December 10, 2015

Recent proposals to ban Muslim immigration to America, restrict the flow of certain refugees, or forcefully remove all undocumented immigrants in America represent the most shameful, cowardly, and dangerous responses to domestic and international affairs and will only result in stoking the fire of hatred, fear and discrimination that we all hope to extinguish.

Latinos are unfortunately very familiar with being subjected to immigration policies that are culturally discriminatory, and therefore we stand in solidarity to oppose all forms of unjust discrimination.

The Latino community has for a long time fought to improve the United States refugee policies for individuals fleeing extraordinary violence and persecution from much of Central America, so we must oppose these reactionary and misguided responses that object against providing aid and opportunities for Syrian and Iraqi refugees in America.

Just as MALDEF advocates for fair and humane treatment of migrants from Latin America, we reject any proposals that seek to single out a specific religion, culture, or nationality for unfair and immoral treatment. Our response as a nation to great adversity must be consistent with our basic principles of freedom, equality, and opportunity.

- Andrea Senteno, Legislative Staff Attorney for Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund