IHM sisters
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Deep Faith. Courageous Spirit. Action for Justice.

IHM Leadership Council Statement of Solidarity with Immigrants and Refugees

The IHM Sisters, a Catholic community of 321 women religious and 120 associates, stand in solidarity with those who suffer in a world characterized by fragmentation, violence and poverty. The IHM Leadership Council wishes to express its support for our immigrant and refugee sisters and brothers in the wake of President Trump's recent executive orders on immigration and refugee resettlement.

We are especially alarmed by the executive order banning residents of seven Muslim-majority countries from entering the United States for 90 days, suspending refugee resettlement entirely for four months and barring resettlement of Syrian refugees indefinitely. More than 60 million people have been displaced from their homes, more than at any time since World War II. Some 21 million are refugees and most are women and children. We believe that this order will further endanger those already fleeing unspeakable violence in their home countries while doing little to make our nation safer.

This executive order has been touted as a temporary measure that will be reversed once a process of "extreme vetting" is in place. However, refugees who come to this country are already subject to rigorous screening processes. Our current process for admitting Syrian refugees is the most stringent one in place for any particular group coming to the United States and takes anywhere from 18 months to two years. Additionally, we share the concerns of Sens. John McCain and Lindsey Graham that this action could have the unintended effect of making our nation less safe by bolstering terrorist recruitment. Finally, we are concerned about rules and regulations that deny access to refugees because of their religion, race or nationality. It is a violation of our faith and every norm of humanity.

The United States has a long history of welcoming immigrants and sheltering refugees. IHM Sisters and Associates have accompanied and supported immigrant and refugee communities in Michigan, across this country and around the world. We remain committed to answering God's call to welcome the stranger (Matthew 25:35) and to care for those most in need (Matthew 25:40). We vow to continue to welcome refugees and minister to immigrants. We will advocate for refugee resettlement and for compassionate, comprehensive and bipartisan immigration legislation.