



NATIONAL BLACK PRESBYTERIAN CAUCUS

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

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PRESS RELEASE

February 6, 2017

Trump's Ban on Immigrants from Muslim-Majority Countries Is Wrong

The National Black Presbyterian Caucus (NBPC) opposes the ban on immigrants imposed on seven predominately Muslim countries because it suggests that we are unduly fearful of people of foreign origin. The countries affected include Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. The ban is irrational and arbitrary because we have not had any acts of terrorism committed by individuals from any of these counties in the U.S. in over 30 years. Most of the acts of terrorism we have experienced, with the exception of 9/11, have been committed by homegrown terrorists.

The ban is also illegal because 50 years ago Congress outlawed this type of ban against immigrants based on national origin. In the past, Chinese, Japanese, East Europeans, and Africans have been discriminated against. But the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 forbids all discrimination against immigrants based on national origin.

Furthermore, the ban gives us a false sense of security. It is almost akin to the other irrational and badly held belief that if we just build a wall along the Mexican border, "we will be safe and secure from all alarms." By establishing such restrictions, there is the real possibility that we will cause more people to dislike Americans. Our government may be fanning the flames of a fire rather than extinguishing a fire. Wouldn't it be better for us to tear down walls that divide communities, rather than build walls of separation?

NBPC opposes the Trump Administration's ban based on theological and biblical foundations. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Confession of 1967 says that "God has created the people of the earth to be one universal family. In his reconciling love, he overcomes the barriers between brothers (and sisters) and breaks down every form of discrimination based on racial or ethnic difference, real or imaginary." (C of '67). Jesus said, "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me." (Matthew 25:35).

NBPC will not support any law or ban that builds walls of separation and isolation. There are millions of immigrants who are trying to escape degrading and dehumanizing experiences in countries torn apart by war and conflict. Because the Word of God is clear that only those who are spiritually obtuse will fail to see the needs of the least of these, we oppose this ban.

Thus, NBPC strongly advocates that our government rescind President Donald Trump's executive order against immigrants. And we call on all right thinking Christians to write your congressmen and senators to express righteous indignation against the ban. As Christians, we must be willing to welcome immigrants seeking respite from hunger, poverty and war-torn countries around the globe. We must welcome the stranger with radical hospitality and not with laws that express xenophobic emotions.