

Science Organisations in Germany

Statement

Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft

German Rectors' Conference

Leibniz Association

German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina

German Academic Exchange Service

Helmholtz Association of German Research Centres

Max Planck Society

German Council of Science and Humanities

February 7, 2017

Science is International

The generation of scientific insights is contingent upon discourse that is forthright, unfettered and international. It hinges on the interdisciplinary personal exchange between academic disciplines, nations and cultures. The executive order signed by the President of the United States this past Friday is a sweeping discrimination of human beings based on their ethnicity and consequently also an act of aggression against the fundamental values of science. Hence, German Scientific Organizations are extremely concerned about the President's executive order. It is not a justified tool to use in the necessary fight against terrorism and will gravely impair the international exchange that is of such critical importance for scientific collaboration.

Albeit the implementation details of the immigration ban into the United States, which applies to citizens of Iraq, Iran, Yemen, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Syria remain ambiguous, some of the initial consequences are already evident in the field of science: Numerous scientists on global assignments were not granted entry into the United States. As a result, they have been barred from attending scientific conventions, symposiums and seminars. At this point and until further notice, American scientific institutions feel compelled to impose a travel freeze for their students and researchers for their own protection.

Reliability and dependable planning/scheduling options of its social contexts are indispensable factors for international science and research. Currently, the consequences of this move towards isolationist policies are not yet foreseeable; however, they will definitely be vast and extend well beyond the United States as a nation of science. Especially in times of international crises, science is a valuable link between nations, which must be protected with great urgency. Consequently, the German Scientific Organizations call upon the U.S. government to immediately repeal the immigration ban. The organizations will of course support the scientists affected by the executive order who work for them as well as their cooperative partners in America. The organizations are pushing for an expeditious clarification of the executive order's legal implications and will be at the disposal of the German and American contacts to discuss the matter as part of the transatlantic dialog.

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