

Open Letter to President Donald J. Trump

Dear Mr. President,

You ran for president just months ago on a platform which you labeled, "Make America Great Again." But you have a short memory. A very short memory.

Instead of "Making America Great Again" you have used every tactic at your disposal over your first eight months in office to destroy anything and everything that could be viewed as good, beautiful, and just about the United States of America and its governing structures.

You have taken a hatchet to the federal government at every level and on every front. It would take far too long to list the governmental agencies which you have worked with determination to destroy and the dedicated public servants on every front whom you have either fired outright or caused to resign.

You have turned the US into a genuine police state, run by masked men who "disappear" honest, hardworking people from streets and courthouses and places of daily labor and send them to unknown fates in horrific prisons, whether in the US or in other countries.

You have made the United States into a nation reviled, quietly or publicly, by the broader community of nations. And you have shamed your own citizens by your selfish actions to squeeze blood out of every turnip and tariff money out of every nation, no matter how small.

Now this. You have now disallowed all humanitarian visas from Gaza, including the visas for small children who desperately need medical attention. Your explanation for this action is that you wish to conduct a "full and thorough review of the processes and procedures" re these visas.

Mr. President, do you have any idea how many Gazans, including small children, will die for lack of medical attention while you are carrying out this "full and thorough review"? Do you have any idea how grotesque and outright cruel this action is in the face of the human disaster currently unfolding in Gaza?

Mr. President, you are not "Making America Great Again." You are instead "Making America Cruel and Heartless Beyond Imagination."

Mr. President, your action is, in effect, tearing down the Statue of Liberty, a symbol for long years of the best aspirations of the American people as a nation. Emma Lazarus, in her 1883 poem inscribed on the Statue of Liberty, gives voice to what could truly be a "Great America": "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of

your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

I call on you, Mr. President, to heed the words of Emma Lazarus and the visual message of the Statue of Liberty and to restore humanitarian visas to all Gazans who desperately need and urgently request them.

Mr. President, make America truly great again!

Sincerely,

Dorothy Jean Weaver

American citizen and American voter

--

Dorothy Jean Weaver, PhD
Professor Emerita of New Testament
Eastern Mennonite Seminary
1200 Park Road, Harrisonburg, VA 22802
(540) 433-3336 (h); (540) 405-9242 (c)

"The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking* (1973)