

AMENA-Psy Deeply Concerned about the Supreme Court's Ruling on "Travel Ban"

July 8, 2018

The American Arab, Middle Eastern, and North African Psychological Association (AMENA-Psy) is deeply concerned about the implications of the June 26, 2018 [Supreme Court's decision](#) to uphold travel restrictions that target travelers and asylum seekers from specific countries. These include five Middle Eastern / North African (MENA) nations: Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria, and Yemen, in addition to North Korea and Venezuela. Diversity, along with the promise of non-discrimination and the upholding of religious freedom for minorities, are core values to the United States. The travel ban is not aligned with American values that have historically strengthened the U.S. The ban will moreover continue to separate families and contribute to a hostile culture of anti-immigration and anti-Muslim rhetoric.

The travel ban, widely referred to as the "Muslim ban," directly impacts family members who will not be able to visit their loved ones in the U.S. Others will not be considered for asylum fleeing from years-long military conflicts. Moreover, countless Americans are endangered by the xenophobic and anti-Muslim sentiments the ban has emboldened. In a time when [assaults against Muslims have surpassed those that followed the September 11th attacks](#), this decision is especially troubling. [The harmful impacts of discrimination](#) on mental and physical well being are well documented. Anti-Muslim sentiments targeting Muslims, Arabs, and those perceived to be belonging to those groups, have serious [mental health implications](#).

Immigrants have and continue to play a prominent role in the growth and success of the United States. Immigrant families with relatives abroad look forward to visits for weddings, graduations, and other major life events. Seeking refuge in the U.S. is a source of hope from those fleeing from war and strife. Multiculturalism, diversity, and tolerance are American values that the travel ban undermines. We call on our nation's leaders to support equal treatment for all regardless of their religion and national origin.

About AMENA-Psy

*The American Arab, Middle Eastern, and North African Psychological Association (AMENA-Psy) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation dedicated to the development of Arab/MENA psychologists and psychological research and interventions in North America. The organization welcomes anyone interested in American Arab/MENA psychological issues. www.amenapsy.org
Twitter: @AMENAPSY*