

Forum:*The Third General Assembly*

Issue: *Tackling the issue of the Travel Ban being implemented in the U.S.*

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1. **Introduction**

A travel ban, in literal terms means denying a certain individuals and or group of individuals entry into a specific country. However, in recent years the concept of a travel ban has become shifted towards a different narrative. One that targets individuals and prohibits them entry into the United States on the basis of their religious believes, or the prominent belief followed by their country. Formally known as an executive order titled “Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States.” The travel ban imposed by the United States has also become known as the “ Muslim Ban.” Whereby it works to prevent entry into the United States from countries such as   (Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria, and Yemen); as well as all individuals from North Korea and a small subset of Venezuelan government officials.

The concept of a “travel ban” has become increasingly popular in recent years. One that targets Muslim immigrants who are living in US or who are aiming to live in the U.S. due to wars and prosecution. Making it even harder for these individuals to gain access to a safe nation due to the fact that they follow a certain faith.

This comes as a result of the trump administration’s constant attempts to enforce it since January 27 2017. This ban specifically targets countries with Muslim majorities; aiming to deny entry to anyone coming from these nations. Internationally this has become a topic of debate. Does a nation’s right to protect mean denying entry to any individual coming from a specific nation? Should racism and prejudice be allowed to take a role in global politics? Finally, should those who are innocent from any acts of terror be denied entry into a nation, simply because of their religious believes? This comes hand in hand with the fact that there is no concrete evidence on why these specific countries were chosen for the travel ban.

Despite the fact the current version of the travel does not include only Muslim countries it is important to note that only 61 visas that were effected last year were from individuals of North Korean nationalities out of more than 75 million visitors to the United States. As well as the fact that only certain Venezuelan government officials and their families are affected, and those individuals are only barred from obtaining tourist and temporary business visas. In contrast, nearly every single person from the Muslim-majority countries is barred from getting a green card, no matter what family, business, or other U.S. connections he or she has.

1. **Definition of Key Terms**

Travel Ban

Denotation: diplomatic measure prohibiting a person or group of individuals from entering or remaining in a country

Connotation: The current president of the United States President Donald Trump has enforced a travel ban on predominantly Muslim countries.

Immigrants

Denotation: a person who comes to live permanently in a foreign country.

Connotation: Muslim Individuals who may face prosecution and war in their home country will be restricted from immigrating to the United States In order to achieve a better life.

Sovereignty

Denotation: Sovereignty is the full right and power of a governing body over itself, without any interference from outside sources or bodies

Connotation: Sovereignty allows a country to develop independently develop it’s own policies and regulations which may focus on migration.

Prejudice

Denotation: negative attitude towards someone based on race or ethnicity rather than personal experience

Connotation: Prejudice in politics is dangerous as it can play a large role in political outcomes and policy making.

Muslims

Denotation: Muslims are people who follow or practice Islam, a monotheistic Abrahamic religion. Muslims consider the Quran, their holy book, to be the verbatim word of God as revealed to the Islamic prophet and messenger Muhammad.

Connotation: It has been made harder for Muslims to enter the United States as a result of the ‘Travel Ban.’

Social

Denotation: Relating to society or it’s organization.

Connotation: The travel ban that was implemented in the United States had several long term and short term social effects.

1. **General Overview – Background information**

**General Information**

The United States government under the leadership of President Donald Trump has enforced a set of travel bans; also known as ‘ executive orders 13769 and13780’ were an attempt by the United States government to ban and restrict any immigration process allowing individuals from any one of a set of 6 predominantly Muslim countries such as Libya, Iran, Somalia, Syria and Yemen in addition to North Korea and Venezuela. These countries were not those in the initial travel ban which had featured only Muslim countries; Syria, Libya, Iran, Somalia and Yemen. It also worked to reduce the amount of refugees entering the country to 50,000 from the previously held number of 110,000.

