

It seems that the US's legal responsibilities in regards to the acceptance and resettlement of Syrian refugees are two separate issues. With the recent executive order, even Syrian refugees who have been in this country may be targeted by this order. Coupled with the threat to defund sanctuary cities, resettled Syrian refugees will be treated the same way as those who have not entered the country, and thus classified or perceived as threats to the US. State rights do not trump federal power unless they have not been specifically designated to them, so the hope that the states will offer protection may be illusory. It is also worth noting that although Syrian refugees represent a new flow to the United States, there has been a steady presence of Syrians, and indeed refugees from around the world, since the late 19th century. The US, according to the migration policy, provides humanitarian protection chiefly through two channels: 1) Resettlement for people outside the United States who have been formally designated refugees and accepted for admission, and 2) asylum status for those deemed eligible for protection who present themselves at U.S ports of entry or otherwise assert a protection claim once in the United States. But this may prove to be problematic, even with the stayed ban.

The new Trump executive orders are clear evidence that people still fundamentally do not understand how racism, and specifically Islamophobia, operate. Trump's orders don't ban every country with a predominantly Muslim population, which suggests that we should be examining the reasoning behind these orders, and then consider why other predominantly Muslim countries have not been added to this list. While we're at it, we might consider how Americans are likely to be treated in these countries, and effects such orders will have upon Isis. So, it does not matter that every country was not listed; what matters is that Trump and the Republican Party are looking to suppress refugees from actually living a life, and not merely existing. If they are looking to enforce an immigration policy predicated on discrimination, that is problematic, particularly against a backdrop of a newly-appointed Attorney General who has a record of trying to suppress civil rights.

The issue with Syrian refugees, and really other groups that have been specifically targeted by the 45th president, is that there is no real issue about their being a threat to the nation, in spite of what many Americans have been led to falsely believe. To control the masses, this government is working to instill fear, and that is often done by singling out groups of people and scapegoating them. I don't see the "Muslim Ban" as anything more than xenophobia and Islamophobia being used as proxy for controlling and essentially, rolling back the progress that this country has made. While seven countries are on the list, history shows that the targeted group will grow. It becomes easier to attack other people when your initial reasoning is already faulty; racism and xenophobia cannot provide a logical argument. There is no concrete proof that terrorists have successfully disguised themselves as desperate refugees to gain access to America as a means of harming people in the name of Allah. There is plenty of data that show that white, cisgender heterosexual men are home grown terrorists. The Anti-Defamation League claims that 77% of extremists related murders in the United States since 2005 involved white supremacists (<https://www.adl.org/sites/default/files/documents/assets/pdf/combating-hate/state-of-white-supremacy-united-states-2015.pdf>). Interestingly enough though, the argument is often made that Islam needs to be either abolished or reformed, no one says that about White people.

If one even begins to see how long the vetting process is for a refugee to even come into this country, they would be a bit more sympathetic. And even when there is sympathy, it has been shown that this does not always extend to empathy, which is when one understands and feels another's feelings for oneself; people can often empathize with individuals who look like themselves.