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The Trump Administration's Travel Ban and Restrictions for Nationals of Certain Countries

“Our country’s proud tradition as a land of opportunity for people from all walks of life is increasingly contradicted by a system that makes legal immigration impossible for far too many. A broad ban on nationals from these countries further erodes trust in our legal immigration system and marginalizes entire peoples. I pray that these restrictions will be lifted in due course and hope that the stated exceptions in the proclamation, such as those for Afghans who supported our country, immediate family members, and people seeking humanitarian protections, are honored.”

—Bishop Mark J. Seitz, Chairman of the USCCB’s Committee on Migration (June 5, 2025)

On June 4, 2025, President Donald Trump issued a presidential proclamation titled [“Restricting the Entry of Foreign Nationals to Protect the United States from Foreign Terrorists and other National Security and Public Safety Threats.”](#) The proclamation prohibits the entrance into the United States of nationals from twelve countries and restricts the entrance of nationals from seven others, based on alleged deficiencies in the information available for screening and vetting noncitizens from these countries. The proclamation states that the decision to issue restrictions on travel from certain countries followed a review conducted by the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Director of National Intelligence. The proclamation cites sections 212(f) and 215(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act as grounds for the authority to issue such a ban.

The proclamation argues that the ban on travel for nationals of these countries is justified based on a country’s lack of a central authority for issuing passports or civil documents, lack of appropriate screening and vetting measures, nationals from the country having a high rate of visa overstays, the country’s government not having proper criminal records, not accepting their nationals for deportation, and/or having terrorist group presence or ties in the country.

During his first term, President Trump issued a similar proclamation, initially restricting the entrance of noncitizens from certain countries with Muslim-majority populations. Though the original ban was challenged in the courts, the Supreme Court of the United States ultimately upheld a modified version that included additional countries.

The June 4 proclamation went into effect on June 9, 2025, at 12:01 a.m. EDT, applying to individuals outside of the United States on that date who do not already have a valid visa.

Scope of the Travel Ban

Pursuant to the proclamation, aside from the exceptions discussed below, entry to the United States is *fully restricted* for nationals of the following countries:

1. Afghanistan
2. Burma
3. Chad
4. Republic of the Congo
5. Equatorial Guinea
6. Eritrea
7. Haiti
8. Iran
9. Libya
10. Somalia
11. Sudan
12. Yemen

Furthermore, aside from the exceptions discussed below, the proclamation asserts that entry to the United States is *partially restricted* for nationals of the following countries as immigrants, as well as nonimmigrants on B-1, B-2, F, M, and J visas¹:

1. Burundi
2. Cuba
3. Laos
4. Sierra Leone
5. Togo
6. Turkmenistan
7. Venezuela

For these seven countries, consular officers are also directed to reduce the validity of nonimmigrant visas to the extent permitted by law.

Exceptions to the Travel Ban

Categorical exceptions for nationals from all nineteenth countries are provided for the following:

1. Lawful permanent residents (green card holders)
2. Any dual national of designated countries when the individual is traveling on a passport issued by a country not listed
3. Any foreign national traveling with a valid nonimmigrant visa from one of the following categories: A-1, A-2, C-2, C-3, G-1, G-2, G-3, G-4, NATO-1, NATO-2, NATO-3, NATO-4, NATO-5, or NATO-6
4. Any athlete or member of an athletic team, including coaches, persons performing a necessary support role, and immediate relatives, traveling for the World Cup, Olympics, or other major sporting event as determined by the Secretary of State

¹ B-1 (business visa to conduct temporary business needs; B-2 (tourism visa for short vacations, family visits, or medical treatments); F (academic visa to attend certain institutions, including a language training program); M (vocational visa); and J (exchange visitor visa).

5. Immediate family immigrant visa holders (IR-1/CR-1, IR-2/CR-2, IR-5) with clear and convincing evidence of identity and family relationship (e.g., DNA)
6. Adopted persons (IR-3, IR-4, IH-3, IH-4)
7. Afghan special immigrant visas holders
8. U.S. government employees with special immigrant visas
9. Immigrant visas for ethnic and religious minorities facing persecution in Iran

Additionally, certain discretionary exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis by the Attorney General or Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security, if either finds that travel to the United States of an otherwise impacted individual would serve the national interest.

As written, the proclamation's restrictions are stated not to apply to "an individual who has been granted asylum by the United States, to a refugee who has already been admitted to the United States, or to an individual granted withholding of removal or protection under the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)." Moreover, "Nothing in this proclamation shall be construed to limit the ability of an individual to seek asylum, refugee status, withholding of removal, or protection under the CAT, consistent with the laws of the United States." Finally, visas issued prior to the order's effective date to nationals of the countries listed should not be revoked pursuant to the proclamation.

Refugee Resettlement and the Travel Ban

On January 20, the Trump Administration issued an executive order indefinitely pausing the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program and abruptly halting the pending resettlement of thousands of refugees who had already been approved to travel. The executive order has been challenged in an ongoing court case, *Pacito v. Trump*, where an order was issued to resettle certain refugees who had already arranged and confirmable travel plans to the United States prior to the President's January 20 executive order.² However, despite the language included in the President's proclamation, the Trump Administration communicated its intention to apply the travel ban to refugees, including those already protected under the *Pacito* injunction, prompting plaintiffs in the case to file a motion for an emergency hearing.³ On July 14, 2025, the court issued an order finding that the travel ban would not apply to those approved for refugee resettlement in the United States.⁴

Future Adjustments, Suspensions, and Limitations of the Travel Ban

Within 90 days of the issuance of the proclamation, and every 180 days thereafter, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Director of National Intelligence, are required to submit a report to the President, through the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security, with an assessment and recommendation regarding whether any suspensions and limitations imposed by the proclamation should be continued, terminated, modified, or supplemented.

² Int'l Refugee Assistance Project, *Pacito v. Trump: Challenging Trump's Suspension of USRAP*, <https://refugeerights.org/news-resources/pacito-v-trump-challenging-trumps-suspension-of-usrap> (last visited July 15, 2025).

³ Press Release, Int'l Refugee Assistance Project, Travel ban Applies to Refugees, Says Trump Administration (June 26, 2025), <https://refugeerights.org/news-resources/travel-ban-applies-to-refugees-says-trump-administration>.

⁴ Order Establishing Injunction Implementation Framework and Appointing Magistrate Judge, *Pacito v. Trump*, No. 2:25-cv-255-JNW (W.D. Wash. July 14, 2025), at 8–10, available at <https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.wawd.344495/gov.uscourts.wawd.344495.145.0.pdf>.