

MEDIA STATEMENT

For immediate release
Tuesday, January 31st, 2017

Legalized Racism, Islamophobia and Xenophobia

Mississauga- On Friday, January 27th, the President of the United States of America, Donald Trump, signed an executive order banning individuals from seven predominantly racialized and muslim countries, from entering the United States (U.S.) for 90 days. This policy, among many other acts in the past week of Trump's inauguration, have triggered a series of racist, xenophobic and islamophobic actions in the U.S. and in Canada. This policy directly impacts members of our community and should not be taken lightly.

For years we have strived to challenge these systems of oppression that have plagued our students, staff, faculty and community members. We call on individuals to actively condemn these institutionalized acts of oppression by emailing and visiting your local Members of Parliament to voice your opposition, and by standing in solidarity with your racialized and Muslim friends, family, and neighbours during these difficult moments.

We also encourage individuals to participate in the upcoming action on Saturday, February 4th, as well as endorse the following list of demands, calling the Canadian government to:

- 1) Make an immediate, public condemnation of the executive orders by President Trump that bans Muslims and refugees from entering the US. Canada must immediately open the Canada-USA border. This includes revocation of the Safe Third Country Agreement which bars most refugee claimants entering from the United States over land to claim asylum in Canada. The Designated Country of Origin list, which makes it almost impossible for US citizens and citizens of forty other countries to claim asylum in Canada, must be eliminated.
- 2) End the system of indefinite immigration detention. The federal government must create a regularization program so that all undocumented residents can live freely with their families rather than face mass deportation. Migrant workers in Canada must also be given permanent status and open work permits. All provinces must become Sanctuaries and refuse collaboration with Canadian and American border agents.
- 3) End of specific federal legislation in Canada that attacks racialized Muslims and refugees, including the Barbaric Cultural Practices Act as well as anti-terror legislation such as Security Certificates and Bill C-51.

The safety and livelihood of our students is of the utmost importance to UTMSU. It is our collective responsibility as students, staff, and faculty to foster a space free of violence, and one that safeguards the individual rights of each person, regardless of their race, colour, nationality, place of origin, or personal or political beliefs. The UTMSU is committed to allocating resources and supporting any and all individuals who are affected by the U.S. travel ban.

The UTMSU represents over 13,000 students at the University of Toronto Mississauga. The UTMSU does not condone nor tolerate behaviour that undermines the dignity or self-esteem of any individual or creates an intimidating, hostile or unsafe environment.

Please Contact:

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