

US Refugee Admissions

Through the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) – that is, from October 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025 – only 720 people arrived in the United States through the US Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP).

Presidential Determination on Refugee Admissions

For FY26, President Trump signed a Presidential Determination (PD) establishing a record-low refugee admissions goal of **7,500**. The PD directed refugee admission slots to be allocated primarily to Afrikaners from South Africa, as well as “other victims of illegal or unjust discrimination.”

In the first quarter (Q1) of FY26, there were 717 USRAP arrivals from South Africa and 3 from Afghanistan.

The record-low Presidential Determination is procedurally flawed and substantively unjust.

The process for issuing a PD is clearly specified in the Immigration and Naturalization Act, 8 U.S.C. section 1157(e). The Trump administration violated statute in several respects:

- By signing a PD in secret prior to issuing a report to, or consulting with, Congress;
- By (belatedly) sending a report to Congress that was utterly perfunctory, and did not contain key statutorily required elements; and
- By not involving a Cabinet-level representative (as required by statute) in the “consultation” with Congress that eventually took place.

Substantively, the PD abandons longstanding U.S. humanitarian commitments by utterly ignoring refugee populations from around the world in need of resettlement.

The Presidential Determination is part of a broader anti-refugee, anti-immigrant agenda.

- The PD reinforces Executive Order 14163, the refugee ban that has indefinitely suspended nearly all refugee admissions and is currently the subject of litigation in the *Pacito v. Trump* lawsuit.
- The PD reinforces Proclamation 10949, the travel ban of June 4, 2025 – expanded December 16, 2025 – which prohibits or limits entry to the US for persons from 39 countries and the Palestinian Authority; the December travel ban also formally suspended the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program.
- In November 2025, media reports uncovered a Trump administration plan to conduct a sweeping review of more than 200,000 resettled refugees who arrived under the previous administration.

Top 5 States Welcoming Refugees

1	Texas	107
2	Florida	62
3	Iowa	53
4	Colorado	49
5	South Carolina	42

Top Countries of Origin

1	South Africa	717
2	Afghanistan	3

Q1 Total

The US resettled 720 USRAP arrivals out of the 7,500 goal, or 10%.

