February 6 - 12 Alert on Immigration

What's Happening?

Trump signed an executive order ending the Syrian Refugee program, suspending visas from seven majority-Muslim countries, and temporarily halting refugee resettlement. People who already traveling from those countries when the order was signed were detained at numerous airports, sparking large protests at those airports as well as at the White House, the Capitol, and in cities and towns across the country. Chaos and confusion erupted around the globe as hundreds, including children and grandparents, were held in detention, deported, or prevented from boarding flights to the U.S. Late Saturday night, federal judges in New York, Virginia, and Massachusetts ordered a temporary halt to the order for those who had valid visas.

Large protests at airports continued, with shouts of "No Hate, No Fear, Immigrants are Welcome Here!" Meanwhile, in multiple cases Customs and Border Patrol agents refused to follow the judge's orders to allow those with valid visas to enter, even when confronted by members of Congress at Dulles airport. The administration was silent on the matter.

It was revealed that the order was written without input from the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Homeland Security, or the Secretary of State nominee. Instead, Attorney General nominee Jeff Sessions and white nationalist Trump advisors Stephen Miller and Steve Bannon, were the primary authors. Monday evening it was announced that 100 State Department officials signed a "dissent memo" against the administration's policy.

Acting Attorney General Sally Yates announced that she would not defend the executive order, saying, "I am responsible for ensuring that the positions we take in court remain consistent with this institution's solemn obligation to always seek justice and stand for what is right. I am not convinced that the defense of the executive order is consistent with these responsibilities, nor am I convinced that the executive order is lawful." President Trump fired her hours later, saying that she had "betrayed the Department of Justice." From AFSC

Washington district court granted a temporary restraining order against the implementation of the EO nationwide that temporarily bars government officials from enforcing the Muslim ban and the refugee ban in the country, including actions that "prioritize refugee claims of certain religious minorities." Judge Robart found that the EO adversely affects the residents of states in areas of "employment, education, business, family relations, and freedom to travel." Judge Robart based the application of the restraining order on a nationwide basis on the ruling of a Texas court in 2015 which enjoined President Obama's DACA/DAPA executive orders on a nationwide basis.   From Church World Service.

Action One: Prayer

Feb. 5: In today's first reading, the prophet Isaiah tells us to "shelter the oppressed and the homeless". May we welcome migrants and refugees who flee from oppression in their homelands, we pray to the Lord . . .

Feb. 12: For all church leaders, that they may help build a culture that respects the dignity of all migrants, we pray to the Lord . . .

Feb. 19: For refugees in Africa, the Middle East, and elsewhere who are experiencing great suffering, that they may find a place of safety and peace, we pray to the Lord . . .

Feb. 26: For just and comprehensive immigration reform, we pray to the Lord . . . (Joint Immigration Venture)

Action Two: Calls/Letters/Petitions

Please call your Senators at 1-855-923-6687 Once connected urge them to make a statement from the floor of the Senate denouncing the executive order banning Syrian refugees and people from Muslim-majority countries.

Below is a suggested script: *My name is [insert name here] and I live in [insert location]. I am a person of faith and I am calling to urge you to make a statement from the floor of the Senate denouncing the executive order banning Syrian refugees and people from Muslim-majority countries. It is based on fear-mongering, bigotry and xenophobia that I reject. Support efforts to protect the human rights of people in our community and around the world, including the rights to freedom of religion and non-discrimination.   From Amnesty International USA – use and adapt as you see fit.*

Letter to Speaker Ryan from the Catholic Community telling him to stop the ban of refugees from Muslim-majority countries: http://www.catholicsinalliance.org/speakerpaulryan?mc_cid=8b16b7688d&mc_eid=3c98c1bfe0

Sign the petition: Demand Congress reject Trump's anti-Muslim policies!
http://act.demandprogress.org/sign/sign-petition-demand-congress-reject-trumps-anti-muslim-policies/?source=demandprogress&t=2&akid=5149.2561280.817CbY

Do not ban Muslims from entering the United States: https://www.change.org/p/president-of-the-united-states-do-not-ban-muslims-from-entering-the-united-states?source_location=topic_page&utm_source=action_alert_start_a_petition&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=705398&alert_id=weUojJCyXg_qJLzsO%2BF0InJMFt0IQqXbUalfPBWgp%2B0S3QTQL4M5cmCRZfkNWkmbRwhUeheOMHR

Oppose Harmful Executive Orders, An Affront to American Values: http://cqrcengage.com/jesuit/app/write-a-letter?2&engagementId=284353&ep=AAAAC2Flc0NpcGhlcjAxBxntE7lKSiWg79kK9m6w1Xyo3kQe_D07JixJOSBSk33VGEDJLstqD5qUuJunsMuWP89CYfwjidmUOWP5WZfwesLf2iUI1jjN6czHOIJB6dE&lp=0

Action Four: Education
https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2017/01/27/297378/defending-an-american-tradition-communities-welcome-syrian-refugees/

https://www.washingtonpost. com/business/economy/a-little- noticed-move-by-trump-could- make-it-easier-to-deport-immigrants/2017/01/ fd5734ec-e4cb-11e6-a453- 19ec4b3d09ba_story.html?utm _term=.7bc903b6261a

See: http://justiceforimmigrants.org/

Action Five: Actions
Participate in in-district visits with your Congressional representatives in their home offices on Feb. 20-26, 2017. This can raise key issues of standing in solidarity with the immigrants. Look at the Advocacy Training 101 Webinar https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XlKHAtGOKgk&t=4s. From Catholic Social Ministry Gathering

Toolkit:
http://static1.squarespace.com/static/577d437bf5e231586a7055a9/t/57accad53e00be3861437f7e/1470941910161/RCUSA+FY17+Appropriations+Toolkit_07.28.16.pdf

Action Six: Social Media
#WeAreAllAmerica actions are being held across the country in solidarity with immigrants and refugees.
Thank you for your efforts!