

Enhancing Vetting Capabilities and Processes for Detecting Attempted Entry into the US by Terrorists or Other Public -Safety Threats

Engage strongly opposes the newest version of President Trump’s travel ban, finding the order to be discriminatory. Two earlier versions of the ban were deemed unconstitutional because they violated the Establishment Clause in the First Amendment by disfavoring a specific religion. The Supreme Court also found a “direct link” to President Trump’s numerous campaign statements promising a “Muslim ban” if elected. In a separate case, the Court found that the Plaintiffs were likely to succeed on claims regarding the ban’s violation of the Immigrant and Nationality Act. Since the original version of the ban was released, over fifty cases have been filed challenging the ban in ten appeals circuits around the country.

On December 4, 2017, the Supreme Court allowed the newest version of the ban to take full effect pending appeal. This will have a hugely disproportionate effect on the Muslim community because it indefinitely bars travel of most citizens from Chad, Iran, Yemen, Somalia, Libya, and Syria as well as North Korea and certain government officials and citizens of Venezuela. Obtaining green cards has also become increasingly more difficult for these individuals. The inclusion of North Korea and Venezuela are more of a smoke screen, used more so for supporters to claim that this ban does not primarily target Muslims.

There is no justifiable national security argument for the ban. Over [130 national security](#) experts, in addition to analysis from the Trump administration itself, have argued that national origin and citizenship are not reliable indicators of terrorism; in fact, many of the same experts believe that the ban will weaken U.S national security and play into the hands of terrorist organisations as a recruitment tool. It will also separate families, hurt our economy, and block educational opportunities.

	Immigration visas	Business visas	Tourist visas	Student visas
Chad	suspended	suspended	suspended	no change?
Iran	suspended	suspended	suspended	extra screening
Libya	suspended	suspended	suspended	no change?
North Korea	suspended	suspended	suspended	suspended
Somalia	suspended	“enhanced screening and vetting”	“enhanced screening and vetting”	“enhanced screening and vetting”
Syria	suspended	suspended	suspended	suspended
Venezuela	no change?	suspended for government officials	suspended for government officials	no change?
Yemen	suspended	suspended	suspended	no change?

Chad: immigration/business (B-1), tourist (B-2), and business/tourist (B-1/B-2) visas suspended.
Iran: immigration/nonimmigrant visas suspended, *except* for valid student (F and M)/exchange visitor (J) visas.
Libya: immigration/business (B-1), tourist (B-2), and business/tourist (B-1/B-2) visas suspended.
North Korea: immigration/nonimmigrant visas suspended.
Somalia: immigration suspended. Individuals can apply for nonimmigrant visas with extensive vetting and verification process.
Syria: immigration/nonimmigrant visas suspended.
Venezuela: suspension of immigration and nonimmigrant visas limited to government officials and family members.
Yemen: immigration and business (B-1), tourist (B-2), and business/tourist (B-1/B-2) visas are suspended.

Those who hold existing visas, dual citizens, and people who are already legally admitted to the U.S. are exempt from the order.

Number of U.S. visas granted by category in 2016

Red indicates groups facing travel restrictions under the new rules

COUNTRY	TOTAL AFFECTED	IMMIGRANT	TOURIST	STUDENT	DIPLOMATIC*	OTHER	SHARE OF VISAS AFFECTED
Iran	32,278	7,727	23,678	4,368	485	873	87%
Yemen	16,931	12,998	3,933	914	222	134	93
Syria	11,584	2,633	7,980	478	145	493	99
Somalia	1,797	1,797	233	66	88	64	80
Libya	1,828	383	1,445	417	320	125	68
Chad	940	40	900	122	323	10	67
North Korea	61	9	52	0	48	0	56
Venezuela	—	2,471	145,331**	4,791	563	5,676	—

* Diplomatic, NATO, UN, and other government visas are exempted from the nonimmigrant visa restrictions.

** The ban for Venezuela only applies to tourist visas for government officials in certain agencies, plus members of their immediate families. It's unclear how many visas were issued to those groups.

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Difference between the previous iterations and the newest ban:

- Older versions previously restricted travel for 90 days but the current version has no end date.
- Iraq and Sudan were dropped from the list, whereas Chad, Venezuela, and North Korea were added.
- Unlike previous bans, the newest ban does not include any language about the status of refugees.

What can you do:

- Call your representative and tell them to take a stand against this ban
- Visit <https://www.nomuslimbanever.com> to learn more about the ban and find additional resources

Additional Links:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/09/24/enhancing-vetting-capabilities-and-processes-detecting-attempted-entry>

<http://time.com/5048919/trump-travel-ban-supreme-court/>