The initial travel ban that the administration had proposed focused solely on blocking entry to individuals coming from predominantly Muslim Nations. Which in turn provided a solid base in which to allow federal courts and more importantly the supreme court to block the implementation of this ban on the basis of discrimination against a specific religion. The 2nd version of the travel ban however was in place for 90 days and was mostly used as a transitional period until the 3rd and final travel plan. Which was accepted by courts and was allowed be implemented based on the fact that the countries included on the new ban were not only Muslim countries. With the addition of some nations such as Venezuela and North Korea as of June 2018.

**Effect on Immigration and Refugees**

The travel ban imposed by the United States held drastic effects on immigrants and refugees going into the United States due to reasons such as war, political prosecution or those simply looking for a better quality of life. It causes a drastic change in numbers and availability for refugees and immigrants to enter into the U.S. Especially those in neighboring nations such as Venezuela which are currently undergoing a crisis creating famine and hunger throughout the country.

This ban has worked to lower the number of refugees that were admitted into the United States in 2017 to 50,000. It also suspended the [U.S. Refugee Admissions Program](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Refugee_Admissions_Program) (USRAP) for 120 days which undeniably had an effect on those who had previously applied for asylum. It also suspended Syrian refugees from entering the United States indefinitely. The ban directed some [cabinet secretaries](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cabinet_of_the_United_States) to suspend entry of those whose countries do not meet adjudication standards under [U.S. immigration law](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immigration_and_Nationality_Act) for 90 days, and included exceptions on a case-by-case basis. As a result of this ban More than 700 travelers were detained, and up to 60,000 [visas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Visa_policy_of_the_United_States) were "provisionally revoked" thus denying entry to said individuals into the country.

**Effects On the Local Community**

Local communities in the United States were impacted as a result of President Trump’s implementation of the Travel Ban. Educational facilities; colleges and universities have experienced a turning point. Especially in regards to students whom are applying to these colleges from the countries among the travel ban list. This in turn creates a significant issue for those who are accepted into these colleges as they will not be able to get student visas and green cards.

This does not only effect student who want to apply to colleges within the United States but also those who are already there on student visas and may want to leave the country to visit families and or travel for any other purposes. It can make the process of entering the United States after leaving it very difficult for student. Another aspect to consider is social. As a result of this travel ban an atmosphere of islamophobia has significantly risen in recent years. Since Muslims are being portrayed in a negative light in an attempt to further push the president’s agenda, hate crimes against Muslims have significantly risen in the U.S. as hate crimes targeting U.S. Muslims rose 15 percent in 2017. These hate crimes can either be physical and verbal abuse or acts targeted against those who are Muslim or simply look Muslim.

1. **Major Parties Involved and Their Views**

Iran

Iran could be amongst the countries that are most affected by this travel ban. Iran has historically held the most nonimmigrant visas to the United States. As some estimates show that almost 1 million American citizens of Iranian decent are currently present in the United States. Several spokesmen for Iran have spoken out against the U.S travel ban. One of who included the Iranian Foreign Minister spokesperson that stated that the ruling was “ an indication of the decision of the leaders of that country to discriminate against Muslims.” He went on: “It’s regrettable that the American government, because of their economic and commercial short-sightedness, have closed their eyes to the main perpetrators of terrorism in America.”

Another official; Iranian foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif told reporters in Germany that the ban, which Trump argues is necessary on national security grounds, would “not help fight terrorism”. Continuing “We always believed that the Muslim ban that President Trump imposed soon after assuming office had no basis in facts.” Iran has held tense political relations with the U.S after the Iranian revolution. However, that does not include itself in the relation of migrants entering the U.S. Some of which are scholars, doctors and engineers.

Libya

Libya is one of the counties that are a part of the travel ban. The Libyan government has responded to the ban imposed by the United States as foreign minister released a statement that read “ The Libyan Foreign Ministry, through its embassy in Washington, has begun to take measures to lift Libya from the list of countries and to ease the restrictions on Libyan citizens.” Libya as a country has been suffering years of political unrest, in light of which came this travel ban which creates a strain upon relations between the United States and Libya. In opposition to other countries on the list Libya had not attempted to take a retaliatory response against the ban and instead worked to strengthen ties between both countries in light of this ban.

