

Resolution to Support and Defend all Members of the Duke Community

Duke University Trinity Arts & Sciences Faculty Council February 9, 2017; footnote #1 appended March 7, 2017¹

Whereas on January 25, 2017, President Donald J. Trump signed the Executive Order BORDER SECURITY AND IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT IMPROVEMENTS which calls for “the immediate construction of a physical wall on the southern border” between the U.S. and Mexico and expedited removal of certain non-citizens;

Whereas on January 27, 2017, President Donald J. Trump signed the Executive Order PROTECTING THE NATION FROM FOREIGN TERRORIST ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES which suspends the admission of Syrian refugees indefinitely and all other refugees for 120 days and revokes existing visas and suspends for at least 90 days the issuance of visas and entry into the US of immigrant and nonimmigrant aliens from seven countries in Africa and Asia (Iran, Iraq, Yemen, Libya, Syria, Sudan and Somalia);²

Whereas many members of the Duke and Durham community are affected by these orders that do not keep us safe from violence;

Whereas the faculty of Duke University welcomes, supports and respects all students, staff, and faculty colleagues, holding equality and non-discrimination, including freedom of religion and religious expression, as core values;

Whereas we are a community committed to building bridges not walls and condemn Islamophobia and other forms of bigotry, xenophobia and racism;

¹ This resolution was informed by multiple statements produced by city councils, schools and library associations, especially the “Safe Zones Resolution for Higher Ed Institutions” template from the National Education Association: <http://educationvotes.nea.org/2017/01/14/schools-front-lines-nationwide-movement-protect-undocumented-students/>.

² Because this order “has been delayed by litigation,” on March 6, 2017, Donald Trump issued a new Executive Order titled, “Protecting The Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into The United States.” Most significantly in its changes, the March 6 order drops Iraq from the list of sending nationalities: “until the assessment of current screening and vetting procedures required by section 2 of this order is completed, the risk of erroneously permitting entry of a national of one of these countries who intends to commit terrorist acts or otherwise harm the national security of the United States is unacceptably high. Accordingly, while that assessment is ongoing, I am imposing a temporary pause on the entry of nationals from Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen, subject to categorical exceptions and case-by-case waivers, as described in section 3 of this order.” <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/03/06/executive-order-protecting-nation-foreign-terrorist-entry-united-states>

Whereas the President of Duke has signed a statement asking D.J. Trump to rectify or rescind the travel ban;

Whereas federal, state and local law enforcement activities on or around college property, whether by surveillance, interview, demand for information, arrest, detention, or any other means significantly interfere with the ability of all members of the Duke community to deliver, pursue and support education and knowledge and creative production;

Whereas we are all committed to a safe campus and city and a learning environment free from violence, threats and harassment; and

Whereas many members of the Duke and Durham community have expressed legitimate fears, experienced harassment and are facing hardship because of their religion, racialization, or citizenship status; now therefore be it

Resolved that the Trinity College Arts and Sciences Faculty Council of Duke University:

1. Reject the idea of a promised “wall” at the boundary between the US and Mexico and reject the premise that community and family members south of the border or with attachments south of the border are threats to our safety or livelihoods;
2. Condemn any discrimination or disparate treatment of individuals and groups on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, sexuality, national origin, or citizenship status;
3. Urge all offices of the University to do everything in their power to facilitate the core mission of education, research and creativity by offering needed support and sanctuary and assuring a safe zone for all threatened members of the Duke community so all can thrive and seek assistance as needed;
4. Urge the administration and Board of Trustees to adopt a policy requiring that any request by ICE or other immigration enforcement agents to visit campus should be presented to the President’s Office for review as to whether access is permitted by law, a judicial warrant is required, or any other legal considerations apply; this review should be made expeditiously, but before any immigration officer or agent appears on campus; and
5. Urge the administration and Board of Trustees to adopt a policy that campus police will not detain, question, arrest, or contact any individual solely on the basis of suspected undocumented immigration status or to discover the immigration status of an individual or to request information about immigration status from crime victims or witnesses; and that they not detain an individual in response to an immigration hold request from ICE or any other agency enforcing federal immigration law.