



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
OFFICE OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS
IMMIGRANT RIGHTS COMMISSION
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission, Human Rights Commission and Office of Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs Issue Joint Statement on Supreme Court's Muslim Ban Ruling

SAN FRANCISCO – Public officials and community leaders gathered Tuesday on the steps of San Francisco City Hall to denounce the U.S. Supreme Court decision to uphold the travel ban.

In a 5-4 decision, the Supreme Court upheld the president's power to restrict travel to the U.S. from five Muslim-majority countries (Iran, Libya, Syria, Somalia and Yemen), despite his history of incendiary anti-Muslim statements.

In response, the San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission, Human Rights Commission, and the Office of Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs issued a joint [statement](#), calling the travel ban "an egregious violation of religious and human rights."

"At a time of divisiveness and political upheaval, largely due the president's ongoing racist and biased attacks against immigrants, Muslims, LGBT individuals, the poor and communities of color, we must unite and support our communities to build bridges, not divisions," said **Celine Kennelly, chair of the Immigrant Rights Commission** and executive director of the Irish Immigration Pastoral Center.

Nima Rahimi, chair of the Immigrant Rights Commission's Policy Committee, stated, "Our founders immigrated to this great country in pursuit of freedom and opportunity. Every person, including the president, traces their own history to the fundamental principles upon which this country was built that allowed generations of immigrants to seek safety and a better future."

"As an American, a Muslim, an Immigrant, and a City and County of San Francisco Human Rights Commissioner, I am heartbroken and scared for my country," said **Human Rights Commissioner Hala Hijazi**. Let's be clear; today's ruling doesn't safeguard our national security...it only threatens it. The fundamental pillars of equality and tolerance are under attack by this administration and we must remain vigilant."

"The U.S. Supreme Court's decision betrays not only our Muslim communities, but our country as a whole," said **Human Rights Commission Chair Susan Belinda Christian**. "President Trump's ban is rooted in Islamophobia and is an affront to Constitutional principles and democratic norms."

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About the Immigrant Rights Commission

Since 1997, the San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission has advised the Mayor and Board of Supervisors on issues and policies related to immigrants who live or work in San Francisco. For more information, go to: sfgov.org/oceia/immigrant-rights-commission

About the Human Rights Commission

The San Francisco Human Rights Commission members represent diverse interests in the community and are able to leverage both their professional and personal backgrounds to better address a wide range of issues affecting human rights. For more information, go to: sf-hrc.org

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About the Office of Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs

The San Francisco Office of Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs (OCEIA) is a policy, compliance, direct services and grantmaking office. OCEIA's mission is to promote inclusive policies and foster immigrant assistance programs that lead to full civic, economic and linguistic integration.

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For more information, please contact the Office of Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs (OCEIA) at 415-581-2360 or civic.engagement@sfgov.org.