

T: 202. 296. 2588

March 1, 2021

United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley, and Committee Members:

On behalf of the 180,000 advocates of National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), **I am writing to express our strong support of the nomination of Vanita Gupta for Associate Attorney General of the US Department of Justice.**

As Jews, we are guided by the idea of “Tikkun Olam,” or repairing the world. This tradition drives the Jewish commitment toward a more just world. At NCJW, we carry out this commitment by working to protect and advance the civil and human rights of women, children, and families. Having worked side by side with Vanita Gupta, we know she shares our values and will work to strengthen the integrity and independence of this critical federal agency.

Indeed, Vanita Gupta has spent her career advancing the rights and dignity of every person in America. In her most recent position as president and CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, Gupta built consensus within the civil rights community on key efforts including voting rights, the 2020 census, federal courts, and justice reform. Prior to helping the Leadership Conference, Gupta served as Acting Assistant Attorney General and Head of the US Department of Justice’s Civil Rights Division. Appointed to this role of chief civil rights prosecutor for the United States by President Barack Obama, Gupta oversaw a wide range of criminal and civil enforcement efforts to ensure equal justice and protect equal opportunity for all during a consequential period for the division. As Deputy Legal Director and the Director of the Center for Justice at the American Civil Liberties Union, Gupta secured a landmark settlement on behalf of immigrant children and created an effort aimed at ending mass incarceration while keeping communities safe. Gupta began her legal career as an attorney at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, where she successfully led the effort to overturn the wrongful drug convictions of 38 individuals in Tulia, Texas. From policing and criminal legal reform; to hate crimes, immigration, and voting rights; to discrimination in education, housing, employment, lending, and religious exercise, Vanita Gupta is well versed in the issues and the law, and has deep experience partnering and working with a range of law enforcement agencies, corrections officials, advocates, stakeholders, and elected officials across the political spectrum.

If confirmed, Gupta would be the first woman of color in US history to serve as Associate Attorney General and the first civil rights lawyer to serve in one of the top three positions at the Justice Department. Quite simply, Vanita Gupta is the experienced litigator, coalition builder, and fierce champion for justice we need to bring a vital civil rights and racial justice focus to the Justice Department at a critical moment for our country.

Without hesitation, NCJW urges the Senate Judiciary Committee to confirm Vanita Gupta as Associate Attorney General. Given her background and experience, Vanita Gupta would

bring to the Justice Department a fresh perspective, empathy, and understanding of the ways our laws could better serve all communities.

Please let me know if you have any questions or want to discuss our support further.

Sincerely,



Jody Rabhan
Chief Policy Officer
National Council of Jewish Women