The scourge presented by extremism of all kinds loses traction under the critical scrutiny that comes with education.

Have we given up on the power of education to shape hearts and minds?

To bridge differences through discovery of common ground? To work together on seemingly intractable problems of concern to all human beings?

Any travel ban that doesn’t go out of its way to promote educational exchange (granted, there are some concessions in the third version) misses its mark on security, even more so on the possibility of peace.
If we can’t agree on principles and politics, perhaps we can unite on pragmatic grounds. Security is served by peace, peace by understanding.

We can’t understand one another if we don’t live and learn together.

Given that there is no barrier big enough to reverse the global interconnection that will be our legacy to the world, let’s make sure that our policies harness the power of education on the side of security and peace.

Let’s not be complacent when we encounter policies that undercut their own aims.

And let’s not be complacent when those policies threaten the greatest hope for a more secure and peaceful world there is: education.

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