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FSE SUPPORTS THE WRITERS GUILDS OF AMERICA'S POSITION ON US "MUSLIM BAN"
Statement from Robert Taylor, FSE President

The Federation of Screenwriters in Europe supports and endorses the statement by our friends and colleagues in the Writers Guilds of America (Writers Guilds Statement on Muslim Ban; Solidarity with Iranian Filmmaker Asghar Farhadi. January 29th 2017) in which they express their opposition to the recently announced policy of the United States to refuse entry to millions of people, including many who are legally entitled to travel, along with refugees fleeing war and persecution in their own countries.

As representatives of writers who create films and television programmes viewed all over the globe, we are committed to the freedoms of both movement and expression.

In accordance with the Universal Charter of Human Rights, which states that “recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,” we cannot accept these arbitrary and unfair restrictions imposed on millions based solely on their place of birth, in particular the spurning of refugees escaping disaster.

The fact that Asghar Farhadi, a filmmaker who is nominated for an Oscar, will be prevented from travelling to the United States clearly demonstrates the illogicality and irrationality of this policy.

The United States was founded on immigration. Its national myth is defined by the enterprising and adventurous spirit of people the world over who came to flee oppression and seek opportunity, people who envisioned the possibility of a better world for themselves and their children. That so many of their descendants could so quickly forget this legacy is a tragedy, though we draw optimism from hearing the voices of those millions of Americans who have so clearly rejected this policy.

Robert Taylor
President

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