

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN

January 29, 2017

Dear RISD Community,

On Friday, the Trump administration issued an executive order barring citizens of Iraq, Syria, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen from entering the United States, regardless of their visa status. A number of courts have already stayed portions of the order. A separate court order issued in response stops the detention and removal of refugees, residents, and visa holders who enter through Logan Airport in Boston for the next seven days. The order will be litigated during this time, so the situation remains fluid.

To our knowledge, no RISD student, faculty member, or staff member has yet been directly and immediately affected. However, we continue to monitor the situation closely and seek to assist anyone in the community who needs help. The Office of International Student Services is reaching out to support anyone potentially affected. The staff of the OISS are available to answer questions, to help gather and verify information that is being shared online, and to provide any needed support. They can be reached at [401-277-4957](tel:401-277-4957) or [oiss@risd.edu](mailto:oiss@risd.edu), or in person at their offices in Carr Haus. If you, or a RISD community member that you know, are currently on a travel course or internship and face difficulties returning to campus, call RISD Public Safety at [401-454-6376](tel:401-454-6376). They are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and will be updated regularly on all protocols to best support your individual circumstances. We will continue to communicate any relevant changes.

Prior to this order, I joined several hundred other college presidents and chancellors in signing a [petition](#) launched by Pomona College in support of DACA, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival program, and undocumented immigrant students. If you wish to act and to add your individual voice to this call, you may consider signing onto [this](#) statement.

I want to state unequivocally that RISD does not endorse any form of discrimination. Such actions are contrary to our institutional values. Our mission is global in nature and our community represents more than 60 nations, a fact of which we are immensely proud. We know that a vital community is inclusive and celebrates all identities. While these are days of heightened anxiety for many in our community, we will continue to uphold our values and protect any vulnerable community members. It is essential that we are guided by and remember these core values, and that we take extra care to help and respect each other.

Sincerely,



Rosanne Somerson  
President



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