Yemen

Yemen is one of the countries that are listed amongst the countries in the U.S. travel ban. Yemen is a nation that has suffered from a national divide with two different groups fighting for power. The Huthei led militants whom are allies with Iran and the other fraction which is allies with the Saudi government. Both sides of the country have spoken out against the ban claiming that it promotes and supports extremism. “We resent the U.S. ban ... such decisions support the stance of extremists and sow divisions,” the SABA news agency quoted a source at the foreign ministry as saying.

Considering the fact that like many others on this list Yemen is a country that suffers from instability indicating that many individuals from this country would require asylum and refuge in countries such as the United States. Therefor this has increased the restriction of Yemeni people living in the United States and reduced their ability to move in and out of the country.

Iraq

Iraq was one of the initial nations that were included in the trump travel ban. At which time the Iraqi government refused to make a statement regarding the ban in an effort to maintain political relations with the United States. Whereby the Iraqi prime minister stated that Iraq would not take any decisions that are harmful to the nation’s interest. He stated “ We are studying [possible] decisions but we are in a battle, and we don’t want to harm the national interest.” Currently there are about 1,700 Iraqi refugees are welcomed almost monthly. Iraqi-US relations have been tense for several years due to the fact that they fought on different sides of the gulf war, Iraq is currently suffering as a result of the impact of ISIS which had taken over the country and compromised it’s security. The U.S. is it’s strong ally in counter-terrorism, which contributes to the lack of retaliatory response delivered by Iraq. It is important to note however, that Iraq was removed from the list of countries among the travel ban.

Venezuela

Venezuela has spoken publicly about it’s view regarding the travel ban despite the fact that it was the country least affected. The travel restrictions into the United States focus mostly on Venezuelan officials whom according to the United States standards have done an inadequate job in verifying if certain citizens pose a security threat. This comes hand in hand with several other sanctions posed by the United States against Venezuela which are contributing to tense relations between both these Nations. Unlike other countries on this list has taken retaliatory response claiming that this action taken by the United States was “ Political terrorism.”

The foreign minister of Venezuela has spoken out saying “It is worth pointing out that these types of lists are incompatible with international law, and constitute a form of psychological and political terrorism, Our people are being sanctioned because of their pacifist nature as well as their tolerance and respect for different religions and beliefs.”

1. **Timeline of Events**

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| **DATE** | **EVENT** |
| **Friday, January 27, 2017:** | President Donald Trump signs an Executive Order banning entry to individuals from seven predominantly Muslim countries from visiting the country for 90 days. Also suspends entry to the country of all Syrian refugees indefinitely, and prohibited any other refugees from coming into the country for 120 days. |
| **Sunday, January 29, 2017:** | A federal judge in New York granted the American Civil Liberties Union’s request for blocking the deportation of all people stranded in U.S. airports under President Trump’s new Muslim ban. |
| **Friday, February 3, 2017** | Federal Judge James Robart in Seattle issues an order temporarily blocking President Donald Trump’s Muslim ban nationwide. |
| **Tuesday, February 7, 2017** | Organizations such as ACLU sue the President on the grounds of that this Muslim ban violates First Amendment’s and the Fifth Amendment. |
| **Thursday, February 9, 2017** | Appeals court refused to restore Trump’s Muslim ban |
| **Monday, March 6, 2017** | The president signs a new Executive Order which exempts those who already have visas and green cards and removes Iraq from the banned  countries. |
| **Thursday, March 16, 2017** | A federal court in Maryland [blocked the new Executive Order’s 90-day ban on immigration from six Muslim-majority countries](https://www.aclu.org/news/federal-court-blocks-president-trumps-new-travel-ban). |
| **Tuesday, June 27, 2017** | The U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear a challenge to the Muslim travel ban and is allowing the government to move forward with a narrowed portion of the ban. Forbidding the government from applying the 90-day ban on nationals of six countries or the 120-day ban on refugees. |
| **Sunday, September 24, 2017** | President Trump signed the third version of his Muslim ban. Like the previous versions, the new ban blocks travel to the United States from six predominantly Muslim countries and now also includes North Koreans and certain Venezuelan government officials. |
| **Tuesday, October 17, 2017** | A federal court temporarily blocks the newest Muslim ban as a result of a case brought by the state of Hawaii. |
| **Saturday, December 23, 2017** | Federal Court blocks refugee ban |
| **Friday, January 19, 2018** | Muslim Ban to go to Supreme Court |
| **Tuesday, June 26, 2018** | The Supreme Court upholds Trump's Muslim Ban 3.0  In a 5-4 ruling, the Supreme Court upheld the Trump administration’s third Muslim ban. |

