



SISTERS OF ST. DOMINIC  
of AMITYVILLE, NEW YORK

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## **Statement of Amityville Dominican Sisters on Executive Order Banning Immigrants**

*February 3, 2017, Amityville, NY* - In response to an executive order signed by President Trump banning immigrants, the Central Council of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, NY has issued the following statement.

As a Council in solidarity with the Dominican Sisters in Committed Collaboration (OPSCC), we choose to publicly make this following statement. We join with our Sisters in the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) and Dominican Sisters Conference (DSC) to continue to work for justice through our preaching and prayer.

The members of the Central Council of the Dominican Sisters of Amityville, NY are appalled by President Trump's recent executive order banning immigrants. This nation has a long history of welcoming immigrants and sheltering refugees. Women and men religious have been blessed to accompany and serve immigrant and refugee communities across this country throughout their histories. In keeping with our collaborative corporate stance taken on May 4, 2011 with the Northeast Dominicans on the need for immigration reform, we do not see that halting or undermining the U.S. refugee resettlement program is the way. It leaves mostly women and children in extreme danger as they flee from their homes due to unthinkable violence. We remain committed to welcoming refugees who come here after passing through the U.S. government's screening process and we call for creating legal avenues for migration, avenues that assure family unity for immigrant/refugee families.

President Trump's order bans residents of seven Muslim-majority countries from entering the U.S. for 90 days, suspends refugee resettlement entirely for four months, and bars resettlement of Syrian refugees indefinitely. This is unconscionable in the face of the current unprecedented global refugee crisis. More than 61 million people have been displaced from their homes, more than at any time since World War II. Some 21 million of them are refugees.

These actions focus on Muslim-majority countries, with exceptions made for Christians and non-Muslim minorities. Our heritage as Dominicans calls us to stand for truth and to raise our voices for truth, to see the other with dignity, and to listen to the other's voice. Our own Dominican sisters and brothers in Iraq have cried for that respect and dignity during these past years of war. We must not turn away from their plight, their oppression and desperation, nor turn away from their/our Muslim sisters and brothers.

This executive order harkens back to the darker moments of our own history of slavery and internment camps. It damages our reputation in the eyes of the many peoples who want to know America as a defender of human rights and religious liberty, not a nation that targets religious populations and then shuts its doors on them.

The address to Congress by Pope Francis in 2015 reminded them that "It is time to put aside fear and join together to recover who we are and what we represent to a world badly in need of hope and solidarity. If we want security, let us give security; if we want life, let us give life; if we want opportunities, let us provide opportunities."

*Central Council, Sisters of St. Dominic, Amityville, New York*

*We Dominican women religious called to be signs of joy and hope, commit ourselves to incarnating the Gospel, deepening our life of prayer, searching for Truth, discerning the needs of the Church and ministering to the people of God.*

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