

Muslim Ban Fact Sheet

On January 31, 2020, President Trump [expanded](#) his Muslim ban, targeting more Black and brown people and extending his discriminatory ban to six additional countries. This new ban went into effect on February 21, 2020, and brought the total number of countries included in the ban to 13. The new ban is an expansion of [Muslim Ban 3.0](#), which has indefinitely banned people from Iran, Libya, Syria, Yemen, Somalia, and North Korea, along with a small number of people from Venezuela. Under the expanded ban, which targets more Africans, certain people from Eritrea, Kyrgyzstan, Nigeria, Myanmar (Burma), Tanzania, and Sudan are prevented from coming to the United States.

The Trump administration continues to try to legitimize its ban with a variety of rhetoric, but one thing remains clear: this administration is committed to discriminating against immigrants based on race, religion, and national origin.

AM I IMPACTED? WHAT ABOUT MY FAMILY OR FRIENDS?

On December 4, 2017, the Supreme Court issued a brief order allowing the first Muslim ban to go into effect, and it issued a lengthier decision allowing the ban to remain in effect in June 2018, while litigation challenging it continues. The expanded ban went into effect on February 21, 2020, banning more Muslims, and expanding the ban's impact on Africans, so that now nearly a quarter of all people on the continent live in a country affected by the ban.

Muslim Ban 3.0:

(effective December 4, 2017)¹

People seeking [immigrant](#) and [nonimmigrant](#) visas from the following countries are prohibited from obtaining their visas, even if they meet all legal and regulatory requirements. (Immigrant visas are for individuals seeking admission to the United States on a permanent basis. [Nonimmigrant](#) visas are for individuals seeking to enter for a limited time period.)

- **Iran**, except for those seeking visas as students ([F and M visas](#)) or exchange visitors ([J visas](#)), who are subjected to “enhanced screening” and may experience long waits or denials.
- **North Korea**
- **Syria**

People seeking immigrant visas, and nonimmigrant tourist or business visas, from the following countries are prohibited from obtaining their visas, even if they meet all legal and regulatory requirements.

- **Libya**
- **Yemen**

People seeking [immigrant](#) visas from the following country are unable to obtain their visas, even if they meet all legal and regulatory requirements.

- **Somalia**. In addition, those seeking nonimmigrant visas will be subjected to “enhanced screening” and may experience long waits or denials.

Finally, certain government officials and their family members seeking nonimmigrant tourist or business visas from the following country are prohibited from obtaining their visas, even if they meet all legal and regulatory requirements.

- **Venezuela**

¹When the Muslim ban was implemented in December 2017, Chad was also on the list of banned countries. Chad was removed from that list in April 2018 and is therefore no longer on this list of countries and is not included here.

Expanded Muslim Ban, Targeting Black and Brown People:

(effective February 21, 2020)

People seeking [immigrant](#) visas, with the exception of “[Special Immigrant Visas](#),” from the following countries are prohibited from obtaining their visas under the expanded ban, even if they meet all legal and regulatory requirements.

- [Eritrea](#)
- [Kyrgyzstan](#)
- [Myanmar \(Burma\)](#)
- [Nigeria](#)

People from the following countries seeking immigrant visas through the [Diversity Lottery Program](#) are prohibited from accessing this program, even if they meet all legal and regulatory requirements.

- [Sudan](#)
- [Tanzania](#)

IF I OR SOMEONE I KNOW FITS INTO THE LIST ABOVE, DO I HAVE ANY OTHER OPTIONS?

If you fit into one of the categories above, the only other option at this time is to apply for a waiver. In order to qualify for a waiver, one must show that they meet all three of the following criteria:

- (1) not being allowed to come to the United States would cause undue hardship;
- (2) being allowed to come would not pose a threat to the “national security or public safety” of the United States; and
- (3) being allowed to come would be in the national interest of the United States.

The process for a waiver request is not explained in the proclamations, and remains unclear. The government has advised that [waiver requests](#) should be made during a consular interview or mailed/emailed to a consular post if the case is in administrative process.

WHAT’S NEXT?

As a result of the Muslim ban 3.0, millions of Muslims continue to be banned from America, even if they have family members, jobs, academic positions, or other compelling connections here, and even if they are otherwise eligible for a visa. The expanded ban will cause more harm to Muslims and Africans in particular. As a result, people are unable to celebrate life events or mourn the loss of loved ones, denied life-saving health care treatment, and prevented from pursuing educational and career opportunities.

The ACLU continues to fight the Muslim ban in the courts, in Congress, and in the streets. We remain committed to fighting back until we win. And we know the American people are with us.