



Travel Ban Updates

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

What is the travel ban?

In June 2025 President Trump ordered that nationals of 19 countries be barred from receiving visas for admission to the US. In December 2025, he expanded the list of countries whose nationals are barred from admission to the US. For some countries, all nationals are barred, and for other countries, only those applying for certain visa categories are barred. There are exceptions for those who already have certain legal status in the US and those seeking visas for certain reasons. Importantly, individuals who already have valid visas issued prior to 01/01/2026 are permitted to enter. See more information about these exceptions below.

What nationalities are barred from getting visas or coming to the US under the travel ban?

Nationals of the following countries who are seeking immigrant visas as well as non-immigrant B-1, B2, B-1/B-2 (visitor), F (student), M (vocational training), and J (cultural exchange) visas are barred:	Nationals of the following countries seeking any kind of visa are barred:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">AngolaAntigua and BarbudaBeninBurundiCote d'IvoireCubaDominicaGabonThe GambiaMalawi <ul style="list-style-type: none">MauritaniaNigeriaSenegalTanzaniaTogoTongaTurkmenistanVenezuelaZambiaZimbabwe	<ul style="list-style-type: none">AfghanistanBurkina FasoBurmaChadRepublic of Congo (Brazzaville)Equatorial GuineaEritreaHaitiIranLaosLibya <ul style="list-style-type: none">MaliNigerSierra LeoneSomaliaSouth SudanSudanSyriaYemenIndividuals traveling on documents issued by the Palestinian Authority

Are there any exceptions to the travel ban?

Some categories of people seeking entry to the US are exempt from the visa/travel ban, including:	Also, the travel ban does <u>not</u> apply to the following:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">US CitizensLawful Permanent Residents (LPRs, or greencard holders)People with dual citizenshipCertain religious and ethnic minorities from IranCertain diplomats and athletes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Anyone <u>already granted status in the United States</u>, including <u>refugees, asylees, LPRs</u> and those here on valid visas.Anyone outside the US who already has an approved, valid visa or whose visa is issued before January 1, 2026.

What if I am in the US and applying for asylum or LPR/greencard status?

The travel ban does not affect people already in the US who are seeking an immigration benefit such as asylum or adjustment (change) of status to permanent resident. However, USCIS has placed a **temporary hold** on the processing of all applications for asylum, and on applications for adjustment of status (green cards) for all refugees and people from countries subject to the travel ban.

I am a refugee. Can my spouse/child join me through an I-730 Refugee/Asylee Relative Petition?

The travel ban does not say if refugee spouses and children from the travel ban countries will be permitted to enter the US, but most refugee processing has been suspended under a separate government order, so entry as a refugee from most countries is currently not possible.

I am an asylee. Can my spouse/child join me through an I-730 Refugee/Asylee Relative Petition?

The travel ban does not say if asylee spouses and children from the travel ban countries with approved petitions will be permitted to enter the US, but processing of all pending petitions has been suspended for asylees from all travel ban countries under a separate government order. Derivative asylees from non-travel ban countries may continue to be processed for travel to the US.

If I am a US citizen or LPR (greencard holder), can my spouse, child or parent apply for a visa to join me in the US if they are from one of the travel ban countries?

No. Under the December travel ban order, there are **no exceptions** for relatives of US citizens or LPRs.

Are Afghans seeking a Special Immigrant Visa still exempt from the travel ban?

No. Under the December travel ban order, Afghans seeking Special Immigrant Visas may **no longer receive visas**.

I have questions about myself or my relative outside the US. Where can I find help?

If 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/>