

IMMIGRATION BAN: WHAT IS IT & WHY IT MATTERS

The Beginnings of the Immigration Ban

On January 27, 2017, President Donald Trump issued Executive Order 13769, colloquially known as the 'Immigration Ban' or 'Travel Ban', that bars individuals from majority-Muslim countries from entering the US. These six Middle Eastern and African countries--Chad, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria, and Yemen--have been deemed 'terror prone' by the Trump Administration. The order bars all persons from entering the United States for 90 days and suspends the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program for 120 days until it is reinstated for people whom the members of Trump's Cabinet deem 'acceptable candidates' to enter into the U.S.

The travel ban is a part of the Trump Administration's alleged effort to curb the spread of 'extreme, radical Islam' in the US. The ban has been criticized for its glaring Islamophobia in addition to its reliance on fear mongering to isolate millions of individuals. The legitimacy of the ban has also been met with skepticism as Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, and the United Arab Emirates--majority Muslim countries--have been left off the ban-list.

Actions Against Executive Order 13769

Following Trump's announcement, hundreds of protests began across the U.S. with people expressing anger at the ban's treatment of people who are currently in the United States, citizen or otherwise. Protests at JFK Airport and Laguardia Airport prompted the release of two American Muslim men who had been detained at JFK for over five days.



Protests at JFK following the announcement

Following the announcement of Executive Order 13769, Attorney General Sally Yates was fired for 'betraying the DOJ' after she ordered Justice Department lawyers not to enforce the ban. That same day, January 30, Washington state Attorney General Bob Ferguson filed a temporary restraining order on the ban based on its unconstitutionality. On February 22, Oregon's Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum, filed a motion to join the lawsuit on the basis of harm to Oregon State. Both of these injunctions temporarily halted action around the deportation of Muslims in the U.S.

The Introduction of Executive Order 13780

Following the political and social pushback from Executive Order 13769, Trump released Executive Order 13780 on March 6, 2017. Trump's Travel Ban 2.0. reiterated most of the policies placed in the original ban, including temporary suspension of travel from certain countries and a cap on refugees within the United States. Although Trump has referred to this order as a "watered-down version" of 13769, the newest travel ban was just as bad, if not worse. While removing Iraq from the list the newest ban includes restricted travel from even more countries including Chad and Venezuela. The ban also includes North Korea, a country that Trump has steadfastly agitated throughout his brief tenure as president. Ironically, the number of North Korean immigrants to the U.S. is very small. According to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), North Korea only accounted for 61 visas in 2016.

Following the release of 13780, a number of states brought civil suits challenging the executive order and asking for an injunction with claims that the order was 1) a violation of the 1st and 5th Amendment and 2) was not given time for full review. States that have brought on civil actions include Hawaii, Washington, and Minnesota. Despite actions from the courts across the country and civil lawsuits brought by organizations such as the ACLU, the U.S. Supreme Court allowed the ban to go into full effect on December 4, 2017. The Supreme Court's ruling on the ban is particularly dangerous as there is no indefinite time limit, thereby creating a potentially permanent ban.

Who Does It Effect?

Executive Order 13780 effects millions of people across the globe attempting to enter the US.

Those who are allowed to stay/enter are:

- **Green Card Holders**
- **Dual Nationals and Diplomats**
- **Students who have already been accepted by a U.S. University**
- **Workers who have been offered employment by a U.S. company**
- **NATO and UN Officials**

Those who cannot enter:

- **Those who do not fit into the categories mentioned above from these six-majority Muslim countries: Chad, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria, and Yemen**
- **North Korean & Venezuelan citizens attempting to obtain visas**
- **Temporary Workers**
- **First Time Tourists**
- **Individuals without a "bona fide relationship" with a US person or entity**
- **Refugees who have not already been approved to enter into the US***

**The total number of refugees admitted into the United States was capped during the 2017 fiscal year at 50,000.*

Why It Matters To NOW



The Trump Administration's Immigration Ban is a cruel and inhumane tactic that separates families and pushes exclusionary policies based on Islamophobia and terror mongering. Executive Order 13780 is a policy that further perpetuates hatred, bigotry, and discrimination. The Trump Immigration Ban is particularly salient to NOW's endeavors as it disproportionately affects women, specifically women of color. Currently, we have seen that the Muslim ban has affected women in their 30's and above, women with families, and female students.

SOURCES

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