

**Minnesota Rabbinical Association**

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MRA Denounces Executive Order on Refugees

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The Minnesota Rabbinical Association denounces the executive order on immigration and refugees issued by President Trump. We speak from our history, our experience, our religious and American values, and our hearts.

There is no people alive today which has suffered more religious discrimination over the course of human history than the Jewish people. And at our best, we have not internalized animus toward the world. From the sacred words of our Torah onward, we have assumed the responsibility to know the heart of a stranger for we were once strangers in a strange land. We believe that this spirit of overcoming fear with a welcoming spirit is a message sorely needed today.

As rabbis in the State of Minnesota we embrace our refugee neighbors and others who have immigrated to our state. As a people of immigrants in a country of immigrants, we stand by all who enter the United States escaping persecution. Not only do our religious values demand that we welcome those who seek shelter and safety, it is a pillar of free, democratic nations. We also offer our support to our Muslim neighbors who are facing increased numbers of hate crimes in recent weeks.

To be sure, we must ensure the security of our borders. This Executive Order, problematic in its design, legality, execution, and the message it sends the world, only further threatens the homeland and weakens our standing as a beacon of light unto the world. Legitimate security concerns must be addressed in a way that is responsible and ethical.

The [Rabbinical Assembly of the Conservative movement of Judaism](#), the [Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association](#), and the [Central Conference of American Rabbis](#) representing the Conservative, Reconstructionist and Reform rabbinical bodies as well as the [Orthodox Union](#) representing Orthodox synagogues have all issued powerful statements regarding President Trump's Executive Order.

The Minnesota Rabbinical Association endorses these statements and calls upon President Trump to rescind and repeal this Executive Order. We call on all Minnesota rabbis, leaders and members of our communities to speak out on this issue and contact the White House and their elected representatives in Congress to urge support for refugees without regard to religion.