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Editorial

At the end of last month, Trump added six new countries to the U.S. travel ban, including Nigeria, Africa's most populous country. This policy was enacted under the guise of national security and public safety; the president's true motives, however, are rooted in racism and xenophobia against people of color.

Trump affirmed his ignorance and bigotry against the people of Nigeria in 2017 when he referred to countries such as Nigeria and Haiti as "shithole countries," as well as stating that Nigerians would never go back to their "huts" if they were to be allowed in the United States.

Nigeria is the most prosperous nation in Africa as its biggest economy; the ban will prevent thousands of successful and educated people from being able to move to the United States, many of whom are simply looking to be reunited with their families or to give financial support to loved ones back at home.

The ban has also created cause for panic for Nigerian citizens already in the states as they try to figure out if they will have to leave the country. The lack of clarity in the policy has caused unnecessary confusion and fear, which is unfair to those who believe the hardest is behind them.

This immigration ban is also a poor move for America economically.

"Chinese, Turkish, Russian, and British firms, backed by their governments, are staking positions on a continent that will define the global economy's future," said W. Gyude Moore, a visiting fellow at the Center for Global Development. "One hopes that the United States would follow suit and fully engage with the continent — but that hope fades."

According to the accounting firm PwC, many Nigerian visa holders in the U.S. send home billions of dollars each year to support their families, a source of support that millions of citizens rely on. Ceasing to provide this option will affect nearly a quarter of the people on the African continent, potentially proving problematic for African economies. Failing to prioritize private sector activity between America and African countries will be a foolish move in the long run if powerful countries start to struggle.

Trump's idea is that the immigration ban will contain the risk of "radical Islamic terrorists" entering the country, thus protecting American people. Though the Islamist group Boko Haram is known to be active in Nigeria, [there has been too little indication from the organization of an intent to spread to the United States](#) to warrant such blatant discrimination simply out of fear.

In his campaign for presidency, Trump pledged "a total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States until our country's representatives can figure out what the hell is going on." This statement should instill fear in American citizens. He gave no clear plan of action. He gave no specificity in what he believes the problem to be. He sees no end in sight.

Religious discrimination has no place in any government policy. The U.S. travel ban betrays the integrity of our country, exemplifying a failure to provide the freedom and protection our constitution promises. We must stop punishing innocent people.