

## Operations Order 003-17: American Red Cross Humanitarian Services in Response to Recent Changes in U.S. Immigration Policy

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**A. Situation** On Friday, January 27, 2017, President Trump issued an executive order on immigration indefinitely barring Syrian refugees from entering the United States, suspending all refugee admissions for 120 days, and blocking citizens of seven countries, refugees or otherwise, from entering the United States for 90 days: Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. The order does not affect naturalized United States citizens from the seven named countries. As a consequence of the Order, some travelers to the United States were stopped at airports in the United States and abroad. Public response to the Order included protests and lawsuits seeking to stop the Administration from enforcing certain parts of the Order. At least one ARC Region received and responded to a formal request for assistance consistent with this guidance (after consulting with NHQ). Similarly, other Regions have reported inquiries by Board members and Red Cross staffs.

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- B. Assumptions**
1. Government partners (particular municipal first responders and airport authorities), faith-based organizations, and/or individuals may ask ARC for assistance connected to the impact of the order. (See paragraph D.3 for list of authorized assistance.)
  2. ARC may be requested to assist immigrants held in a detention status at a port of entry.
  3. All branches of Government and Governments at all levels comply with the law and orders of appropriate courts.
  4. ARC will not fundraise against this mission.
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- C. Considerations**
- A. The seven fundamental principles of the Red Cross govern our response: humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity, and universality.
  - B. All of the principles are implicated to some extent, however, the main principles we must analyze in the current situation are:
    - a. Humanity – “The Red Cross, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavors—in its international and national capacity—to prevent and

alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.”

- b. Neutrality – “In order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, the Red Cross may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.”
  - c. Impartiality – “It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavors to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.”
  - d. Independence – “The Red Cross is independent. The national societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with Red Cross principles.”
- C. Applying the four most relevant principles, there are prospective immigrants (and potentially resident aliens) who will be held for a relatively brief period in immigration detention at ports of entry (mostly airports) in the United States and may have need of humanitarian services. Accordingly, the situation implicates the humanity principle.
- D. Further, the situation implicates the neutrality principle because the Order is plainly the subject of “controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.” However, we have developed a service delivery position that does not take require or cause ARC to “take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in” such controversies.
- E. Similarly, the situation requires us to consider the impartiality principle such that ARC makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions.” Any service we provide must “endeavor to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.”

F. Finally, the independence principle requires us to maintain ARC’s autonomy from government so that we may be able at all times to deliver services consistent with the requirements of humanity, impartiality, and neutrality principles. Here, this means that we will partner with government but only insofar as doing so empowers us to relieve suffering in a manner consistent with the other principles of the Red Cross.

**D. Action  
for  
Regions**

<b>Step</b>	<b>Action</b>
1.	Remain actively aware of relevant conditions at international airports and other ports of entry in your jurisdiction where substantial activity related to the Order may be occurring.
2.	Contact the cognizant emergency manager and/or other appropriate State and/or municipal authorities and inform them that ARC is available to discuss and provide potential assistance as described in paragraph D.3 below. Generally, outreach to/engagement with Federal agencies on these matters should be initiated through local emergency management channels rather than directly with Federal agencies.
3.	For internal planning and in discussions with local authorities, Regions may provide the following services to stranded travelers/detainees affected by the Order in locations provided or authorized by the cognizant Government authority: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Canteening at Ports of Entry; and</li> <li>b. Health, Mental Health, and Spiritual Care services; and</li> <li>c. Branded standard inventory Mass Care materiel to support partner care of stranded travelers and families; and</li> <li>d. Reconnecting Family Links (RFL) program for detainees/stranded travelers and families that have been separated internationally.</li> </ul>
4.	Regions are authorized to brief their Boards on this guidance and ongoing actions.

**E. Activities Not Authorized**      Regions shall not:

1. Provide shelter, lodging, or financial assistance in connection with the Order except as provided by this policy. Regions may identify other organizations providing such support and refer ARC clients as necessary to receive such support.
2. Provide support or services to any entity actively involved in any protest activity—active involvement means protesting and/or providing government security/response to protests. Active involvement does not include services to stranded travelers and families of immigrants away from immediate areas of protest.
3. Independently or proactively establish service sites related to this Order unless coordinated with emergency management authorities.

**F. Requests  
Outside the  
Scope**

Contact the Division and DOCC immediately for consultation prior to responding to any request anticipated or received:

1. From any source other than emergency management;
2. For services not expressly authorized by this Order; and
3. For any requests or activity outside the specific scope of this Order.

**G. Administration**

1. NHQ will nationally account for all activity related to this Guidance. All associated costs shall be charged to DR 929-17 (OTH) using accounting string 052-37000-20-4929.
2. Regions shall report all activity conducted pursuant to this Order via immediate IIR.
3. Contact Public Affairs for any and all media contact or public-facing releases.
4. NHQ will re-evaluate this Order as necessary.

**H. Authorized  
by**

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*Brad J. Kieserman*  
Brad J. Kieserman  
Vice President, Disaster Operations & Logistics

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**I. Effective  
Date**

January 30, 2017 unless and until rescinded.

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