1. UN Involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events:

**Protection of Migrants (A/RES/72/79):**

This resolution works to reaffirm all necessary measures that should be taken by governments and organizations internationally to preserve the rights of migrants and maintain their dignity and human rights.

**High-level Plenary Meeting on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants. (A/RES/72/79):**

This resolution focuses on highlighting the positive contribution that migrants have world-wide. It also showcases how communities internationally should be providing these migrants with appropriate opportunities to highlight their contribution to society when provided with appropriate resources.

**International Migration and Development. (A/RES/69/229):**

This resolution highlights the relevancy of migration at current times and works to further demonstrate the need to provide sustainable solutions amongst the growing wave of migration. While focusing on the rights of these individuals to have a better quality of life.

**Combating defamation of religions (E/CN.4/2004/L.5)**

Expressed deep concern at negative stereotyping of religions and manifestations of intolerance in some regions of the world; urged States to ensure equal access to education for all in law and in practice; expressed deep concern that Islam was frequently and wrongly associated with human rights violations and terrorism; noted with deep concern the intensification of the campaign of defamation of religions, and the ethnic and religious profiling of Muslim minorities in the aftermath of the tragic events of 11 September 2001; and expressed deep concern at programs and agendas pursued by extremist organizations and groups aimed at the defamation of religions, in particular when supported by governments.

1. Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

It is important to note that the United Nations does not have any resolutions in direct relation to the travel ban. However does have many resolutions and actions can be drawn in relation to this matter. The United Nations has spoken out against this topic in certain occurrence. The United Nations Human Right’s chief has said that the ban was “mean spirited” and could be considered illegal under International Human Rights. Also stating that the ban “wastes resources needed for proper counter-terrorism.” Despite the U.N publicly speaking out against this topic it had not taken any action in trying to manage the consequences of it or in trying to avoid it completely. There was no initiative of direct communication between both nations.

It is important to note that the supreme court of the United States had blocked initial versions of the travel ban. This had been an appropriate solution temporarily whereby those individuals that were coming into the country were able to enter It rather than be deported to their home countries. This had continued up until the final version of the ban which had included two countries that were not predominantly Muslim ( Venezuela and north Korea). So despite the initial actions of Courts to block the possibility of the ban being implemented, such restraint was later stopped when the ban was being implemented yet again. Despite the fact that individuals coming from Venezuela and North Korea could be facing a threat to their basic human rights and therefor are qualified to seek refuge.

Other than the fact that nations whom were on the initial lists of these travel bans have spoken out publicly against this ban or have tried, no other direct attempt has been made by these nations (whom were included in the ban.) Other nations present on this ban have chosen to remain silent in order to avoid deteriorations of relations with the United States. The reaction regarding this ban differs from nation to nation however, attempts by 3rd party countries or other Muslim countries to attempt and deescalate the tensions occurring as a result of the ban or in an attempt

In addition, 3rd party organizations such as ACLU also known as the American Civil Liberties Union have worked to challenge Trump’s Muslim Ban by suing his order in courts. Many such organizations have followed in the same footsteps and worked in attempting to block this ban from occurring as well as allowing those who were stranded in airports in the initial phases of the ban access to the United States. Such actions are not only limited to organizations as states such as the State of Hawaii which took the order to court in an attempt to challenge the ruling. state Attorney General Doug Chin said that Hawaii fought the administration's first and second travel bans "because they were illegal and unconstitutional efforts to implement the president's Muslim ban."

