

THE AMERICA I KNOW WOULDN'T KICK ME OUT

by Omina Tukhtasunova

Due to the recent terrorist attack by a Muslim truck driver in New York, Trump, our oh-so-beloved president, wants to kill the Diversity Visa Lottery. And for any of you who don't know what the DVL program means, it is, simply put, a computer-generated lottery that randomly selects a number of its applicants for visa interviews.

when it comes to immigrants. In fact, recently due to the ISIS terrorist group, some of the countries around the world, including Western Europe and the United States, are closing their borders to many Muslim refugees who are in need of a home because their own was destroyed by puppet wars between first world countries, such as America. Why? The reality is that, since 9/11, most people in America are experiencing Islamophobia, which can also be put in a broader category known as xenophobia, or intense or irrational dislike or fear of people from other countries or groups.

However, it is extremely ironic that a large amount of Americans are experiencing this fear, when, in reality, their ancestors were immigrants themselves. Perhaps they are fearful that immigrants will outnumber and oppress them, or worse...force them into exile, similar to how their great-great-grandparents had treated the Natives, who had inhabited this land before them. It really

that all our president wants are people who are beneficial to our country, instead of being possibly dangerous.

How would you feel if the only way to freedom and a better life was shut down because of some old man's racist opinions and hypocritical views on national safety and benefits? And how would you feel if you were the one enjoying a life where you have your natural rights protected, but your relatives were overseas being persecuted and oppressed by a dictator? It wouldn't be a very positive feeling, and you would always feel guilty and regret that you're living a better life than others who deserve it no less than you. My family was one of the first few lucky ones who came to the United States eleven years ago through the Diversity Visa Lottery, when I was around five years old. At that time, I didn't really understand what was going on, but later on, I would know that my parents were trying their best for my siblings and I to live a life where we can practice our religion freely and have the basic freedoms that every human was born with, a life that I would not have back home. A life that I am ever grateful for. A life that my cousins and other relatives might not get a chance at because of Trump's new deal to kill the program.

It is a universal truth that America is known to be the land of the free, the land of liberty. In fact, under the statue of liberty, it states, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!" America is the definition of freedom, it was built upon the hope of those who wanted a better future for themselves, their children, and their children's children. America is not only for the American people, America is a home that the whole world deserves, and xenophobia is not going to stop this country from emancipating people in oppression. In the future, I have trust that through the people I have met and grown close to, America is going to find a better answer, an answer that will allow my descendents to live in peace, an answer that will not make me regret my life. I believe it, I truly do. ✂

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In other words, when a person from another country is chosen, they have a chance at coming to America and starting their life over again. Unlike what some might think, however, coming to America isn't an opportunity that is often easily offered. In truth, it is extremely hard, socially, politically, and economically, to enter the country. There is A LOT of red tape. Even after one is selected in the lottery, they have to go through numerous interviews and other "requirements." And for whatever reason, if the American ambassadors don't like you, you're out. There is no explanation.

Although the United States promotes variety and diversity throughout the country, in reality, they are very selective

makes me curious, because, how can we fear people who are different, when we are surrounded by the most unique and diverse population in the whole world. Why? Why do we fear people who are in need of our help? The answer is simple, we say we're doing it for the safety of our country, our national well-being. In fact, just recently, our very opinionated and immature President, said "The US is having all these people from s---hole countries come here." Later he also suggested that the country should stop admitting immigrants from Haiti and El Salvador and instead bring in more people from Norway, whose prime minister met with Trump recently. Although it is a very racist way of thinking, some might argue