman, 56, of Stone Mountain, Ga.

**Backstory:** A black retired teacher who used to show her daughter documentaries about black history and march with her daughter and church members during Martin Luther King holiday weekends.

“I wanted them to know you can be a smart, intelligent black person. You don’t have to sag your pants and follow certain things that became media culture. I wanted them to know that people marched, bled and died for us to be able to vote and be able to go to college and have certain jobs.”

“You can really lose your sense of self if you don’t know where you’ve come from and you don’t have a vision of where you want to go.”



Jessica Coleman, far right, at home in Washington on Friday with (left to right) Margaret Beddoe, Nicole Babwar and Amber Coleman, and Amber Coleman’s children, including Garvey Mortley, center in the gray shirt with black and gold lettering on it. All of them planned to attend the Women’s March on Saturday. Credit Ty Wright for The New York Times

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**Who She Is:** Amber Coleman-Mortley, 34, of Bethesda, Md., is Ms. Coleman’s daughter

**Backstory:** Works at a nonprofit focused on civic education

“On the evening of election night, after saying, ‘Hey, I’m going to vote and I’m going to get my friends to vote,’ I sat on the sofa bawling trying to figure out what to say to my daughters the next morning because they went to bed certain that Hillary was going to win.”

“Marching is my way of putting my money where my mouth is as far as being an active citizen.”

“I want my daughters to have agency and have control over their bodies and feel comfortable in the country that they are in so this is my way of saying, ‘Hey everybody, I agree with all the people who are out here for different reasons and we don’t agree with what is happening right now and we are taking a stand.’”

**Who She Is:** Garvey Mortley, 8, of Bethesda, Md., is Ms. Coleman’s granddaughter

**Backstory:** Third grader; was named after Marcus Garvey

“I think it’s good to share the moment with them and help protest [Donald Trump](#) because we want to stand up for our rights because a long time ago, lots of women could not vote. Now we can vote and protest people and stuff.”

“If he affects the world in a bad way — like I have lots of friends from different countries and he could make them all move away ... that makes me mad because all the people from the civil rights movement had a hard time trying to put us together. It’s like a puzzle, all these people came together, piece by piece, and now Donald Trump is coming over and just breaking those puzzle pieces.”

Anemona Hartocollis reported from New York and Yamiche Alcindor from Washington. Reporting was contributed from Julie Turkewitz in Denver, Jess Bidgood in Boston, Alan Blinder in Atlanta, Fernanda Santos in Phoenix, Nick Corasaniti and Katie Rogers in Washington, Christina Capecchi in St. Paul, Mitch Smith in Chicago, and Emma G. Fitzsimmons and Giovanni Russonello in New York.



# Trump reverses abortion policy for aid to NGOs



By [Laura Koran](#) and James Masters, CNN  
Updated 7:49 AM ET, Tue January 24, 2017

**Washington (CNN)** President Donald Trump signed an executive action on Monday reinstating the so-called Mexico City Policy, which bars international non-governmental organizations that perform or promote abortions from receiving US government funding.

Surrounded by a crowd of men, for which he was widely derided on social media once pictures began circulating, Trump signed the policy, initially put in place by the Reagan administration, but was rescinded by the Obama administration in 2009.

[View image on Twitter](#)



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[Kamala Harris](#)

This group just made it more difficult for women to get access to health care worldwide. You tell me what's wrong with this picture.

[3:13 PM - 23 Jan 2017](#)

"The President, it's no secret, has made it very clear that he's a pro-life president," White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer told reporters at his first daily briefing. "He wants to stand up for all Americans, including the unborn, and I think the reinstatement of this policy is not just something that echoes that value, but respects taxpayer funding as well."

[View image on Twitter](#)



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[Jessica Valenti](#)

If you're wondering what patriarchy looks like: A group of white men watch as Trump reinstates the [#GlobalGagRule](#)

[12:12 PM - 23 Jan 2017](#)

Even during the Obama years, US law banned direct funding for abortion services. But NGOs that performed the procedure were allowed to receive US funding for other programs, including those related to contraception access and post-abortion care.

Now, NGOs that offer or promote abortions as part of their family planning services will be prevented from receiving any assistance from the US Agency for International Development, one of the largest contributors to international development assistance.



College roommates reunite for Washington march 02:39

## 'Catastrophic'

Trump's decision was labeled as "catastrophic," leading to women in developing countries "paying the price," according to Marie Stopes International's vice-president and director of the organization's international operations Marjorie Newman-Williams.

According to the charity, the loss of its services during Trump's first term could cause 6.5 million unintended pregnancies, 2.2 million abortions, 2.1 million unsafe abortions, and 21,700 maternal deaths.

