

National College and University Chaplaincy Organizations' Statement Regarding Recent Executive Orders- Press Release

February 6, 2017 (Tacoma, Washington) -- On behalf of the Association for College and University Religious Affairs (ACURA) and the National Association of College & University Chaplains (NACUC), we believe that President Trump's Executive Orders, which seek to block refugees and immigrants from Muslim-majority countries, marginalize minority populations, and establish a wall on our southern border, along with other proposed policies, are inconsistent with the values, religious, and spiritual traditions which our associations represent.

Many of our students and colleagues, especially from international and Muslim backgrounds, are anxious. Students, faculty, staff and their loved ones are affected by these policies. As college and university chaplains, deans, and directors for religious and spiritual life, our mission is not only to nurture the religious and spiritual lives of our communities, but to promote civic engagement and to create global citizens. We promote free religious exercise and association as well as maintain a welcoming environment free from religious coercion. At this challenging time in history, it is clear that interfaith understanding is central to the life of the planet.

We support the freedom to protest and be proactive against xenophobia, racism, homophobia, misogyny, anti-Semitism and Islamophobia. We aim for pluralism, unity, and equitable treatment to all who wish to come to America and become part of the tapestry of this land and its cultures. We encourage our colleagues, both clergy and those in higher education, to work strategically to remain faithful to our traditions which teach us to care for and welcome the stranger and the oppressed. We are committed to maintaining institutions of higher education as a forum for promoting free religious exercise and association, as well as an opportunity for interfaith and intercultural engagement.

About NACUC and ACURA

NACUC and ACURA are independent professional organizations which work to support religious and spiritual life on college and university campuses across the United States. For more information, please visit www.nacuc.net and www.acura-online.org.

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