



January 23, 2025

Dear Neighbors,

We are sharing **HIAS's U.S. Policy & Advocacy Team 1/21/2025 email** -- as part of our work to **understand and navigate the dramatic and rapid changes affecting our current and prospective refugee clients.**

We will continue to share with you what we believe to be credible and thoughtful **news and commentary**, along with **invitations to virtual briefings**. HIAS (click [here](#) for HIAS's website) is the global Jewish nonprofit that protects refugees and a leading national refugee resettlement organization with which [Neighbors](#) has worked closely since 2017.

HIAS's U.S. Policy & Advocacy Team 1/21/2025 email

Roughly 200 executive orders, memoranda, and proclamations were signed by President Trump yesterday [Monday 1/20]. Some targeted refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants. This deluge of attacks was no accident — *it was an intentional plan to overwhelm us.*

But we're ready. As a dedicated HIAS supporter, I know that you're someone who cares deeply and might be interested in staying informed, so we're sharing a breakdown of key executive orders that affect immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers since President Trump was sworn in:

- **The U.S. Refugee Admission Program will be suspended**

What does the executive order do? All refugee admissions will be suspended, with case-by-case exceptions, starting January 27 [subsequent State Department communication announced that the suspension took effect yesterday 1/22] , and the program will be re-evaluated every 90 days, with no requirements for when it must re-start.

How does it impact refugees? The program will be shut down. Refugees will not be admitted. The exceptions will be very hard to obtain. People who have been waiting for years will be forced to wait for an indefinite amount of time.

- **The groundwork was laid for mass deportation**

What does the executive order do? It increases resources and staffing for deportation, as well as coordination between local and federal authorities. It requires all undocumented non-citizens to register with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and directs DHS to build more detention centers. The executive order includes negative consequences for organizations and cities who support undocumented communities.

How does it impact immigrants? Individuals without documentation are now at far greater risk of being targeted for deportation. This will increase fear, uncertainty, the possibility of family separation, policing of communities, and racial profiling. It distracts and redirects resources away from targeting actual national security threats.

- **The CBP One app is no longer operational**

What does the executive order do? Individuals in Mexico will be unable to schedule appointments to be processed at one of eight designated ports of entry on the U.S.-Mexico border, and all existing appointments will be canceled.

How does it impact asylum seekers? CBP One was the only means an individual could schedule an appointment to lawfully enter the U.S. and seek asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border. This will result in indefinite and extended periods of time in Mexico for asylum seekers where they lack access to basic social services and face increased danger.

- **A national emergency was declared at the U.S.-Mexico border**

What does the executive order do? Premised on the perceived threat to security, this allows the president to militarize the U.S.-Mexico border, orders the rebuilding of the border wall, and instructs government agencies to take “appropriate” steps to stop migration by asylum seekers.

How does it impact asylum seekers? This sets a dangerous and anti-democratic precedent that is extreme, ineffective, and costly. There is also little oversight and accountability of the agencies responsible for prohibiting the entry of asylum seekers.

- **Asylum rights at the border were all but eliminated**

What does the executive order do? Multiple other executive orders addressed the U.S.-Mexico border. One cleared the path to restart the Migration Protection Protocols, also known as “Remain in Mexico.” Another declares migration at the southern border to be an invasion that threatens national security and public health.

How does it impact asylum seekers? The Department of Homeland Security will have wide latitude and discretion to apprehend and expel individuals back to Mexico or their country of origin. Asylum seekers will be put directly in harm’s way, with almost no ability to seek asylum.

- **All humanitarian parole programs were terminated**

What does the executive order do? Individuals in need of humanitarian support will no longer have access to established and carefully monitored pathways into the U.S. This includes Afghans, Ukrainians, Cubans, Nicaraguans, Haitians, and Venezuelans.

How does it impact immigrants? Parole programs are an orderly and safe way for people with U.S.-based sponsors to come to the U.S. on a temporary basis and legally work. Without this, many with humanitarian parole will be left without legal status and unable to work, and those waiting to come to the U.S. through this legal program will no longer be able to do so.

NOTE: HIAS is hosting a webinar on Thursday, January 30 noon to 1 PM ET: *Trump's First Days: What Happened and How to Fight Back* [CLICK HERE to register](#).

*Ten days into President Trump's second term, join us for an **expert analysis of the administration's first actions, their impact on refugees and immigrants, and how you can help fight back.***

- *Moderated by Merrill Zack, Chief Global Community Engagement Officer & Executive Director, HIAS NY*
 - *The discussion will feature: Mark Hetfield, President, HIAS; Naomi Steinberg, Vice President, U.S. Policy & Advocacy, HIAS; and Smita Dazzo, Vice President, Legal & Asylum, HIAS.*
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We will share future updates and briefing invitations as they become available.

Thank you for your support and interest.

Neighbors for Refugees