[READ: White House news conference: CNN's Reality Check Team vets the claims](#)

The organization also said it will also be prevented from reaching 1.5 million women with contraception every year.

"All the medical evidence, as well as everything we know from our daily interactions with women, is unequivocal: If you take safe abortion services out of the reproductive healthcare package, it exposes women to risk," Newman-Williams said.

[View image on Twitter](#)

**MARIE STOPES INTERNATIONAL**

**Over the last seven years, thanks to USAID funding and the generous support of the American people, we've provided 5m women in the developing world with contraception. The result of that work is 5.7m fewer unintended pregnancies and 1.7m fewer abortions.**

The reintroduction of the Mexico City Policy (Global Gag Rule) means that in the future we won't be able to help women using USAID funding.



**Marie Stopes (MSI)** @MarieStopes

Fewer women will now get contraception & be able to have children by choice not chance <https://mariestopes.org/news/2017/1/re-enactment-of-the-mexico-city-policy/> ...#GlobalGagRule #TrumpGagRule  
12:41 PM - 23 Jan 2017

"Attempts to stop abortion through restrictive laws -- or by withholding family planning aid -- will never work, because they do not eliminate women's need for abortion," added Newman-Williams. "This policy only exacerbates the already significant challenge of ensuring that people in the developing world who want to time and space their children can obtain the contraception they need to do so."

Marie Stopes International also said that it gave 2,843 general and gynecological checkups and performed 586 contraceptive implant insertions in the wake of the 2015 earthquake in Nepal -- [all supported by US funding](#).

Nancy Northup, [president and CEO of the Center for Reproductive Rights](#), said in a statement: "Trump's Global Gag Rule will only lead to increases in unintended pregnancies, unsafe abortions, maternal and newborn deaths."

## Repeals, reinstatements

The policy has been enforced off and on since it first took effect in 1985. Democratic administrations have traditionally rescinded the policy, while Republican administrations have reinstated it.



Donald Trump's evolving stance on abortion 01:32

Reaction from Democrats and abortion rights activists was swift.

In a statement issued shortly after the action was signed, NARAL Pro-Choice America slammed the move.

"Donald Trump has turned his anti-women rhetoric into policy, and made it more difficult for women and families all over the world to access vital reproductive care. He really is living up to the lowest of expectations," NARAL's president, Ilyse Hogue, wrote.

[READ: Tillerson gets approval for secretary of state](#)

New Hampshire Democratic Sen. Jeanne Shaheen took to Twitter to announce that she would put forward a bill repealing the policy permanently. Such a bill would end the cycle of

repeals and reinstatements the policy has seen over the years, but would be unlikely to pass a majority-Republican Congress.



[I'm a feminist against abortion. Why exclude me from a march for women? \(Opinion\)](#)

Meanwhile, conservatives in Congress and anti-abortion activists are applauding Trump for signing the executive action.

"For yrs, U.S. has debated abortion," Sen. James Lankford, an Oklahoma Republican, tweeted Monday. "At least we can agree no taxpayer should be forced to pay for it."

[READ: What's on the agenda for Tuesday in Washington](#)

"President Trump is continuing Ronald Reagan's legacy by taking immediate action on day one to stop the promotion of abortion through our tax dollars overseas." Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of the anti-abortion advocacy group Susan B. Anthony List.

"President Trump's immediate action to promote respect for all human life, including vulnerable unborn children abroad, as well as conscience rights, sends a strong signal about his administration's pro-life priorities."

*CNN's Juliet Perry in Hong Kong contributed to this report.*



# Trump orders construction of border wall, boosts deportation force

By [Jeremy Diamond](#), [Jim Acosta](#) and [Kevin Liptak](#), CNN

Updated 3:43 PM ET, Wed January 25, 2017



WH: Mexico to pay for wall one way or another  
Story highlights

- In addition to a wall, Trump will beef up border patrol forces and look to increase deportations
- The executive orders will also seek to end sanctuary cities and "catch and release" practices
- Border wall construction will begin 'as soon as we can,' Trump said, and US taxpayers will initially pay for it

**Washington (CNN)** President Donald Trump on Wednesday started to reshape US immigration enforcement policies via executive action, taking his first steps toward fulfilling some of the most contentious pledges that defined his campaign -- building a border wall and punishing "sanctuary cities."

Trump signed executive orders ordering the construction of a wall on the US-Mexico border, boosting border patrol forces and increasing the number of immigration enforcement officers who carry out deportations.

"Beginning today, the United States of America gets back control of its borders," Trump told employees of the Department of Homeland Security at the department's headquarters in Washington.

But while Trump directed the "immediate construction of a physical wall on the southern border," the executive orders do not cover the cost of the wall. Trump has repeatedly said that Mexico will reimburse US taxpayers for the construction costs.