Chin continued, "Unfortunately, the third travel ban is more of the same. This new ban still discriminates on the basis of nationality, it still exceeds the president's legal authority, and it still seeks to implement his Muslim ban. Simply adding an obvious target like North Korea to the list and banning travel by some government officials from Venezuela does nothing to disguise this. And – unlike the first two versions – Travel Ban 3.0 has no end date."

Several movements were seen both on a smaller and larger scale by the people of the United States and specifically lawyers who at one point had gathered at various airports in the country working on floors and benches to provide sufficient legal documentation that would allow entry of individuals who were being detained. This focuses on a very important course of action that was taken by the people of the United States and those supporting their cause internationally. Whereby, they refused to allow a majority of individuals who had legally obtained documents be denied their rights as a result of the religion they chose to follow.

1. Possible Solutions

A Possible solutions for this issue might be firstly working in collaboration with the United Nations to develop a set of international laws in order to regulate the ability and or criteria that travel bans in certain nations should follow. In doing so nations internationally will need to report to the United Nations when wanting to implement a specific ban so as to ensure that they do not cross boundaries of the human rights of individuals such as refugees and asylum seekers. Aside from this it is important to note that by reporting any travel bans to the United Nations there will be an international set of standards that prevent any bans that may seem biased and or unjustified or backed by specific causes.

The criteria set by the United Nations should be one that ensures that these travel bans do not prevent uncles, aunts, daughters, sons, fathers and mothers from reuniting with their families, as well as one that does not prevent individuals whom have previously applied and gotten visas and or green cards as these individuals have gone through the legal process and required vetting to be able to enter the country. As well as preventing travel bans from effecting those who have student visas and have been accepted into universities in said country.

A 2nd solution that would be proposed to solve this issue is for it to be illegal to deport any individual whom has arrived to the soil of a certain nation who may be enforcing a travel ban, to any country that may pose a threat and or risk to that individual’s right to safety. This could be done by creating an international framework that limits and or restricts a nation’s ability to deport an individual if a direct threat to his or her right to life and or security is threatened. Whereas the point of this treaty would be to make it an essential point for the foreign policy of all nations to avoid taking such actiom. Countries could work in collaboration with governments of other nations whom do not have such bans on individuals from certain nations and arrange for said personal to be transported to these nations where there will be able to either gain asylum or obtain a visa instead of the country that they had initially applied for. This would in turn ensure the dignity of these individuals and in turn compensate for their inability to remain in said nation for travel or visitation. If said treaty is to be broken through any means and if said individual becomes at a true risk of being deported to a nation in which he is at a risk, said individual will be handed over to United Nations custody where they will be immediately provided with substitute countries to arrive to with adequate security measures and effective planning in which to maintain said individual’s dignity.

1. Guiding Questions
2. What is a Travel Ban?
3. Why has the United States implemented this ban?
4. What countries are affected by this ban?
5. Why does this travel ban create a sense of fear?
6. Does this travel ban contribute to islamophobia?
7. How does this travel ban shift the position of U.S politics with middle eastern Nations?
8. Can this travel ban be considered a ‘Muslim ban’?
9. How does this ban promote extremism?
10. Will this ban promote other nations to follow the lead of the United States?
11. Will this ban promote conflict internationally?
12. How can the United States ensure that an atmosphere of islamophobia is prevented?
13. Have hate crimes risen as a result of this ban?
14. Is this ban based on factual reasoning?
15. Appendices and useful links

[*https://www.fastcompany.com/90297446/how-trumps-travel-ban-has-altered-immigration-in-the-last-two-years*](https://www.fastcompany.com/90297446/how-trumps-travel-ban-has-altered-immigration-in-the-last-two-years)

*the above link shows how the US travel ban impacted immigration to the United States.*

