



Information Sheet on 'Muslim Ban 2.0':

President Trump's Revised Muslim Ban And Refugee Suspension Executive Order

On March 6, 2017, President Trump signed an “updated” version of his executive order, **“Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States”**—popularly known as the “Muslim Ban”. The new executive order, which will become effective on March 16, replaces the January 27 order, the subject of mass protests and legal challenges.

The new executive order, now known as the “Muslim Ban 2.0”, was designed to address those legal challenges, which had produced a suspension of the ban’s implementation. The first order had been widely condemned for stigmatizing and discriminating against Muslims, and its implementation caused chaos at airports in the U.S. and abroad.

While the new executive order contains several changes, the outlines are the same and it still plays to fear, racism, xenophobia and anti-Muslim prejudices, and undermines U.S. international obligations towards the treatment of refugees and asylum seekers.

Among the changes, U.S. permanent residents and current visa holders are excluded from the travel ban, Iraq is no longer included among the list of targeted countries, and an indefinite ban is no longer imposed on nationals from Syria.

The main elements of the order include:

- **The suspension of immigrant and nonimmigrant entries of nationals from Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen (all majority Muslim countries) for at least 90 days.** This measure is supposed to give the Administration time to improve vetting procedures. The countries on this list are described as a “state sponsor of terrorism, has been significantly compromised by terrorist organizations, or contains active conflict zones”. However, since the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, there have been no fatalities by anyone from these six countries. Visa access had already been limited for nationals from Iran, Syria and Sudan. Others countries could be added to the list.
- **Exceptions are made** for people who are U.S. permanent residents, dual nationals with

U.S. citizenship, people attending diplomatic missions, and people who have already been granted asylum or refugee status.

- **Iraq is no longer included in the target country list**, after negotiations following the first order between the U.S. and Iraq that agreed on particular security measures. Iraq is considered as a key element in the fight against ISIS.
- **The suspension of all refugee admissions for 120 days.** Some refugees could be admitted on a case-by-case basis.
- **The creation of a “uniform baseline” for screening and vetting standards and procedures**, to “identify individuals who seek to enter the United States on a fraudulent basis, who support terrorism, violent extremism, acts of violence toward any group or class of people within the United States, or who present a risk of causing harm subsequent to their entry”.
- **A limit of 50,000 refugee admissions**, less than half of the 110,000 admissions designated by the Obama Administration for FY 2017. Around 85,000 refugees were accepted in 2016.
- **The completion of a biometric entry-exit tracking system for in-scope travelers to the US.** While this program already exists, it is controversial and noted for its expense and flaws. Some policy makers and experts believe that the biographic data is already sufficient. While the system may identify someone who has overstayed a visa, it cannot determine a person’s location.
- **The suspension of the Visa Interview Waiver Program**, thus requiring in-person interviews for all nonimmigrant visa applicants.
- **Public reports on immigrants’ criminality** (foreign nationals in the U.S. who have been charged with terrorism related offenses while in the country or number of those who have been radicalized while in the U.S). Focused on marginal numbers, these reports would further Trump’s stigmatization of immigrants and refugees as criminals, even as data shows that immigrants are less likely to engage in criminal activity than native-born.

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