

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

Pursuant to Executive Order 13780, DHS, along with inter-agency partners, established identity management, information sharing, and public security risk criteria that all foreign governments must satisfy to assist the U.S. government in vetting foreign nationals seeking to enter the United States. For a small amount of countries that lack either the will or the capability to adhere to these criteria, certain travel restrictions have become necessary to mitigate potential threats. This document seeks to dispel some of the misinformation circulating regarding these travel restrictions.

! MYTH: This is a "Muslim Travel Ban" targeting people of Islamic Faith.

FACT: There is no such thing as a "Muslim Travel Ban" and religion has nothing to do with travel restrictions for national security reasons. Travel restrictions are not based on the faith of the citizenry of a particular country but on assessments based on that country's information sharing or elevated risk levels. Certainly, people of many faiths, including the Islamic faith, will continue to travel to the U.S. each year.



MYTH: Imposing travel restrictions to the U.S. is unnecessary and unfair.



FACT: The U.S. is the world's most generous and welcoming country, but unfortunately, there are evil people in this world who seek to travel to the United States with the intent of harming and killing Americans.

For the safety of our towns and families, we need to know, without a shadow of doubt, the true identities of and information about the people who seek to enter the United States and whether they have committed crimes abroad.

Additionally, a case-by-case waiver process exists, administered by the Department of State, so that, for example, a young child, adoptee, or an individual needing urgent medical care may still be able to enter the country.





MYTH: Travel restrictions are applied subjectively.



FACT: DHS has systematically reviewed all countries against the established criteria five times since 2017 and the latest review provided the most detailed picture yet into the degree of compliance with our requirements. Travel restrictions imposed by the President are within his legal authority and are tailored to the country-specific deficiencies identified during the review process and an assessment of travel-related risk.



MYTH: Travel restrictions don't accomplish anything.



FACT: The global review process for travel restrictions has already yielded improvements in foreign government identify management and information sharing. As a result of this process, we have already seen an increase in the number of countries reporting lost and stolen passports and implementation plans to report fraudulently obtained genuine travel documents to INTERPOL. And more countries sharing their travel and identity document exemplars and actionable criminal intelligence information with our government agencies.



MYTH: The restrictions are permanent and a country has no recourse to change.

FACT: Travel restrictions are tailored to the country-specific deficiencies identified during the review process and an assessment of travel-related risk. The restrictions imposed by this proclamation reflect our greater confidence that these countries can make meaningful improvements in a reasonable period of time. If the restricted countries make meaningful improvements, the President may remove travel restrictions at any time. Conversely, the President has also determined that if improvements are not made, additional restrictions may be added. The Republic of Chad is a success case, which made swift progress and was removed from travel restrictions by President Trump in April 2018.



Homeland Security