

Dear Students,

On Friday an executive order was signed restricting immigration to the United States by residents of seven majority Muslim nations, including Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen. Over the past weekend, we have seen students and other professionals with legally obtained visas unfairly targeted, detained at the US border, and threatened with deportation. We anticipate this immigration ban will have an alarming effect on many Duke graduate and professional students along with postdoctoral fellows, medical professionals, faculty, and staff.

Duke Graduate and Professional Student Council (GPSC) condemns any form of discrimination against individuals based on ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, etc. We are proud of our diverse student body, and make it our mission to promote diversification of graduate and professional student education. This ban directly antagonizes that mission by suppressing our ability to recruit scholars to the US and limiting free exchange of information by preventing student participation in national and international conferences. *We do not support this executive order and will strongly advocate against it.*

Since this weekend, GPSC leaders have been working with law school professors and immigration experts in the community to brainstorm ways we can actively support immigration advocacy efforts in Durham, the Triangle Area and across the state. Please be on the lookout for information about these efforts.

We will continue to provide further support to all members of the Duke community and seek your help in this effort, as well. Below you will find a number of campus resources to help Duke graduate and professional students impacted by this ban.

Duke Visa Services: <https://visaservices.duke.edu>

GPSC and DSG Lawyer Assistance Program: <http://doodle.com/poll/9w4zdzcsacww6b3t>

International House: <https://studentaffairs.duke.edu/ihouse>

DukeReach: email: dukereach@duke.edu (919-681-2455)

Duke CAPS: <https://studentaffairs.duke.edu/caps> (919-660-100)

Best,

GPSC Executive Board