



## Executive Orders and Immigrants

Here are key terms, core questions, and resources for understanding and considering the recent executive order affecting immigrants and refugees to the United States.

### Key Definitions

These definitions are from *Merriam-Webster's Law Dictionary*.

- Executive Order – an order issued by a government's executive on the basis of authority specifically granted to the executive branch, as by the U.S. Constitution or a congressional act
- Immigrant – a person who comes to a country to take up permanent residence
- Refugee – an individual seeking refuge or asylum; especially an individual who has left his or her native country and is unwilling or unable to return to it because of persecution or fear of persecution (as because of race, religion, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion)

### Core Questions

1. How should the United States balance a desire to welcome immigrants and help refugees with a desire to maintain a safe country?
2. What should be the role of the immigrant vetting process in the United States if being a mix of cultures is central to our national identity?
3. Should religion or national origin be taken into consideration in the vetting process for potential immigrants and refugees?

### Explore Further

- *Executive Order 9066: Resulting in the Relocation of Japanese (1942)*, from the National Archives. <https://goo.gl/mfVqNv>
- *Executive Order: Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States (2017)*, from the White House. <https://goo.gl/4qBAOy>
- "How Does the U.S. Refugee System Work?" by Claire Felter and James McBride, from the Council on Foreign Relations. <https://goo.gl/uN7FxD>

