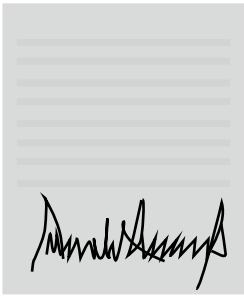


2025 changes to the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program

Jan. 20

President Donald Trump signs an executive order suspending the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program on the first day of his second term in office. The country, the administration contends, can't absorb large numbers of migrants – particularly refugees – “in a manner that does not compromise the availability of resources for Americans, that protects their safety and security, and that ensures the appropriate assimilation of refugees.”



Jan. 25

The U.S. Department of State sends a letter to resettlement agencies announcing a grant funding halt. Grantees are told to “cancel as many outstanding obligations as possible.”

Feb. 7

Trump signs another executive order prioritizing the resettlement of white South Africans, Afrikaners. Trump's order says the group faces “government-sponsored race-based discrimination.”



Feb. 10

Class action lawsuit seeks to block suspension of refugee resettlement programs. The lawsuit lists one of nine refugee plaintiffs, an anonymous Congolese refugee called “Pacito,” left stranded in a parking lot in Kenya with his wife and infant son after a cancelled flight.

Feb. 25

First of two preliminary injunctions granted by U.S. District Judge Jamal Whitehead of the Western District of Washington, who blocks enforcement of the executive order.

March 24

Second preliminary injunction granted by Whitehead requiring the State Department to reinstate contracts with resettlement agencies.

March 25

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals reversed part of Whitehead's initial injunction, but also allowed a limited number of refugees to enter. The court allows people “conditionally approved for refugee status” before Jan. 20 to enter, the order reads.



May 12

The Episcopal Church, one of 10 national organizations serving as intermediaries between the federal government and local resettlement nonprofits, announces it will end its participation. In a letter, Presiding Bishop Rev. Sean Rowe cited issues with “preferential treatment” given to Afrikaners.



Sept. 12

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals stays previous preliminary injunctions, ruling the Trump administration can halt refugee admissions. However, the court ruled the administration cannot end its contracts with resettlement agencies that provide services to recently admitted refugees.