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The Franciscan Action Network's Statement for the Record Submitted to the House Committee on the Judiciary Markup of the NO BAN Act (H.R. 2214)

February 12, 2020

Dear Chairman Nadler, Ranking Member Collins, and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

Inspired by the Gospel of Jesus, and the example of Saints Francis and Clare, the Franciscan Action Network is a collective Franciscan voice seeking to transform United States public policy related to peace making, care for creation, poverty, and human rights. We are an advocacy voice for over 50 different Franciscan institutions across the United States.

Franciscans see the interconnectedness of all creation and the common origin of humanity as rooted in God's loving design for the earth and all people. Every human person is a child of God. Thus, the Franciscan Action Network strongly opposes any ban that demonstrates discrimination against any person based on country of origin or preferred religion.

Considering that refugees have gone through 18-24 months of stringent vetting in their desire to escape war and persecution, it is disturbing that the administration would continue barring these people from the safety and security our country can offer. The Franciscan Action Network denounces this policy as Islamophobic. Our nation is one founded by immigrants. We are called by our Christian teachings and Franciscan faith principles to love our neighbor, accompany the vulnerable, and welcome the stranger. This policy upholds none of these faith tenets, serving only to deny vulnerable families their fundamental right to safety and equal treatment before the law.

We cannot condone excluding people based on their nationality or religious background, but instead must work toward inclusivity and justice for all. We refuse to stand for policies which deny vulnerable families their fundamental right to safety and security. We call on the House of Representatives to pass H.R. 2214, the No BAN Act, which reflects our faith principles of welcome and inclusion.

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