President Donald Trump issued an executive order on Jan. 27, 2017—Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States.

The order immediately suspends entry for 90 days for nationals from countries that have sponsored acts of international terrorism, pending a review of the visa process and reports to the president. The order also suspends the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) in the Department of State for 120 days and specifically denies entry to Syrian refugees. Refugee admissions are reduced to 50,000 from the current 110,000. State and local governments are to be granted a role in refugee resettlement, “to the extent permitted by law and as practicable.” The executive order states the secretary of homeland security, secretary of state, and the director of national intelligence will:

- Conduct a review of information needed to ensure that foreign countries have provided the information necessary to determine that the visa applicant is properly identified and not a public safety or security threat within 30 days of the issuance of the order.
- Report back to the president a list of countries that do not provide adequate information within 30 days of the issuance of the order. Countries will then have 60 days to provide the information needed for the formal decision of visas.
- Suspend entry of foreign nationals referred to in section 217(a)(12) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) for 90 days, which includes the following countries: Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. It excludes foreign nationals traveling on diplomatic visas, NATO visas, United Nations visas and international organization employee G-1 through G-4 visas.
- May, on a case by case basis, issue visas from blocked countries when in the national interest.
- Develop a uniform screening standard and procedure, such as in-person interviews; a database of identity documents to ensure duplicate documents are not used by multiple applicants; and a process to evaluate whether the applicant is likely to become a positive contributor to society.
- Suspend the refugee admissions program from 120 days, after which it will resume admissions only for nationals of countries for which the agencies jointly determined that the additional procedures are adequate to ensure the security of the U.S.
- Make changes, to the extent permitted by law, to prioritize refugee claims made by individuals on the basis of religious-based persecution, provided that the religion of the individual is a minority religion in the individual’s country of nationality.
- Suspend nationals of Syria from entering the U.S. as refugees until determined that sufficient changes have been made to the USRAP to ensure the safety and security of the U.S.
• Determine the extent to which state and local jurisdictions may have greater involvement in the process of determining placement or resettlement of refugees in their jurisdictions and create a proposal to promote that involvement.
• Expedite the completion and implementation of a biometric entry-exit tracking system for all travelers to the U.S.
• Suspend the visa interview waiver program, requiring individuals seeking a nonimmigrant visa undergo an in-person interview.
• Adjust visa validity treatment to match the treatment of U.S. nationals by the foreign country.
• Report every 180 days:
  o Number of foreign nationals in the U.S. who have been charged with terrorism-related offenses, convicted of terrorism related offenses, or removed based on terrorism-related activity.
  o On foreign nationals who have been radicalized after entry into the U.S. and engaged in terrorism related acts.
  o The number and types of acts of gender-based violence against women by foreign nationals.
  o The immigration status of foreign nationals charged with major offenses.
  o On the estimated long-term costs of the USRAP at the federal, state and local level.