[*https://www.aclu-wa.org/pages/timeline-muslim-ban*](https://www.aclu-wa.org/pages/timeline-muslim-ban)

*this link shows a timeline of the travel ban in the United States.*

[*https://www.aclu.org/news/federal-court-blocks-president-trumps-new-travel-ban*](https://www.aclu.org/news/federal-court-blocks-president-trumps-new-travel-ban)

*This link highlights a link of how the President’s Travel Ban is directed towards a “Muslim Ban.” It shows a more in depth discussion of the reasons.*

[*https://www.vox.com/first-person/2018/6/27/17510560/travel-ban-muslim-trump-islamophobia*](https://www.vox.com/first-person/2018/6/27/17510560/travel-ban-muslim-trump-islamophobia)

*This link shows the anti-Muslim redirects that are shaping the policy making in America and behaviors internationally which are promoting islamophobia.*

[*https://nypost.com/2018/04/23/hate-crimes-against-us-muslims-rose-15-percent-last-year/*](https://nypost.com/2018/04/23/hate-crimes-against-us-muslims-rose-15-percent-last-year/)

*This link shows the statistics in relation to hate crimes in the United States as a result of the travel ban*

[*https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/jun/28/trump-travel-ban-ruling-racist-unfair-iran*](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/jun/28/trump-travel-ban-ruling-racist-unfair-iran)

*The above link highlights the response of one of the countries among the countries listed in the travel ban.*

[*https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/fikraforum/view/middle-east-reactions-to-trumps-travel-ban*](https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/fikraforum/view/middle-east-reactions-to-trumps-travel-ban)

*This link highlights the issues that the travel ban has caused in the region of the middle east.*

[*https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-immigration-libya/libya-says-pushing-to-be-removed-from-trump-travel-ban-list-idUSKBN1E12YQ?il=0*](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-immigration-libya/libya-says-pushing-to-be-removed-from-trump-travel-ban-list-idUSKBN1E12YQ?il=0)

*The above link highlights the response of another country enlisted in the travel ban. The country being Libya.*

[*https://www.reuters.com/article/us-yemen-trump-ban-idUSKBN15D15D*](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-yemen-trump-ban-idUSKBN15D15D)

*This link provides more information on the response of another country enlisted to the travel ban. That country being Yemen.*

[*https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-immigration-venezuela/venezuela-slams-u-s-travel-restrictions-as-political-terrorism-idUSKCN1C02JK*](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-immigration-venezuela/venezuela-slams-u-s-travel-restrictions-as-political-terrorism-idUSKCN1C02JK)

*Another link that highlights the response of one of the country on the ban. The country in the above link is Venezuela.*

[*https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/resolutions/index.asp*](https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/resolutions/index.asp)

*This link shows an array of resolutions in relation to the topic of the travel ban, more specifically in relation to immigration.*

[*https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/donald-trump-muslim-travel-ban-illegal-un-rights-chief-a7552991.html*](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/donald-trump-muslim-travel-ban-illegal-un-rights-chief-a7552991.html)

*this link provides more information on how the United Nations has responded to the travel ban.*

[*https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-nation/wp/2017/02/01/u-n-experts-say-trump-immigration-order-violates-u-s-human-rights-obligations/?noredirect=on&utm\_term=.4bd6aacae3f2*](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-nation/wp/2017/02/01/u-n-experts-say-trump-immigration-order-violates-u-s-human-rights-obligations/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.4bd6aacae3f2)

*Additional information on the United Nation’s response to the travel ban and their views on president Trump’s decisions.*

[*http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/36533974/hawaii-to-challenge-trumps-travel-ban-30/*](http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/36533974/hawaii-to-challenge-trumps-travel-ban-30/)

*This link highlights the state of Hawaii’s choice to challenge the travel ban.*

[*https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/25/us/travel-ban-reaction.html*](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/25/us/travel-ban-reaction.html)

*The above link highlights the international and local response to the travel ban that was implemented by the United States.*

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