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Mr. Donald J. Trump
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Donald J. Trump,

We are writing on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP), one of the oldest and most respected social science organizations in the United States. We are writing principally to express concern about your administration's decision to add the countries of Nigeria, Myanmar, Eritrea, Kyrgyzstan, Sudan, and Tanzania to your restricted travel list; thereby raising the number of countries on the list to thirteen. While we understand fully your responsibility to ensure the country's security, we believe that this approach is short-sighted and will, in the long run, make us more isolated and, consequently, less secure. No matter how much power a country has, it cannot thrive economically and be secure without allies, or minimally, without the cooperation of other nations and peoples who wish, as we do, to live in peace and prosper. One of our principal concerns is that the policy, however unintended, has religious and racial undertones that serve only to increase animosity from members of a wide swath of religious and ethnic groups and thereby to provide fertile ground for recruitment by groups that wish to do us harm. Finally, the ban is expected to have the greatest negative impact on U.S. citizens wishing to bring parents, children, siblings, and spouses. Instead of helping to reunite families, a pillar of our immigration policy for over a century, we are adopting a policy more consistent with the separation of families at our southern border.

While we commend the decision to provide exemptions to students, temporary workers, and potential employees with specialized skills, and your willingness to issue waivers to individuals reporting undue hardships if denied entry into the United States, we cannot help but worry about the sincerity of these "exemptions" in light of the way that refugees at our southern border have been and continue to be treated. We urge you to adopt a more just and humane approach in both instances and treat each and every request fairly and humanely, according to the law, both domestic and international.

We wish to express concern as well with a new State Department rule, allowing consular officials to deny tourist and business visas to women they believe are requesting entry to give birth in the United States. Above we express serious concerns about the role race, ethnicity, and religion play in

what some critics of the policy call an “African Ban” or “Muslim Ban.” In this instance, we are concerned, additionally, with the gender and age discrimination inherent in this new rule. We also understand that new rules will make it more difficult for individuals seeking urgent medical treatment to enter, thereby placing their lives at risk. People will die as a consequence. Women of color will be especially at risk. Please reconsider these policies as well.

In closing, we would like to offer the expertise of our members to help construct more just and humane policies and rules, and to reiterate that the best empirical evidence available underscores the importance and need for nations, including the most powerful nations, to have friendly and constructive relationships with one another if they hope to be safe and to prosper economically.

Sincerely,



Heather M. Dalmage, Ph.D.
SSSP President, 2019-2020
Roosevelt University



Héctor L. Delgado, Ph.D.
Executive Officer, SSSP
Professor Emeritus, University of La Verne