

**Sixth Meeting of the Organizing Committee of the
IAU Commission on Massive Stars
31 January 2017
By skype**

A. Herrero, J. Vink, A.ud-Doula, J. Groh G. Rauw, Y.-H. Chu and N. St-Louis were present for the meeting.

Recent US travel ban by US president Donald Trump

This was a special meeting to discuss the recently announced travel ban to the US by President Trump and, more specifically, the restrictions on entry in the US for foreign nationals from seven countries (Iran, Irak, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen) and its impact on the astronomical community. We discuss if the IAU should do something about this.

You-Hua says that there are already IAU policies in place to oppose discrimination based on factors such as ethnic origin (see: <https://www.iau.org/static/archives/announcements/pdf/ann16007a.pdf>). Artemio replies that there is nothing specific to remove support to meetings for which such restrictions occur after the meeting has already been approved.

We all agree to issue a strong statement on behalf of our commission. We discuss if we should extend our statement to non IAU-sponsored meetings but decide against.

Our statement sent via our daily abstract service and our newsletter (although only at the end of March 2017 when the statement had become out of date causing a commission member to complain) can be found below.

**Announcement of the Organizing Committee of Massive Stars
on the travel ban issued by US president D. Trump**

Recent executive order by the President of the United States suspended entry of all refugees to the United States for 120 days, and blocked entry to the U.S. for at least 90 days for citizens of seven countries. IAU is intrinsically an international organization comprising of citizens from every corner of the globe regardless of their national origin, religious beliefs or sexual orientations. Thus, such a ban impacts our activities directly and goes counter to our core beliefs. The organizing committee of the IAU massive stars commission discussed the situation. The IAU supports the International Council for Science (ICSU) rules on Freedom, Responsibility and Universality of Science that include the freedom of movement. To deny participation in a meeting because of nationality, political or religious beliefs are in breach of the ICSU Principle of the Universality of Science, and all member states are expected to abide by this principle. For this reason, the organizing committee of the IAU massive stars commission believes the IAU should temporarily suspend all IAU sponsored meetings in the USA and, if the order remains in effect in the future, cancel them all. Moreover, we think that new IAU sponsored meetings should

not be approved while the order is in effect. Although holding other non-IAU sponsored astronomical meetings are left to individual organizing committees, we urge everyone to uphold the principle of Universality of Science. If it is at stake, consider appropriate actions, including the cancellation of the meeting.

The Organizing Committee of the IAU Massive Stars Commission

Artemio Herrero (president), Jorick Vink (vice-president), Nicole St.-Louis (Secretary), You-Hua Chu, Jose Groh, Gregor Rauw, Asif ud-Doula