# Hands Off! demonstrations a giant middle finger to Trump



LGBTQ+ protesters joined a display of dissent across the United States gathered on Saturday to voice their concerns regarding the administration of President Donald Trump. Known as the Hands Off! demonstrations, these events took place in over 1,200 locations spanning all 50 states, with participation from more than 150 groups, including civil rights organisations, labour unions, LGBTQ+ advocates, and veterans. The messages of the protests were primarily directed at Trump's policies impacting the economy, immigration, and human rights, manifested in peaceful assemblies with no immediate reports of arrests.

Protests were staged from Midtown Manhattan to Alaska, including many state capitols. In Seattle, Washington, protesters rallied under the shadow of the Space Needle, holding placards emblazoned with messages like “Fight the oligarchy" while in Los Angeles, demonstrators marched from Pershing Square to City Hall, chanting slogans emphasising their anger at Trump’s administration and its alignment with tech billionaire Elon Musk, who serves as an advisor to the president and heads the newly created Department of Government Efficiency.

The protests highlighted concerns surrounding the administration's efforts to reduce the size of the federal workforce, terminate Social Security Administration offices, expel immigrants, and implement cutbacks on protections for transgender individuals. Protesters also focused their anger on Musk's role in government downsizing, which he claims is a means of saving taxpayers money.

Responding to the demonstrations, the White House said that President Trump remains committed to safeguarding Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid for eligible beneficiaries. They framed the actions of the Democrats as detrimental to these programs, claiming that such positions could ultimately endanger their sustainability.

The National Mall in Washington, D.C., served as a focal point for many, where Kelley Robinson, president of the Human Rights Campaign, addressed attendees on the escalating threats to the LGBTQ+ community. “The attacks that we’re seeing, they’re not just political. They are personal, y’all,” Robinson said, pointing to legislative actions aimed at restricting educational materials and essential healthcare services for LGBTQ+ individuals. She called for a vision of America where dignity and freedom are afforded to all citizens, regardless of their background.

Across the country, similar sentiments echoed in Boston, Massachusetts, where demonstrators showcased signs demanding protection for democracy and social security. Mayor Michelle Wu expressed her desire for a future where children could grow up without the shadow of governmental intimidation and in an atmosphere valuing diversity and equality.

Attendees represented a broad spectrum of ages and backgrounds, with people such as Roger Broom, a retiree from Delaware County, Ohio, voicing his disillusionment with Trump's leadership. He remarked, “He’s tearing this country apart. It’s just an administration of grievances.” In Charlotte, North Carolina, Britt Castillo reflected a collective discontent that transcended party lines, emphasising the urgency for the current administration to heed the voices of the populace.

As the day came to a close, President Trump continued with essential planned activities at his golf course in Jupiter, Florida, where he was engaged in the Senior Club Championship.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.cbsnews.com/pictures/hands-off-americans-across-country-protest-trump-musk-doge-photos/> - This article documents the widespread ‘Hands Off’ protests across the U.S., demonstrating opposition to the Trump administration and Elon Musk's role. It highlights significant events in cities like Washington, D.C., New York, and Florida.
* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_00fiieuy0Q> - The YouTube video provides visual coverage and testimonials from the nationwide 'Hands Off 2025' protests, showing the extent of public discontent with Trump's policies.