

GEU-UAW Executive Board Statement On Travel Ban Ordered by President Trump

On January 27th Donald Trump signed an Executive Order temporarily banning the entry or re-entry into the US of refugees, and non-immigrant visa holders (including those with student or work visas), from seven Muslim-majority countries (Syria, Iran, Iraq, Sudan, Somalia, Yemen, Libya), with immediate effect. This ban also includes travelers who have dual citizenship from one of these countries and third countries that participate in the US Visa Waiver Program. Additionally, 3 days after this order went into effect, the Administration has yet to provide any clear guidelines on the status of legal permanent residents (green card holders), resulting in confusion and lack of uniform treatment of permanent residents at points of entry. Though this ban seems to selectively target individuals from certain countries, it may be expanded to include Muslims from other countries in the Middle East, Asia, and Africa.

This selective, racist, and Islamophobic attack has already led to the detention of hundreds of Muslims at land crossings and international airports across the country who have legally-issued entry visas or green cards. Even in the face of widespread and vocal opposition to this unprecedented assault, the Trump Administration has refused to reconsider the ban.

This hateful prohibition on refugees, migrants, students, workers, and travelers from these Muslim-majority countries impacts many UConn students, graduate employees, faculty, visiting scholars, staff, and their families. UConn community members from these countries often travel abroad to conduct research, attend conferences, or visit family. This prohibition is tearing families apart and disrupting access to study and work, including research and pedagogy at the University of Connecticut.

The GEU-UAW Local 6950 strongly condemns this ban and believes the policy to be inhumane and unacceptable. We are organizing in coalition with campus and community groups to provide resources, support, and protection for those most vulnerable to these orders, and to threats or targeting on campus. Given the rise of xenophobic and islamophobic rhetoric at the highest levels of governance in our country, we strongly urge the University Administration to take an unequivocal stance and push back against this trend of hateful policies and to do everything in its power to offer immediate and unconditional support to any individual or group of individuals at UConn affected by this ban.

We know that many people in our community feel strongly about the executive order and want to get involved. Here are three ways to get involved immediately:

1) Attend the student-organized rally planned for Wednesday, February 1, 2017 at 2:30pm on the UConn Student Union Quad to protest this executive order.

2) Contact locally elected officials to express concerns with this executive order and its adverse effects on our community:

U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal can be reached at: (202) 224-2823;

U.S. Senator Chris Murphy can be reached at: (202) 224-4041;

U.S. Congressional Representative Joe Courtney can be reached at: 202-225-2076.

3) Contact us immediately if you experience discrimination, threats, harassment, targeting, or hostility. You may reach us via email at uconngradunion@gmail.com.

In Solidarity,
The GEU-UAW Executive Board

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