

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.