Wednesday's executive orders also seek to end sanctuary cities by stripping grant funding for those cities and ends the practice of releasing undocumented immigrants detained by federal officials before trial.

The president's moves sent alarm bells ringing in immigrant activist circles, where questions had continued to swirl about whether Trump would truly implement many of the hard-line immigration policies he articulated during his campaign.

Trump also indicated he does not need Congress to pass new legislation to implement the border control and immigration reform agenda he outlined during his campaign for president.

"We do not need new laws. We will work within the existing system and framework," Trump said soon after he signed the two executive orders focused on border security and immigration enforcement.

The executive orders Trump signed Wednesday call for boosting the ranks of Border Patrol forces by an additional 5,000 agents as well as for 10,000 new Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers to carry out deportations. The orders noted that the increases were subject to Congress's appropriation of sufficient funds.

Construction of the wall could begin in months, but planning for the massive project is "starting immediately," Trump said Wednesday in an interview with ABC News.

Trump confirmed his plans to build the wall with federal funds and then seek reimbursement from Mexico, an idea Mexico has rejected. But negotiations, he said, would begin "relatively soon."

"I'm telling you there will be a payment. It will be in a form, perhaps a complicated form," Trump said.

Trump also for the first time appeared to articulate on Wednesday the argument he might make to Mexican officials as he looks to compel them to pay for the wall.

Trump stressed Wednesday that the wall would "help Mexico" by deterring illegal immigration from countries further South through Mexico.

"We are going to stabilize on both sides of the border and we also understand that a strong and healthy economy in Mexico is very good for the United States," Trump said.

Trump's actions leave little doubt about whether his immigration policies as president would differ from his campaign rhetoric.

There remained little question, for example, about whether Trump would push to increase deportations of undocumented immigrants. One of Trump's executive actions was expected to call for tripling "enforcement and removal operations/agents" of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, which is charged with arresting and deporting undocumented immigrants living in the US. The order also calls for an 5,000-person increase in Customs and Border Protection personnel.

Marielena Hincapié, executive director of the National Immigration Law Center, called Trump's actions Wednesday "extremist, ineffective and expensive" and accused the president of using lies about immigrants to drive US policy.

"Trump is taking a wrecking ball to our immigration system. It shouldn't come as a surprise that chaos and destruction will be the outcome," Hincapié said, adding that her organization has already drafted legal papers to challenge Trump's moves.

And Greisa Martinez, advocacy director at the United We Dream Network, argued that Trump's moves "lay the groundwork for mass deportation."

Trump's executive orders on Wednesday did not address those of his predecessor, former President Barack Obama, that signed safeguarding undocumented immigrants who came to the US as children or who are parents of lawful US residents from deportation, which Trump during his campaign signaled he would repeal.



#### The challenges facing Trump's wall

Spicer has said Trump wants to prioritize the removal of undocumented immigrants who have committed crimes in the US, but has refused to say whether deportation priorities would change. Trump during his campaign called for the deportation of all undocumented immigrants living in the US, though he signaled the "good ones" could return to the US under an expedited process.

Trump's hardline immigration rhetoric and policy proposals during the campaign often put him at odds not only with Democrats but with many in his own party who called his proposal to build a wall on the US-Mexico border unnecessary and his calls for mass deportation cruel.

Trump persevered in his hardline rhetoric throughout the campaign, resisting efforts to pivot to a more moderate stance on the issue in the general election despite calls to soften his rhetoric.



#### Building Trump's wall: For Texans, it's complicated

Now, his actions on Wednesday took a big first step toward satisfying his political base of support that hitched to his campaign amid Trump's bold promises of building a wall,

deporting undocumented immigrants and in the process creating a safer country, despite a total lack of evidence tying undocumented immigrants to higher crime rates.

Trump catapulted his campaign into controversy and relevance with his announcement speech in June 2015, in which he pledged some of the hardline immigration policies he was set to enact and decried undocumented immigrants as criminals and "rapists." Trump never apologized for those comments.

*CNN's Catherine Shoichet and Dan Merica contributed to this report.*

Please be advised that the following piece is meant as entertainment. I accidentally came across the article and couldn't stop laughing. It is meant to humor us. I do hope you find it as hysterical as I did. Read it with a light heart.

# The Washington Post

## The true, correct story of what happened at Donald Trump's inauguration

By [Alexandra Petri](#) January 24 at 3:43 PM

Trump questions media reports of inauguration crowd size

Embed Share

Play Video1:37

President Trump questioned media reports and photographs that showed the size of Inauguration Day crowds, speaking to CIA employees at CIA headquarters on Jan. 21 in Langley, Va. (The Washington Post)

*I apologize to Donald Trump. As Sean Spicer so wisely said at his first news conference on Monday (It was the first. The one that happened on Saturday did not happen at all, and I recognize that!), it is unfair to be so mean and negative all the time.*

*Here is the fair and unbiased story about the inauguration written in compliance with the Trump [style guidelines](#) that we should have been obeying all along.*

Nothing that has ever happened or will ever happen was as great as Donald Trump's inauguration.

