

Society for the Improvement of Psychological Science
Statement on US Immigration Ban

The Society for the Improvement of Psychological Science (SIPS) stands with scientists of all faiths and nationalities. As a society committed to open science and the free exchange of ideas, we condemn the Executive Order issued by United States President Donald Trump barring travelers from some predominantly Muslim nations from entering the United States.

The Executive Order has presented the organization with a dilemma for which there is no good solution. Our second conference is scheduled for July 30 - August 1, 2017 in Charlottesville, Virginia. The organization is already under contract and lacks the cash reserves to cancel the contract and relocate to a new site; attempting to do so would effectively end our young organization's existence. Furthermore, there is no single location that would provide universal access. Under the current Executive Order, some U.S.-based scientists who are not citizens would be unable to travel outside the country for fear of being barred from returning to their homes.

For those reasons, the SIPS executive committee has decided to proceed with the conference in Charlottesville as planned. We are looking into ways to expand access and participation to scientists who are unable to travel to the United States. We will also continue to monitor political developments in the United States and elsewhere and take them into consideration in planning future activities.