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## OUR VIEW

# World is united against Trump's Muslim ban

It hasn't even been two weeks since Donald Trump has been president, but it feels like a century.

A majority of our readership voted for the man, hoping he could fix a broken political system. But by now it is clear that Trump plans to destroy that system — not fix it — and the great American experiment hangs in the balance.

And we shouldn't be surprised. Trump the president has proven to be the same man as Trump the candidate. At every campaign stop he proposed policies of cruelty and ignorance, and on that he has delivered in spades. Consider recent actions as campaign promises kept.

The result has been worldwide chaos, panic and anger — most recently and publicly in response to Trump's ban on refugees fleeing from some of the most dangerous places on the planet.

Trump's order barring Muslims from those seven nations — and giving refugee priority to Christians — is un-American, unconstitutional and immoral.

But it's not just us saying that. Here are some of the various people who have spoken publicly against the policy. We hope you add your voice to the chorus.

"The sickness or, you can say the sin, that Jesus condemns most is hypocrisy, which is precisely what is happening when someone claims to be a Christian but does not live according to the teaching of Christ. You cannot be a Christian without living like a Christian ... You cannot be a Christian without practicing the Beatitudes. You cannot be a Christian without doing what Jesus teaches us in Matthew 25 ... It's hypocrisy to call yourself a Christian and chase away a refugee or someone seeking help, someone who is hungry or thirsty, toss out someone who is in need of my help."

— **Pope Francis**

"(Trump's plan) goes against everything we stand for and believe in."

— **Former vice president Dick Cheney**

"In my conversations with officials here in Washington this week, I've made it clear that Apple believes deeply in the importance of immigration — both to our company and to our nation's future. Apple would not exist without immigration, let alone thrive and innovate the way we do."

— **Timothy D. Cook, Apple's chief executive, in a memo to staff**

"It is an inhumane act against people fleeing war zones."

— **Doctors Without Borders**

"Foreigners from those seven nations have killed zero Americans in terrorist attacks on U.S. soil between 1975 and the end of 2015."

— **Alex Nowrasteh, immigration policy analyst at the libertarian Cato Institute**

"Such a hasty process risks harmful results. We fear this executive order will become a self-inflicted wound in the fight against terrorism."

— **Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz. and Lindsey Graham, R-S.C.**

"(The executive order is) akin to President Trump taking a wrecking ball to the Statue of Liberty."

— **Jen Smyers, Church World Service**

"It's a horrible idea and I really I feel for all the people who are

affected, families are being torn apart and I worry in the big picture what this means to the security of the world. It's going about it completely opposite. You want to solve terror, you want to solve crime, this is not the way to do it."

— **Steve Kerr, NBA basketball coach**

"While not explicitly a religious test, it comes close to one which is inconsistent with our American character."

— **Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn.**

"Discrimination on nationality alone is forbidden under human rights law. The U.S. ban is also mean-spirited, and wastes resources needed for proper counter-terrorism."

— **Zeid Ra'ad al Hussein, United Nations human rights chief**

"It's a deep and tragic irony that Donald Trump is slamming the door in the faces of refugees right before International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The entire refugee convention came out of the Holocaust and the failure of the international community to protect Jews and survivors."

— **Mark Hatfield, president and CEO of HIAS, which was formed in 1881 to help Jews fleeing ethnic cleansing in Eastern Europe**

"Regardless of whether or how you worship, where you come from or who you love, everyone's individual experience is what makes us stronger as a whole. Those values are being threatened by the recent executive order in the U.S. banning refugees, as well as visitors, from seven Muslim-majority countries. This is a policy we don't support."

— **Mark Parker, Nike CEO**

"(The executive order is) a clear insult to the Islamic world ... and a great gift to extremists and their supporters."

— **Iran Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

"This 90-day ban ... is unacceptable and I urge the administration to halt enforcement of this order until a more thoughtful and deliberate policy can be reinstated."

— **Rep. Charlie Dent, R-Penn.**

"Citizens exercising their Constitutional right to assemble, organize, and have their voices heard by their elected officials is exactly what we expect to see when American values are at stake."

— **Former President Barack Obama**

"If we send a signal to the Middle East that the U.S. sees all Muslims as jihadis, the terrorist recruiters win by telling kids that America is banning Muslims and that this is America versus one religion."

— **Sen. Ben Sasse, R-Neb.**

"We have no evidence that would support a belief that the Obama administration was discriminating against Christian populations. (World Relief is against) any measure that would discriminate against the most vulnerable people in the world based on ethnicity, country of origin, religion, gender or gender identity. Our commitment is to serve vulnerable people without regard to those factors, or any others."

— **Rev. Scott Arbeiter, president of World Relief, humanitarian arm of the National Association of Evangelicals**



## OTHER VIEWS

# President Trump, meet my family

The *New York Times* has periodically, to its shame, succumbed to the kind of xenophobic fearmongering that President Donald Trump is now trying to make American policy.

In 1875, *The Times* sternly warned that too many Irish and German immigrants (like the Trumps) could "deprive Americans by birth and descent of the small share they yet retain" in New York City.

In 1941, *The Times* cautioned in a front-page article that European Jews desperately seeking American visas might be Nazi spies. In 1942, as Japanese-Americans were being interned, *The Times* cheerfully suggested that the detainees were happily undertaking an "adventure."