The crowd was magnificent and huge, bigger than any crowd had ever been before! It stretched all the way to the moon. The Pope, who was there, confirmed it.

“Thanks for being here, Pope,” Donald Trump told him.

“Are you kidding? You’re my best friend,” the Pope said. “I wouldn’t miss your big day for *anything!*” He gave Donald Trump a big high-five.

[\[Did you attend the inauguration or a protest? Tell us what you plan to do next.\]](#)

Everyone in the world had come there at great expense. They sold all their possessions — their homes, their “Hamilton” tickets, which were worthless to them — to raise money to come and see this great sight. They could not believe that a perfect being such as Donald Trump even existed. They thought that he was a myth or a legend or a decades-long series of fabrications.

But then they saw him, and their doubts fell away.

The media was there, too, and they were very sorry. “Donald,” the newscasters said, “we were mean to you. We used to laugh and call you names. We were *no better* than all of the other reindeer. How can you ever forgive us?”

“Forgive you?” Donald Trump asked. “I’ve already forgotten.” He smiled a big, beautiful smile. That was just who Donald Trump was: forgiving, like Jesus, but blond.

It was a wonderful start to the day.

Everyone liked Donald Trump's speech and the words that he used. They liked even more the part where he rolled up his sleeve and showed off his bicep. It was a great bicep. It made the Rock so upset to see it that he threw something down on the ground and said "darn."



The scene in Washington on Inauguration Day



Trump supporters and protesters gather in the capital as a new presidency begins.

Donald Trump pulled out a violin and played a solo, and then he pulled out a guitar and played an even sicker solo. The whole ground was soon covered with women's undergarments. (Millions of women were there to support Donald Trump, and they were all AT LEAST sevens.) Also, every woman that Donald Trump had ever dated was there, and they were not upset with him, just ashamed that they had not lived up to his required standard.

"Trump! Trump! Trump!" the crowd cheered.

Donald Trump touched many people in the crowd in a way that they all thought was welcome and appropriate, and he cured their ailments, from cancer to autism.

"If only we could bottle your touch," someone said, "children could stop getting vaccinated altogether."

Donald Trump winked. “Don’t worry!” he said. “I’m on it!”

Then Donald Trump served loaves and fishes to everyone there. There were enough loaves and fishes for everyone, and they all were Made in America and said “TRUMP” on them. It was like the Oscars, but also like Woodstock, but also like the Super Bowl, but also like the Sermon on the Mount. If you were not there, you should just go home and die, because nothing in your life will have purpose or meaning by comparison, not even holding your newborn child in your arms or having health insurance. This is what FOMO was talking about for all these years.

Bono, and Bruce Springsteen, and Elton John, and the Rolling Stones, and Beyonce, and all the top artists were there. They fought hard over who would be allowed to sing. Finally Bruce Springsteen won. Bono cried and cried, and the other artists had to console him. When Bruce Springsteen had finished singing, he walked over to Donald Trump, extended his hand, and said, “You are the only real hero left in the world.”

The people were so excited that they built a very special stone pyramid just for Donald Trump so that he would not have to wait until he died to see what his monument would look like. But they were silly to be concerned. Donald Trump will never die!

A little child was in the audience, and he started to cry because the emperor was wearing so many clothes. Also, he could tell that he was not and never had been racist.

Donald Trump’s beautiful big family was there. His favorite childhood dog was there, too, back from the farm where he still lives to this day.

Donald Trump can talk to the animals, and his eyes are lasers. When the floor is lava, Donald Trump can walk on it, but only Donald Trump. When Donald Trump points his finger at you, you have to lie down. But when other people point their fingers at Donald Trump, he does not have to. Donald Trump's block tower is the biggest. He does not need a nap or a snack. He has the longest, biggest attention span. Everyone loves Donald Trump, and what he has to say interests them.

Donald Trump is the star. People love him.

He won the popular vote, too.

Sen. Merkley to Mulvaney: 'Which crowd is larger?'

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Rep. Mick Mulvaney (R- S.C.), President Trump's nominee to head the Office of Management and Budget, faced questions from Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) about Trump's claims regarding the audience size at his inauguration. (Reuters)



Alexandra Petri writes the ComPost blog, offering a lighter take on the news and opinions of the day. She is the author of "A Field Guide to Awkward Silences."

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