



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 7, 2015

CONTACT: pressoffice@cityhall.nyc.gov, (212) 788-2958

**STATEMENT FROM MAYOR BILL DE BLASIO ON TODAY'S COMMENTS BY
DONALD TRUMP ON MUSLIM IMMIGRATION**

Today, Mayor de Blasio responded to a question regarding Donald Trump's call for a complete shutdown of Muslim immigration to the United States:

"Look, it's against our American values. If I said let's have a total, complete shutdown on Christians entering the United States or Jews entering the United States – it's against everything this country is based on. It's as simple as that. The country was formed by people fleeing religious persecution, and, in fact, so many people fleeing religious persecution that it was Puritans in Massachusetts, and it was Quakers in Pennsylvania, and Catholics in Maryland. And when we founded this nation, it was to respect religious pluralism, and to not have a state religion, and to not have any bias against any one religion or against people who don't have a particular religious faith. How could the frontrunner for a major party nomination literally be suggesting a religious test on who gets to come into the country? That is a dangerous, dangerous statement. That's why he must be confronted."

###