

Immigrant Visa Processing Paused for Nationals of 75 Countries



What Is Happening?

Effective January 21, 2026, the Trump Administration paused immigrant visa processing for nationals of 75 countries at U.S. Embassies and Consulates. Immigrant visas allow the holders to travel to the U.S. to live there permanently and are part of the process of getting a green card. Embassies and Consulates may continue scheduling interviews but will not issue immigrant visas and may pause new visa approvals.

Note that this does NOT impact temporary visa applications or people already in the U.S. (see below).

Who Is Affected?

Individuals may be affected if they:

- Are family-based or employment-based immigrant visa applicants;
- Are applying outside of the U.S. at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate; and
- Are nationals of one of the 75 affected countries: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burma, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominica, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, The Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kuwait, Kyrgyz Republic, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Pakistan, Republic of the Congo, Russia,

Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, and Yemen.

Who is Not Affected?

- People applying for *nonimmigrant visas* (temporary visas) such as work, travel, or student visas. (Please note that some nonimmigrant visa applicants may be subject to different restrictions.)
- Dual nationals with a second passport from a country not listed above
- Individuals applying for green cards inside the U.S. (adjustment of status)
- Individuals who currently have an immigrant visa

Note: There appear to be **limited exemptions** to this pause, but the government has not yet clearly defined their scope or eligibility requirements. Children being adopted by Americans can qualify for such an exception.

What Should I Do?

Contact your immigration attorney to discuss these policy changes and how they may affect your case. If you do not have one, you can find a licensed attorney at www.ailalawyer.com.

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