

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Stated Clerk opposes order banning refugees' entry into U.S.

January 28, 2017

Louisville

Yesterday President Donald Trump signed an executive order to allegedly protect the nation from terrorists entering the United States. In practice, however, this order serves to further harm those who are the very victims of terrorism, genocide, religious and gender-based persecution, and civil war.

Right now, across the globe, there are families grabbing their bags and clinging to each other as they tearfully flee the home they love, the home they never wanted to leave, because home is no longer safe. And many, after being fully vetted by a legal refugee entry process, are not being allowed to enter the U.S. and are being wrongfully detained at airports across the country.

This is a miscarriage of justice and goes against everything we stand for as a country shaped and formed by people who emanated from other lands.

As the top ecclesial officer of the nation's largest Reformed body, I urge the president and his administration to reverse this very harmful decision regarding refugees. Presbyterians are not afraid of this so-called terror threat. We are not afraid because we profess a faith in Jesus, who entered the world a refugee.

We are not afraid because, just as we welcome Jesus every advent, we have chosen to welcome our brothers and sisters into this nation from across the globe. Presbyterians chose welcome after World War II when we, as a denomination, demanded that the U.S. allow more refugees to enter then. We chose welcome when our very congregations served as the host sites to refugees in the years before resettlement agencies. And, Presbyterians choose welcome now as we co-sponsor families resettling to the U.S. from Syria, Somalia, Sudan, Iraq, Burma, Bhutan, and other countries.

With every choice of welcome we enter into relationship with people who become neighbors, friends, and family. No administration can convince us to fear.

We oppose this administration's decision to prolong each and every refugee's wait for a place to call home under the false pretense of security. We stand ready to welcome our new neighbors, friends, and family of all faiths and nations.

Learn more about our policies on refugees and asylees.

Tags: donald trump, immigration, migration, refugees, welcome

Agency: Office of the General Assembly

Gracias, Rev. Nelson, for your words of encouragement and call to action. Bendiciones.



Office of the General Assembly

J HERBERT NELSON II

*Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian
Church (U.S.A)*

by Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri

January 30, 2017

Thank you. I keep thinking of these verses of condemnation for those who would keep themselves safe by cutting off others from Habakkuk 2: "Alas for you who get evil gain for your house, setting your nest on high to be safe from the reach of harm!" You have devised shame for your house by cutting off many peoples; you have forfeited your life. The very stones will cry out from the wall, and the plaster will respond from the woodwork."

by Rachel McCord

January 30, 2017

Thank you for the pointed comments. We are all God's children. Carrie Sinkler-Parker

by Carrie Sinkler-Parker

January 30, 2017

Grateful as always for your prophetic voice.

by Rev. Tricia Dillon Thomas

January 29, 2017

Well said. Thank you for speaking out!

by susan hickox

January 29, 2017

As Christians we are called to have the courage to love and help others even when its not convenient or guaranteed safe. Thank you for this reminder. Christians and Americans are not selfish cowards.

by Rita Brown

January 29, 2017

As Christians we must have courage to show love to others especially when it may make things difficult for us. Christ didn't say love only your neighbors who are like yourself and only if its convenient and guaranteed safe. Americans are not cowards.

by Rita Brown

January 29, 2017

Thank you for this strong and faithful witness. As a church, we need leaders who dare to speak truth to power and to stand for justice. Is there a reason the link to this isn't on the PCUSA home page? Hopefully, it's just waiting for staff to come in on Monday morning.

by Barbara Cathey

January 29, 2017

Amen. Thank you.

by Rev. Rachel Srubas

January 29, 2017

Ask the Germans how this open door policy is working stated clerk? How many refugees have you taken in syated clerk?

by William G Scheiderer

January 29, 2017

Thanks, J. Herbert, for being the strong voice of our church on this and so many other critical issues of our time socially, politically and theologically. Peace in Christ.

by Jonathan C. Barker

January 29, 2017

Finally we are hearing voices challenging fear as an excuse for acting unethically. Finally we are hearing voices reminding us that Christianity demands that we be about more than ourselves. Keep it up! Fill the air with the words of Christianity that have too long been silent.

