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Migration-Related Actions During the First 100 Days of the Second Trump Administration

On January 20, 2025, Donald Trump began his second term as president of the United States. Since then, there have been drastic changes made to the U.S. immigration landscape as the Administration has prioritized border security, interior enforcement and deportations, restricting access to humanitarian pathways, and creating barriers to legal immigration. This resource summarizes the actions taken during the first 100 days of the second Trump Administration.

Executive Actions

On the first day of the Trump Administration, the following executive actions were taken:

- [Executive Order on “Realigning the United States Refugee Admissions Program”](#) (indefinitely suspending refugee resettlement)*
- [Executive Order on “Protecting the United States from Foreign Terrorists and Other National Security and Public Safety Threats”](#) (requiring “enhanced vetting”)*
- [Executive Order on “Protecting the Meaning and Value of American Citizenship”](#) (restricting application of birthright citizenship)*
- [Proclamation on “Declaring A National Emergency at the Southern Border of the United States”](#) (providing for open-ended deployment of the Armed Forces to support civil immigration enforcement)
- [Executive Order on “Securing Our Borders”](#) (implementing mandatory detention without stated exceptions)*
- [Proclamation on “Guaranteeing the States Protection Against Invasion”](#) (providing for a total prohibition of humanitarian processing at the border without stated exceptions)*
- [Executive Order on “Clarifying the Military’s Role in Protecting the Territorial Integrity of the United States”](#) (requiring United States Northern Command to seal the nation’s borders and maintain U.S. sovereignty and security, including repelling “invasion” in the form of “unlawful mass migration”)
- [Executive Order on “Designating Cartels and Other Organizations as Foreign Terrorist Organizations and Specially Designated Global Terrorists”](#) (requiring a process by which cartels can be formally designated as terrorist organizations)
- [Executive Order on “America First Policy Directive to the Secretary of State”](#) (declaring U.S. foreign policy to be efforts that champion core American interest and always put America and American citizens first)

* Challenged in the courts, in whole or in part

- [Executive Order on “Reevaluating and Realigning United States Foreign Aid”](#) (implementing an immediate 90-day pause on foreign assistance funding and requiring a review of all foreign aid programs)*

Beyond these steps announced on Day 1, the President has also taken the following actions directly:

- [Memorandum on “Expanding Migrant Operations Center at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay to Full Capacity”](#) (directing the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security to take all appropriate actions to provide additional detention space for “high-priority” detainees)*
- [Executive Order on “Addressing Egregious Actions of the Republic of South Africa”](#) (encouraging the resettlement of Afrikaners in the United States)
- [Executive Order on “Ending Taxpayer Subsidization of Open Borders”](#) (targeting noncitizens’ access to federal programs)
- [Proclamation on “Invocation of the Alien Enemies Act Regarding the Invasion of the United States by Tren De Aragua”](#) (directing the Attorney General and Secretary of Homeland Security to carry out apprehensions and removals, pursuant to the 1798 law)*
- [Memorandum on “Preventing Abuses of the Legal System and the Federal Court”](#) (encouraging sanctions against immigration lawyers, among others, for alleged misconduct)
- [Memorandum on “Preventing Illegal Aliens from Obtaining Social Security Act Benefits”](#) (expanding efforts to detect, stop, and prosecute unauthorized payments and fraud)
- [Memorandum on “Military Mission for Sealing the Southern Border of the United States and Repelling Invasions”](#) (establishing National Defense Areas along the border, granting the Department of Defense jurisdiction over federal lands, and creating zones where migrants can be detained for trespassing)
- [Executive Order on “Protecting American Communities from Criminal Aliens”](#) (withholding federal funding from sanctuary jurisdictions identified as such by the Attorney General and Secretary of Homeland Security, as well as requiring that necessary legal remedies and enforcement measures be pursued against said jurisdictions)

Legal Pathways and Protections

Since January 20, the Administration has restricted access to, or entirely dismantled, numerous programs and legal processes within the U.S. immigration system.

Refugee Resettlement

Through executive order, the U.S. Refugee Admission Program (USRAP) was indefinitely paused. Resumption of the program is contingent on a review of the program by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Department of State and a determination by the President that the program serves the national interest. While a report with the departments’ findings was to be issued within 90 days of the program’s suspension (April 20), it has yet to be published. The suspension of the program left [22,000 refugees](#) in a state of uncertainty after they had already been fully processed and approved for travel to the United States by federal authorities. On February 28, the Administration took a step further by terminating State Department grants with the ten national resettlement agencies. The processing and resettlement of Afghans who assisted the U.S. mission in

Afghanistan, which previously leveraged the USRAP infrastructure, has largely been halted as well. While USRAP formally remains suspended to date, the Administration has [confirmed](#) that efforts are underway to resettle Afrikaners from South Africa. A federal court has also ordered the Administration to resume resettling approximately 12,000 refugees who already had travel to the United States arranged prior to the USRAP suspension, though meaningful compliance by the Administration remains to be seen.

