Drop the I-Word: Why it Matters Now

• Right now, immigrant families are facing a period of heightened persecution and crisis as President Trump continues to stoke the anti-immigrant sentiment that gained him popularity during the 2016 Election. We need to strongly reject efforts to criminalize immigrants.

• In the first ten days following the election, there were almost 900 reports of harassment and intimidation from across the nation.
  • Anti-immigrant harassment accounted for 32% of the 867 hate incidents collected by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

• Words make a difference: in the week after the election, over 2,500 educators described specific incidents of bigotry and harassment in schools that could be directly traced to election rhetoric.

Which Outlets Have Dropped the I-Word?
Quick Facts:

Race Forward looked at how often the i-word has been used in immigrant-focused coverage by The New York Times, The Washington Post, USA Today, and The Associated Press since 2013. Here’s what we learned:

• Since officially dropping the i-word in 2013, The Associated Press has consistently been the best performer of these four major national outlets.

• The AP has largely kept its pledge, with never more than 9% of its immigrant-focused coverage using the i-word, including op-eds, letters, quotes, news articles, and columnists.
• While The Washington Post had steadily improved its coverage each year, it has also consistently been the worst offender of the four outlets studied.

• In 2016, 25.8% of The Washington Post’s immigrant-focused coverage used the i-word, compared to 17% for USA Today, 7.6% for The New York Times, and 6.3% for The Associated Press.

• Although The New York Times never officially pledged to drop the i-word, it had the second best record of the four outlets studied, second only to the AP. However, some of the publication’s leading immigration reporters continue to use the term.

**Use of the I-Word:**
