Statement

On the Executive Order signed on January 27, 2017 by the President of the US, suspending entry into the US for immigrants and non-immigrants from certain nations,

and

Recommendation

For Earlham College to respond swiftly and efficiently to the effects of this Executive Order on its students.

Earlham Student Government (ESG) 2017 is troubled and dismayed by the Executive Order signed by US President Donald J. Trump on January 27, 2017, suspending entry of all immigrants and non-immigrants from seven countries (Iran, Iraq, Sudan, Somalia, Libya, Syria, and Yemen). Such a ban on immigration is unethical and has very real, detrimental consequences for hundreds of thousands of immigrants. ESG 2017 collectively denounces President Trump’s immigration ban, and will work to support Earlham students regardless of national origin or immigration status. We are also dedicated to being facilitators of any discussions that may need to take place, and wish to offer, and foster an environment of, solace and solidarity.

ESG 2017 also urges the Earlham College senior staff and administration, as well as the Board of Trustees, to respond to this Executive Order promptly and in a manner consistent with the Quaker values of our College. ESG 2017 looks to the College’s Principles and Practices for guidance in such a distressing time, and encourages College leadership to do the same. Our founding Principles and Practices of “Respect for Persons”, “Community”, “Integrity”, and “Peace and Justice” seem particularly pertinent in this situation.

Universities and colleges around the US, such as University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, George Mason University, Princeton University, and Stanford University, have already communicated with students with recommendations on how best to deal with this Executive Order and its ramifications and offering support to its students. While ESG 2017 will continue to extend strength and aid to our peers at Earlham in any form we can, we ask College leadership to use its considerably larger pool of resources to support its students, especially those who are directly affected by this Executive Order. Some immediate ways in which the College leadership can provide assistance to its students are by unequivocally denouncing the Executive Order as several leaders and academics have already done, and to secure and provide legal counsel for students who may not be able to return to the US to complete their degree at Earlham should this immigration ban continue.

Earlham College takes pride in its diverse student body, often using the fact that students from over 80 countries are enrolled at the College as a selling point. The January 27, 2017 Executive Order signed by the President of the US threatens to completely disrupt the lives of many of those students, and ESG 2017 urges College administration and leadership, in the strictest terms possible, to now stand behind these students and prove that the College values its Principles and Practices and its students and is willing to support them.

Love and Strength,