



To the UTGSU Membership,

We want to express our deepest condolences to those who have been affected by the events that have occurred over this past weekend.

On Friday January 27th, 2017, President Donald Trump signed an executive order barring all refugees from entry into the United States for 120 days and restricting visa and green card holders from 7 countries: Sudan, Iran, Somalia, Iraq, Syria, Libya and Yemen. These predominantly racialized countries also have a majority Muslim population.

Reports soon came in that people were being detained or sent back upon arrival at major international airports. Protesters have been gathering at airports such as JFK and LAX, while lawyers came on site to assist those in detention. On Saturday night, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and National Immigration Law Center was able to obtain a stay from a federal judge against parts of Trump's executive order, but we have yet to see what the long-term effects will be.

We are currently working to understand how these policy changes will impact graduate students at the University of Toronto. There has been a lot of confusion as to how this will impact Canadians, particularly those who carry dual-citizenships and who may enter the United States for the purposes of work, study or merely a visit. At this time, the Designated Country of Origin and Safe Third Country Agreement also makes it extremely difficult for refugees to seek asylum in Canada if they are coming from the United States. We recognize that country of origin also impacts our graduate students through deregulated tuition fees for international students and job offers for postdoctoral fellows.

On Sunday, at the Islamic Cultural Centre in Sainte-Foy, Quebec City several people were killed and others wounded during evening prayers. We mourn with you for the lives of Abelkrim Hassane, Mamadou Tanou Barry, Ibrahima Barry, Azzedine Soufiane, Khaled Belkacemi and Aboubaker Thabti. We encourage you to seek out community at this time and if you are able to attend, there are vigils and peaceful protests being held across the city of Toronto over this week.

The safety of our students is of the utmost concern to us. It is our collective responsibility as students, staff and faculty to commit ourselves to protecting the basic human rights of others, regardless of their race, faith, nationality and/or place of origin. We recognize this to not be an "American" issue, but one that is rooted in settler colonialism, racism, Islamophobia and hatred which impacts all of us. Hate has no concept of borders. We understand that the current political climate has made many people feel unsafe and we want to remind you that we are here for you, please connect with us if you need some support. The basement lounge space of the UTGSU is open weekdays from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and you are always welcome to stop by if you need access to some quiet space.

On behalf of the UTGSU Executive Committee,
Brienne Berry Crossfield, Finance and University Governance Commissioner (finance@utgsu.ca)
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For additional resources

- 1.) Safety Abroad Office: [\(416\) 946-3929](tel:4169463929)
- 2.) Campus Police: [\(416\) 978-2222](tel:4169782222)
- 3.) Centre for International Experience: [\(416\) 978-2564](tel:4169782564) or email cie.information@utoronto.ca
- 4.) Faculty, Visiting Professors, Guest Lecturers: faculty.immigration@utoronto.ca
- 5.) Postgraduate Medical Trainees: postgrad.med@utoronto.ca
- 6.) Staff, Research Associates, Postdoctoral Fellows, and all other inquiries:hr.immigration@utoronto.ca