

USCRI SUMMARY OF JANUARY 20 EXECUTIVE ORDERS

On January 20, 2025, the White House released a series of Executive Orders that regress the immigration system with immediate impact on refugees and immigrants. The new orders display a renouncement of the United State's role as a stronghold of safety and protection for the displaced. The following is a summary of six Executive Orders and one Proclamation.

1. [Executive Order Realigning the United States Refugee Admissions Program](#)

Covers: Indefinite suspension of refugee admissions in the United States.

- This Executive Order **suspends the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP indefinitely. Refugees are blocked from entering the country indefinitely despite having been thoroughly vetted and approved for travel.**
- Although the order states the program is to be suspended on January 27, 2025, **the Government canceled previously scheduled travel for refugees and stopped all refugee case processing on January 21, 2025.**
- The order **requires a report every 90 days** from the Secretary of Homeland Security in consultation with the Secretary of State on whether the resumption of the refugee program is in the interests of the United States.
- The order also **revokes enhancements to the program put in place by the previous Administration** through Executive Order 14013 "Rebuilding and Enhancing Programs To Resettle Refugees and Planning for the Impact of Climate Change on Migration."

[USCRI's statement on this Executive Order is available here.](#)

2. [Executive Order Securing Our Borders](#)

Covers: Resumption of "Remain in Mexico," ending CBP One App, ending humanitarian parole program.

- This Executive Order **directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to resume Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP), commonly known as the "Remain in Mexico" policy.**
- The resumption of MPP forces non-U.S. citizens who lack documentation required for admission to wait in Mexico pending removal proceedings. This previously **subjected families, children, and individuals seeking safety to violence, unsafe conditions, homelessness, and extortion.**

- This order also **ends the use of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) One Mobile Application** for scheduling appointments for asylum seekers and migrants to meet with immigration officials at the border.
- On January 21, the Administration [announced](#) that it would immediately restart MPP.
- This order also terminates a humanitarian parole program, **ending the program that granted temporary humanitarian protection to Cuban, Haitian, Nicaraguan, and Venezuelan nationals with U.S.-based sponsors.**
- **Applications for the CHNV parole program will no longer be accepted.** It is unclear how the announcement will affect people who have already submitted applications or who are in processing.

USCRI's statement on the resumption of MPP is [available here.](#)

USCRI's statement on humanitarian parole termination is [available here.](#)

3. [Proclamation Guaranteeing the States Protection Against Invasion](#)

Covers: Preventing the right to seek asylum at the southern border.

- This Proclamation **declares an invasion at the southern border and suspends entry of all non-U.S. citizens.**
- Entry will also be denied to any non-U.S. citizen who is unable to provide sufficient medical, criminal history, or background information to Federal officials before entering the United States, citing public health and national security concerns.
- The measure builds off of the [National Emergency](#) declared at the southern border by the Administration and the [order](#) for the military to seal the border from “unlawful mass migration.”
- The Proclamation prevents asylum seekers from accessing the right to asylum at the southern border.

USCRI's statement on the Proclamation is [available here.](#)

4. [Executive Order Protecting the American People Against Invasion](#)

Covers: Expansion of expedited removal and action against sanctuary cities.

- This Executive Order **directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to enforce immigration laws, including the use of expedited removal, taking action against sanctuary jurisdictions, and expanding detention facilities.**

- The order also **directs cabinet members to review Temporary Protected Status (TPS) [designations](#)**.
- By expanding expedited removal, this order **threatens non-U.S. citizens across the United States—individuals and families—who were not admitted by immigration authorities and who have been in the country for up to two years with fast-tracked deportation** despite having already established their lives and built communities here.
- Expedited removal undermines access to due process. **Individuals in expedited removal proceedings have no right to counsel, no right to a hearing, and no right to appeal**—far fewer protections than “formal” removal proceedings.
- The order indicates that the Administration will take all legally available action to **ensure that federal funds are withheld from sanctuary jurisdictions**, which undermines public safety, erodes trust in local government, and jeopardizes essential services individuals and families depend on.
- Sanctuary jurisdictions are municipalities that adopt policies aimed at enhancing public safety and trust by limiting cooperation with federal immigration enforcement. Cutting federal funding to sanctuary cities violates the underlying principle of the Tenth Amendment, which protects states and localities from federal overreach.
- **Ending federal funding for sanctuary cities could disrupt programs including public safety initiatives, disaster relief, housing support, and healthcare services of all residents in the city.**

[USCRI’s statement on cuts to federal funding for sanctuary cities is available here.](#)

[USCRI’s statement on the expansion of expedited removal is available here.](#)

5. [Executive Order Protecting the Meaning and Value of American Citizenship](#)

Covers: End of U.S. birthright citizenship.

- This Executive Order **directs the U.S. Government to stop issuing U.S. citizenship documents to children born to parents who are in the United States unlawfully or temporarily.**
- The order **ends U.S. birthright citizenship** and is set to strip nationality rights from children who are born on February 19, 2025, and after.
- **The order is in contravention to the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, as well as the 1898 Supreme Court decision in *Wong Kim Ark*.**
- Seeking to end birthright citizenship means **jeopardizing the lives and futures of children and upending over 125 years of well-established law.** It will keep newborns

and their families from accessing benefits that are available to U.S. citizen children upon birth.

- Several lawsuits have been filed by expectant mothers, states, and immigration advocates, asking courts to declare the measure unconstitutional and prevent it from taking effect. **On January 23, a federal judge temporarily blocked the order, calling it “blatantly unconstitutional.”** Several other lawsuits continue.

USCRI's statement on this Executive Order is [available here](#).

6. [Executive Order Protecting the United States from Foreign Terrorists and Other National Security and Public Safety Threats](#)

Covers: Increased vetting and possibility of travel bans.

- This Executive Order **directs the Secretary of State to implement increased screening and vetting standards for all non-U.S. citizens seeking entry into the United States and leaves open the possibility of a travel ban.**
- Within 60 days, the Secretary of State, Attorney General, Secretary of Homeland Security, and Director of National Intelligence **will submit a joint report to the President that identifies countries where vetting and screening information is deemed to be “so deficient as to warrant a partial or full suspension on the admission of nationals from those countries”** justified under INA 212(f).
- The order **creates more stringent screening and vetting processes for non-U.S. citizens both seeking admission to the United States or already in the country.** Within 30 days from the date of the order, the Secretary of State and other federal agencies are **directed to evaluate all visa programs for national security and provide recommendations of actions to protect the American people.**

7. [Executive Order Putting America First in International Environmental Agreements](#)

Covers: Climate-related displacement and U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement.

- This Executive Order **announced the Administration’s decision to withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement.**
- An increasing number of people are fleeing climate-related environmental disasters, and they are without an adequate system of international protection.

- To prevent forced displacement, a robust climate change in migration strategy is essential.

USCRI's statement on this Executive Order is [available here](#).