



AAG

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
of GEOGRAPHERS

AAG Condemns Trump Administration Travel Bans

The American Association of Geographers (AAG) condemns, in unequivocal terms, the recently revised Executive Order 13769 signed by President Trump. The new Executive Order, like the original one issued in January 2017, perpetuates an unsubstantiated targeting of people from certain countries and unjustly restricts their ability to enter or return to the United States. The ban, by essentially targeting one religious group, along with the highly racialized rhetoric regarding immigration policy, can be seen as contributing to the rise in religious and racial hate crimes that has been observed in our communities and on our campuses.

The travel ban—even in its revised form—runs directly contrary to our organization’s core values regarding intellectual freedom, diversity, human rights, and international collaboration within and beyond the discipline of geography. The court challenges by states such as Washington, Hawaii and others, provide fresh legal analysis demonstrating that the Presidential travel ban—even in its revised form--seriously damages the intellectual and cultural exchange mission of America’s universities and colleges and thus our innovativeness as centers of learning and building empathy for and solidarity with people from other regions. The AAG greatly values the creation of inclusive environments in which all members and geographic professionals—regardless of their national origin, religion, or race/ethnicity—feel that they belong and freely have a place within our profession. President Trump’s recent executive orders are antithetical to that goal.

The Council and staff of the AAG are carefully monitoring the impact of the travel ban and other recent federal policy, paying close attention to and seeking to assist our most vulnerable colleagues within the geography community. The Association also is tracking two other disturbing developments taking place: 1) the aggressive deportation and criminalization of immigrants living within the United States, and 2) the rise in anti-Semitic, racist, and other discriminatory behavior and public language.

The American Association of Geographers strongly calls upon the President and his Administration to adopt a more restrained and humane approach to the enforcement of America’s border controls and immigration laws. The Association also calls upon President Trump to immediately issue and enforce, in practice and policy, a zero-tolerance stance toward the expression and perpetuation of hate crimes which we feel may be exacerbated by actions such as this travel ban.