

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 3, 2017

CONTACT: Michael Kavate
Research and Communications Coordinator
PHONE: 510-238-9556
EMAIL: michael@gcir.org

Joint Foundation Statement on Immigration

SEBASTOPOL, CA—More than 50 foundations and philanthropy-supporting organizations have signed a joint statement supporting immigrants and refugees, with more expected to join in the coming days. “The recently issued executive orders compromise our nation’s founding principles and the Constitution, our standing in the world, and our core values of liberty, justice, and due process,” reads the one-page declaration, which was signed by local, state, regional, and national foundations. “They weaken our moral leadership, fuel the efforts of those who wish us ill, harm our global competitiveness, and fray our social fabric.”

While the signatory foundations have distinct grantmaking and geographic priorities, they are united by the belief that U.S. immigration and refugee policies should reflect our nation's founding principles and core values. The statement also delivers a message of inclusion and calls attention to other vulnerable communities. “The issues, communities, and core values that our foundations have sought to advance are under serious and imminent danger,” the statement reads. “With history and morality as our guide, we reject discriminatory policies that target individuals based on gender, race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, immigration status, sexual orientation, and other grounds. We stand committed to the inherent value and dignity of every person at home and abroad. We stand together for the American Dream.”

The statement, organized by [Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees](#), joins other similar efforts across multiple sectors. [More than 3,500 faith leaders](#) have signed a statement in support of refugee resettlement. Over [60 leading American universities](#) have released a [joint response](#), and [dozens of public universities](#) have issued individual statements. Private sector leaders as diverse as [Facebook](#), [Starbucks](#), [Nike](#), [Microsoft](#), and [Kaiser Permanente](#) have also released [public statements](#). Foundations including the [Rosenberg Foundation](#), [The James Irvine Foundation](#), and the [Vilcek Foundation](#) have issued individual statements.

If you represent a foundation or philanthropy serving organization and would like to join the statement, please contact GCIR’s [Caleb Beaudoin](#) with the name and title of your foundation’s signer (i.e., the CEO, the board chair, or both). To keep abreast of today’s fast-moving policy environment, visit our [website](#) for regular updates on policy developments and other resources, including [statements](#) in response to the executive orders. Funders, staff of philanthropic-supporting organizations, and philanthropic consultants may also join our [Monthly Immigration Policy Calls](#) on the third Thursday of each month. Our next call will focus on [Perspectives on Sanctuary Policies](#).

Founded in 1990, GCIR works to influence philanthropy to advance the contributions and address the needs of the country’s growing and increasingly diverse immigrant and refugee populations. GCIR

partners with a wide-ranging group of member foundations, as well as the greater philanthropic community, on a broad spectrum of immigration and immigrant integration issues, including education, health, employment, civic participation, racial and economic justice, and other concerns affecting immigrant children, youth, and families.
