



# Hold and Review of Immigration Benefits Applications for Refugees, Asylees, Asylum Applicants and Nationals of Travel Ban Countries

*This guidance is effective January 5, 2026, and is subject to change.*

## What is happening?

- In June 2025, President Trump [ordered](#) that nationals of 19 countries be barred from receiving visas for admission to the US, claiming that they posed a risk to US national security. In December 2025, he [expanded](#) the list of countries subject to the **travel ban to a total of 40 countries**.
- In November 2025, USCIS [ordered a hold on adjudication of applications for adjustment of status \(green cards\) filed by all refugees](#) admitted between Jan. 20, 2021, and Feb. 20, 2025, and ordered the **review and possible re-interview of all refugees** admitted during that time period.
- On Dec. 2, 2025, USCIS [announced](#)
  - a **hold on all applications for asylum for all nationalities**;
  - a **hold on all immigration benefits** applications for **nationals of the original 19 travel ban countries**, including applications for naturalization, adjustment of status (green card), work permits, travel documents, family petitions (Forms I-130 and I-730) and other benefits, with few exceptions; and
  - a **re-review of benefits applications previously approved** for nationals of travel ban countries.
- On Jan. 1, 2026, USCIS [expanded the application hold](#) and re-review of benefits granted to nationals of the **additional travel ban countries**.

## What does it mean?

- Due to these policies, affected individuals should expect **indefinite delays in adjudication** of their applications for immigration benefits.
- Some applications may be denied if USCIS believes the applicant's nationality poses a security risk.
- Those whose prior benefits approvals are under review may expect to be **interviewed** in connection with those applications **and/or asked for additional evidence of their eligibility**.
- Some may see their benefits or status **terminated or rescinded**, and they could be referred for removal proceedings in immigration court.

Impacted Nationalities			Action
All			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Hold on <b>asylum</b> application processing (interviews may still take place)</li><li>Hold on <b>refugee adjustment of status (green card)</b> application processing (interviews may still take place)</li><li>Review of <b>past grants of refugee status</b></li></ul>
Afghanistan Angola Antigua and Barbuda Benin Burkina Faso Burma Burundi Chad Cote d'Ivoire Cuba Dominica Equatorial Guinea Eritrea	Gabon Haiti Iran Laos Libya Malawi Mali Mauritania Niger Nigeria Republic of Congo (Brazzaville) Senegal Sierra Leone Somalia	South Sudan Sudan Syria Tanzania The Gambia Togo Tonga Turkmenistan Venezuela Yemen Zambia Zimbabwe Individuals traveling on Palestinian Authority-issued documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Hold on processing of <b>all benefits applications</b> (exceptions include: I-90 replacement of LPR card, N-565 replacement of citizenship/naturalization certificate, N-600 application for certificate of citizenship &amp; I-765 employment authorization for category c(8), pending asylum).</li><li>Review of <b>all previously approved benefits</b></li></ul>

## I have questions. Where can I find help?

If you believe these policies affect you and you have not already done so, you should consult with an immigration legal service provider. You can find assistance here: <https://www.immigrationadvocates.org/legaldirectory/> or here: <https://ailalawyer.com/>.