

## Voices of Immigrant and Muslim Young People

- I'm a Mexican HS student who has been feeling really concerned and sad about the situation this country is currently going through. I'm writing this letter because I want to express what I think about all the things that are happening in this country and how I feel here as an immigrant. Lately, I can feel the tension among the people in my community, I try to stay positive but it is hard to do when everything around you makes you feel like hope is running out. I don't understand why Mr. Trump and many of his followers think those awful things about immigrants. I would like to think that it is because they had a bad experience with one, and if it is like that I want to apologize for it. I'm still faithful about the situation because I know that we, the immigrants, or at least most of us are not doing anything wrong and I dare say this because I see throughout the day all the endeavors that immigrants like me do on a daily basis. I really want people to understand that we did not come here to "steal" jobs or do them wrong. We came here because we were trying to escape from the situation our countries are facing, things like poverty, wars, and corruption among many other things that I may not even know about. We came here because we innocently thought that this country was the right place to accomplish our dreams; that is the only thing we want, just like everyone else in life. We just want to have a better life. I really want people to understand that.
- I'm begging you to please do everything you can to make things better here. I still have hope that this country is a good place for making people's dreams come true if they work hard for it. I still have faith in this country, and I will definitely give my best to accomplish my goals.
- I am an immigrant and I'm proud of that because it is not easy to leave everything you know and everyone you love behind. It was hard to pass through the feelings of alienation when you are in a whole new place. As an immigrant, I came here seeking safety and to reach my goals. I was scared for the change but my mind was clear. I wanted to graduate and be appreciated for my effort. I want to make my mom proud by studying for my future. I want to become a human being with values and a promising future. I chose to come to the United States because it was the "dream land" instead of staying in Ecuador. In other words, I preferred to explore and search for chances that could help me rather than stay in my comfort zone where I had everything but it was not enough for my expectations. I took a risk and half of a year before I was satisfied for my smart decision. However, it seems these wishes are going far away and are replaced with worries. I am studying to succeed but the fear of one day being treated as a criminal is causing a lack of motivation. Lately, the deportations are occupying the first place in every immigrant's mind and not in a good way. It is affecting our health because it is stressing us. Someone said, "Where do souls go to hide after deportation?" Just imagine the shame a deported person would feel when they come back to their families without getting what they dreamed of, without an A for their courage, but with an F for fool.

- I worry for my sister who wears a hijab and goes to an American school. I worry about what the students in her school say about her because she is a Muslim as I am, and I worry that they give her the terrorist look. I live with her and know that she is a cute little angel who loves her school and education, like anybody else who is not wearing a hijab.
- I'm an immigrant student, and I'm writing because I'm seeing outrageous acts currently befalling where all the human part of our rights as immigrants are being violated and demeaned. Immigrants looking for a shelter and escaping from the violence of their countries deserve, as human beings, to be treated as such and provided with all the help needed for their safety, and this country should be able to provide it. Also, I strongly disagree with the justice system which is being used to treat immigrants as criminals just for mild offenses or not doing anything at all. Their cases should be fairly processed, taking into consideration the life they have already built here and how they don't represent any threat to our nation.
- Ever since the election, many bad incidents are going on. As a permanent resident, it makes me feel insecure... President Trump wants to send immigrants back to their countries. Also, as an immigrant it makes me feel insecure...As a human being, I should help them because if I don't stand for them, then nobody is going to stand for me....The most important thing is to become their friends. It's the best way to help them because that is how they are going to feel safe, because someone is standing for them. We want a kind of world where there will be no hate crimes, no discrimination. In order to do this, we all have to work together as one family.
- I am very concerned about the situation of immigrants in the United States....the new president has become very strict with immigrants and especially Muslim people...These immigrants are facing so many problems without any causes. There is no fault of these immigrants but still they are going through many difficulties. They also worked for the wellness of the United States. They want a very happy and peaceful life like other American people. They always tried to give their best for the development of the United States....They are not getting their proper rights...They lack protection and we must give the best protection to immigrants so that they do not have to face so many difficulties and they can live their lives very peacefully...We should support these immigrants and protest against any unfair orders which make trouble not only for immigrants but also for all of us. Because there are so many immigrants around the United States who are not being treated with human rights. We are all human and should all get proper and equal rights.
- I don't think banning Muslims will do any good. Instead, it will lead to chaos and separation as we can see now. And in my point of view this is a violation to human rights.
- According to the law of United States, we all are equal. The law is equal for all and no one can break the law. If someone breaks any law, that person gets punishment same as others

get. But immigrants are treated as criminal without doing any crime. So the law should be equal for all people.

