

SIPA participants share opposing sides on immigration ban; both hope to spread light

Kaylyn Jones
Reporter

For 90 days, no one person is allowed to leave any country with an unstable government. For 90 days, anything can happen. For 90 days, to some, that counts as a lifetime.

President Donald Trump recently issued an immigration ban that temporarily bans refugees from specific predominantly Muslim countries from entering the U.S. to ensure the safety of the American people, but opposing sides see it as detrimental.

“I worked with migrant families in college every year and what I understood about those families was that they were very poor and they were doing all the hard work that no one else wanted to do so they could provide for their families,” SIPA parent Emily Mangual said. “There’s a lot of things that people don’t understand. We aren’t talking about getting rid of bad people; we’re talking about getting rid of housekeepers and many other workers that are in desperate need of jobs.”

Because the country continues to practice an open border policy — despite the many warnings from FBI Director, James Comey, concerning the vetting of others from Middle Eastern countries that do not have stable governments, such as Syria — the fear of possible attacks on American soil consumes the supporters of the immigration ban.

“There have been attacks in Paris, Nice, Berlin, Brussels and many more cities because the open border policy that Europe practices has failed,” Wando High School student Cooper Lockett said. “Although I don’t think this is a Muslim ban since 85 percent of the world’s Muslims can still enter the country under it, I do believe the job of the president is to put American lives first, and by allowing an open border policy that

contradicts the concerns of the FBI, their lives are being gambled. I do admit the first approach to the ban was reckless, but I do believe that the revised version of the immigration ban will fix the hurried and recklessness of the first attempt.”

Arguments of whether or not the ban is specifically targeting the Muslim religion have arisen. An often misconception about those who support the ban is that the “hate” Republicans hold against the Muslim religion is because of their clashing religious views. An immigration system that allows people who want to assimilate to our society and live the American dream — but also an immigration system that will keep those who want to destroy our civilization out forever — is the truly desired approach of the Republican population, but not everyone agrees with what is proposed.

“When we single out groups of people based on certain things, it’s dangerous for all of us. It is an injustice for all,” Mangual said. “There was a statistic that showed 45 percent of the American population were white Christians, and I am speaking as a white Christian who understands and accepts change in America, unlike that 45 percent. With this Muslim immigration ban, I think that we need to understand that not all members of the Muslim religion are extreme jihadists, just as not every Catholic preacher is a pedophile and not every evangelical Christians are members of the Westboro Baptist Church.”

Bias in the media has always existed but the issue is increasing drastically. Media that reports fairly without a trace of bias is becoming harder and harder to find as Trump’s presidency reigns. Sparking numerous debates about which news is “fake” and which is “true” — causing many journalists and news publications to be incredibly criticized for their “false reporting and

insane bias” — Mangual argues that “journalists have done their jobs fairly and will definitely step up their game in the near future.”

“The media declared war on Donald Trump the minute he announced his presidential run. The media has been unbelievably unfair and biased towards Donald Trump’s travel ban. I am not against the media holding Trump accountable but the fact that they waged war against him and they did not against president Obama, is what I am against. The media should hold the

president

accountable and the president should hold the media accountable,” Lockett said. “But, unfortunately, it has recently only swayed one way.”

21%
Of students polled agree with President Trump’s immigration laws

79%
Of students polled are against President Trump’s recent immigration laws



Student shares personal connection with fathers journey from Iraq to America

Sidney Al-Dijaili
Reporter

Stereotype
/sterētip/

A widely held but fixed and oversimplified image or idea of a particular type of person or thing.

In today’s society, stereotypes control the world. They create barriers and divides that do not exist. They cause discrimination that does not enable different groups to coexist happily. These stereotypes will destroy our society.

Not only are stereotypes so extremely detrimental to society, they also, in most cases, are so drastically wrong. One that easily comes to mind is the idea that all people who are Muslim or are from Middle Eastern descent are terrorists or mean harm to this country. Since the

attacks on the twin towers in 2001, Americans across the country have been so extremely skeptical of Muslims, as well as those who travel to America from the Middle East. This fear of terrorism has resulted in unfair and unjustifiable treatment of these people, including things such as Trump’s immigration ban, which was enacted on countries that are Muslim by a majority. Actions such as these are not only morally wrong, but they place an insurmountable stereotype on those who are Muslim or from the Middle Eastern countries. This stereotypical nature has placed a veil of ignorance over the eyes of many Americans in the country today, causing them not to see that though the radical Islamic terrorism does occur, it doesn’t encompass all those from the region or of this faith. I have been

able to see this first person, through my father, Arkan Al-Dijaili.

My father was born in Baghdad in the year 1976 to a Muslim man and a Christian woman. In the 1980’s, the war between Iraq and Iran began, causing much strife in both of the countries that were involved. Because he did have family in the United States, my father, his two brothers and parents picked up their lives and moved to the United States in hopes to remove themselves from this environment and give themselves a better life in what is supposed to be the land of the free. Since then, my dad has worked harder than imaginable, pushing himself to the limit to become the best citizen of America he can be. My father volunteers with homeless people around our community, is active in our church,

and is constantly giving back. He works hard with organizations, such as NASA, everyday to attempt to push America forward, making the country he loves with all of his heart even better. Though he does face discrimination often, he still tries to make his best out of what he can, remaining positive in situations that may not always be the best. My father is a prime example about why the stereotyping of people, such as him, is so disadvantageous to our country and our world.

Though radical Islamic terrorism does occur, and it is a disgustingly terrible thing, there is such a small percentage of Muslims or people from that region who partake in these types of activities. By placing a ban on countries that are in the Middle East, we are preventing people, such as people similar to my

father, from leaving bad situations to come to our country for a better life. The overwhelming majority of those who come to this country want a better life for themselves and their families, nothing more. They have no intention of harming America in any way, shape or form. People such as my father should not be forced to stay in a bad situation because of the actions of very few of such a big majority. The actions of a few should not have the power to sum up the character of many.

Americans around the country need to stand up against things such as the immigration ban, and see past the veil of ignorance they have placed upon themselves. They must learn to love regardless and look past the stereotypes they themselves have created.