



FAQ: What 4 USCIS Policies Were Cancelled by the Court?

This information is effective 06/11/2026 and is subject to change – check back for updates!

This is for information only and should not be considered legal advice.

Important Update: Court Decision About USCIS Policies

On June 5, 2026, a federal judge made a decision about four USCIS policies that have slowed, paused, or blocked immigration cases for asylum seekers and people from [39 countries](#) that the U.S. calls “high risk.” (see [Dorcas International Institute of RI v. USCIS](#)). Here’s what you need to know.

What did the judge decide?

The judge said that USCIS **acted illegally** in creating four policies that stopped or slowed immigration processing based on nationality mainly for people from 39 countries, and ordered USCIS to **stop** applying these four policies. The 39 countries are: 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, and Individuals traveling on Palestinian Authority documents.

What was USCIS ordered to do about the cancelled policies?

USCIS was ordered to:

- **Resume processing applications for asylum** and withholding of removal for all nationalities.
- **Lift the Pause** on immigration applications from people from the 39 countries. USCIS must resume processing applications and issuing immigration benefits, including green cards, work permits, travel documents and citizenship for nationals of the 39 targeted countries.
- **Stop Reopening and Reviewing** cases that were already decided and approved for people from the 39 countries who entered the U.S. on or after Jan. 20, 2021, solely based on nationality.
- **Not Use nationality from a designated country as a negative factor** when deciding certain applications.

What is NOT changing?

This court’s decision **does NOT**:

- End the existing **travel bans** on issuing **visas** to nationals of 39 “high risk” countries and nationals of 75 “public charge” countries to travel to the U.S.
- Restart processing of **refugee adjustment of status (green card) applications**.
- Restart the **refugee resettlement program** which is currently only resettling white South Africans.
- Change **any other USCIS or State Department policies**.

What should happen next?

USCIS has appealed the court’s order, but said it will follow the order while the appeal is pending. This means that, for now, USCIS will:

- Issue decisions on green cards, work permits, travel documents, naturalization, and other applications that were previously paused.
- Reschedule naturalization oath ceremonies that were cancelled.
- Reconfirm approved cases that were re-opened just because of someone’s nationality.
- Stop using nationality as a reason to deny benefits, like work permits.

What else could happen?

USCIS could ask the appeals court to pause the lower court’s order. The appeals court could:

- Keep the lower court’s order in place, **or**
- Pause the order, which would let USCIS **continue the four challenged policies** until the appeal is finished.

I still have questions about my case. Who can I ask?

If you believe these changes apply to you or if you have questions about your options, you should contact a qualified immigration legal service provider. See below for how to find legal services and advice.



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