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***STATEMENT ON REVISED EXECUTIVE ORDER***

WASHINGTON, DC – On March 6, The White House released a revised version of an Executive Order “Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States.” While Iraq is no longer included among the list of Muslim-majority countries targeted by a 90-day freeze on the issuance of new visas, the 120-day suspension of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program effectively shuts the door on Iraqis who worked for the U.S. Government, media, and NGOs – including translators who served with our military. This new order **remains a discriminatory order that does nothing to promote the safety of Americans and will be detrimental to the lives** of vulnerable individuals and families in need of refugee protection.

The voices of tens of thousands of Americans echoing outside of airports, Congressional offices, and courtrooms since January have forced the administration to pay attention and recognize that **we are a nation that values immigrants**. These voices cannot and should not diminish as the revised Executive Order goes in to effect for the following reasons:

- the needlessly low limit of 50,000 refugee admissions into the United States is in no way “detrimental” to our interests, it will be detrimental to the lives of the world’s most vulnerable people who are seeking freedom from fear;
- suspending decisions on applications for refugee status for 120 days will be tantamount to a death sentence for children and families who cannot wait another day;
- the arbitrary selection of six majority-Muslim countries for greater visa application scrutiny is based on religious and nationality-driven bias;
- allowing state and local jurisdictions a role in determining whether to permit resettled refugees in their communities will only isolate diversity; and
- ordering the collection of data on crimes committed by foreign nationals will only be useful in making the case for more xenophobic immigration policy while doing nothing to address crime.

The Education for Peace in Iraq Center stands in solidarity with visitors, immigrants, and refugees from around the world who come to the United States with peaceful intent and add so much to the multicultural fabric of our society. **The actions of the U.S. government do not always reflect the popular will of the American people**, as many of our Iraqi friends and colleagues well know. Amid violence and civil strife, global displacement is at an all-time high, and **this order dramatically limits our ability to play a leading role in responding to the needs of these individuals and families**. As with the January order, EPIC will fight this revised iteration that continues to attack our long-standing values. We encourage citizens across the country to join us.

*The Education for Peace in Iraq Center (EPIC) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that works one-on-one with young people and civil society leaders in Iraq to carry out effective programs, monitor the crisis and inform public policy, enhance understanding of Iraq’s story, and advocate for peaceful change. EPIC was founded in 1998 by veterans of the Gulf War who believe that youth empowerment and a human security approach can make Iraq safe and prosperous again. Visit our website at [www.epic-usa.org](http://www.epic-usa.org)*

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