



FOR RELEASE

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Marilyn Forman Chandler
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greensboro Jewish Federation Statement: Executive Order on Refugees

Our tradition teaches, “You shall not wrong or oppress a stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.” As Jews, we know firsthand the consequences of nations turning away those fleeing persecution. We can never forget the fate of the countless number of Jews whose lives could have been saved during the Holocaust had the United States accepted them as refugees. As Jews and Americans, we must continue to uphold our shared value of welcoming the stranger regardless of religion, race, or nationality.

The Greensboro Jewish Federation and its strong volunteer core was the instrument of freedom for over 500 refugees resettled here in the Gate City over the past 30 years. Resettled refugees have consistently enriched the fabric of our community through the professions, small businesses, the arts and religious pluralism.

Therefore, the Greensboro Jewish Federation opposes the recent executive order that would have closed our nation’s doors to refugees, even if only temporarily, from predominantly Muslim countries. We join with the overwhelming chorus of national Jewish organizations, including all four major American Jewish denominations who have issued similar statements in opposition to this executive order. Any government action that closes our doors to refugees and the oppressed contradicts our Jewish values and our American values of compassion, equality, and justice. Religious tests which directly violate the core American value of freedom of religion, have no place in our government’s policies. As our nation secures its borders with thorough vetting and seeks to combat extremism, we must never lose sight of the fundamental values that define our country and our people.

We also affirm our commitment to stand with our friends and neighbors in the Muslim community who are directly affected by this ban. We will work together to affirm that a safe haven exists for others in this great country of ours with liberty and justice for all.