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Rapid Response Analysis of the Travel Ban Impacting Afghan Nationals

Prepared by members of the Steering Committee of the EOA Coalition

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The purpose of this document is to provide EOA coalition members with a rapid response summary and analysis of the President's multi-country travel ban announced on June 4, 2025. While we understand the travel ban impacts many individuals of various nationalities, our purpose is to focus this analysis on the impact on Afghan nationals who are both in the U.S. and outside seeking protection, safety, and family reunification. This analysis is based upon the Proclamation and Fact Sheet only. We expect additional details regarding how the policy will be implemented, including waiver requirements and processes, will be released. Furthermore, we anticipate that the policy will face legal challenges, which may affect its implementation. We will update this document as details become clearer.

We encourage members of the coalition to utilize this document as they serve members of their networks affected by the ban and when engaging policymakers to push back against it.

Background:

- On June 4, 2025, President Trump signed a [Proclamation](#) instituting a multi-country travel ban impacting certain foreign nationals seeking entry to the United States.
- The Proclamation was announced with an accompanying [White House Fact Sheet](#).
- The ban "fully restricts and limits" the entry of certain nationals from 12 countries, including Afghanistan, and partially suspends entry for nationals of 7 countries.
- The ban applies to nationals of the listed countries who are outside the United States on the effective date (12:01AM ET June 9, 2025) and who do not have a valid visa.
- Of special note to Afghan nationals, the Proclamation and Fact Sheet indicate that the Travel Ban does not apply to the following individuals:
 - lawful permanent residents (green card holders),
 - Afghan Special Immigrant Visa holders,
 - any individual granted asylum by the United States,**
 - any refugee who has already been admitted to the United States**,
 - dual nationals travelling on a passport issued by a non-banned country,
 - immediate relative immigrant visa holders (IR-1/CR-1, IR-2/CR-2, IR-5) with "clear and convincing evidence of identity and family relationship (e.g., DNA),"
 - and other narrowly prescribed categories.

**Although the Proclamation does not say this explicitly, we assert that the travel ban should not apply to:

- Family members following to join refugees (FTJ-R) in the United States. Most refugees, however, are currently barred by a separate Executive Order. For

additional information about the Executive Order trying to limit refugee entries and IRAP's lawsuit to fight it, please see [here](#).

- Family members following to join asylees already in the United States through the I-730 process (FTJ-A).
- Asylees and refugees outside the United States and seeking to re-enter the United States with a refugee travel document.
- Parolees

Initial Analysis:

- **Impact on Afghan Nationals in the United States**
 - The order explicitly states that no visas granted before June 9, 2025 shall be revoked, and that restrictions only apply to individuals outside of the United States as of June 9, 2025 (the effective date of the proclamation). Thus, anyone currently in the United States may continue to seek status (including asylum) from within the country.
 - The travel ban explicitly states that it does not apply to any individual granted asylum by the United States.
 - The ban does not apply to refugees who have already entered the United States.
 - **Recommended Action - *We strongly encourage Afghan nationals who are currently present in the United States to avoid travel outside of the country during the initial implementation phase of this ban. Anyone planning to travel abroad and re-enter the United States should seek legal advice before leaving the country.***
- **Impact on Afghan nationals abroad - the ban mainly impacts Afghan nationals who are outside the United States.**
 - The ban applies to Afghan nationals who are seeking entry to the United States on nonimmigrant or temporary visas and certain immigrant or "green card" visas at U.S. consulates abroad.
 - Common nonimmigrant visa categories include B-1/B-2, F, J, and M.
 - Common immigrant visa categories include family preference categories and employment-based visas for skilled workers and professionals.
 - The ban does not apply to Afghan Special Immigrant Visas (SIV) holders and certain immediate relatives.
 - It is unclear how the ban will affect individuals seeking humanitarian parole (PARCIS) at U.S. consulates abroad.
 - The ban applies to certain individuals seeking entry to the United States on nonimmigrant and immigrant visas. This ban does not apply to refugees (P1, P2, P3 and P4) already admitted to the United States. For refugees abroad, there is already an [Executive Order](#) that bars most refugees from entering the United States. Advocates have challenged the legality of that Order, which is subject to ongoing litigation ([Pacito v. Trump](#)).

- **NOTE:** Despite “carve-outs” or exempted groups that were identified in the initial announcements, we do NOT expect that individual State Department and DHS officers who are charged with the implementation of the ban, including Consular officials and CBP officials at airports, will have clear guidelines at hand and will be adequately trained during the first weeks of the policy going into effect. During previous travel bans, U.S. government officials and airline carriers often demonstrated confusion in determining who was affected.
- **Recommended Action - *We strongly encourage Afghan nationals with valid visas in their passports and lawful permanent residents to return to the United States as soon as possible, before the ban takes effect on June 9.*** It is imperative to advise Afghan nationals of the policy change and encourage them to make a plan and engage a qualified legal representative BEFORE entering the United States. Although SIVs are exempt from the ban, this [IRAP resource](#) may be helpful.
- **Individual Exceptions - the proclamation indicates exceptions from the ban may be sought on a case-by-case basis for individuals whom:**
 - would advance a critical United States national interest involving the Department of Justice, including when individuals must be present to participate in criminal proceedings as witnesses. These exceptions shall be made only by the Attorney General, or her designee, in coordination with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security.
 - the Secretary of State finds, in his discretion, that the travel by the individual would serve a United States national interest. These exceptions shall be made by only the Secretary of State or his designee, in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security or her designee.
 - **No details have been released on the criteria or process for seeking an exception.**

Talking Points For Engaging Policymakers:

- Wholesale, nationality-based bans on travel to the United States do nothing to make the United States safer and will separate families, betray our promises to allies and other Afghan nationals who are in fear of retribution by the Taliban.
- What makes our country safe is upholding the promises we made to allies who put their lives at risk to serve our mission in Afghanistan.
- The administration’s stated reasoning for the ban is specious and punitive to immigrants for factors outside of their control.
- Characterization of Taliban rule as terrorist-run and incompetent as a state apparatus is contradictory to the analysis of country conditions used to justify terminating TPS.
- The SIV exception does not soften the way this bans many allies or U.S.- affiliated Afghans from coming to the United States – for safety or study.