Governor Nikki Haley

Wake up to human rights... Give refugees rest

Dear Governor,

Recently, the House of Representatives, in the name of security, passed a bill on November 19th that severely restricts the flow of Syrian and Iraqi refugees into the U.S. This bill prevents even the modest number of 10,000 Syrian refugees from finding reprieve in the U.S. in 2016 per President Obama's request. More recently, Republican Presidential frontrunner Donald Trump called for a "total and complete" shutdown of Muslims entering America amidst previously calling for stringent profiling of those already here.

As Muslim families from Syria (and elsewhere) attempt to escape persecution caused by civil war, this country has greeted them with a metaphorical wall. We, people of conscience all around the country, are aware of your complicity, alongside 30 other U.S. governors, in building such a wall. We find your refusal to open your state to Syrian refugees an egregious decision that contradicts the best spirit of America, as well as our various faith traditions. We oppose this decision in the strongest possible terms, on both moral and political grounds.

The Statue of Liberty extends her hands from our shores to welcome the suffering: "'Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp' cries she, with silent lips. 'Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,' she says."

You, on the other hand, declare that you fear what you do not know, that your borders and hearts are closed to those with darker hues of skin, to that which is perceived as "foreign." Under this logic, Governor, Jesus himself, who was in fact a brown skinned, Middle Eastern refugee, would not even be welcomed into your state.

We invite you to abandon fear — to reject the xenophobic, Islamophobic, and racist ideology that has been responsible for domestic terrorism and international war throughout history, by immediately reversing your decision. We have sent pillowcases to the House of Representatives as reminders to wake up to human rights for all people, and we send these pillows to you governors to demand that you give to Syrian refugees what this country once gave your very own ancestors: rest.

With Refugees Everywhere,

The Fellowship of Reconciliation

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Since 1915, the Fellowship of Reconciliation USA has worked [illegible] nonviolent alternatives to conflict and the rights of [illegible]