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February 1, 2017

Dear Ms. Sandberg,

Allow me to begin by saying I really admire your principled civic stance on America's immigration policy and I am a strong supporter of the position you have boldly and unapologetically articulated. I agree with you that the Administration's recently-introduced ban on immigration is shameful and contradicts the principal values of a democratic state.

My own country's history as well as the history of the world bears witness to moments and periods during which such exclusion of groups of people on the basis of religion or nationality triggered a tragic chain of events expressly contradicting common sense and common decency for which we are asking forgiveness to this day.

Vilnius has changed considerably since your great-grandmother left the city. I am happy to report that today Vilnius is, once again, as it was historically, an open and friendly European capital that welcomes people of all nationalities – especially those with roots in our multicultural heritage. I would like to personally invite you as such an individual to visit us in Vilnius, to see it for yourself and experience the history and heritage of the city of your ancestors – a heritage of tolerance and cooperation that we can once again be proud of together.

I hope you will consider my invitation and I look forward to welcoming you as soon as it is convenient for you to visit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'R. Šimašius', written in a cursive style.

Remigijus Šimašius
Mayor of Vilnius