Asylum

In addition to pausing all humanitarian processing at the U.S.-Mexico border through executive action, the Administration has sought to reinstate the Migrant Protection Protocols, otherwise known as “Remain in Mexico.” This policy, first implemented in 2019 and the subject of various legal challenges since, requires asylum seekers to wait in Mexico until their asylum claims are adjudicated in U.S. immigration courts. On April 16, a federal court [issued](#) a nationwide injunction of the policy. However, processing of those seeking asylum does not appear to be taking place anywhere along the U.S.-Mexico border. At this time, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) seems to be continuing to process affirmative asylum applications, with the exception of certain individuals, as discussed further below.

Parole Processes

Over the last four years, the Biden Administration introduced nationality-specific parole processes for those from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela (CHNV), allowing beneficiaries to lawfully enter the United States, on a case-by-case basis, for a two-year period. These parolees were also able to apply for legal work authorization once in the country. Around 500,000 people were paroled into the United States through these processes. Access to CHNV was immediately ended on the first day of the Trump Administration for new beneficiaries, and an effort to formally terminate the parole and related employment authorization of those who entered the country through CHNV was [announced](#) in March and slated to take effect on April 24. This early termination of people’s two-year parole periods is being challenged in court, and parole generally remains in place for beneficiaries under a court order.

In addition to CHNV, the Trump Administration terminated access to the Family Reunification Parole (FRP) processes created under the prior administration. This program allowed certain nationals of Colombia, Honduras, El Salvador, Cuba, Guatemala, Haiti, and Ecuador with family members in the United States to be paroled into the country on a case-by-case basis while awaiting the availability of their family-based visas. FRP was one of the initiatives implemented under the Biden Administration as a means to mitigate irregular migration to the United States.

The Trump Administration has also ended access to the dedicated parole program created for Ukrainian nationals, Uniting for Ukraine (U4U), though no steps have thus far been announced to terminate parole for beneficiaries of that program.

Beyond the termination of these programs, the Administration announced an “[administrative pause](#)” on all pending benefit requests filed by people already allowed into the United States under these parole programs. In light of this, parolees who arrived in the country through these processes are not currently having their applications for employment or other benefits processed.

Lastly, the Central American Minors (CAM) program—available to certain minor nationals of Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador, as well as certain members of their family—was also among the programs terminated by the Trump Administration. Under the CAM program, eligible applicants were provided the opportunity to reunify with family and potentially resettle in the United States. The CAM program was previously terminated under President Trump’s first term and reinstated during the Biden Administration.

CBP One

The Biden Administration made the CBP One mobile application available to noncitizens in Mexico who were seeking protection in the United States as a way to streamline processing at dedicated ports of entry along the border. Noncitizens were able to request an appointment at a port through the application. On January 20, CBP eliminated this scheduling functionality and cancelled all pending appointments (approximately 270,000). On March 10, the Trump Administration rebranded the application to “[CBP Home](#),” which, among other uses, is meant to facilitate self-deportation.

Temporary Protected Status

Since the end of January 2025, the Trump Administration has sought to revoke or discontinue temporary protected status (TPS) for nationals of Venezuela, Haiti, Cameroon, and Afghanistan. Legal challenges have been brought against the attempted revocation of TPS extensions provided during the Biden Administration for Venezuela and Haiti, and litigation is ongoing.

Gold Card

President Trump has [introduced](#) the idea of a “gold card,” effectively a green card granting legal permanent residency to noncitizens able to afford its suggested \$5 million value. The feasibility of this proposal is likely dependent on congressional action in order to modify the requirements of the existing EB-5 visa program or create a new visa entirely, though Administration officials and the President himself have dismissed the need for legislative changes. The EB-5 visa was introduced by Congress thirty-five years ago as an opportunity for foreign investors to obtain permanent residency in the United States.

U.S.-Mexico Border

Reported encounters at the U.S.-Mexico border have decreased significantly. According to [U.S. Customs and Border Protection](#) (CBP), daily encounters at the border were down by 94% in March (264) when compared with the same month in 2024 (approximately 4,488). The Administration attributes this to the strict measures it has put in place. As a result of these actions, virtually all humanitarian processing has been halted at the U.S.-Mexico border, and mandatory detention is in place, including for families seeking protection. The Trump Administration further [announced](#) that migration through Panama’s Darien Gap is down 99.99%. While no specific data was cited for this assertion, it was previously [reported](#) that migration through the Darien was already decreasing in the months before President Trump took office. [Unprecedented steps](#) have been taken to militarize the border, with the deployment of about 10,000 service members, two warships, several military aircraft, and over 100 combat vehicles, as well as \$376 million in military expenditures as of March. This comes as jurisdiction over 100,000 acres of federal land along the border has been [transferred](#) from the Interior Department to the Department of Defense. Meanwhile, on the Mexican side of the border, as many as 10,000 Mexican National Guard troops are [being deployed](#) as a show of force. Finally,

border wall construction has also been accelerated, with over \$70 million [awarded](#) to construct seven miles of border wall in Hidalgo County, Texas.

