

October 16, 2017

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
United States of America

Dear President Trump:

The Academy of Management condemns, as a threat to science and scholarship, the September 24, 2017, White House proclamation on visas and immigration that indefinitely bans travel and immigration into the United States by citizens of Iran, Libya, Syria, Yemen, Somalia, Chad, and North Korea, and curtails travel to the United States by citizens of Iraq and Venezuela. As the world's largest professional association of management and organization scholars, we call on you to immediately reverse this policy.

The policy prevents scholars with ties to the named countries from traveling to the U.S. regardless of the behaviors of these persons relevant to the potential for terrorism and threats to public safety. In effect, it indiscriminately bars or restricts scholars from participating in any U.S.-based scholarly activity relating to management science, including, but not limited to: participating in scholarly meetings; research projects involving onsite collaboration with U.S.-based coauthors or students; dissertation committee meetings involving U.S.-based students; data-collection with U.S.-based collaborators; presentations of one's research as an invited speaker; and/or conducting any other business of scholarship in the United States.

We assert that scholarly convening is central to the advancement of scholarship and of science, thus the policy, which inhibits the exchange of scholarly ideas, is incompatible with the progress of science in the U.S. and around the globe. Further, the policy is a threat to academic freedom because it prevents the dissemination of ideas of those scholars who are banned from entry into the United States, and because it prevents the dissemination of ideas developed outside the named countries into these jurisdictions by scholars who are citizens of the named countries.

We also believe that the policy is antithetical to scientific progress in the sense that it rests on assertions about potential terrorism and public safety that have largely been rejected by research in social science. Therefore, the proclamation represents an adverse turning point in civil discourse on the relationship between knowledge and public policy and contravenes the principles of science on which the Academy stands.

Finally, we denounce the September 24, 2017, White House proclamation because it fundamentally thwarts the Academy's ability to fulfill its mission, which is, "To build a vibrant and supportive community of scholars by markedly expanding opportunities to connect and explore ideas," and it prevents fulfillment of some of the Academy's core values, which include "providing a dynamic and supportive community for all of our members, embracing the full diversity of our backgrounds and experiences." We seek to fulfill our mission unencumbered.

Sincerely,



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*The views represented here are those of the Academy of Management as a professional association and may not reflect those of individual members or their employers.*