

January 30, 2017

To the GSE&IS Community:

You are aware that on Friday January 29, 2017, President Trump signed an executive order blocking citizens of Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen from entry into the United States for 90 days. While a federal judge in Brooklyn has issued a stay blocking parts of the executive order, at this time, the University recommends that individuals from these seven countries who hold a visa to enter the United States, or who are lawful permanent residents (holders of a green card), not travel outside the United States.

This executive order contravenes the fundamental values and virtues of the University of California. Indeed the “University,” from Latin *universitas* (“the whole,” and, in late Latin, the “whole of society,” or the universe) will only wither and decline in a world that blocks a whole sector of humanity from our common purpose: open, civil dialogue and the pursuit of truth, goodness, and beauty wherever it will take us.

As stated by the President and the UC Chancellors, the “UC community, like universities across the country, has long been deeply enriched by students, faculty, and scholars from around the world, including the affected countries, coming to study, teach, and research. It is critical that the United States continues to welcome the best students, scholars, scientists, and engineers of all backgrounds and nationalities.”

I echo the words of the President and the UC Chancellors: We at GSE&IS will support all members of our community impacted by this executive action.

I am an immigrant and my life has been greatly shaped by the opportunity to study at the University of California. Today I am disheartened by a policy banning human beings because of their place of birth. I am not alone. In May 28, 1788, George Washington wrote, “I had always hoped that this land might become a safe & agreeable Asylum to the virtuous & persecuted part of mankind, to whatever nation they might belong.”

The Dashew Center at UCLA will continue to provide information on resources available to our international students.

Please don't hesitate to be in touch with our student services at GSE&IS. Also please feel free to reach out to me.

Sincerely yours,

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UCLA Wasserman Dean & Distinguished Professor of Education

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