

Frequently Asked Questions on Executive Orders 13769 and 13780
Related to Refugee Resettlement and a Travel Ban

When will Refugees stop being processed in the United States?

The newly issued EO 13780 will go into effect on March 16, 2017 at 12:01 AM EST. Refugees who have formally been scheduled by the Department of State to travel to the U.S. prior to this time are permitted to come. The Secretaries of State and Homeland Security will be able to permit refugees to enter after this time on a case-by-case basis when in the national interest.

When will the Refugee Admissions program resume?

The initial suspension of the resettlement program will last for 120 days.

When will the lifting on the ban occur for the six countries?

The initial ban is set to last for 90 days. However, the President may issue a proclamation further limiting travel from certain countries which do not provide the information deemed necessary for vetting by the Secretary of Homeland Security (in consultation with Secretary of State and the Attorney General).

What did Executive Order 13769 (issued on January 27, 2017) attempt to do?

- A 90-day ban on visas, admission, and other immigration benefits for people from Syria, Iraq, Iran, Somalia, Sudan, Libya, and Yemen;
- A 120-day suspension of the refugee resettlement program;
- An indefinite suspension of the arrival of Syrian refugees;
- A 64% decrease for U.S. refugee arrivals in FY 2017—from 110,000 to 50,000;
- A prioritization of refugees who are religious minorities suffering religious persecution;
- Potential other roles for states and localities, with more say in placement and resettlement of refugees; and
- A mandated review and possibly stricter security vetting procedures for refugees, immigrants, and nonimmigrants.

What has been the impact so far of the February 3rd temporary restraining order (TRO) by the Federal District Court of Western Washington, Seattle, and the February 9th Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals' decision upholding the order?

1. The Ninth Circuit decision kept in place the Western Washington Federal District Court order that temporarily halts:

- the 90-day ban of those from 7 countries, including Syria, Iraq, Iran, Sudan, Somalia, Libya, and Yemen (section 3c);
- the 120-day refugee admission suspension (section 5a);
- the indefinitely suspended admission of Syrian refugees (section 5c); and
- the preference for resettlement of religious priorities (section 5b and the part of section 5e related to religious minorities).

2. What provisions remain in force despite this TRO?

- A reduced number of refugees allowed to enter the U.S. for resettlement in FY 2017—from 110,000 to 50,000; and
- A new, yet-to-be-determined, state role in resettlement and a new, yet-to-be-determined, but likely stricter vetting process for refugees, immigrants, and nonimmigrants

How does the [March 6 EO 13780](#) impact EO 13769 and the pending court cases?

The President's March 6th EO 13780 rescinds EO 13769, and legal proceedings will decide whether the

new order renders the *Washington v Trump* and other cases moot. Besides rescinding the EO 13769, the new Order also appears to be responsive to the concerns of the Federal District and Ninth Circuit Court decisions. On Thursday, February 16, 2017, the Department of Justice (DOJ) filed a brief requesting that the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit vacate their February 9th decision and rather base their decision on a soon-to-be-released order, that is, the now released March 6th EO 13780. On February 27, 2017, the Ninth Circuit denied that motion. As of March 10, six states are reportedly litigating to halt the implementation of EO 13780 (see number 4 below).

1. The new EO 13780 rescinds EO 13769 and replaces it with the language of the March 6th EO 13780.

2. The March 6th EO 13780 alters some aspects of EO 13769's policies that were problematic for the Federal District Court of Western Washington and for the Ninth Circuit:

- A temporary, 90-day visa, entry, and immigration benefits ban remains for people from six of the seven previously designated countries, but the new EO does not impact those from the countries who are lawful permanent residents (LPRs), U.S. citizens, dual citizens (of one of the six countries and a non-designated country), certain diplomats, valid visa holders, asylees, admitted refugees, and those granted withholding of removal, Convention Against Torture (CAT) protection, or advanced parole or other valid entry documents; and
- The 120-day refugee admissions suspension to review vetting procedures remains in place but the new EO 13780 has no language specifically or indefinitely barring Syrians from resettlement, and no language mandating that religious minorities be favored for resettlement.

3. The March 6th EO 13780 maintains other EO 13769 policies, among others, not addressed by the Federal District Court and Ninth Circuit decisions:

- A reduced number of refugees allowed to enter U.S. for resettlement in FY 2017—from 110,000 to 50,000;
- Potential other roles for states and localities in the placing and resettling of refugees; and
- A mandated review and possibly stricter security vetting procedures for refugees, immigrants, and nonimmigrants.

4. Please note that after the initial EO 13769 was issued on January 27, several dozen federal court cases were filed. As of March 10, Oregon, New York, and Massachusetts have joined with Washington and Minnesota to ask the federal court to block the implementation of EO13780. Hawaii is suing separately. Results of these and other suits will continue to unfold.

What Can I Do to Voice My Support for Refugees in the Meanwhile?

- Please see our [Advocacy Actions for Responding to the Executive Orders](#)
- Participate in Justice for Immigrants Phone-in Fridays. See Instruction links below:
 - House: [Phone-in Fridays- House](#)
 - Senate: [Phone-in Fridays- Senate](#)