



Immigration order hurts our credibility

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The first weeks of the new President's administration seem to have caused wide-spread hysteria, among both Trump voters and non-voters. The new immigration ban signed as Executive Order is unquestionably wrong and violates the U.S. Constitution in more ways than one. This executive order to enact a moratorium on our refugee program is damaging to American credibility around the globe, doesn't bolster the safety and security of our citizens, and runs counter to American values.

Now is time to take action by signing petitions, contacting elected officials and organizing with others who will demonstrate resistance to this Unconstitutional action by the new President. There are more and more protests occurring around the country each day, building on the momentum from the women's march that took place in hundreds of cities around the world on Saturday January 21, 2016. Local students recently took to the streets in Troy's Monument Square to demonstrate opposition to the unjust immigration ban, chanting "No Hate, No fear". There are other protests taking place across the U.S. to protest the immigration ban and other hateful or discriminatory policies pushed forward by the Trump administration. I am writing to express solidarity with the resistance movement.

For those who worry about refugees committing acts of terrorism on U.S. soil, their worries can be relieved by facts. Since the unfortunate events of September 11th, more than 700,000 refugees have resettled in the United States and not a single refugee has carried out an act of terror. Cato Institute, a conservative research organization, found that zero American deaths were caused by citizens of the seven nations impacted by the order (Syria, Libya, Iran, Iraq, Sudan, Yemen, and Somalia) over the past 40 years. While other middle-eastern countries not included in the executive order are responsible for thousands of deaths committed against Americans. The data analyzed by the Cato Institute also showed that the chance of an American being killed by a foreign refugee is 1 in 3.6 billion, compared being struck by lightning which is 1 in 9 million, or winning the lottery is 1 in 14 million. Let's be real.

Even with the facts that discredit the immigration ban, and even with the protests, I've found these opposing arguments to make little impact on Mr. Trump or his supporters. While I vehemently disagree with the xenophobic and anti-intellectual policy proposals offered by this new administration, I have much empathy for his supporters and their anxieties. The media

presents the world as a very scary place, with ISIS and other terrorist organizations as an ever-present threat to American lives. The economic changes brought about by an increasingly global economy have not been properly explained or justified. With misinformation and lack of clarity on many pressing issues, Mr. Trump's wrongheaded and un-American prescriptions seem like reasonable measures to protect American lives and livelihoods.

This executive order will not prevent future terrorist attacks, but instead further divide humanity. The vetting process for refugees is already extremely careful, thorough, and onerous. The effect of this action will inflict suffering on some of the world's most vulnerable populations. It is not ISIS members who will be denied entry, but little girls whose parents were killed by Russian airstrikes and doctors who volunteer at clinics in underserved communities.

This is my plea for love, not hate, as the world needs it now more than ever.