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Statement from the Catholic Diocese of Salt Lake City

The Catholic Diocese of Salt Lake City is dismayed and alarmed with the recent actions of President Trump related to immigrants and refugees, including overly broad travel restrictions, entry denials based on religion and efforts to curtail access to much needed assistance. While we support efforts to improve public safety, such efforts should be carefully crafted and vetted through appropriate channels to ensure vulnerable populations are not left even more defenseless.

As a religious organization that serves refugees and immigrants in Utah, we are very familiar with the conditions of violence, poverty, and political instability that force people to flee the only homes they have ever known. Despite the many obstacles they must overcome during their journey and after arrival in a strange new land, immigrants and refugees soon become integral members of our communities. Our country would be a far less vibrant society without the contributions of our many waves of immigrants and refugees of all religions, races, and nationalities.

The Catholic Church holds that all human life must be welcomed and protected. As Pope Francis reminds us, "it is the responsibility of the State, the Church and society to accompany and concretely help all those who find themselves in serious difficulty, so that a child will never be seen as a burden but as a gift, and those who are most vulnerable and poor will not be abandoned." We are concerned that the current executive actions do not rise to meet this challenge.

(Msgr.) Colin F. Bircumshaw

Reverend Monsignor Colin F. Bircumshaw
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