



CBCF EXECUTIVE ORDER TRACKER

Realigning the United States Refugee Admissions Program

Executive Order #14163

Date Issued: January 20, 2025

Topic: Immigration

WHAT DOES THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER DO?

- This order asserts the Trump Administration's stance that increased migration is harmful to the United States, as it strains resources for American citizens and threatens their safety and security.
- The order pauses the [U.S. Refugee Admissions Program](#) (USRAP), a program for immigrants who feared or were subject to persecution in their home countries to legally resettle in the United States.
- The program was managed by the Department of State (State), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). These agencies are tasked with advising the President on whether to resume the program every 90 days.



HOW WILL THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER BE ENFORCED?

- This order suspends the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program and compels the Secretary of Homeland Security to pause designations of refugee status for at least 90 days.
- The order mandates that no immigrants will be granted refugee status during the suspension unless both the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security approve the admission on a case-by-case basis.
- This order also rescinds an [executive order](#) from former President Joe Biden that expanded the USRAP to include women, children, and “other individuals who are at risk of persecution related to their gender, gender expression, or sexual orientation.”
- The Secretaries of HHS, DHS, and State, as well as the Attorney General, all have a role in enforcing this executive order. The Secretaries of DHS and State are required to submit a report every 90 days with their assessment of the USRAP and opinion on resuming the program. The Secretaries of HHS, DHS, and State and the Attorney General are evaluating the legal precedent for state and local governments to select which refugees are allowed to move to their jurisdictions.



HOW DOES THIS IMPACT BLACK COMMUNITIES?

- In 2019, Pew Research Center reported that one-in-five Black Americans were immigrants or the children of immigrants. This order could have catastrophic consequences for Black communities and is even more dangerous considering the Trump Administration's other immigration policies.
- The Trump Administration has launched massive raids across the United States, and, as of February 2025, they had deported 37,000 immigrants. The executive order mandates that DHS stop processing refugee applications, meaning there are thousands of immigrants who no longer have a path to legal citizenship.
- Black immigrants represent more than 20% of immigrants facing incarceration and deportation but only comprise 5% of the undocumented population in the United States. This executive order puts thousands of Black immigrants who fled countries facing humanitarian crises at risk of deportation.





HOW ARE CBC MEMBERS RESPONDING?

The Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) has advocated for fair and inclusive immigration reform for decades. The CBC has spoken out against immigration policies from both parties that did not match their values. They did so most recently in June of 2024, when former President Joe Biden issued an executive order to institute a cap of 2,500 immigrants who can enter the United States per day.

- **Rep. Yvette D. Clarke**, CBC Chair and former Co-Chair of the CBC's Foreign Affairs & Immigration Task Force: "President Biden's executive action to close daily border crossings arbitrarily at 2,500 will prevent countless Black immigrants from the Caribbean, the African continent, and Latin America from exercising their legal right to apply for asylum at our ports of entry. We should move toward a more nuanced approach that considers the real humanitarian issues that migrants are facing each day." [Full Statement](#)