



# Airbnb Responds to the Travel Ban and Supports the No Ban Act

## Helping People Belong Anywhere Matters Now More Than Ever

By [Airbnb](#) · January 30, 2017 · [Community](#), [Company](#)

To the entire Airbnb community across the world,

In the wake of the recent order banning people from certain countries from traveling to the United States, we want to update you about how Airbnb is responding.



Last night, Brian Chesky sent the below email to Airbnb staff globally. Brian also announced that Airbnb is working with partners around the world to support refugees and those who may have been affected unexpectedly by the travel ban, including by providing free accommodations.

What you do every day to create a sense of belonging and break down walls is now more important than ever, and we're here to support you. If you would like to make your listing available for free to those affected, you can do so here. If you or someone you know is in need of accommodation as a result of this travel ban, please contact Brian at [brian.chesky@airbnb.com](mailto:brian.chesky@airbnb.com).

Thank you for all you already do every day to help create a world in which anyone can belong anywhere.

The Airbnb Citizen Team

Hey Team,

Yesterday, the President of the United States signed an executive order limiting immigration and travel into the US for certain people from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

This is a policy that I profoundly disagree with, and it is a direct obstacle to our mission at Airbnb.

We believe that you should be able to travel to, and live in any community around the world. This is what we mean when we say anyone should be able to belong anywhere. If we want this to be more than just something we put on a plaque, we



have to take action. So here are some of the actions we are taking.

Within hours of the order, we were in touch with those people on our team who we know are impacted, not just to offer help and resources but to make clear they have the unwavering support of everyone at this company. We also reached out to our team members who are not affected by the order but who work in the US on visas and green cards, in order to inform them that the same resources and support will be available to them.

To everyone here, if you believe this executive order could impact you, please let us know as soon as possible so the team can support you. This is obviously a dynamic situation and our team is vigilantly tracking these developments.

Living up to our mission means supporting our global community, as well. Thanks to the dedication of Joe Gebbia and others, we've partnered with and supported organizations focused on the needs of refugees around the world since 2015. Airbnb has offered free housing to hundreds of relief workers serving on the front lines of the global refugee crisis. We launched a donation tool on our website to make it easy



for our community to join us by financially contributing to the UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR, to meet the most pressing needs, an effort that has helped raise over \$1.6 million thus far.

In light of this new policy, however, we must do more. It's why [I announced](#) that Airbnb is now providing free housing to refugees and anyone recently barred from entering the US. We have an internal team working on this in coordination with key partners to identify needs and will have more information for everyone soon.

Barring refugees and people who are not a threat from entering America simply because they are from a certain country is not right, and we must stand with those who are affected. The doors to America shall remain open, and any that are locked will not be for long.

Brian



# Airbnb Responds to Expansion of Travel Ban

By [Airbnb](#) · January 31, 2020 · [Company](#), [Open Homes](#)

Airbnb issued the following statement in response to the Trump Administration's announcement that it will expand its travel ban to six additional countries. According to today's announcement, the different immigration restrictions will be placed on Eritrea, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Nigeria, Sudan and Tanzania.

"Airbnb's purpose is to make it possible for anyone to belong anywhere. We believe belonging is fundamental to supporting community and that the freedom of travel foundational to advancing the human condition. Given Airbnb's very purpose is to facilitate people to people belonging, as a company and a community, we objected to the original travel ban and continue to believe such policies are in opposition to our purpose. We believe that you should be able to travel to, and live in any community around the



world, regardless of your race, religion or ethnicity – that the power to travel makes us all better. This belief is at the core of our purpose to create a world where anyone can belong anywhere.”

Since it was first announced in 2017, Airbnb has [opposed](#) the travel ban, joining more than 100 U.S. companies in filing an amicus brief in support of a court challenge to the policy (Trump v. Hawaii). Airbnb has also endorsed the [National Origin-Based Antidiscrimination for Nonimmigrants \(NO BAN\) Act](#), introduced by Senator Chris Coons of Delaware and Congresswoman Judy Chu of California in April 2019.

Airbnb launched the Open Homes platform in 2012 in the wake of Hurricane Sandy, and it has grown as a part of its ongoing efforts to house vulnerable populations around the world. Initially, the platform was focused on housing those displaced by natural and manmade disasters but expanded to include refugees and patients traveling for critical medical care. Airbnb works with relief organizations and nonprofits to provide free, temporary housing to people impacted by disaster, conflict, or life-threatening illness. Anyone who wants to share their space with a refugee can volunteer to open their home by visiting [airbnb.com/welcome/refugees](https://airbnb.com/welcome/refugees). To date, the Open Homes community has housed more than 40,000 people in need.