



Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

**GPSA Resolution 8: On Responses to the Recent Executive Order
“Protecting the Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into the United
States” by Cornell and Peers**

Whereas at least two dozen¹ graduate and professional students are among the population affected by the executive order entitled “Protecting the Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into the United States” issued on January 27th, 2017, regarding restrictions on lawful entry into the United States; and

Whereas Cornell is a global institution that includes Weill Cornell Medicine Qatar; and

Whereas graduate and professional studies often necessitate fieldwork, programs, externships, conferences, and collaborative exchange outside of the United States; and

Whereas the official motto of Cornell University is “*I would found an institution where any person can find instruction in any study*”; and

Whereas Cornell University has 4,921 international students as of 2016, with international students making up 43.4% of the graduate and professional student body²; and

Whereas travelers from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen, including those with valid US visas, may now be barred by executive order from entering the United States of America³; and

Whereas the Cornell graduate student population includes 1 student from Syria, 1 from Sudan, and 27 from Iran⁴; and

Whereas the Cornell academic staff includes 1 member from Libya and 19 from Iran⁵; and

Whereas the above data may omit United States permanent residents or students with dual

¹ <https://twitter.com/BKnuthCornell/status/825443144468672512>

² <http://isso.cornell.edu/sites/isso.cornell.edu/files/isso/documents/Stats16-17.pdf> page 10

³ <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/27/us/politics/refugee-muslim-executive-order-trump.html>

⁴ <http://isso.cornell.edu/sites/isso.cornell.edu/files/isso/documents/Stats16-17.pdf> pages 18-26

⁵ <http://isso.cornell.edu/sites/isso.cornell.edu/files/isso/documents/Stats16-17.pdf> page 33



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citizenship registered with Cornell University under a different citizenship; and

Whereas on January 29th, 2017, Cornell Interim President Hunter Rawlings issued a statement condemning the executive order as “fundamentally antithetical to Cornell University’s principles;” and

Whereas in his statement, Interim President Rawlings indicated the administration has not only been in regular contact with students directly impacted but has also been working to increase resources and support for international graduate students; and

Whereas the January 30, 2017 Graduate School Announcements message indicated that Cornell University is advocating on behalf of students to New York Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, who have released statements in opposition to the Executive Order^{###, ###}; and

Whereas Cornell University has announced that it has formally contacted two out of the three federal legislators representing Ithaca, but has yet to announce any formal contact with Representative Tom Reed, who has released a statement in support of the Executive Order^{###}; and

Whereas the Graduate School in conjunction with the International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO) have been working to disseminate these resources, to further address students concerns, and to provide emotional and academic support for community members; and

Whereas our peer institutions such as Princeton⁶ are strongly advising students and scholars to postpone travel outside of the United States at this time; and

Whereas New York-based law professors are also cautioning those who are not United States citizens to postpone travel outside of the United States at this time⁷; and

Whereas key graduate and professional student and faculty recruitment will take place in the coming months; and

Whereas the aforementioned concerns and uncertainty will discourage potential members of the Cornell community from applying or matriculating; and

⁶<http://dof.princeton.edu/memos-datestoremember/announcements/dear-colleagues-executive-order-immigration>

⁷ http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/trump-order-immigrants-travel_us_588a7bd4e4b0cef5cf870a7d?



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Whereas Cornell University has an interest in the application and matriculation of a broad, diverse and international body of scholars; and

Whereas the Association of American Universities, of which Cornell University is a member, recognizes that "the administration's new order barring the entry or return of individuals from certain countries is already causing damage and should end as quickly as possible," and urges "the [federal] Administration, as soon as possible, to make clear to the world that the United States continues to welcome the most talented individuals from all countries to study, teach, and carry out research and scholarship at our universities,"⁸ and

Whereas the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS), of which this body is a member, issued a statement on January 29th, 2017 affirming their belief that "this executive order violates our nation's ideals and is illegal... Thousands of graduate-professional students stand to be impacted;"⁹ and

Whereas the rapid implementation of this executive order and the current political climate raise legitimate concerns regarding potential expansion of this or similar executive orders for current and potential international members of the Cornell community;

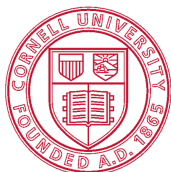
Be it therefore resolved, that the GPSA asks the Graduate School and professional schools of Cornell University to maintain clear lines of communication regarding our students' freedom of movement;

Be it further resolved, that the GPSA recognizes and applauds Interim President Rawlings's email titled "Message from Interim President Hunter Rawlings" on Jan 29, 2017, especially the language affirming that "President Donald Trump's recent executive order imposing a 90-day ban on immigrant and nonimmigrant entry to the United States from seven predominantly Muslim nations [...] is fundamentally antithetical to Cornell University's principles;"

Be it further resolved that the GPSA recognizes and applauds efforts undertaken by the Graduate School and ISSO to assist students during this uncertain period;

⁸ <https://www.aau.edu/news/article.aspx?id=18366>

⁹ <http://nagps.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Vahideh-Statement.pdf>



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Be it further resolved that the GPSA recognizes and appreciates Cornell University's advocating to Sens. Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, on behalf of affected community members and in support of legislation¹⁰ proposed by Sen. Diane Feinstein (Calif.) to repeal the Executive Order;

Be it further resolved that the GPSA additionally calls on Cornell University, through its political influence and connections, to advocate on behalf of affected community members to all relevant political representatives in local, state, and national government, including, but not limited to, Rep. Tom Reed, for the purpose of those community members' freedom of movement;

Be it further resolved that the GPSA hereby endorses the language of the NAGPS statement on Jan 29, 2017, that "the executive order is morally wrong and detrimental to U.S. interests,"¹¹ and asks Cornell University to sign on to this language as well;

Be it finally resolved that the GPSA asks that Cornell University seek out what additional resources, if any, ISSO may need to help it anticipate and respond to the obstacles international students and other affected members of the Cornell community will likely face in the days, weeks, and months to come, and then provide those resources as requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Alex Loiben

Chair, GPSA Student Advocacy Committee

Voting Member for the Physical Sciences, GPSA

Anna Waymack

Voting Member for the Humanities, GPSA

Iian Smythe

Voting Member for the Physical Sciences, GPSA

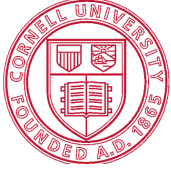
Jesse Goldberg

Voting Member for the Humanities, GPSA

¹⁰

<http://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/press-releases?ID=5E9C9FAC-46B1-4158-8F93-970234D89F06>

¹¹ Cf. note 8



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