

SUBJECT: SSSP Statement on Recent Immigration Executive Order

February 1, 2017

Dear members and other social justice scholars and activists:

These are indeed troubling times. Below is a statement by the SSSP on events that have unfolded during the first 10 days of the Presidency of Donald J. Trump. The immediate issue is the Executive Order issued by the President that bans travel from seven Muslim-majority countries, as well as halts *indefinitely* the Syrian refugee program at a time when thousands of Syrians are desperate to escape the horrors of what is occurring in their country. Other issues involving clear questions of social justice are unfolding daily in a rapid, chaotic manner.

We will do our best to monitor the situation and to address issues of importance to the SSSP and its members as they arise. We encourage you to be engaged on your respective campuses and in your communities on issues that threaten our personal and organizational social justice values. Now is *not* the time to merely complain. We must take action. Depending upon your circumstances and judgments, there are many things you can do:

- Mass well-targeted and -coordinated political action has proven to be successful. Write letters, make phone calls, participate in and/or organize protests, talk with anyone willing to listen about why threats to the freedoms of some people are threats to the everyone's freedoms.
- Be particularly sensitive to the fears of your students who are immigrants/Muslims. Offer whatever emotional and practical support you can.
- Give your time and/or money to local, state, national, and international organizations that are offering assistance to refugees, providing needed services to those who otherwise cannot afford them, or defending basic freedoms and rights. The list of organizations requiring help will likely increase as Administration plans for de-funding are put into place.
- Practice critical thinking for every bit of "information" you encounter because, among the myriad problems in our immediate environment, is the proliferation of information that is less than truthful. Do *not* become a part of the problem by retweeting or sharing stories that are less than truthful; worry about what needs to be worried about, not about rumors.
- Consider signing the petition "Academics Against Immigration Executive Order" (<https://notoimmigrationban.com>)

- Consider participating in the March for Science (date not yet determined). Inspired by the success of the Women’s March, this event is in response to the prevalence of anti-fact/anti-science rhetoric, as well as to funding freezes and attempts to restrict the dissemination of scientific findings. We will let you know when a date is selected.

In times such as these, we are reminded of the warning by Martin Niemöller (1892-1984):

*They came first for the Communists,
and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist.*

*Then they came for the trade unionists,
and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist.*

*Then they came for the Jews,
and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew.*

*Then they came for me
and by that time no one was left to speak up.*

In hope and in struggle,



Donileen R. Loseke, Ph.D.
SSSP President, 2016-2017



Héctor L. Delgado, Ph.D.
SSSP Executive Officer

SSSP Statement on Recent Immigration Executive Order

The Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) wishes to lend its voice to the many others raising concerns about the recent Executive Order issued on January 27, 2017 by President Donald T. Trump banning citizens from seven majority-Muslim countries from entering the United States. We, along with others, question the constitutionality of the ban, but without question, believe very strongly that such an action undermines the democratic values of this country and is more likely to make the country less safe, not safer.

As social scientists we are concerned as well with the impact that this order will have on scientific research and knowledge, and in that vein we wish to echo the sentiments expressed in a recent statement by the American Association for the Advancement of Science:

The January 27, 2017 White House executive order on visas and immigration will discourage many of the best and brightest international students, scholars, and scientists from studying and working in the United States, or attending academic and scientific conferences. Implementation of this policy compromises the United States' ability to attract international scientific talent and maintain scientific and

economic leadership. It is in our national interest to take a balanced approach to immigration that protects national security interests and advances our scientific leadership.

We urge the administration to rescind the order immediately and to consult with scientific and other communities with expertise in these areas to arrive at a more balanced and thoughtful approach. We believe it is possible to promote safety while preserving the principles and values that make the United States the great country that it is.