



Press Release

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FORWARD LATINO CONDEMNS TRUMP CAMPAIGN RALLY STATEMENT & HIS PAST TREATMENT OF THE UNITED STATES CITIZENS IN PUERTO RICO

Franklin, WI – Forward Latino, a national non-profit, non-partisan service and advocacy organization headquartered in Franklin, Wisconsin and with affiliates and members in twenty-nine states condemns the statement made at a Donald Trump campaign rally by a featured speaker, a statement which closely aligns with the former president's treatment of the American Citizens living in the United States Commonwealth during his presidency. While Trump's President's campaign quickly stated that the speaker's views do not represent that of the campaign, sadly, Donald Trump's actions tell a different story.

National President Darryl Morin issued the following statement:

"Forward Latino condemns last night's statement made by a featured speaker at Donald Trump's closely scripted and choreographed rally in New York City, New York. The speaker referred to the United States Commonwealth of Puerto Rico as a "floating island of garbage." While the campaign quickly disavowed the statement, Donald Trump's record on Puerto Rico during his presidency closely aligns with the statement. An independent investigation conducted by the Office of the Inspector General of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development found that Donald Trump blocked the release of approximately \$20 billion in emergency aid that the island which it was approved to receive. Because of this, numerous projects were canceled or delayed and the majority of the island was without power for over 10 months, causing the needless loss of additional American lives.

It is important that we remember that all Puerto Ricans are United States Citizens and that they have fought and died to defend the rights of all American Citizens. According to the United States Department of Defense, since World War I Puerto Ricans have participated in every major U.S. military engagement with the following estimates:

World War I:	Approx. 18,000 served
World War II:	Approx. 65,000 served
Korean War:	Approx. 61,000 served
Vietnam War:	Approx. 48,000 served
Gulf War:	Approx. 10,000 Served
Operations Enduring Freedom & Irai Freedom:	Approx. 25,000 served

Our nation's Hispanic and Latino communities have not forgotten this sacrifice or the treatment they received under Donald Trump. Last night's comments only served to remind our allies, principled individuals who understand that the American freedoms and benefits do not belong to just those of privilege, but to all Americans."

About Forward Latino:

Forward Latino is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that empowers affiliates to inspire and engage communities, strengthen our democracy, improve the lives of working families, protect the environment, and stand up for equality and civil rights. Forward Latino cultivates, trains, and supports a diverse national network of Latina/o/x community leaders addressing the civic, economic, and political challenges of the 21st century. Forward Latino has members and affiliates across 29 states. www.forwardlatino.org

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