

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON
GRADUATE COLLEGE of SOCIAL WORK

Standing Together in the Face of Uncertainty

The executive order issued last Friday by President Trump banning refugees and restricting travel to the U.S. from seven predominantly Muslim countries has created a climate of uncertainty as we all grapple with the impact and emerging details of the order and what it means for our students, friends, community, and those we serve.

In these times, we must lean even more on the values of our profession. They serve as a guide and a constant reminder to respect the inherent human dignity and worth of all people. Further, as social workers, we have a responsibility to speak out when those values are threatened. At the Graduate College of Social Work, we are committed to providing opportunities to engage and amplify our voices on the local, national, and international levels to champion social, racial, economic, and political justice.

At the College, our immediate plans include a semester-long series of events focused on advocacy at the state and federal levels. These events will culminate with an event marking the first 100 days of the new administration with a review of the policies that have emerged and implications to the social work profession. We will provide further information in the coming weeks.

As the days unfold, we must not forget who we are. We must stay committed to the values that guide our profession. As Dean of the Graduate College of Social Work, I want each and every member of our community to know that I support you. I am here and open to discuss any concerns you may have.

Alan Dettlaff, Ph.D., MSW

Dean and Maconda Brown O'Connor Endowed Dean's Chair

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