

refugees ≠ terrorists

AFTER TWO YEARS OF SECURITY CHECKS, A FAMILY OF SYRIAN REFUGEES HAVE FOUND A HOME IN INDIANAPOLIS. GOVERNOR MIKE PENCE HAS INTERNATIONALLY MADE HIS STANCE ON NOT WELCOMING THEM

OUTRAGED BY INDIANA'S decision to refuse Syrian refugees, Dr. Elizabeth Dunn speaks at the Hoosiers for Syrian Refugees March hosted by United Nations Association outside the Sample Gates in Bloomington Dec. 5.

ZERO OUT OF more than 3 million refugees admitted in America are guilty of terrorism.

"Today, we again face the common moral dilemma. We have to face our own fears," Dr. Elizabeth Dunn said.

Dunn is an Indiana University Associate Professor in the Department of Geography. For 16 months, she did fieldwork in a refugee camp in the Republic of Georgia. She continued her work by speaking on Dec. 5 at the Hoosiers for Syrian Refugees March in Bloomington.

"ISIS wants us to believe that there's a clash of cultures," Dunn said. "ISIS wants us to believe that Muslims can't be Americans too, and ISIS wants us to believe that refugees can't integrate into society in Europe or America."

That same day, NPR reported that Governor Mike Pence denied a family of Syrian refugees from settling in Indiana. Dunn said Pence has no legal authority to stop the Syrian family due to the Refugee Act of 1980, which gives the authority to the Executive Office. On Dec. 8, ABC News announced that a church has settled the Syrian family in Indianapolis regardless of Pence's demands.

"You don't have evidence that any potential Syrian refugee has any likelihood of being a terrorist. In fact, less likelihood than say your next

door neighbor who hasn't been vetted at all."

Senior Devon Stewart, a student in AP Government, agrees that knowing his neighbors does not decrease their chances of being radicalized.

WHAT IS ISIS?

It stands for Islamic State in Iraq and Syria. In 2004, it began as al Qaeda in Iraq then became ISIS in 2006. Their goal is to control regions and transform them into an independent Islamic state.

source: cnn.com

"Since [Syrian refugees] are from a different country, I don't trust them. I don't think they're all bad though," Stewart said.

Regarding the San Bernardino shootings, The New York Times reported Dec. 7 that an American-born husband and a wife who joined Islamic State on Facebook were

radicalized long before killing 14 people.

"It's home grown terrorists who pose the biggest risks. Not refugees. There's no evidence based reason not to admit refugees," Dunn said.

She believes that the complexities regarding Islam (religion) and Muslims (practice Islam) are hidden by generalizations.

"There are many theological branches of Islam just like there are in Christianity. To say that 'all Muslims think this' or that 'Islam is a violent religion.' Those are huge generalizations about a religion and a way of living that is incredibly diverse."

Sophomore Bushra Jameel, a Muslim, extends the complexities toward Islamic extremists.

"A terrorist can be of any religion, not just Islam. So a terrorist who 'follows'

Islam isn't really Muslim, because in Islam killing is wrong."

Jameel highlights that Islamic beliefs are written in the Quran, which states that killing innocents is like killing all mankind.

"An 'Islamic' terrorist usually takes verses from the Quran, warps verses of the Quran to justify their killing. This justification is jihaddism or wahhabism."

She states that people have called her names like "terrorists" and "oppressed."

"I want people to know that even though a few people from a certain group are bad, this doesn't make everyone bad," Jameel said. "I would like people to have an open mind."

Stewart cautiously agrees and believes that Pence should welcome refugees.

"They've gone through crazy stuff because of their civil war, but they need more screening processes just to make sure ISIS isn't infiltrating it," Stewart said. "Our lives as Americans matter too, and we shouldn't, just for security reasons, let them all in."

Dunn said Germany has admitted 800,000 refugees and that Germany's crime rate has lowered.

"Of course [ISIS] want us to do their dirty work for them and turn the

refugees around, so [the refugees] have no choice, but to go back under the control of these brutal ideologs," Dunn said.

"But, we have a choice.

We can do something different. We can show

what is an essentially American virtue — hospitality. We can do that and combat extremism."

story/photos/design by lillyanne pham



SHOWING HER SUPPORT, Annie, age 5, marches through Bloomington with a sign stating, "Let the refugees come here. We have good people lots of space and food in this country."

DID YOU KNOW?

Since the Syrian civil war began, 320,000 people have been killed. Nearly...

40% were children

source: worldvision.org



Huddled together for warmth during the Dec. 5 march, the participants sought to march around the sample gates down Kirkwood Avenue, around the square and back to the Sample Gates, listen to speakers, and create a photo petition with moveon.org.



for an indepth story regarding the Paris attacks

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