MPSA Responds to Executive Order on Visas and Immigration

February 2, 2017 - On Friday, January 27, 2017, a White House Executive Order was issued that severely limited entry into the United States for citizens of Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen. MPSA has issued a statement about the harmful effects of this Executive Order, and requested that the President rescind the order. Working with a broad coalition of organizations, MPSA additionally co-signed a letter from the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) that asks for the President of the United States to rescind or revise this Executive Order (EO).

MPSA is an international academic association of political scientists, with members from over 100 countries. With 6,000 presenters where more than 20% are from outside the United States, the MPSA conference is one of the largest gatherings of non-American political science researchers in the discipline. The EO will prevent academics from these seven countries from being able to attend the 2017 conference.

In response, MPSA will:

• Allow all conference presenters who are citizens of one of the seven countries referenced in the EO to present their research “virtually” at the conference, in a series of highlighted sessions called “Silenced Research.”
• Waive or refund 2017 conference registration fees for the researchers directly affected and will also provide affected individuals with access to complimentary electronic membership in the association.
• Organize a set of “Late Breaking Sessions” that explore the impact of this type of Executive Order.
• Host a reception on the evening of April 5, 2017 to welcome scholars who have traveled from outside the United States to attend the conference.

There are several ways for the broader political science community to become involved in this issue:

• **Petition.** Sign the petition “Academics Against Immigration Executive Order.”
• **Register as an Ally.** Join the We Stand with Our Students movement.
• **Volunteer to be on a Late Breaking Session.** Some of these sessions at the 2017 MPSA Conference will examine the negative effects of this E.O. We hope to have many submissions, so please offer to serve as a participant in one of the “Late Breaking Sessions.”
• **Attend COSSA’s Science Policy Conference and Advocacy Day** (March 29-30, 2017, in Washington, DC) to discuss the value of science research with colleagues, federal agency staff, and congressional staff.
• **Participate in the March for Science** (April 22, 2017, locations across the United States and Internationally) which champions publicly-funded and publicly communicated science as a pillar of human freedom and prosperity.

2/2/17

Additional resources added 2/13/17