

Here's what you should know about the Trump administration's efforts to dismantle the U.S. immigration system:

Expanding deportations:

The Trump administration has initiated its plan for large-scale deportations throughout the U.S., placing families and cherished community members at risk of separation. The administration intends to employ punitive measures—including withholding federal funds—against sanctuary cities and other municipalities and states. These jurisdictions have proclaimed that their local law enforcement and other institutions will not cooperate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to deport community members. Additionally, the administration has instructed federal prosecutors to investigate and potentially bring criminal charges against state and local officials who refuse to cooperate with ICE.

Carrying out raids in schools, hospitals, and other sensitive areas:

The administration has ended a long-standing policy that discouraged ICE officers from conducting enforcement actions in sensitive areas. These areas include schools, medical facilities, places of worship, social service agencies, disaster relief sites, and public demonstrations. Protected spaces where people seek help, worship, study, and exercise their basic civil rights could now become targets for ICE raids. This policy change may also deter immigrants from obtaining the emergency assistance they need and sending their kids to school.

Shutting down the U.S.-Mexico border:

The administration has announced plans to close the Southern Border to individuals seeking asylum, effectively shutting out those seeking safety and opportunities in the U.S. Trump has declared a national border emergency, permitting him to deploy additional troops to the area and redirect more funds and resources to militarize the border communities further.

Suspension of refugee admissions:

The executive order includes entirely suspending the refugee program for at least four months. This swift change means that thousands of refugees who had already been approved for admission—some already in transit to the U.S.—are now stranded in countries around the world. This includes hundreds of Afghans who assisted the U.S. during the war in Afghanistan and now fear for their safety lives.

Ending Birthright citizenship:

The executive order seeks to revoke citizenship from certain U.S.-born children of immigrants. The 14th Amendment of the Constitution safeguards this right. As of this writing, over 20 states have filed lawsuits to challenge the order and defend this fundamental right. A federal judge has temporarily blocked the executive order, calling it “blatantly unconstitutional.”