



# Islamophobia An American Conundrum Spurred By Donald Trump's Executive Order and Political Rhetoric

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## Executive Order

- On January 2, 2017, President Donald Trump enacted an executive order by means of his executive powers under Article two.
- The executive order would prevent any entrance to the United States from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Syria, Yemen, Somalia, and Sudan (Diamond 2017). (All of which are majority Muslim dominated countries)
- The Muslim ban even prevented individuals with valid visas from entering the country, Which included students, Individuals with family ties, and qualified workers.
- The executive order does not explicitly mention Muslims, but it is clearly directed towards Muslim majority nations (Arfa 2018).
- The enactment of this executive order promotes the generalization that Muslim countries' citizens are an inherent threat (Al-Samman, H. 2017) .
- This point is highly illustrated through the inclusion and association of students and qualified workers from these countries with the executive order.



Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump... · 2m ...

Joe Biden would increase refugees from terrorist nations by 700%. His plan would overwhelm your communities and turn Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin and the entire Midwest into a refugee camp. I am protecting your families and keeping Radical Islamic Terrorists OUT of our Country!

487

1,226

3,405



## Political Rhetoric

- The negative rhetoric directed towards Muslims in the United States has largely been focused on Muslim refugees because it allows for a connotation that a radical group is entering the United States
- The Picture Painted By Donald Trump: He explains that the Muslim world is a threat to America's Security. He portrays a rapid spread of radical Islam across the Middle East, and that they are looking to the west for their next foothold. He personifies Muslim refugees as men who look like soldiers (Weikar 2018).
- This anti Islamic rhetoric paints a picture that the ideal Muslims wishing to come to the United States is a highly radical Islamic soldiers.

## Aniqa Ahmed, A Muslim University of Dayton Student On Islamophobia

- She explains how the executive order affected her greatly because she was unable to see and connect with her relatives from these areas, and that she felt scared because there was no support for her identity.
- Islamophobia overall has made her uncomfortable using her last name when applying for jobs, making reservations, and on social media due to the negative stereotypes promoted through media and rhetoric.

Al-Samman, H. (2017). Invading Muslim bodies in the era of Trump. *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies*, 13(3), 483-485.  
Arafa, M. (2018). A question to the President of the United States, Donald Trump: is it a travel ban, or a Muslim ban, or a travel Muslim ban?. *Revista de Investigações Constitucionais*, 5(2), 9-33.  
Diamond, J. (2017, January 29). Trump's latest executive order: Banning people from 7 countries and more. Retrieved from <https://www.cnn.com/2017/01/27/politics/donald-trump-refugees-executive-order/index.html>  
Waikar, P. (2018). Reading islamophobia in hegemonic neoliberalism through a discourse analysis of Donald Trump's narratives. *Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs*, 38(2), 153-178.