We make bad decisions when we fear immigrants we "otherize." That's why Americans burned Irish Catholics alive, banned Chinese for decades, denied visas to Anne Frank's family and interned Japanese-Americans. And yes, *The New York Times* sometimes participated in such madness.

But we will not be part of that today.

Trump signed an executive order on Friday that suspends refugee programs and targets Muslims from certain countries. It's hypocritical for Trump to be today's avatar of hostility to immigrants, since his own family suffered from anti-German sentiment and pretended to be Swedish. But I'm indignant for a more personal reason — and I'm getting to that.

Kirk W. Johnson, a former American aid official in Iraq, fears that the executive order will bar military interpreters who have bled for America and to whom we have promised entry. He told me about one interpreter, nicknamed Homeboy, who ran through fire to rescue a wounded American soldier, and then was himself shot. Homeboy survived, barely, but lost his leg — and as he recovered, a grenade was thrown at his home by insurgents angry that he had helped Americans.

After years of vetting, Homeboy was approved for a visa for interpreters who helped the United States. Does Trump really want to betray such people who risked more for America than Trump himself ever did?

Yet if fear and obliviousness have led us periodically to target refugees, there's also another thread that runs through American history. It's reflected in the welcome received by somebody I deeply admire: Wladyslaw Krzysztowicz. And this is personal.

Raised in what was then Romania and is now Ukraine, Krzysztowicz was jailed by the Gestapo for assisting an anti-Nazi spy for the West. His aunt was murdered in Auschwitz for similar spying, but he was freed with a bribe. When World War II was ending, he fled his home as it fell into the hands of the Soviets.



**NICHOLAS KRISTOF**  
Comment

After imprisonment in a Yugoslav concentration camp, he made it to Italy and then France, but he couldn't get a work permit, and he thought that neither he nor any children he might later have would ever be fully accepted in France.

So he dreamed of traveling to America, which he had heard would be open to all. He explored a fake marriage to an American woman to get a visa, but that fell through. Finally he met an American woman working in Paris who convinced her family back in Portland, Oregon, to sponsor him, along with their church, the First Presbyterian Church of Portland.

As Krzysztowicz stood on the deck of the ship *Marseille*, approaching New

York Harbor in 1952, a white-haired woman from Boston chatted with him and quoted the famous lines from the Statue of Liberty, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free ... ." Krzysztowicz spoke little English and didn't understand, so she wrote them down for him and handed him the paper, saying, "Keep it as a souvenir, young man."

Then as she was walking away, she corrected herself: "young American."

Krzysztowicz kept that scrap of paper and marveled that he — a refugee who had repeatedly faced death in the Old Country for not belonging — now somehow counted as an American even before he had set foot on American soil, even before he had learned English. It was an inclusiveness that dazzled him, that kindled a love for America that he passed on to his son.

That strand of hospitality represents the best of this country. The church sponsored Krzysztowicz even though he wasn't a Presbyterian, even though he was Eastern European at a time when the Communist bloc posed an existential threat to America. He could have been a spy or a terrorist.

But he wasn't. After arriving in Oregon, he decided that the name Krzysztowicz was unworkable for Americans, so he shortened it to Kristof. He was my dad.

Recently I returned to the First Presbyterian Church to thank the congregation for taking a risk and sponsoring my father, who died in 2010. And the church, I'm delighted to say, is moving to support a refugee family this year.

Mr. President, please remember: This is a country built by refugees and immigrants, your ancestors and mine. When we bar them and vilify them, we shame our own roots.

■ *Nicholas Kristof grew up on a sheep and cherry farm in Yamhill. Kristof, a columnist for The New York Times since 2001, writes op-ed columns that appear twice a week. He won the Pulitzer Prize two times, in 1990 and 2006.*

## YOUR VIEWS

### Illegal aliens are a drain on federal prison systems

One of the negative impacts of having a significant foreign national population residing in the United States, be they legally or illegally present in the country, continues to be crime.

The scope and impact of foreign national crime on the U.S. citizens and residents of this country continues to go almost unreported by mainstream news sources online, on television or in hard-copy newspapers.

Information on foreign national crime is readily available to any mainstream news source that has the ability to do a simple search on the U.S. Federal Bureau of Prisons inmates statistics website under the heading of inmate citizenship.

A search of the bureau website reveals the number and percentage of criminal aliens in federal prisons on Dec. 24, 2016.

There were 41,216 criminal alien inmates in the prison system. Alien inmates were 21.8 percent of the federal prison population; more than two in every ten prisoners were criminal

aliens.

With 27,085 Mexican nationals being incarcerated in the prison system, they were the vast majority of criminal aliens in federal prisons.

The U.S. Federal Bureau of Prisons breaks down the federal prison population into 13 types of offenses.

One of the top five offenses, the reason inmates were incarcerated in federal prisons, was for immigration crimes. There were 15,073 inmates in the BOP prison system incarcerated for immigration crimes; they were 8.5 percent of the federal prison population.

The mainstream media's ongoing failure to exercise its due diligence in reporting on foreign national crime means that elected and non-elected governmental officials responsible for law enforcement at a national, state and local level will not be held accountable in enforcing laws written to protect U.S. citizens and residents from criminal aliens that have and continue to invade our country.

David Olen Cross  
Salem

## LETTERS POLICY

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