



JVS Response to Executive Order Concerning Refugee Resettlement

January 21, 2025

On January 20, the Trump administration announced an indefinite suspension of refugee resettlement starting on January 27, 2025 through Refugees will be blocked from entering the country until further notice despite having been thoroughly vetted and approved for travel.

The move jeopardizes the legacy of U.S. leadership and commitment to humanitarian protection and freedom for the 43 million people impacted by war, violence, and persecution. This action impacts thousands in the United States who are now unable to reunify with their family members through the refugee program, including countless Afghan nationals who served alongside our armed forces.

“Refugee resettlement is a safe and legal pathway for persecuted individuals to seek security and opportunity in the United States, and it has brought enormous economic and cultural benefits to Kansas City,” said Executive Director Hilary Cohen Singer. “JVS is undeterred in our commitment to welcome. We will continue to support refugees and immigrants as they build new lives and enrich our community.”

JVS remains dedicated to our mission to engage, encourage and empower refugee and immigrant communities. As the largest organization in Kansas City focused exclusively on supporting refugees and immigrants from all over the world, JVS is steadfast in continuing our work of welcoming, providing safety, support, and community to newcomers through our community integration, workforce development, health and wellness, and immigration legal services. Through their engagement with JVS, those newest to our city are prepared for long-term success and provide immense value as taxpayers, business owners, employees, community members and neighbors.

We are proud to be part of a community of faith organizations, businesses, schools, social service agencies, and so many others who recognize the importance of embracing individuals fleeing hardship and the immense value they bring to our economic, civic and cultural life. “We firmly believe in the human dignity of all who seek refuge from persecution and remain steadfast in supporting policies that work to ensure that all individuals, regardless of origin, have the opportunity to thrive and contribute to our shared future,” said Singer.