

Refugees in the US Fact Sheet



How to Enter the US as a Refugee: ([Department of Homeland Security](#))

The United States provides refuge to certain persons who have been persecuted or have a well-founded fear of persecution through two programs: a refugee program for persons outside the United States and their eligible relatives, and an asylum program for persons in the United States and their eligible relatives... To qualify for refugee status, a principal applicant must:

- 1) Be of special humanitarian concern to the United States;
- 2) Meet the refugee definition as set forth in section 101(a)(42) of the INA;
- 3) Be admissible under the Immigration and Nationality Act (or be granted a waiver of inadmissibility); and
- 4) Not be firmly resettled in any foreign country.

Refugees in the US Fast Facts:

- The UNHCR annually refers less than 1% of all refugees for resettlement. In 2014, they referred a mere 103,890 to all resettlement nations. That year, the United States accepted 69,933 refugees, or about 0.5% of the total number of all refugees in the world, but over 67% of all those referred by UNHCR. ([CATO Institute](#))
- In 2015, 21.3 million people globally were refugees ([UNHCR](#))
 - Refugees from 82 different countries were resettled in California in 2015 by the US Office of Refugee Resettlement. The majority came from Iraq (1,715 refugees) and Iran (1,852 refugees). ([Washington Post](#))
- Of the 84,995 refugees were admitted to the US in 2016, the largest numbers (71%) came from: ([Pew Research Center](#))
 - Democratic Republic of Congo: 16,370
 - Syria: 12,587
 - Burma (Myanmar): 12,347
 - Iraq: 9,880
 - Somalia: 9,020

Refugees in the US and Terrorism: [\(CATO Institute\)](#)

- Of the 859,629 refugees admitted from 2001 onwards, only three have been convicted of planning terrorist attacks on targets outside of the United States, and none was successfully carried out.
 - That is one terrorism-planning conviction for every 286,543 refugees that have been admitted.
 - To put that in perspective, about one in every 22,541 Americans committed murder in 2014.
- The chance of an American being murdered in a terrorist attack caused by a refugee is 1 in 3.64 *billion* per year while the chance of being murdered in an attack committed by an undocumented immigrant is an astronomical 1 in 10.9 *billion* per year.
 - Of the 3,252,493 refugees admitted from 1975 to the end of 2015, 20 were terrorists... In other words, one terrorist entered as a refugee for every 162,625 refugees who were not terrorists.
 - Refugees were not very successful at killing Americans in terrorist attacks. Of the 20, only three were successful in their attacks, killing a total of three people... The three refugee terrorists were Cubans who committed their attacks in the 1970s and were admitted before the Refugee Act of 1980 created the modern rigorous refugee-screening procedures currently in place. All of the murders committed by foreign-born refugees in terrorist attacks were committed by those admitted prior to the 1980 act.

President Trump's Executive Orders Regarding Refugees:

[“Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States,”](#) signed January 27, 2017 – Imposes a 90-day suspension on entry to the US from citizens of Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen; suspends the US refugee program for at least 120 days and indefinitely for Syrian nationals; cuts the total number of refugees of any nationality who can be resettled under the program to 50,000 in fiscal year 2017. *As of February 9, 2017, a US Federal Court of Appeals has upheld a federal court block of the travel ban. The Department of Justice may now decide to appeal to the US Supreme Court.*

[“Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements,”](#) signed January 25, 2017 – Orders the immediate construction of a border wall with Mexico; allows hiring of additional Border Patrol Agents.

[“Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States,”](#) signed January 25, 2017 – Demands aggressive efforts to find and deport unauthorized immigrants, including withdrawing of federal funding to sanctuary cities. *As of February 9, 2017, there are confirmed reports of ICE raids happening in Los Angeles County.*