by JoAnn Ottman

January 29, 2017

Dr. Nelson: Many thanks from Wayne PA. We're with you totally and grateful for your prophetic statement on this crisis. George and Ellen

by Ellen and George Aman

January 29, 2017

Thank you. This unequivocal statements in support of love, justice, and mercy give me hope for our denomination, the nation, and the world. May we remain committed to welcoming the outcast and the exile into our midst.

by Heather McIntyre

January 29, 2017

Thank you, Mr. Stated Clerk. We read this in church today; people responded with tears for the voice you gave their feelings. And now we head for a community rally, where we'll read your words again.

by Gary Saunders

January 29, 2017

Thank you for speaking up for the many Christians stunned into silence, I hope it gives more people a voice and the courage to speak out for what is right. No matter what a persons faith is, the ideas of right and wrong and basic humanity towards one another are what will save us.

by Sue

January 29, 2017

Thank you so much for this strong message. It reflects the base from which so many of us live and work to welcome all who are strangers and outsiders. With the Holy Spirit working through us, we will move through this fear-based set of policies to show God's love, especially to those most in need. May it be so.

by Don Mead

January 29, 2017

Thank you.

by Melanie Mitchell

January 29, 2017

Thank you. I stand entirely with/next to/behind you on this.

by Jennifer Chaloehtiarana

January 29, 2017

Bless you for speaking out. We are all God's creations.

by Tziporah Waternov

January 29, 2017

Thank you for speaking to and for our church as a prophet. Amen.

by Wayne Meeks

January 29, 2017

Thank you!!

by Jane Collins

January 29, 2017

We cannot make life decisions based purely on a need to protect our physical being. Jesus' mandate to us - both through his life example and by his own teachings - is to protect OTHERS' physical being, even if at the cost of our own. If you cannot own that, you cannot profess to be His followers... as it is his #2 Directive -- Mark 12:29-31 (Galatians 3:28)

by Sydney Alexandra Linton

January 29, 2017

Thank you. We stand with the stated clerk

by Kris Maldarelli

January 29, 2017

Thank you for speaking for us. Amen. Welcome refugees, we want and need you!

by Michael McBride

January 29, 2017

thank you

by Susan Ross

January 29, 2017

Thank you for this message. I pray that it will be spread throughout our community.

by Susan Worledge

January 29, 2017

People will come from east and west, from north and south, to sit at table together in the presence of the Holy One. That is our vision, and it is the reality to which we give witness and work.

by Rev. Deke Spierling

January 29, 2017

My sentiments exactly!

by Gail Brigham

January 29, 2017

Thank you.

by Manda Wright

January 29, 2017

Thank you for articulating the thinking person's response so eloquently.

by Betsy Mallett Caszatt

January 29, 2017

Thank you for your words of wisdom and comfort.

by Sarah Williams

January 29, 2017

Thank you-we cannot remain silent.

by Patricia Holt

January 29, 2017

Thank you for being a reflection of what church should be, walking with Christ's words in your heart; I am proud to be a Presbyterian today.

by Brett Hartley

January 28, 2017

It is not hate that makes our decision about not allowing Muslims into this country, it is love for the Christian that live here. The UPCA IS LOSING MEMBERSHIP big time because you choose to follow rather than lead. There is such hope if we follow Gods rules. Bring the Christians here that are being persecuted is one thing bringing Muslims here put our lives in the same danger. We cannot fix anything if we don't recognize what is happening.

by C Lewis

January 28, 2017

Thank you, Mr. Stated Clerk! We are a people of welcome precisely because we have been welcomed, by God's grace. In faithful response, we can do no less.

by Keith R. Conover

January 28, 2017

Let the Church and Chorus of Christians say Amen!

by Warren Lesane

January 28, 2017

Thank you, this is what I was hoping to see.

by Sharon Lunsford

January 28, 2017

Thank you!!! Prayers and voices matter!

by Ronee Christy

January 28, 2017

Well said Thank you!

by Philip Di Filippo

January 28, 2017

Amen!

by Ashley Kave

January 28, 2017

Amen...praying for repentance

by Rev. Edward D. Slusser, HR

January 28, 2017

We stand behind our Stated Clerk and cannot condone these actions. This is a miscarriage of justice.

by Anthony L Burton Sr

January 28, 2017

Thank you!

by Marcia Webster

January 28, 2017

Amen, all of God's children are welcome here.

by Rev Joseph Medearis

January 28, 2017

thank you

by Debra J MacGregor

January 28, 2017

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