



**Resolution of the KI Social Justice Policy Task Force
On the Immigration Travel Ban
February 16, 2017**

As Americans we are proud of our longstanding tradition of welcoming people to our shores without consideration of religion, race, ethnicity, or national origin. As Jews we know how it feels to be cast out of nations and to be denied entry to others, including the United States. **Our Jewish tradition instructs that “the stranger who sojourns with you shall be to you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself for you were strangers in the land of Egypt” (Lev. 19:33).**

At this critical moment in our national history, we recognize our moral obligation to speak out for and act on behalf of those seeking refuge from religious and political persecution, genocide, and terror. We also recognize the contributions of immigrants to the vitality of our community and nation. At Keneseth Israel, we have a proud 170 year history of serving our community that includes welcoming immigrants and, in recent years, participating in interfaith dialogues with our Muslim neighbors.

Therefore, Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel urges the President of the United States to rescind the January 27, 2017 Executive Order and to refrain from issuing an executive order denying citizens of specific countries from entering into the United States.

We also appeal to our elected officials to ensure that the current immigration and refugee program be lawfully applied, maintained and strengthened for-refugees of all ethnic and religious backgrounds – not halted, paused, or restricted.

Finally, we urge our membership to take action themselves on this matter, consistent with our Jewish traditions, values and teachings. For further guidance on the executive travel ban and its many implications, we recommend that our congregants familiarize themselves with information provided by the Reform “Religious Action Center” (RAC) and HIAS.