

The Africana Studies Institute, the Asian and Asian American Studies Institute, the American Studies Program, the Center for Judaic Studies, El Instituto (Institute of Latina/o, Caribbean, and Latin American Studies), the Human Rights Institute, the Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy (InCHIP), the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center, the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program, the African American Cultural Center, the Asian American Cultural Center, the Puerto Rican/Latin American Cultural Center, the Rainbow Center, and the Women's Center are in solidarity with our international students affected by the new U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) regulations that restrict students who are on F-1 and M-1 nonimmigrant visas. We find these draconian measures to have little to do with public health, especially as they impact students who have never left the country since the pandemic began. Rather, they are an extension of the Trump administration's "zero-tolerance" policies on immigration. We are outraged by the continued racist and xenophobic language used by the President and his administration to blame the pandemic on Asian peoples, as well as the implicit and explicit demonization of immigrants as a threat to national security through the following policy attempts during his administration:

- Undermining asylum
- Banning Muslims
- Reducing refugee admissions
- Attacking the diversity visa program
- Imposing a "wealth test" for immigrants with legal status
- The pregnancy ban
- Increase in denying and delaying worker requests
- Slowing green card applications
- Closing overseas USCIS offices
- Pushing large numbers of people into deportation hearings.
- Attacking DACA and TPS
- Increasing costs for immigrants

This new ruling is yet another attack that targets the most vulnerable in our global communities. It is also a direct assault on universities, which are seen by the administration (correctly) as institutional obstacles to the ideology of white nationalism. The ruling also incentivizes students and instructors to jeopardize their health since individual students risk deportation if none of their classes meet in person, even if they attend institutions like UConn that are not teaching exclusively online.

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In solidarity,

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