- Finally, I think instead of targeting immigrants and deporting them, the government should try to unite the people of the country and the division the recent campaign has created.
- For the immigrant community, I would like many things, not just because we all are equal and we all have the same rights but, because we deserve that. This country is made up of immigrants; we help the economy of this country to grow. However, Americans don't see that. I would like for them to be equal, treated as everyone, I would like the same opportunities as Americans. One way I would like Donald Trump to help is have a law that does not deport undocumented parents with children born here.. If parents are separate from their children, it is going to be a problem because they will suffer and they will go to other places in search of someone to take care of them. I would like Donald Trump to let those millions of refugees enter this country, There are a lot of refugees that want to be quiet and stable in a place. They deserve to have a life without fear. Another way I would like him to help is giving the same opportunities to undocumented students as Americans. I would like them to have financial assistance in order to study without having to pay a lot. They deserve to get a good job no matter their legal status. I hope you care our concerns and I hope you can do something to change this situation.
- The help I would do for the immigrant community is one; I want the government to listen to what the people have to say. My position on the issue is the government should be able to consider what the "people" have to say. The Constitution states that the people can have something to say on the laws that they're trying to accomplish. Second, they are taking away people and breaking families. Imagine kids growing up without parents. I have experience almost my whole life where my parents weren't by my side. My mom left when I was 2 years old and my dad left when I was 8 and I think that growing up without them beside me created huge amount of trouble. And I feel depressed thinking that this would happen to another kid and grow up without their parents because it could affect their life a lot. Also the administration should still protect the immigrants like what Obama's Administration did before, he protected the immigrants and I think they should continue doing that because the United States is a country built by immigrants. I hope that you could help the immigrant community. Thank you so much for taking your time to read my letter and for your consideration.
- The United States is a country that built up by immigrants a long time ago. Everyone here can be considered as immigrants. Here are some of my opinions towards some issues. Firstly, if those undocumented immigrants have children who are citizens of the U.S., who would take care of their children once they've been deported? We cannot let those children grow up without parents.

- According to USA Today: 'The new ban, which goes into effect March 16, no longer restricts travel from Iraq, one of seven listed in the original order. The 90-day ban now is limited to Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria, Sudan and Yemen.'(03-06-17). This goes totally against Human Rights (#14) the right to seek a safe place to live. And also, (#13)—the freedom to move. This means that if a person (like Syrians, mostly) is in danger, and their country is not safe for them and they're in risk to be killed, they have the right to run away and look for, find and live in a place that can protect them and can save their lives. Mr. Trump has closed the doors to them. Is that fair? Is it fair that your own nation is "betraying" you and is trying to kill you, and by the time you need to find a safe place for you and your family, there are no doors open? Isn't that frustrating? I feel like by approving this, they're showing that if they're ever in danger or in their position, they won't have the right to look for a safe place, and nobody will welcome them or even help them. The worst part is that the reason Trump is giving is that he's 'stopping' terrorism like that. But he's actually doing completely the opposite. This is making Muslim people have a bigger hate towards this country because they're blaming all Muslims for terrorism, which is absolutely not true. Kids are dying, families are being separated. Hate is winning. And in addition, for Human Right #13, he's not letting people go where they want to, even though they're legal, just because he thinks that it is a risk for the country. It's not like we haven't been in Iraq fighting a war that has no meaning now, for years. But as I said before, No one has enough power to take away, or violate your human right. Apparently Mr. Trump has no idea about that.
- First, I think there should be no random searches because if I look different, it doesn't mean people can stop and search me because I don't look like someone from the United States. Therefore, I believe random searches to be racist. Second, I believe there should be an easier way for undocumented immigrants to become naturalized because when they come here and leave their native land forever then they become part of this country. They are like "Ingredients in a soup." Third, I believe undocumented immigrants shouldn't be deported for committing a minor crime. I am against this deportation because most undocumented immigrants leave their country because they face a lot of problems in their country and they don't want to go back. Some even sell all their belonging in their native country.
- I feel like immigrant's rights are not being well valued and also their necessities and their reasons to come to this country. I feel like immigrants, mostly the young ones, deserve to be here to study and work hard for their future, because when people or governments don't allow that, they're not letting wise people with low income or low resources achieve their goals and improve their skills. In addition they're turning our society into one that makes a person important because of who they are or the money they have and not their intelligence or their abilities.
- After Trump won the election, it seems like the white Americans got back their power again. Mr. Trump wants to rebuild this nation and make America white again. Yes, I agree that this would bring change and improvement for America but I also heard that he's going to deport the immigrants and send them back to their country and many such things that

made me feel unwelcome, confused, scared, worried and concerned about my family and future because my parents are also immigrants to this country like others and I don't want President Trump to send them back to their country and separate them from me like they detached many other immigrant parents from their children's.

- The massive deportations that are taking immigrants' human rights and dreams away, I find completely hurtful. One of the articles we read was "The Wall is the Least Aggressive part of Trump's Executive Actions on Immigration" by Dara Linddara. It stated that "The executive order resolves the conflict. It makes it easier for immigrant agents to consider unauthorized immigration as criminals and easier to deport them." This piece of information is totally against the seventh article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which declares that "We are all equal before the law: The law is the same for everyone. It must treat us all fairly.".
- We have many problems that we need a solution. One of these problems is the unjust detention for protesting. I think this is the big problem because we are trying to express our opinions about what is happening in US. I believe the best solution will be to have a voice in the country that says our rights because we are all equal. Another problem is the children-- think about how many children are immigrants. Many children are affected by the executive order of President Trump. We have to protect our children. The last problem is discrimination around the country. I think that discrimination was the beginning of all problems in this country. I believe that the best solution is that Trump has to speak for everyone and say that discrimination has to stop because we are all equal.