

1 **JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE**
2 **48th JAACL National Convention**
3 Washington, D.C.
4 July 7, 2017

5
6 **A RESOLUTION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE JAPANESE AMERICAN**
7 **CITIZENS LEAGUE CONDEMNING DE FACTO AND DE JURE**
8 **RELIGIOUS AND RACIAL PREJUDICE IN ASYLUM POLICIES OF**
9 **THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

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12 **WHEREAS**, Executive Order 13780 signed on March 6, 2017 suspends the U.S. Refugee
13 Admissions Program for 120 days and restricts admission and halts new visa applications of
14 citizens from Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen for 90 days; and

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16 **WHEREAS**, Judge Derrick K. Watson of the U.S. District Court of Hawaii found that
17 “significant and un rebutted religious animus was driving promulgation of the Executive Order,”
18 referencing a December 7, 2015 press release calling for “a total and complete shutdown of
19 Muslims entering the United States,” an October 9, 2016 statement declaring that the “Muslim
20 ban had morphed into extreme vetting,” and a January 23, 2017 statement favoring preferential
21 treatment of Christian refugees; and

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23 **WHEREAS**, the United States is obliged to recognize valid claims for asylum under the 1951
24 U.N. Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, as codified and
25 expanded with the passing of the Refugee Act of 1980 by the United States Congress; and

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27 **WHEREAS**, under international agreements and Federal statutes, refugees are defined as
28 persons who are outside their country of nationality or place of habitual residence, who, owing to
29 a well-founded fear of persecution on account of a protected ground, are unable or unwilling to
30 avail themselves of the protection of the state; and

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32 **WHEREAS**, protected grounds include race, nationality, religion, political opinion, and
33 membership in a particular social group; and

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35 **WHEREAS**, religious prejudice, hysteria over acts of terrorism, and failures of political
36 leadership are contributing to and fueled by proscriptions on the admission of Muslim refugees
37 under Executive Order 13780 signed in 2017;

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39 **WHEREAS**, racial prejudice, war hysteria, and failures of political leadership contributed to the
40 imprisonment of Americans of Japanese descent under Executive Order 9066 signed in 1942;

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42 **WHEREAS**, similar to Executive Order 9066, these orders will not make our communities safer
43 or our nation stronger, and will undermine our standing in the world community as an enduring
44 symbol of freedom and democracy; and

46 **WHEREAS**, our rights and liberties as Americans are not made stronger by excluding others;
47 rather, the strength of our local communities and our nation is based on embracing people from
48 all over the world; and

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50 **WHEREAS**, refugees, like other immigrants, enrich our communities and contribute
51 significantly to American society; and

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53 **WHEREAS**, refugees encounter a high level of scrutiny and security screening before arriving
54 in the United States, often taking over two years to complete; and

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56 **WHEREAS**, those refugees who are admitted for resettlement are usually some of the most
57 vulnerable and are seeking relief and protection from discrimination, persecution, and overt
58 prejudice.

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60 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the National Council of the Japanese**
61 **American Citizens League** that the JACL affirms its support for asylum policies that are free of
62 religious and racial prejudice and condemns the denial of asylum on de facto or de jure religious
63 grounds as at variance with American values, the U.S. Constitution, and American foreign policy
64 interests; and

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66 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that JACL is in opposition to the spirit and resulting effect of
67 Executive Order 13780, as it unfairly limits the relocation of refugees seeking relief to our
68 country based on their real or perceived religious affiliation and/or ethnicity; and

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70 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that JACL wholeheartedly supports and commends those
71 policy leaders, community organizations, civic leaders, and individuals who have taken it upon
72 themselves to speak truth to power and oppose these and other racially biased, offensive, and
73 discriminatory Executive Orders; and

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75 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that JACL urges the Administration to cease issuing orders
76 that seek to ultimately limit access to relief through immigration to the United States by refugees
77 living in predominantly Muslim countries and instead support an equitable, just, and non-
78 discriminatory immigration policy for the United States of America.

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80 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that JACL transmit certified copies of this resolution to the
81 President of the United States, the President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate, the Speaker of the
82 U.S. House of Representatives, and the chairperson of the U.S. Senate Committee on the
83 Judiciary.

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86 **Sponsored by:** JACL - Honolulu Chapter
87 **(JACL entity)**

Dated: 5/20/17
Month/Day/Year

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89 **Approved by:** Alison Kunishige
90 **Name (Please Print)**

Title: Chapter President

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Signed: Ali H. Kuyun
Signature

Sponsored by: New England Chapter JACL Dated: May 20, 2017

100 Approved by: Kenneth A. Oye / Margaret Yamamoto Title: Co-Presidents

101 Signed: /s/
102 Kenneth A. Oye

103 /s/
104 Margaret Yamamoto

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 Please check one:
 Fiscal Impact Statement attached
 X No Fiscal Impact