The immigration executive order and our values at Mills

The executive order President Trump issued late on Friday afternoon bars non-U.S. citizens of seven specified countries from entering the United States. It discriminates on the basis of religion and national origin, rejecting the principles of non-discrimination and respect for difference that Mills embraces. In wake of this order, confusion and fear have been met by resistance. Protesters, civil rights attorneys, political leaders, and thousands of academics, in a petition that I've joined, have spoken out in support of migrants, refugees, and persons of all faiths, including Muslims, who are targets of the order.

We have students from countries on the executive order's list. So far, we are not aware of Mills students or employees whose reentry has been affected by the order. As we stated in our December 12 letter to the community, Mills will continue to welcome and support students regardless of their immigration status, national origin, or religious affiliation. We will not release information on the immigration status of students or employees unless required to do so by law, nor will we take any voluntary action that would put our students or employees at risk. If you know about the specific impact of the order on a Mills student or employee, or if you have ideas for how we might respond to these changes in federal policies, please contact us at president@mills.edu.

Our Division of Student Life is working to connect our students and community to legal advice and to provide our students with counseling and support. We are seeking the advice and counsel of our Muslim Students Association, and our Spiritual and Religious Life office is considering a vigil to counter hatred and speak up for religious and spiritual pluralism.

I urge you to support the members of our community who are most affected by this executive order by educating yourself and others in these times of rapid change. We will announce opportunities to learn more as they are confirmed. Some upcoming events you might add to your calendars:

On February 2, 4:00pm-6:00pm, an International Student Happy Hour in the Faculty Staff Lounge will provide a chance for students to relax and share their experiences. You can show your support for our students from outside the United States by joining them and listening.

On February 2, 7:00pm, in Danforth Lecture Hall, a reading and conversation entitled Not My Precedent, will be held about the acute realities, complexities, and ramifications of Japanese Internment Camps. The event will feature National Book Award finalist Karen Tei Yamashita, Guggenheim fellow and playwright Philip Kan Gotanda, and AAWAA co-founder and artist Betty Kano. Moderated by Vivian Fumiko Chin, chair, Ethnic Studies Dept. at Mills.

On February 2, 6:30pm-8:00pm, in Littlefield Concert Hall, The Julia Morgan School for Girls will hold its 4th Annual Women of Courage Panel in Honor of Rosa Parks. Panelists include: Ericka Huggins, activist, educator, and one of the leaders of the Black Panther Party; Kadijah Means, activist, member of the Black Liberation Movement; Mimi Silbert, activist, president, CEO and founder of Delancey Street; and Julie McDonald, engineering and technical operations manager for Nimble Collective supporting women in animation, film producer.
On February 7, at 5:30pm, a “Marches and Movements Reflections” event in the chapel will provide a space to share and find meaning in participants’ recent experiences in demonstrations and collective actions.

On February 16, at 4:30pm in Littlefield Concert Hall, Martin Goldsmith will deliver a timely Mary L. and Tony Bianco Lecture on his book, *The Inextinguishable Symphony: A True Story of Music and Love in Nazi Germany*.

On March 24, a day-long conference sharing information and best practices in support of our DACA and undocumented students, run by the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (AICCU), will be held in the GSB Gathering Hall. More details to come.

I hope you can continue to seek knowledge and understanding in every opportunity you find at Mills. *Una destinatio, viae diversae*; One destination, many paths.

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