

The Aphra Behn Society for Women in the Arts, 1660-1830 strongly condemns the recent executive order barring citizens of predominantly Muslim countries from entering the United States. As scholars of the long eighteenth century, we are deeply committed to the Enlightenment values of reason, tolerance, liberty, and constitutional governance, values that are undermined by laws promoting xenophobia, anti-intellectualism, and racism. We call upon the United States government to rescind this discriminatory policy, and reaffirm our commitments to diversity and inclusion, academic freedom, and the pursuit of knowledge across racial, ethnic, gender, religious, and national lines. Should any members of the Aphra Behn Society find themselves unable to travel to the United States for our biennial meeting, we are committed to providing alternative ways for them to present their work.