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BUSINESS LEADERS ADVISING TRUMP URGED TO REJECT TRAVEL BAN, PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS

NEW YORK, NY, Wednesday, February 1st, 2017 – Human rights groups and responsible investors including faith-based organizations today sent a [letter](#) to the 19 current and former CEOs comprising President Trump’s Strategic and Policy Forum in advance of their upcoming meeting with the President this Friday. The Strategic and Policy Forum was convened by President Trump to provide input as the President and his administration implement his economic agenda. The group’s letter urges the CEOs to use Friday’s meeting to speak out strongly against the President’s Executive Order restricting entry into the U.S. for refugees, immigrants, and documented residents from selected counties.

Organized by the International Corporate Accountability Roundtable, the Institute for Human Rights and Business, and the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility and endorsed by 64 investor and advocacy organizations, the letter also called on the corporate leaders to ensure respect for the human rights of all workers, and to align corporate policies and practices with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

“Members of the Strategic and Policy Forum must be ambassadors for American values. These values include respect for diversity, inclusion, and the dignity of every human being. We’re watching if these CEOs and the corporations they represent stand up for these values, or stand idly by as they are quashed,” said Amol Mehra, Executive Director of ICAR.

The groups warn that the travel ban undermines respect for human rights and the lives of workers and their families in the U.S. and beyond, and will disrupt economic activity and company operations. They call for respect for human rights and responsible business conduct, which they argue will benefit not only the American people, but will ensure an inclusive and prosperous global economy.

Said John Morrison of IHRB, ***“The Executive Order hurts people and business. Companies must stand up for human rights, including the rights of those who are most vulnerable. If they do nothing, they will have to answer to investors, consumers, and workers at home and abroad.”***

Specifically, the letter calls on the business leaders to take the following actions:

1. **Speak out strongly against the President's Executive Order restricting entry into the U.S. for refugees, immigrants, and documented residents from selected countries;**
2. **Recommend that the President and his administration join with them and the global business community to ensure respect for the human rights of workers, regardless of their ethnicity, race, religion, nationality, immigration status, sexual orientation, or gender identity, at home and in global value chains; and**
3. **Urge the U.S. government to work with other nations to align corporate policies and practices with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.**

The groups will follow up with all the companies represented in the President's Forum and look for public statements and policies that reflect the actions and commitments they have called for.

Said ICCR's Josh Zinner, ***"Now is a moment in history to make a stand against discrimination and in support of fundamental American values of tolerance and inclusion. As key representatives of corporate America, the business leaders advising the President have a critical responsibility to respect human rights and reject the thinly veiled bigotry and xenophobia that the travel ban evokes."***

About the International Corporate Accountability Roundtable (ICAR)

The International Corporate Accountability Roundtable (ICAR), a project of the Tides Center, is a civil society organization working to ensure that governments create, implement, and enforce laws and policies to protect against business-related human rights abuse.

About the Institute for Human Rights and Business (IHRB)

Founded in 2009, IHRB is the leading international think tank on business and human rights. IHRB's mission is to shape policy, advance practice and strengthen accountability in order to make respect for human rights part of everyday business.

About the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR)

Celebrating its 46th year, ICCR is the pioneer coalition of shareholder advocates who view the management of their investments as a catalyst for social change. Its 300 member organizations comprise faith communities and other socially responsible investors who work in coalition to promote greater corporate accountability on issues of environmental and social importance.

SIGNATORIES TO THE 2/1/17 LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT'S STRATEGIC AND POLICY FORUM

Amol Mehra, International Corporate Accountability Roundtable

John Morrison, Institute for Human Rights and Business

Josh Zinner, Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility

John Streur, Calvert Research and Management

Margaret Huang, Amnesty International USA

Mary Beth Gallagher, Tri-State Coalition for Responsible Investment

Marty Roers, Justice Office of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet of the St. Paul Province

Sonia Kowal, Zevin Asset Management

Dr. Jeffrey Haggray, American Baptist Home Mission Societies

Judy Byron, Northwest Coalition for Responsible Investment

Phil Bloomer, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre

Michael Crosby, Seventh Generation Interfaith Coalition for Responsible Investment

Cathy Rowan, Maryknoll Sisters

Shawna Bader-Blau, Solidarity Center

Joan Agro, Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt

Eric Lerner, Health Care Without Harm

Bashar Qasem, Azzad Asset Management

Judy Beals, Oxfam America

Bro. Jeremiah O'Leary, The Xaverian Brothers

Bennett Freeman, Global Witness

Jean Steffes, Congregation of St. Agnes

Ethel Howley, School Sisters of Notre Dame Cooperative Investment Fund 3

Seamus Finn, OIP Trust

Natalie Bridgeman Fields, Accountability Counsel

Kathleen Woods, Adrian Dominican Sisters

Nina Smith, GoodWeave International

Molly Murphy, Mercy Health

Patricia Zerega, Mercy Investment Services, Inc.

Sister Louise Gallahue, D.C. Daughters of Charity, Province of St. Louise

Jody Wise, Trinity Health

Diane Bardol, The Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart of Philadelphia, PA

Karen Watson, Congregation of St. Joseph

Terry Collingsworth, International Rights Advocates

Raymond W Baker, Global Financial Integrity

Sister Mary Brigid Clingman, OP, Dominican Sisters

Adam Kanzer, Domini Impact Investments LLC

Chip Pitts, Advocacy for Principled Action in Government
Debbie Stothard, ALTSEAN-Burma
Luan Jenifer, Miller/Howard Investments, Inc.
Margaret Weber, Congregation of St. Basil
Catherine Cartier, Progressive Asset Management
Jo Marie Chrosniak, Region VI Coalition for Responsible Investment
Sister Kathryn Dougherty, Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
Mary Burns, Sisters of Charity, Halifax
Kyle Wright, Stardust
Mary Beth Hamm, Sisters of Bon Secours, USA
Betty Cawley, Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston
Sister Maryann Agnes Mueller, Leadership Team of the Felician Sisters of North America
Geeta Aiyer, Boston Common Asset Management
Rob Fohr, Presbyterian Church U.S.A.
Richard Walters, The Pension Boards-UCC, Inc. 4
Michael Connor, Open Media and Information Companies Initiative
Michael Crosby, Province of St. Joseph of the Capuchin Order
Sister Susan Mika, Benedictine Sisters
Sister Brenda Cousins, Sisters of the Holy Cross
Teri Hadro, Sisters of Charity, BVM
Sr. Rosemary Davis, Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters, Immaculata, PA
Sister Margaret O'Brien, Sisters of Charity of New York
Linda Hincken, Sisters of St Dominic- Amityville
Susan Vickers, Dignity Health
Ugo Biggeri and Luca Mattiazzi, Etica Sgr
Jeffery W. Perkins, Friends Fiduciary Corporation
Barbara Jennings, Midwest Coalition for Responsible Investment
Denise Bunk-Hatch, The Franciscan Sisters of Allegany