Interior Enforcement and Removals

The first 100 days of the second Trump Administration have been marked by an increased focus on immigration enforcement and removal of noncitizens from the United States. In addition to the measures taken at the U.S.-Mexico border to deter and detain individuals, several others have been taken to identify, apprehend, and remove noncitizens in the interior of the country. On April 29, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) [reported](#) that the agency arrested nearly 66,400 noncitizens and removed nearly 66,000 during the Administration's first 100 days. Below are actions taken by the federal government to facilitate these efforts.

Protected Areas (a.k.a. Sensitive Locations)

On January 21, the Administration [announced](#) the revocation of the "Guidelines for Enforcement Actions in or Near Protected Areas." For years, immigration authorities operated under guidelines that discouraged immigration enforcement at certain locations, including houses of worship, schools, healthcare facilities, and more, absent extenuating circumstances. Several legal challenges have been brought against the rescission of the protected areas policy, though the plaintiffs in those cases have experienced little success to date.

Expedited Removal

The Trump Administration announced the expansion of [expedited removal](#), a process by which an immigration officer can summarily remove certain noncitizens from the United States without a hearing before an immigration judge, with narrow exceptions granted to those who claim a fear of persecution or torture in their home country. For decades, expedited removal could apply to noncitizens who arrived at a port of entry, entered by sea without inspection, or noncitizens who crossed a land border without inspection and were encountered by immigration authorities within two weeks of arrival and within 100 miles of the border. On January 25, 2025, expedited removal was expanded to the fullest extent permitted by law, now applicable to (1) noncitizens who arrive at a port of entry at any time and are determined to be inadmissible for fraud, misrepresentation, or lacking the proper entry documents and (2) noncitizens who have entered the United States without inspection by either land or sea, were never admitted or paroled, and cannot prove to have been physically present in the country for two years prior to an immigration officer's determination that they are inadmissible due to fraud, misrepresentation, or lack of proper entry documents. Expedited removal had been expanded to this degree only once before between June 2020 through March 2022.

Immigrant Registration

In February, DHS announced that it would fully enforce certain provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act requiring noncitizens aged 14 years or older who are residing in the United States for at least 30 days to [register](#) with the federal government. All noncitizens who are registered must always carry their registration with them. Noncitizens who fail to register or produce proof of registration face possible criminal penalties that include jail time and fines of up to \$5,000. Full enforcement of the registration requirement went into effect on April 11, 2025.

Alien Enemies Act

In March 2025, President Trump invoked the Alien Enemies Act, an eighteenth-century wartime law, to deport noncitizens to a prison in El Salvador. Through his [proclamation](#), the President called for the removal of all individuals over the age of 14 alleged to be members of the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua and “conducting irregular warfare” at the direction of Venezuela. The deportation of over 200 Venezuelan migrants to the Salvadoran prison was made possible through an agreement with the government of El Salvador. Despite judicial orders against the deportations and [subsequent orders](#) requiring the Trump Administration to facilitate the return of certain noncitizens removed to El Salvador, these individuals remain in the prison known as the Terrorism Confinement Center, or CECOT. Family members and attorneys for those deported to CECOT have expressed fear about their [indefinite imprisonment](#).

Lawful Permanent Residents and Visa Holders

During the first 100 days of the Trump Administration, there was also a marked [increase](#) in the arrest, detention, and removal of lawful permanent residents (LPR) and legal visa holders. At [universities across the country](#), international students have had their status impacted, though this effort has been [walked back](#) to an extent by the Administration. Additionally, there have been [reports](#) of individuals with employment-based visas and tourists being detained for extended periods of time, consistent with the “enhanced vetting” mandated by the President’s Day 1 executive actions.

Collaboration between Federal Immigration Authorities and Other Government Agencies

The Administration has reached agreements with several state and local entities to advance immigration enforcement efforts. Such agreements under the [287\(g\) Program](#) are not new. Through these agreements, the federal government is able to call on state and local law enforcement agencies to assist with immigration enforcement. The Trump Administration has [revived and expanded](#) the use of this program and additionally reinstated the 287(g) Task Force Model. With these steps, the Administration has encouraged state and local law enforcement agencies to act as a “force multiplier”. However, some other actions taken by the Administration to further enforcement efforts are novel. For instance, in early April, the Internal Revenue Service reached an [agreement](#) with ICE to share data about individual tax filers for immigration enforcement purposes.

Unaccompanied Children and Families

The number of unaccompanied children encountered by CBP along the U.S.-Mexico border has decreased significantly. The number of these children encountered in January 2025 was 3,224, whereas 665 were encountered in March. The Trump Administration has made several changes that are expected to discourage potential sponsors from coming forward to assume care of unaccompanied children, thereby prolonging the time spent by these children in the custody of the federal government. These actions include increased information sharing between the Office of Refugee Resettlement and ICE. The Administration also [terminated](#) funding to support legal services for this population, though this remains the subject of litigation. Meanwhile, an unpublished ICE memorandum from February [reportedly](#) outlined efforts to target unaccompanied children for deportation, though no start date for such efforts has been provided.

The Trump Administration has fully [resumed](#) the practice of family detention. Family detention was greatly reduced under the Biden Administration, though not entirely abolished.